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THE OFFICIAL PRESS STATEMENT OF THE CZECH MODERN PENTATHLON ASSOCIATION EXECUTIVE BOARD ON THE DECISION TO EXCLUDE HORSE RIDING FROM THE PROGRAM OF MODERN PENTATHLON COMPETITIONS

We were disappointed by the announcement of the decision of the Executive Board of the International Modern Pentathlon Union (UIPM EB) to replace horse riding with another discipline in the program of pentathlon competitions.

We fear the way in which the executive board members reached their decision, without any prior discussion with the national federations, and decided in case of force majeure is a violation of the fundamental, standard, decision-making processes of the international federation.

According to the independent lawyers we approached to request their interpretation, the reasons for the decision in the case of force majeure to which the UIPM EB refers in its statements were not substantiated by the UIPM EB in any way. If the relevant UIPM commissions have been working on the submitted proposal since 2018, as was repeatedly emphasized during this week by the members of the UIPM EB, then the reference to a case of force majeure is irrelevant due to time constraints. According to the UIPM Statute, similar fundamental decisions belong exclusively to the supreme body of the Union, i.e. the UIPM Congress.

Although we are convinced that the main handicap of modern pentathlon is not the content of the equestrian discipline itself but the way of ensuring the correctness of equestrian competitions by the international union and their appropriate presentation, we understand the changes that can truly contribute to the further development of our sport branch.

To avoid any doubts, whether on the part of the pentathlon community or the public about a truly democratic decision-making process within the international union, we see as necessary for the UIPM EB to take all necessary steps to ensure that the exclusion of riding from the pentathlon competition program is decided by delegates at the upcoming UIPM Congress.

Executive Board of the Czech Modern Pentathlon Association