

Dear Mr. President, Dear Friend, Klaus,

The Hungarian Modern Pentathlon sport is proud to have many Olympic and World champions both individual and team, throughout the 110 year history.

We are also proud to have organized numerous World and European championships, therefore we can say that modern pentathlon is near to the heart of all Hungarian sport-loving people.

The sport has been changed under your presidency sometimes for better serving the interest of the media, mainly the TV and following the requirement of the modern age.

As an IOC member for 39 years I can assure you that the IOC has never asked you to change the program, the timing, the composition or the rules of modern pentathlon.

On the contrary it was not only Pierre de Coubertin who created this magnificent sport, it was Mr. President Samaranch who throughout his 20 year of IOC presidency in every single occasion of the Games wanted to hand over the medals in modern pentathlon in person as President.

He said they deserve the highest possible attention and acknowledgement.

Here in Hungary we are surprised reading the latest articles according possible change the 110 year of composition of modern pentathlon taking out horse riding from the program.

Let us pour clear water into the jug:

- Riding is the most spectacular and challenging event of modern pentathlon
- The athletes are proud to be not only good at running, shooting, swimming and fencing, they are proud on their horse riding skill
- The IOC never asked you and your federation to drop horse riding from the program
- In order to take horse riding out from the program you need to change your Fundamental Rules (Deed of Foundation) which cannot be done by simple decision of the executive board of UIPM
- To change the basic rule you need the 2/3 majority of your general assembly
- For the TV riding is the mostly viewed challenging part of modern pentathlon
- Los Angeles the host city of 2028 Olympic Games signed the city contract with modern pentathlon included horse riding
- UIPM has 135 member nations
- In my estimation there are only 60 countries where the traditional modern pentathlon is regularly practiced, during the last years another 60 countries entered to your federation who wanted to compete mainly in duathlon (laser run), it would not be fair to let them vote about the future of horse riding in modern pentathlon
- From now on according the new '90 minutes competition' will be extremely expensive whoever want to organize local and international competitions

Please allow me a personal remark, when I was 16 years old I decided to be a modern pentathlon athlete, could hardly wait to start to practice the most challenging and most interesting part, the horse riding.

I still remember on this 3 years period as one of the best part of my sporting career.

I hope you remember that throughout my 39 years old IOC membership whenever somebody raised questions about the importance and the mission of the modern pentathlon I was among the first who protected and supported this wonderful, historical sport.

Therefore I may say I fully understand both emotionally and logically and practically all those pentathlon athletes who are world famous or just simple lover of modern pentathlon asking you and the federation under your leadership not to remove horse riding from the program unless you want to create a new modern pentathlon which will not be interesting to anybody among the sport-loving countries, athletes, the media and your sponsors.

I am sure you as a former pentathlon athlete do not want to be remembered as the President who deleted horse riding from your beloved sport!

Friendly regards,
Pál Schmitt



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