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UIPM 2019 BIATHLE/TRIATHLE WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS: MULTI-SPORT MASSES DESCEND ON SAINT PETERSBURG (USA)



- Hosts USA win senior title on day one thanks to Achterberg and Elgeziry
- Seven other nations claim gold in Biathlon Mixed Relay
- More than 420 athletes from 33 countries gather in Florida



Biathlon and Triathlon have been central to the

growth of UIPM Sports and the two development sports will provide a glimpse of the future of Modern Pentathlon throughout the UIPM 2019 Biathlon/Triathlon World Championships, which began today.

More than 420 athletes from 33 countries are taking part across a wide range of age categories in Biathlon (Run-Swim-Run) and Triathlon (Swim-Run-Shoot), with medals at stake in individual and Mixed Relay events.

Competing on the Florida beach this week are people with an age span of more than 60 years. The age categories in Biathlon range from Under-9 to Masters 70+ while Triathlon spans Under-11 to Masters 60+.

The Triathlon format is likely to become more visible in other UIPM multi-sports in future, after the formation of two working groups to consider the format of Tetrathlon and Modern Pentathlon.



Indeed, the New Tetrathlon format that has

already been approved by the UIPM Executive Board, pending the creation of a final framework and rules, adds Fencing to Triathlon to create a more dynamic and spectator-friendly four-discipline sport.

On the opening day, host nation **USA** made the headlines as **Samantha Achterberg** and **Amro Elgeziry** won gold in the senior Biathlon Mixed Relay. Silver went to **Nadezhda Bekmaganbetova** and **Arman Kydyrtayev** of **Kazakhstan** and bronze to **Sarah Fountain** and **Gregan Clarkson** of **Great Britain**.

The gold medals were shared among numerous nations, with world titles going to **Japan**, **Egypt**, **Guatemala**, **France** and **South Africa** as well as Kazakhstan and Great Britain, who were especially strong in the Masters categories.



The Triathlon Mixed Relay follows on Friday

October 25, before the Triathlon Individual categories on Saturday, October 26 and the Individual Biathlon brings the competition to a conclusion on Sunday, October 27.

UIPM Executive Board Member for Sport, Janusz Peciak, said: "I warmly welcome all participants to the UIPM 2019 Biathlon/Triathlon World Championships and it was wonderful to see such a high standard of competition today."



"We are delighted to be here in St Petersburg,

Florida, for a competition that is very important to the development of UIPM Sports in all communities and countries around the world.

"We must continue to develop the sports that form the base of a pyramid structure supporting our flagship sport of Modern Pentathlon, which has been a core part of the Olympic Games programme since 1912.

"Biathlon and Triathlon, like Laser Run, play a vital role in giving young athletes an entry point to UIPM Sports and a chance to develop their multi-sport abilities."

The action at the UIPM 2019 Biathlon/Triathlon World Championships runs from October 24-27. Results are available at the UIPM website and fans can stay tuned to the World Pentathlon pages on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram for updates and photography.