

Biathlon, Modern Pentathlon and Triathlon

San Diego, Hawaii, Nice, olympics ; everyone knows genesis and legends about triathlon. Emergence of ITU (International Triathlon Union) is a real story. And this story is very close to IUMP (International Union of Modern Pentathlon) and IBU (International Biathlon Union).

Pierre de Coubertin introduced idea of modern olympic games. He created modern pentathlon as a test of all-around ability (swimming, fencing, riding...). Modern Pentathlon appeared in olympic games program in 1912 (Stockholm). International olympic comitee (IOC) govern MP till London olympics (1948). To avoid conflicts, word "federation" was banned of this new association naming. Then, it became IUPM.

Biathlon was probably born in 18th century in nordic countries. During 1924 olympic winter games, it was a demonstration sport. In 1953 rules appeared, and biathlon took part inside IUMP. Biathlon for men takes place in olympics in 1960 in Squaw Valley and women event in 1992 in Albertville. In 1968 IUMP becomes IUPMB. But in 1992 IUPMB approve scission between Modern Pentathlon and Biathlon.

The split is effective in 1998 (IUMP and IBU).

Mid seventies, a new sport did grow in USA : modern triathlon.

End of 1987, triathlon world wants to create a new federation (ITA). A world championship is scheduled in Darmstadt (Germany) in 1988. IUPMB wants to govern also "triathlon" ; USSR and Czechoslovakia are agree with this. But a lot of nations consider IUPMB as an old organization with a military spirit. Triathlon wants to be independant. This first attempt of constitution failed.

ITU was created in 1989 in Avignon (France) and triathlon takes place in olympic program (men and women) in Sydney (2000). In the same time appears women event in Modern Pentathlon.

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