

Iran to Send 10 Athletes to 2022 Lifesaving World Championships



TEHRAN – Iran will send 10 male and female competitors to the 2022 Lifesaving World Championships. The competition will take place in Riccione, Italy

from September 21 to October 2.

Iran's men's team consists of Amir Arsalan Zarei, Saman Sefid Dast, Amir Reza Khorasani, Hadi Daryae Nejjhad, Muhammad Hussein and Reza Ghasemi.

Kajan Rostami, Ravis Shahabi, Faezeh Ashoorpour and Elham Kakoli are members of the female team.

The championships had originally been due to take place in Riccione in September/October 2020, but were postponed in March 2020 due to the global disruption caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Roger Federer's Goodbye Will Be in Doubles, Maybe With Nadal



Roger Federer

LONDON (AP) — Roger Federer is known for his elegant style of play, for his longevity, for his 20 Grand Slam titles — and for occasional tears in his most emotional post-match moments, whether after victory or defeat.

There was none of that sort of sadness Wednesday, just smiles and some chuckles at his own jokes, as Federer appeared at a news conference to discuss his retirement from professional tennis at age 41 after a series of knee operations. He will close his career with a doubles match at the Laver Cup on Friday — perhaps alongside longtime rival Rafael Nadal.

Federer said he is now at peace with the decision to walk away, which comes a few weeks after Serena Williams played what is

expected to be her last match at the U.S. Open, and he wants this farewell to be a celebration.

Wearing a blue blazer with the sleeves rolled up to his elbows and a white polo shirt, Federer took questions for about a half-hour at the arena that will host the team competition founded by his management company.

Federer, who announced last week via social media that he would be retiring after the Laver Cup, said it took him a bit to get used to the idea of stepping away from competition.

But it was something he understood he needed to do after running into setbacks in July during his rehabilitation from what was his third surgery on his right knee in about 1 1/2 years.

Cristiano Ronaldo Wants to Play Till Euro 2024

LONDON (AFP) - Cristiano Ronaldo has set his sights on reaching Euro 2024 and the Portugal and Manchester United forward says he has no plans to retire any time soon.

"My journey is not over yet, you're going to have to put up with 'Cris' for a while longer," said Ronaldo, after receiving a trophy at the Portuguese football federation's (FPF) Quinas de Ouro awards in Lisbon for being the top national team goalscorer of all time.



"I want to be part of the World Cup and the Euros ... I feel very motivated. My ambition is great," the 37-year-old said. Ronaldo has scored 117

goals in 189 Portugal appearances and is expecting to play in his 10th major international tournament for his country at Qatar 2022.

The forward's brace against the Republic of Ireland in September 2021 allowed him to overtake Iranian great Ali Daei's haul of 109 goals as the record international scorer.

Ronaldo eventually stayed at Manchester United this summer despite speculation he would switch clubs, and despite being benched for Premier League matches he scored in the team's last outing at Moldovan minnows FC Sheriff in the Europa League.

Modern Pentathlon Hopes Obstacle Race Will Secure Spot in 2028 Games



LONDON (Reuters) - Modern pentathlon is hoping a new obstacle course race discipline set to replace horse riding will carry the sport to the Los Angeles 2028 Olympics and a secure future beyond.

The new discipline, where athletes run and overcome obstacles in timed competitions, is set to replace the equestrian element in the Olympic modern pentathlon after more than a century if the sport gets the nod for the 2028 Games.

The 2024 Paris Games competition will still be staged with horse riding as a discipline.

The international federation of the sport (UIPM) will put the obstacle course race to a vote at its congress in November before submitting the change to the International Olympic Committee.

The decision to drop riding

came after German coach Kim Raisner struck a horse at last year's Tokyo Games when it refused to jump a fence, which led to widespread criticism of the sport.

The IOC dropped modern pentathlon along with weightlifting and boxing from an initial list of 28 sports for the Los Angeles Games, saying each would need to meet different criteria by 2023 to be included in the final list.

The UIPM has been testing the obstacle discipline in recent months at all levels with feedback being overwhelmingly positive from both athletes and federations, said UIPM president Klaus Schormann.

The sport, created by Pierre de Coubertin, the founder of the modern Olympics, has been part of the Games since 1912.

Russia Hit With New Sports Ban After Ukrainian Complaints



MOSCOW (RT) - Russian and Belarusian judokas will not be allowed to compete at the 2022 World Judo Championships in Uzbekistan next

month despite previously being cleared to attend events as neutrals, it has been announced.

The International Judo Federation (IJF) bucked the trend

back in March when — in contrast to the blanket bans issued by numerous other sporting federations — it continued to allow Russian and Belarusian athletes to appear at tournaments, although only under the IJF flag.

That stance led to fury in Ukraine, whose judokas boycotted a World Cup event in Mongolia in June and threatened to do the same at the World Championships in Tashkent in October if Russians were present.

In a statement on Wednesday, the IJF confirmed that it would reverse its position for the remainder of 2022.

"The Executive Committee of the International Judo Federation decided today, 21st September 2022, considering the current international circumstances and in order to ensure the protection of all athletes in the sport of judo, to not allow the participation of athletes from Russia and Belarus in international judo events until January 2023," read a message on the organization's website.

UEFA Approves Euro 2024 Qualifying Draw Procedure

PARIS (AFP) - UEFA has approved the procedure for the upcoming UEFA Euro 2024 qualifying draw, which will take place in Frankfurt on October 9.

A total of 53 teams will participate in the draw, which will allocate the participants to 10 groups - seven groups of five teams and three groups of six teams, with the top two in each advancing, according to UEFA's official website.

Euro 2024 host nation Germany qualifies automatically for the final tournament and therefore do not feature in the draw.

The remaining three places at the 24-team final tournament will be decided via play-offs to be contested in March 2024.

