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RACE ACROSS CHINA BEGINS AS REGISTRATION OPENS FOR UIPM 2026 OBSTACLE WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS



- Obstacle racers set to chase world titles in Beijing (CHN) in September
- Popular individual formats of 100m, 400m and 3km return
- New relay and team challenges add intrigue to competition set-up

BEIJING, CHINA: April 30, 2026 – The Race Across China is live! Obstacle racers from around the globe are invited to register for the UIPM 2026 Obstacle World Championships, poised to return to Beijing from 2-6 September.

Building on the success of the inaugural standalone championships in 2025, the second edition will deliver an enhanced competition programme, bringing together the world's best athletes from Obstacle Course Racing (OCR), Ninja and Pentathlon. More athletes from younger generations will also be given a chance to race for world titles in the Chinese capital.

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New formats, new challenges

The 2026 Obstacle World Championships will introduce exciting innovations designed to elevate both performance and teamwork.

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A new 4 x 100 metres relay will see athletes compete in teams over a 400m course, with each athlete tackling a 100m segment in a fast-paced, spectator-friendly format that rewards speed, precision and seamless transitions.

- In the 3-kilometre team event, new adaptations will emphasise collaboration, with selected obstacles designed to be completed collectively. Teams will be required to navigate these sections together, reinforcing strategy, communication and unity as key components of success.
- The individual 100m, now firmly established as a global benchmark, will once again deliver explosive, high-intensity racing. New age groups: U11/U13.
- The individual 400m returns after attracting strong attention in 2025, offering a unique balance of speed, rhythm and technical challenge.
- The individual 3km completes the programme, testing endurance, resilience and race management on an urban course. New age groups: U11/U13.

These additions reflect UIPM's commitment to evolving Obstacle into a dynamic, inclusive and engaging discipline for athletes and audiences alike.

Beijing ready to host the world

China's capital city continues its four-year commitment to hosting the Obstacle World Championships, providing a world-class stage for the sport's continued growth.

The event will once again unite a diverse international community, from elite competitors to emerging athletes, all drawn by the challenge and excitement of Obstacle racing at the highest level.

Now firmly established within the UIPM sports family and on the road to its Olympic debut as part of Pentathlon at LA28, the 2026 championships represent another key milestone in the discipline's rapid development.



Comments

Rob Stull, UIPM President, commented: “The UIPM 2026 Obstacle World Championships represent the next step in the evolution of our sport. With new formats that enhance teamwork and excitement, and with Beijing once again providing an outstanding backdrop for all the action, we

are creating an event that is both athlete-focused and highly engaging for fans around the world. We look forward to welcoming the global Obstacle community to China for another unforgettable experience.”

Ian Adamson, Chair of the UIPM Obstacle Commission, added: “The introduction of new team-based challenges reflects the true spirit of Obstacle racing. By encouraging athletes to work together to overcome obstacles, we are not only raising the level of competition but also highlighting the camaraderie and resilience that define this sport.”

Zhang Bin, President of the Chinese Modern Pentathlon Association (CMPA), said: “The two World Championships coming to China mark an important opportunity for the development of UIPM Sports in China. With high-level event organization and dedicated services, we aim to offer athletes from around the world an unforgettable and exceptional competition experience in China.

“The introduction of obstacle racing has brought new vitality to Modern Pentathlon and opened up broader opportunities for its future development. Under the guidance of UIPM, CMPA will continue to promote innovation and development, making greater contributions to the growth of Obstacle racing, Olympic sport Pentathlon and all UIPM Sports.”

Part of a bigger journey

The UIPM 2026 Obstacle World Championships form part of the wider **Race Across China** concept, connecting two major events in one continuous sporting narrative.

Following the UIPM 2026 Pentathlon World Championships in Guiyang (24-30 August), athletes and teams will travel across the country to Beijing, creating a multi-city celebration of UIPM sport that blends tradition, innovation and cultural discovery.

Join the start line

With registration now open, athletes of all levels are encouraged to secure their place and be part of this global event.

From new competition formats to a unique international journey, the UIPM 2026 Obstacle World Championships promise an unforgettable experience at the forefront of a rapidly evolving sport.

More information about registration, formats and participation is available on the official event microsite:

- [Race Across China home](#)
- [Event information](#)
- [Schedule & Notices](#)
- [Technical Documents](#)
- [Registration](#)

FAQ

- Registration & Payment

Governance background

By the time of the 2026 World Champs in Beijing, UIPM will be the sole governing body for Obstacle Sports communities worldwide. This follows a vote by the Federation Internationale de Sports d'Obstacles (FISO) to dissolve itself in order to facilitate the integration of the sport into the UIPM movement. An enlarged UIPM Obstacle World Championships is planned for 2027, incorporating Ninja competitions.