



## Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games

### UIPM President Statement

Dear colleagues and friends of the UIPM movement,

In 2020 I wrote to you about the impact of the COVID-19 Coronavirus and expressed a wish that we should stay together, stay united and show patience to get through the pandemic and return to the wonderful sporting life we all enjoy.

We are now in the Olympic year 2021, we are all focusing on the Olympic Summer Games in Tokyo with the Opening Ceremony on July 23, and I need to ask you once again for your patience.

The pandemic continues to stretch us to our limits, right across all global society, and we still have to overcome a number of issues linked to health to be secure for training and for normal life. Within our sporting movement, I promise you that we, the UIPM Executive Board and all Committees and Commissions, will try our best to give you full support.

In the case of athletes, coaches and support teams, we will support you in every way possible as you prepare to qualify and to compete later in the Olympic Games. Please don't listen to the rumours or speculation from people who are speculating that the Games in Tokyo will not happen. I assure you, the Games will happen. And we will all do our best – the National Olympic Committees, the National Federations, the Union, all responsible people in sport society – to make it the best possible Olympic experience.

Today I am writing to ask you personally, please don't lose your motivation. Please go and train hard as you did always. I know it is not easy in these days, but never give up. The hope will never die and we will always focus on our goals in a positive way.

One of the reasons to be hopeful in 2021 is the availability of vaccines. While we have been making sacrifices in our lifestyle, the global science community has been working hard to play its part in defeating this virus, and now the help is coming our way.

There is much we do not yet know about how and when vaccines will be made available, but I strongly support the vaccination of athletes, coaches and officials involved in the Olympic Games. Everything possible must be done to ensure the health and safety of all participants in the Olympic Games, so I urge you to be open-minded about this.

While the International Olympic Committee works on developing a plan with the World Health Organisation, the Japanese Government and vaccine manufacturers, we will stay in close communication with your National Federations and your NOCs. Vaccination can be a very positive step towards giving you more confidence and a feeling of security about training and competing.



To all athletes standing at different places on the road to Tokyo, I ask you please to keep your spirit intact, focus on your motivation to be a strong athlete, and keep preparing mentally and physically to perform at a high level in the qualification competitions in Budapest, Sofia, Seoul and Cairo. We will see each other soon, in good health and good conditions, well trained and supported by your coaches and federations.

And to all athletes and participants at different levels of the UIPM Sports pyramid, I ask for your patience too. This is a test of our resolve and we must pass the test – your time will also come.

For now let's look forward in a very clear way, starting with the Olympic Games in Tokyo in 2021. The Olympic Games is the motor of the global sporting movement. Yes, we will be there.

With my best personal greetings and wishes for good health,

Dr h.c. Klaus Schormann  
UIPM President