

## The World Championships Pentathlon

In 1932, the world billiards association UIFAB recognized the pentathlon as a further discipline in amateur tournaments. A year later, the first international competition was held in Vichy (FR), but it did not yet have world championship status. It was intended as a kind of trial tournament, as a forerunner or to determine where you stood. The distances and coefficients corresponded to the later competition mode.

The official world championships finally began in 1934. In the first few years and between 1972 and 1977, they were held fairly regularly, but otherwise rather sporadically. It would be two decades from 1981 before another World Pentathlon Championship was held at Austria's initiative.

The first seven world championships were played with so-called shortened distances, the following six as 'neo-pentathlon' over the usual full game length in the individual title matches. From 1977, the balkline 47/1 replaced the balkline 47/2 (with the exception of 2001), and the game length was reduced again.

Setting a world championship record for the GA (relative general average) or the best game (relative best individual average) is and remains problematic despite or even because of all the coefficients and forms used in the Portuguese table, as the distances, sometimes also the disciplines and above all the ratings of the individual types of game were too different.

Raymond Ceulemans (BE) was the most successful player at the World Championships in the pentathlon. He became world champion four times, Ludo Dielis (BE) and Dieter Müller (DE) achieved this twice, all other title holders won only once.

It looks as if there will be no further world championships in this discipline, especially as the UMB has removed the classic games and therefore also the pentathlon from the competition program.