



Fairplex Prepares to Host the World

Modern Pentathlon World Cup Comes to Fairplex

Event Results Will Qualify Athletes for 2020 Tokyo Olympics

POMONA, CA (Dec. 16, 2016) – Fairplex, located in the eastern end of Los Angeles County and home to the annual LA County Fair, will welcome 140 international athletes from 138 countries in February for the Modern Pentathlon World Cup. The competition is Feb. 23-26 but the Fairplex campus is already buzzing in preparation.

“We are so excited to host the Modern Pentathlon World Cup and are in total planning mode right now,” said Michelle DeMott, Fairplex vice president of branding and knowledge management. “It’s a big event, it puts Fairplex in the international spotlight so we are working feverishly to plan a world-class competition.”

DeMott said it’s also a big win for sports fans in the area. “When would they get a chance to see an Olympic-class, international competition at this level? We are extremely pleased and excited.”

The bid to host, which includes 2017 with the possibility of a three-year extension, was awarded to Fairplex by the Union International de Pentathlon Moderne (UIPM), the international governing body of the Modern Pentathlon, following a successful joint bid by Fairplex, the L.A. Sports Council and the Southern California Committee for Olympic Games. This will be the first international Modern Pentathlon competition held in Southern California since the 1984 Olympic Games.

The Modern Pentathlon is an Olympic sport comprised of five events: fencing, 200m freestyle swimming, show jumping, and a combined event of laser pistol shooting and a 3200m cross-country run. It has been a core sport of the Olympic Games since 1912. The 2017-20 World Cups serve as the Olympic trials for the 2020 Olympics in Tokyo.

The February schedule is:

- Feb. 22: Women’s semifinal competition
- Feb. 23: Men’s semifinal competition
- Feb. 23: Opening Ceremony, 4 p.m.
- Feb. 23: A Night of Champions gala and silent auction, 6 p.m., featuring 20 Olympic athletes including Janet Evans and John Naber
- Feb. 24: Women’s finals
- Feb. 25: Men’s finals
- Feb. 26: Relay competitions
- Feb. 26: Closing ceremony

Besides witnessing the athletes compete, spectators can also explore the Modern Pentathlon Experience, which offers a timeline of the sport from its beginnings in the early 1900s, and engage in the Festival of Nations Cultural Expo featuring international clubs from local colleges.

Athletes and special guests will be honored at a gala on Feb. 23. A Night of Champions will feature several Olympic athletes, including Janet Evans and John Nabor.

Fairplex is also working with Ready, Set, Gold!, a non-profit organization working to combat childhood obesity by pairing Los Unified School District students with Olympians and Paralympians to promote student fitness, to bring students to the Modern Pentathlon.

The games will also be open to special field trips for local schools. Teachers can contact Fairplex's FairKids Field Trip department for more information.

Modern Pentathlon is a unique multi-discipline sport created by the Olympic Games founder Baron Pierre de Coubertin that combines mental and physical challenge to find the most complete athlete. It evolved out of the Ancient Pentathlon at the 1912 Stockholm Olympics.

It was Baron Pierre De Coubertin's belief that the Modern Pentathlon event would "test a man's moral qualities as much as his physical resources and skills, producing thereby the ideal, complete athlete". Pentathlon has evolved considerably over the years. It adopts modern concepts and latest technology to improve the competition and the spectator and fan experience.

For more information about the Modern Pentathlon World Cup at Fairplex, visit www.fairplex.com.

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