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UIPM 2017 WORLD CUP I: CALIFORNIA DREAMING FOR TOKYO 2020 HOPEFULS

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- New UIPM season opens in 2024 Olympic Games candidate city
- Modern Pentathlon makes long-awaited return to Los Angeles
- Tokyo 2020 hopefuls begin long competitive journey to Japan

The world's leading modern pentathletes will embark on their journey to the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games this week when the UIPM 2017 World Cup I gets underway in Southern California.

Alexander Lesun (RUS) and David Svoboda (CZE), the 2016 and 2012 men's Olympic champions, are among the participants as well as Lena Schoeneborn (GER), the 2008 women's Olympic champion, 2015 world champion and 2016 World Cup Final winner.

Among the other contenders will be Sarolta Kovacs (HUN), the 2016 women's world champion, Pavlo Tymoshchenko (UKR), the 2015 men's world champion and 2016 Olympic silver medallist, and James Cooke (GBR), the 2016 men's World Cup Final winner.

There are also expected to be strong contingents from the host nation, USA, as well as Japan, host of the 2020 Olympic Games.

Fairplex, a 543-acre events destination in the city of Pomona, on the outskirts of Los Angeles, will play host to World Cup I with Swimming taking place at the nearby Claremont Club.

Dr Klaus Schormann, President of UIPM, said: "This World Cup in the wonderful environment of Fairplex will be the first step on a four-year competitive journey to the next Summer Olympic Games in Tokyo in 2020, and I know the athletes will be performing at a very high level.

"My thanks go to the US Modern Pentathlon Association, the US Olympic Committee and the organizing team in Los Angeles as well as the volunteers, sponsors and media who will make this important first World Cup of 2017 happen."

The first medals will be decided in the Men's Individual Final (February 24), which is followed by the Women's Individual final (February 25) and Mixed Relay (February 26) with qualifying taking place on February 22-23.

Live stream of the finals will be available on UIPM TV from 6 PM (PST - Pacific Standard Time) in the individual finals and from 4:30 PM (PST) in the Mixed Relay. All results can be accessed on the UIPM website.

The UIPM 2017 World Cup circuit also visits Cairo (EGY, Mar 24-26), Kecskemet (HUN, May 5-7) and Drzonkow (POL, May 26-28), before culminating with the World Cup Final in Vilnius (LTU, Jun 23-25) which will be televised live on Eurosport.