

CONTENTS

- UIPM 2024 Pentathlon World Cup Cairo p.2
- Voyage to Paris 2024: Part XII p.10
- Pentathlon Personalities: Laura Asadauskaite p.12
- UIPM News Round-Up p.14
- Inside UIPM: Secretary General's Message p.18
- Inside UIPM: President's Activities p.20
- Pentathlon World Rankings p.28

UIPM 2024 PENTATHLON WORLD CUP CAIRO





Michelle Gulyas (HUN) and Ahmed Elgendy (EGY) cross the finish line to kick off the season with gold medals at UIPM 2024 Pentathlon World Cup Cairo.









UIPM 2024 Pentathlon World Cup Cairo



Mariana Arceo and Duilio Carrillo (MEX) celebrate Mixed Relay victory as the curtain came down on the first UIPM 2024 World Cup of the season

off Olympic year in golden fashion medallist Elgendy (EGY) won his home with Cairo triumphs

Michelle Gulyas of Hungary and Ahmed Elgendy of Egypt retained the titles they earned in 2023 to begin Run Olympic year in the best possible style at UIPM 2024 Pentathlon World Cup Cairo.

Gulyas (HUN) confirmed her earlyseason form with a serene victory, finishing 8sec ahead of silver medallist Sunwoo Kim of Korea and 14sec clear of bronze medallist Kerenza Bryson of Great Britain.

It was a fourth Pentathlon World Cup gold for the 23-year-old Hungarian sensation, who looks confident ahead of what is likely to be her second Olympic Games at Paris 2024.

Gulyas (HUN) and Elgendy (EGY) kick Later, Tokyo 2020 Olympic silver World Cup for the third time but only after resisting a remarkable burst from "I must thank the Egyptian Modern team-mate Moutaz Mohamed (EGY), who stole the lead for part of the Laser

> African champion Elgendy (EGY), 24, finally prevailed by 2sec and was joined on the podium by two first-time medallists, Mohamed (EGY) and bronze medallist Kamil Kasperczak of Poland.

> Mexico rounded off the week with a dominant gold medal in Sunday's Mixed Relay with Kazakhstan breaking through for a superb silver medal and bronze going to Korea.

> UIPM President Dr. Klaus Schormann said: "Here in Cairo, throughout the first competition of the Paris 2024 Olympic season we have seen female and male

athletes who have been prepared at a

Pentathlon Federation and the Minister for Sport, Ashraf Sobhy, who I met several times in these days. Congratulations to the Ministry of Sport and the Government of Egypt, as well as all sponsors and volunteers, as well as the media.

"The support of the American University here in Cairo is always very welcome and we are very thankful for that. In the way our athletes have started the season, we can look forward to a very exciting World Cup season where all athletes want to achieve points for their ranking and to qualify for the World Cup Final in Ankara and the Olympic

Women's champion Gulyas (HUN) said:

"It may have looked easy to you but it was very, very tough. There was a little temperature difference in the weather so it was difficult to run well, but I was trying to focus on my shooting so that I could keep my distance.

"I'm very, very happy, and my coaches are very happy that I'm back so everything is fine. I am a perfectionist, but I was very happy about my Riding because my horse was blind in one eye, so he was pushing a little to the left because of that. I'm getting there and of course I'm not in my best shape yet, because the main competitions are later in the year. But I'm on the right track and happy."

Silver medallist Kim (KOR) added: "My horse riding was a strong point today and every other discipline went well. In Laser Run, I made some mistakes in shooting but my running was fine and that kept me in a good position.

"I started in a high position so I was nervous, but I was able to focus my mind with mind control. Running was good and I had enough focus to finish in a good position today."

Bronze medallist Bryson (GBR) said: "I went in 4th and to be in the top five was a good sign. My running has come on a lot this year and since I moved to the national training centre in Bath.

"I feel lucky and really happy to be here, just super-happy with my performance. A medal is what I wanted so I achieved my target."

Men's champion Elgendy (EGY) said: "One year ago, I won this race and I am feeling the same emotions. One year ago, the whole race was intense and today it was like this too.

"I was feeling a little bit more confident in the last shoot, and I focused on that because I knew it was going to be a hard last lap. I'm so pleased to win the first World Cup of the season here in Egypt for a third time."



Most of the podium favourites made it safely around the opening Riding event of the year in Cairo.

Silver medallist Mohamed (EGY) fought back tears as he added: "It's very special and I'm really proud. I have so much support and I'm very happy. I made a lot of effort and to be on the podium beside our No.1, with all his experience, it feels really good.

"The race was very hard, even back to Fencing on the first day in qualification when I had a bad fence, but then my Swimming was just enough to get me through because I have a great Laser Run. Today it was all perfect, I couldn't

Bronze medallist Kasperczak (POL) said: "This competition was very crazy for me. My first Final in a World Cup and now my first medal, a bronze medal."

WOMEN'S FINAL

An intriguing Riding event saw most of the podium favourites in the Women's Final escape major damage. Gulyas (HUN) dislodged only one barrier, minimising the reduction of her overall lead as Sunwoo Kim (KOR), Bryson (GBR), Anna Maliszewska (POL), Ilke Ozyuksel of Türkiye and Elodie Clouvel of France all made a gain with a perfect

In her comeback competition, Tokyo 2020 Olympic champion Kate French (GBR) dropped 14 points to make it just a little harder to navigate a course to the podium. In the lower half of the field, London 2012 Olympic champion Laura Asadauskaite of Lithuania stayed

















WORLD PENTATHLON NEWSLETTER MARCH 2024 MARCH 2024 WORLD PENTATHLON NEWSLETTER



There was congestion in the pack during an all-action Fencing round during the Women's Final at UIPM 2024 Pentathlon World Cup Cairo.

in contention with a 293, but there was disappointment for faller Mariana Arceo of Mexico and Salma Abdelmaksoud (EGY) as they suffered elimination.

Fencing

With a Ranking Round score of 26V/9D, Gulyas (HUN) did just enough to create a buffer between herself and the rest of the field, and she added the maximum four points in the Bonus Round by defeating Unju Kim (KOR, 25V/10D) in the final bout.

There was congestion in the pack behind Gulyas (HUN), with Marie Oteiza (FRA) and Sunwoo Kim (KOR) both managing 24 victories and four others - Bryson (GBR), Elzbieta Adomaityte (LTU), French (GBR) and Maliszewska (POL) - winning 23.

The only athlete to make a major gain in the Bonus Round was Alice Sotero of Italy, with four consecutive victories partly atoning for her Ranking Round score of 17V/18D. Two victories enabled Clouvel (FRA) to keep the top six in her line of sight.





Action from the pool during the Swimming discipline of the Women's Final in Cairo (EGY).

Two athletes playing catch-up - Sotero (ITA) with the 4th-fastest time Sotero (ITA) and Clouvel (FRA) - made of 2:17.44. further ground with the fastest swims of 2min 13.88sec and 2:14.64. But Laser Run Gulyas (HUN) refused to give too much away, conceding only seven points to from Sunwoo Kim (KOR), with Oteiza

Gulyas (HUN) set off with a 14sec lead





Michelle Gulyas (HUN) was out in front with a 14-second lead on the rest of the field in the opening Laser Run of the UIPM 2024 World Cup season.

(FRA) a further 3sec, Bryson (GBR) 12sec and Clouvel (FRA) 14sec back. Sotero (ITA) was the initial big mover, on the way to a tenacious finishing place of 5th.

Gulyas (HUN) was a little slow on her first visit to the range, but the second shoot was better and the third one (8sec) made it look all but certain that gold would be hers. Sunwoo (KOR) may not have had enough to catch the lead woman but she was very solid in keeping her distance from the battles taking shape behind her.

Oteiza (FRA) was the first to concede ground to the pack, and soon Maliszewska (POL) and Bryson (GBR) came into the podium equation. It was on the last visit to the range that Bryson (GBR) made the crucial break, starting the season with a third major medal after her exciting breakthrough in 2023.

The outstanding Laser Run of the



The Men's Final on Super Saturday got underway with some assured Riding performances.

the course in 10:57.90.

MEN'S FINAL

Riding

Refusing to buckle to the pressure Women's Final belonged to Mariya of defending his title on home soil, only conceding one time penalty.

Gnedtchik (AIN), who stormed around Elgendy (EGY) led the way with an immaculate ride to register 300 points along with Jean-Baptiste Mourcia (FRA), Kasperczak (POL) and teammates Balazs Szep (HUN) and Richard Bereczki (HUN), with Mohamed (EGY)



















Spectators watch the Fencing Bonus Round during the Men's Final in Cairo.

With so many eyes on the performance Fencing of French athletes ahead of Paris 2024, Patte (FRA) had the edge on the piste, former gold medallist here – who had the responsibility of taking the last ride.

came to a shuddering halt as a series of refusals led to the only elimination of the Final.

it was Christopher Patte (FRA) – a both in the Ranking Round where he scored 24V/11D and in the Bonus Round where he denied Marvin Dogue of Germany in the last bout for four And his chances of a repeat triumph additional points. Dogue (GER) and Kasperczak (POL) each scored 23 victories, with Elgendy (EGY) in a clutch of athletes who managed 20V/15D.

The star of the Bonus Round with five victories was Szep (HUN).

Swimming

Mohamed (EGY), the 2023 Under 19 world champion, showed once again that the Olympic medallist in his team was not going to cruise to the finish line. With a swim of 2:02.56 he outpaced Elgendy (EGY, 2:03.64) and Csaba Bohm (HUN, 2:04.12) to notch another 305 points.

Laser Run

Having started alongside Elgendy (EGY), Kasperczak (POL) briefly overtook the favourite after the first shoot, while Mohamed (EGY) shook off Charles Brown (GBR) and started to work on his 9sec deficit. That changed on the fourth 600m, as the teenager gave everything in pursuit of Elgendy (EGY) and turned the race into a duel.

The two-time winner used all his experience to stay calm, especially at the shooting range where his last three visits all lasted less than 8sec. An exceptional mastery of the technical and mental aspects of laser shooting allowed him to set off on the final lap



There was plenty to cheer for fans of the host nation as Egyptian athletes proved their pool prowess in the Swimming round of the Men's Final.











Action from the Shooting range as the Laser Run was the scene of many exciting duels in the Men's Final at UIPM 2024 Pentathlon World Cup Cairo.

just enough.

staying power to shoot well back-to- on the French Olympic team selectors. back, leading to the remarkable sight

with a 56sec cushion that proved to be of two bespectacled Egyptians in their all-black outfits being roared around the course in a race for glory. Mourcia A pack containing Valentin Belaud (FRA), (FRA) was superb in Laser Run, with a Dogue (GER) and Bohm (HUN) looked time of 9:58 enabling him to finish an menacing, but none of them had the impressive 4th and put further pressure



The extended podium from the Men's Final after UIPM 2024 World Cup Cairo.

Arceo and Carrillo (MEX) come from behind to claim gold in competitive **Mixed Relay**

■ ariana Arceo and Duilio Carrillo Mcame from behind to earn Mixed Relay gold for Mexico on the final day of UIPM 2024 Pentathlon World Cup Cairo.

It was a satisfying moment for the Mexican team after a remarkable run of four silver medals in the 2023 regular season. Gold may have been elusive during that time but today it was claimed in style as Arceo and Carrillo (MEX) overturned a big deficit to deny Kazakhstan duo Lyudmila Yakovleva and Temirlan Abdraimov.

While silver was a breakthrough achievement for the young Kazakh duo, bronze went to a more familiar source as Seungmin Seong and Changwan Seo of Korea fought back for a podium place after a slow start.











The Mixed Relay team from China get to grips with their respective horses ahead of the Riding round during the Mixed Relay.

It was a similar story for the host Riding nation but Malak Ismail and Mohamed Elgendy of Egypt left themselves with too much to do and finished 4th.

Kazakhstan Riding, with only one blemish on their also came through largely unscathed.

way to a score of 293. Mexico (Arceo/ (Yakovleva/Abdraimov) Carrillo) also incurred only minimal took a grip on the competition with damage with 12 points conceded, while the most composed performance in Ayumu Saito and Sho Onishi of Japan



Teammates from Japan enjoy a victory during the Fencing discipline as the Mixed Relay brings the curtain down on UIPM 2024 Pentathlon World Cup Cairo.









Fencing

Kazakhstan (Yakovleva/Abdraimov) performed best on the piste, claiming 21 victories in the Ranking Round and adding the maximum four points in the Bonus Round after winning the final bout against Mexico (Arceo/Carrillo), who scored 18 victories in the round robin and one in the showpiece.

Xiuting Zhong and Linbin Zhang of China upstaged their neighbours Korea (Seong/Seo) with 16 victories compared to 14, as well as the Bonus Round bout between the two.

Swimming

The bronze-medal race gained intrigue as Korea (Seong/Seo) moved back into contention with the top time of 2min 01.05sec. This enables them to close within 12 overall points of China (Zhang/Zhong) and set up a five-way pack behind the top two heading into Laser Run.

Laser Run

The big move in Swimming paid off for Korea (Seong/Seo) as they made their way through the pack with the day's best Laser Run time of 2:01.05. This enabled them to secure the bronze that was the best they could have expected



Action from the Mixed Relay Swimming discipline at 2024 Pentathlon World Cup Cairo.

after struggles in Ridjng and Fencing.

However, even more drama surrounded the quest for gold. Having started 24sec behind the leaders, Tokyo 2020

Olympians Arceo & Carrillo (Mexico) used all their experience to rein in Kazakhstan (Yakovleva/Abdraimov) and turn the race on its head to win gold by an impressive margin of 13sec.



Tokyo 2020 Olympian Arceo (MEX) ensured pace-setters Mexico held on to open the World Cup season with gold in the Egyptian capital.









VOYAGE TO PARIS 2024

Olympic Games Countdown: Part XII



The Sun God sculpture at the Palace of Versailles has been given a refresh ahead of Paris 2024 events this summer. Pic: Château de Versailles/Twitter

Leading off...

The golden horses of Versailles are ready to welcome Modern Pentathlon's shining lights

orses have always played a central part to life from the very first days of the Chateau of Versailles.

This summer, when the former royal residence of King Louis XIV will provide arguably the most stunning and dramatic backdrops of the Paris 2024 Olympic Games, the equine history of the grounds will again come to the fore.

As well as Modern Pentathlon, Versailles is playing host to all of the equestrian events at this summer's Games and as it nears the end of its Olympic makeover, the palace put its most iconic horses front and centre again.

Last week at a special ceremony at

symbol of the Sun King Louis XIV with its sculpture of Apollo rising out of the water with a four-horse chariot - was lowered back into the fountain with a gleaming fresh coat of golden paint.

The refresh is understandable given the statue is over 350 years old. But it is also part of a special equine focus ahead of the Games, with an exhibition celebrating the history of horses at Versailles opening in July.

The sprawling stables opposite the Chateau were a constant hive of activity during its history. According to the Palace, in the 18th century more than 2,000 horses at any one time were housed in the Royal Stables.

August 8-11 this year will see the curtain come down on Riding as a discipline in Modern Pentathlon, with the new Obstacle discipline replacing it for the 2028 Olympic cycle and beyond.

Le Bassin d'Apollon, the Sun God – a For one last time, mastering the opening Riding discipline could make or break the Olympic dreams of all 72 pentathletes who make it. Versailles feels like a fitting place to mark the end

> Right now Versailles is a hive of activity with Lorick Joseph of the Olympic Organising Committee reporting at the Sun God ceremony that "around 70 per cent" of the preparatory work has now been completed with temporary grandstands which can accommodate more than 16,000 spectators completed. The wider gardens which will be used will host crowds of over

> "Horses are so obviously in the iconography of the palace, including in paintings, sculptures and fountains," Versailles Palace President Christophe Leribault said. "So it's a wonderful meeting of this old tradition and the modern sport."

> Paris Pointer

Timing is everything as the Olympic clock starts ticking a little faster in a hectic April schedule

In her interview with UIPN News last month Hungarian hotshot Michelle Gulyas opened up on her decision to turn from gymnastics, a sport she excelled at as a child, to Modern Pentathlon.

"I started gymnastics when I was five years old, did it for six years. When I was 11 that's when I was thinking about changing to a less subjective sport where it's not about connections or people's interpretations. In Pentathlon you run what you run — that is your time. There's no arguing with that."

There was little arguing with what Gulyas subsequently produced in this season's first Pentathlon World Cup, where a blistering return marked her return to form and the top step on the podium. Gulyas is, of course, correct: in Pentathlon you do "run what you run". But running form is vitally important, and never more so than in an Olympic year.

In the women's competition in Cairo (EGY), Gulyas showed the off-season work she had put into her Running and Swimming had paid off handsomely. around the corner is a skill in itself.

Equally, reinforcing your position in a competitive pecking order is always a good idea, which is exactly what Tokyo 2020 Olympic silver medalist Ahmed Elgendy (EGY) did in front of both a home crowd and national team Men's Final.

Timing proved to be against some of the biggest names in the sport, as Great Britain's Olympic champion Joseph Choong (GBR) and fellow two-time world champion Elena Micheli (ITA) were both hobbled by injury issues; neither made it to Super Saturday's finals.



Egypt's Ahmed Elgendy timed his gold medal run in Cairo (EGY) to perfection in an Olympic year.

that the clock ticks even faster in April.

Across just 12 days from April 16-28 the UIPM 2024 Pentathlon World Cup season will rapidly moved through its second and third instalments. In the Turkish capital of Ankara (April 16-21) and then Budapest, Hungary (April 23-28), the world's best and those looking Finding improvements with Paris just to gatecrash the elite at the last minute can't afford to waste their time. As Gulyas says, time to "run what you run".

Numbers game

coaches and selectors as he won the volunteers who gathered at Paris La Defense Arena on March 24 to spend a festive day exploring the Games as well as discovering their uniform, designed by French sportswear company

Qualification latest

The good news for those two UIPM 2024 Pentathlon World Cup heavyweights, and everyone else who Cairo already in the books, jostling for needs to find their Olympic timing, is the final 28 qualification spots for Paris 2024 has begun.

> While we know that 44 of the 72 quota places at this summer's Games have been claimed, the plot is thickening.

> Here's a reminder of who has qualified already. Women: Italy (2), Great Britain (2), China, Japan, Korea, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Spain, Lithuania, France, Hungary, Germany, Egypt, Australia, Czech Republic, Mexico USA, Brazil, Ecuador and the International Athletes Team (EAI). Men: Egypt (2), Mexico (2), Italy, China, Japan, Korea, Thailand, Kazakhstan, Great Britain, Hungary, France, Germany, Poland, Ukraine, Switzerland, Australia, Ecuador, Cuba, Argentina and EAI.

Up to six places are on offer at the UIPM 2024 Pentathlon World Championships in June, but there are at least 12 coming through the UIPM Olympic World Rankings, which makes the World Cup season so key for those targeting rankings points. Full details of the Paris 2024 qualification process can be found Now things are getting very real. With at uipmworld.org/olympic-games

















The iron woman: Meet Laura Asadauskaite

In the latest in our 'Pentathlon Personalities' series, Lithuania's legendary champion on making Olympic history in Paris, parenthood and life beginning again at 40...

ebruary 28 was a Wednesday this year. Just one more reason for Laura Asadauskaite to keep things low key. Her birthday had arrived just as the most demanding pre-season of her career was reaching its peak. In any case, the milestone was apparently not a major cause for celebration.

Asadauskaite was turning 40 but she is no normal 40-year-old. Then again, last year she was no normal 39-year-old, the year before that no normal 38-yearold. You get the picture. Asadauskaite has been extraordinary for so long now that it's almost taken for granted. Her brilliance - and bloody determination - has been with Pentathlon so long that it's part of the furniture.

When she lists the reasons why this year's birthday was no extravagant celebration, you nod along. But deep down, you know the fact that it fell a week before the first UIPM Pentathlon World Cup of the season is probably why Asadauskaitė didn't go overboard. "When you think about it, it's been so many years. It's even hard to think about, hard to look at the passport," smiles Asadauskaitė. "Still, in your heart, you feel young, strong, and capable of anything. As you think, so it is.

"And yet, in reality, well, there's this saying that you shouldn't celebrate turning 40. So that's why we celebrated very calmly, with family, had a peaceful meal with our favourite dishes. And training was from morning until evening. That weekend, we were already off to the World Cup in Cairo, so there wasn't much opportunity to celebrate there either."

This, after all, is an Olympic year, which is an Asadauskaite kinda year. So of course, not the time for distractions. Paris 2024 looms over the entire world of elite Pentathlon yet you sense it looms



Laura Asadauskaite (LTU) is on track to make history by competing at a fifth Olympics at Paris 2024

and lingers longer over her. Simply put, she is Pentathlon's iron woman. This summer's Games will be the Lithuanian icon's fifth. Debut in Beijing, golden glory in London, heartbreak in Rio de Janeiro, silver redemption in Tokyo. And now the City of Love with all of its romance and history but with plenty more history to be made.

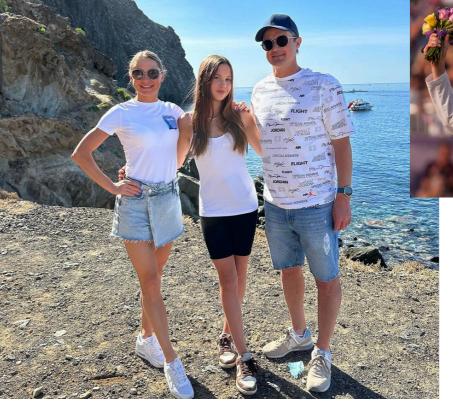
Asadauskaite persists in discussing Paris as a hypothetical and highlights a selection process the Lithuanian federation must make. But we know she'll be there and in the process will become the first female pentathlete in history to make it to a fifth Games. Just one man, Australian Peter Macken, achieved the feat and he did so almost 50 years ago. Look a little further at what a victory in Paris could mean: it would leave Asadauskaitė as the most decorated pentathlete in history.

it used to be, say, 10-15 years ago. But I already have my Olympic plan developed, a four-year cycle," she says.

"I already know that I needed to take a break after the [Tokyo] Olympic Games. I know that afterwards there's such a recovery period for me, so I mustn't overdo it, and then there are still two years when I need to push myself to qualify for the [next] Olympics.

"About a gold medal, one must speak very cautiously. After all, our young athletes have grown significantly stronger now. Frankly speaking, I believe I definitely won't be able to win the gold. I think it would require a stroke of very good luck for me. I mean, I must do everything perfectly, and these few strong competitors must somehow fail. They must have bad luck.

"I think I can fight for any medal in my "Naturally, it's much harder now than best shape. But, as I said, it's [also about]



Laura Asadauskaite with daughter Adriana and husband Andrejus Zadneprovskis; above, London 2012

luck. And we know with horses, yes... It's possible to fight for any medal. As for what will happen, nobody knows. And in reality, I feel that now it will be much harder than it probably was."

What's remarkable though is that Asadauskaite has made all of this look easy. Since making her post-Tokyo return in April 2023 she has finished inside the top 10 in every event and is ranked sixth in the world. Talk to any of the leading lights of the new generation she refers to and the respect from them is so clear — but so too is the fear. Her ability to hunt down leaders in the Laser Run is the stuff of legend. Hungary's Michelle Gulyas spoke to UIPM News last month and said simply "if Laura is starting the Laser Run in fifth or sixth behind you, you're in big trouble".

"I will repeat again that these girls are very strong, and I must say, competing with them right now is very difficult for me," says Asadauskaite, who started the season with a 9th-place finish at UIPM 2024 Pentathlon World Cup Cairo.

"Apparently, they are often on the podium, and I'm just a little short. But At the arena and away from it she has The City of Love, fittingly, awaits.

I know perfectly well what I need to do in which disciplines and how, and I will strive to do everything possible. Everything must come together. All of my physical and mental preparation must be there, and it will be decisive if it's the Olympic Games."

The Asadauskaite journey with the Olympics is a remarkable one. Of London 2012, she says "I realised my dream and I became that Olympic champion. Well then, other dreams followed, the ones I wanted to fulfill, and they also came true."

But what followed in Rio was a nightmare, when her chances were undone by elimination in the Riding discipline. "I thought, what should I do next? But it really touched me inside. That it's unfair. Fate is unfair, and why is fate like this?"

And so in Tokyo she challenged fate to a rematch. "I see that I have strength, and desire, and opportunity, and so, year after year, I came to Tokyo, and I managed to win a medal and prove that justice exists after all."

proved so much. For 14 years she has balanced motherhood and elite sport and somehow made that look easy too. She and husband Andrejus Zadneprovskis, two-time Olympic medallist in Athens 2004 and Beijing 2008 and UIPM Executive Board Member for Media, welcomed daughter Adriana in 2010.

"Of course, this is a very difficult path - being a mother, raising children, and being a professional athlete," she says. "I think it's still better for you when these things are separate. We can't devote 100% of our time to our children. We sacrifice our time, maybe even our attention. A medal has two sides."

If not rude, it doesn't feel quite right to discuss what retirement may eventually look like for Asadauskaitė. She smiles and says "maybe not soon" before outlining goals in the sports space, coaching, mentoring, campaigning.

If she could pass on her mentality to the next generation, Lithuanian sport would reap huge rewards. Whatever about keeping the body going at the very top this long, how has Asadauskaite stayed so damn hungry? "Many people ask me this question, I've long thought about it. I've practically won everything possible. And for 30 years now I've been in sports, and it seems... Well, what pushes me to go on? Why am I here? Why do I still train? Still want to compete, participate, win medals?

"And the only answer I find - it's simply love for sports. There's no other name for it, it's just love."

















UIPM News round-up



Prize money for the athletes who perform best at major UIPM events increased with immediate effect ahead of UIPM 2024 Pentathlon World Cup Cairo

Athlete prize money for major UIPM competitions boosted by increase of almost 20%

uring its meeting on March 7, the UIPM Executive Board agreed to sanction an almost 20% increase in prize money for athletes competing in UIPM competitions with immediate effect.

The UIPM Athletes Committee issued a statement that read: "The Athletes Committee is really excited to announce ... there will be an almost 20% increase in total prize money in the 2024 season starting from World Cup 1 (Cairo).

"The distribution will see an increase to the existing prize money for the top 6 individual athletes in the World Cup series, and we are really pleased to introduce prize money for athletes placed 7th - 10th at individual World Cups."

UIPM President Dr Klaus Schormann



Prize money was introduced for those who finish in places 7-10 at individual World Cup events.

commented: "In the Executive Board meeting we discussed the request of the Athletes Committee and the Chair, Yasser Hefny, presented clear arguments that the EB supported.

"Athletes are the focal point of our Union increase in prize money."

and we always need to give them as much support as possible. I hope this increase in prize money sends a clear message that athletes have the full support of the EB and the movement, and we are happy that the Board voted unanimously for this



World Championships with Gyomro (HUN) awarded 2024 edition

The UIPM Executive Board met on March 7 and agreed on some key decisions, including the revival of the the last Masters World Championships UIPM Masters World Championships to feature Riding alongside Fencing, with the 2024 edition awarded to Swimming and Laser Run. Gyomro in Hungary.

The city, 35km from the capital Budapest, will stage the return of the UIPM Masters World Championships from September 13-15, 2024.

Gyomro (HUN) hosted the European Masters Championships in 2019, not long before the COVID-19 pandemic brought Modern Pentathlon's international Masters movement to a halt.

host the global gathering of pentathletes aged 30+ in 2022, the Hungarian Modern Pentathlon Association (HMPA) entered a bid that was accepted by the UIPM EB - and they will now host

The news comes after France held the first Masters competition to include the new Obstacle discipline in Bompas (FRA), and after Chisinau (MDA) held a successful Open European Masters Championships that signalled the revival of the movement in November 2023.

UIPM President Dr Klaus Schormann said: "After a fallow period in the history of the UIPM Masters World

happy that the Hungarian Modern Pentathlon Association offered to organise the competition in September 2024 so that our Masters have not only their local and open regional events but also a global competition to prepare for.

"My congratulations go to the global Masters movement and to the Hungarian federation, and I wish everybody good luck and a smooth preparation for the World Championships in September, and also the elections."

In accordance with the UIPM Election Rules, elections for the new UIPM Masters Committee will take place during the UIPM 2024 Masters World Championships.









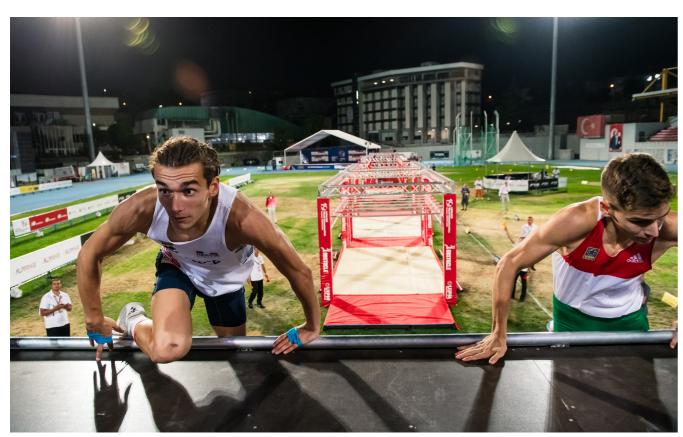








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The Obstacle Laser Run Tour (OLR) follows UIPM's successful Global Laser Run City Tour and the Biathle-Triathle National Tour initiatives.

UIPM Executive Board agrees on the launch of Obstacle Laser Run (OLR) **World Tour**

t the same UIPM EB meeting on AMarch 7 there was agreement on the launch of the Obstacle Laser Run (OLR) World Tour, with the aim of globalising a new format that will be used for University and Military World Championships run by FISU and CISM respectively.

The addition of Obstacle discipline to the UIPM Statutes and Competition Rules in November 2022 enabled the creation of new multi-sport formats to support the globalisation of UIPM

Obstacle Laser Run (OLR) was soon added to the UIPM Sports Pyramid as a format that is highly flexible for organisers, as well as athletes and coaches and the National Federations responsible for development at grassroots level.

Not only is OLR seen as a potentially

very popular spectator sport, but its plug-and-play flexibility enables it to take the place of traditional Modern Pentathlon in the University and Military movements, where it will become the favoured format for future FISU World University Championships Modern Pentathlon – starting in Kaunas (LTU) in 2024 - and CISM Modern Pentathlon Military World Championships.

Now the addition of an Obstacle Laser Run World Tour follows UIPM's successful development of the Global Laser Run City Tour and Biathle-Triathle National Tour, expanding massparticipation competition opportunities for countries in every corner of the

The OLR World Tour will not only offer new entry points to UIPM Sports



Obstacle discipline was added to the UIPM Statutes and Competition Rules in November 2022.











and pathways to the Olympic sport of on behalf of the Executive Board I look Modern Pentathlon, it will become a regional events where elite Pentathlon is less established, such as the Southeast which is in 2025.

The OLRWT bidding process will open for NFs that are not yet able to host full Pentathlon events due to their stage of development. As a first step, the OLRWT will target countries that already have or recently acquired Obstacle competition equipment, giving athletes and organisers a chance to create a country.

UIPM President Dr Klaus Schormann said: "The FISU 2024 World University Championships Modern Pentathlon will be very exciting as it will combine Laser Run with Obstacle for the first time, and this new format gives a lot worldwide.

"I wish all athletes who are in their academic career a fantastic time during this historic competition in Kaunas, and

forward to seeing the development potential solution for continental and of the new Obstacle Laser Run World Tour, giving people of all ages new opportunities to compete in our Asian Games – the next iteration of movement in every corner of the world."

> **UIPM 2024 Pentathlon World Cups** Ankara & Budapest: Two additional athletes approved to compete as

ne pentathlete who holds a Belarus passport, and one who holds a Russia passport, have been approved to participate in a neutral capacity in UIPM competitive opportunity in their own 2024 Pentathlon World Cup Ankara (April 16-21) and UIPM 2024 Pentathlon World Cup Budapest (April 23-28).

> This follows the granting of neutral status to 12 athletes who hold Belarus passports announced on 29 February.

Rather than representing their country of accessibility to student athletes of origin, any of the 14 athletes who take part in these competitions (a maximum of four female and four male athletes, only in the individual category) will be designated as independent neutral athletes (AIN).

The approval was granted by UIPM's Independent Panel, which was set up in May 2023 after UIPM created a pathway for individual athletes with Belarus or Russia passports to return to UIPM Sports competitions on a neutral basis.

The members of the Panel researched and discussed the credentials of each individual application based on eligibility criteria set by UIPM, in cooperation with the International Olympic Committee (IOC) and in line with the United Nations in terms of the protection of individuals'

All successful applicants have received approval of their neutral status and are eligible to compete in the second and third events of the UIPM 2024 season. Any applications for future competitions will be considered in the same way.

In making this announcement, UIPM also reiterates its absolute support for athletes and other members of the Modern Pentathlon community in Ukraine who have suffered so much since the invasion of their country by Russia, supported by Belarus.









Inside UIPM

Secretary General Shiny Fang's message

Pentathlon TV product has a bright future with **OBS** guiding our evolution

Pentathlon TV product has a bright So why has it been complex at times? future with OBS guiding our evolution

am excited to bring you all an update on some pivotal developments in the evolution of our Modern Pentathlon TV product. But first it is important to set the context of the historic relationship with one of UIPM's key stakeholders.

The partnership between UIPM and Olympic Broadcasting Services (OBS) has always been cordial, respectful and productive - and a little complex, at times. This is inevitable when you consider the number of changes that have taken place in the Olympic Pentathlon since the 1990s, and the driving forces behind those changes.

In terms of TV and media, the driving force can be summarised in one word: audience. It has been important to service existing Olympic Games audiences with a continuously improving product. But it has been - and will continue to be - even more important that we try to attract new audiences when Pentathlon sits in the shop window of the greatest sporting event on the planet.

I recall one difficult moment during the 2012-2016 Olympic cycle, when OBS produced a video consisting entirely of the worst mishaps suffered by athletes the Riding element of Modern Pentathlon over the years.

It was upsetting for our community to be subjected to this kind of 'blooper reel', and I wrote a letter to the OBS CEO expressing our dissatisfaction, to which they responded with an explanation detailing the number of clicks and views on the video, which they felt was indicative of a positive response from audiences. When our mission is to attract new audiences to our sport, it is hard to argue with such logic.

OBS, as the name suggests, are masters of the art of Olympic broadcasting and we listen to their feedback, even when it hurts. In 2014, an OBS team visited our Pentathlon World Cup in Rome (ITA), when we were testing the new Fencing Bonus Round. Their chief content manager used the word "disconnected" to describe the status of our sport and the sequence of disciplines at that

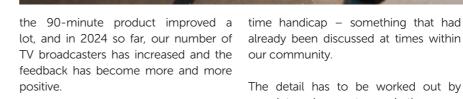
moment, which provided us with a clear direction of travel.

After Rio 2016, where Pentathlon for the first time had four disciplines (only missing Swimming) in one Olympic venue, a more connected sport was built around the concept of a Pentathlon Stadium with a 1 sport / 5 discipline / 5 hours programme.

The vision of 5-in-1 was realised in Tokyo, a huge improvement. While this more compact and more understandable received by was well broadcasters, it was obvious that a fivehour duration continued to limit the number of networks that would televise an entire Pentathlon live on air.

Another more TV-friendly product was born at the end of 2021 with the new 90-minute format, which debuted in the 2022 season with a Semi-final/Final format that immediately intensified the competition. Every 'taker' of our TV show was finally able to show an entire Pentathlon without cutting out a single discipline.

During those first two years of experience,



Angeles 2028 cycle and the most radical transformation so far!

The new TV product took further shape during a constructive meeting with a comprehensive OBS programming team and senior leadership in their Madrid headquarters on March 12.

One of their many intelligent suggestions was to start our event in LA with Obstacle, marking the dawn of a new era and introducing Pentathlon with a series to grab the attention of new audiences.

Next comes the new Fencing with single-elimination format, followed by an innovative change to Swimming with

already been discussed at times within

our internal experts, and there are And now we look ahead to the Los various options and ways to do this, but a Swimming handicap means more relevant races, which means viewers continue to follow the overall storyline without switching off. And then we finish with our dramatic Laser Run as per the status quo.

Everything suggested by OBS is subject to a democratic process, culminating in the need for approval by UIPM Congress. But so far, so good. The results of this OBS meeting, when reported back to of short and thrilling head-to-head races the Executive Board, earned unanimous support. The IOC is also aligned to OBS in pushing for a more exciting and presentable Pentathlon TV product in

athletes starting according to an overall So what are the next steps? Once the

testing of the new Fencing format is complete, relevant procedures will be followed in order to present to Congress the necessary adjustments, keeping in The detail has to be worked out by mind the need to minimise impact on athletes' training and ensure maximum accessibility for National Federations to develop the sport.

> Having come on a long shared journey with OBS, in this meeting I was amazed by their vision and pragmatic way of thinking and doing. This is based on real and profound Olympic broadcasting and distribution experience, as well as a flexibility in understanding our sport's charm and complexity, while respecting that the benefits to athletes should outweigh any adjustments that may be inconvenient or disruptive.

> We are enjoying working with the OBS team and appreciate their guidance and patience to believe in our sport's future growth potential, along with all of our innovations and improvements.



















Inside UIPM

President Dr Klaus Schormann's activities



UIPM President Dr. Klaus Schormann attends the Sport Expo in Cairo (EGY) alongside Egyptian Minister for Youth & Sport Dr. Ashraf Sobhy and guests.

29.02.2024: CISM meeting

n the last day of February, UIPM President Dr Klaus Schormann had an online call with former pentathlete Col Nilton Rolim, who was recently elected as President of the International Military Sports Council (CISM)

They discussed the future of Modern Pentathlon within the CISM Movement and how Col Rolim wants to include Modern Pentathlon with the new Obstacle discipline in the CISM World Games, potentially with the Obstacle Laser Run (OLR) format.

Furthermore, Col Rolim proposed President Dr Schormann the idea to have the CISM Modern Pentathlon President Dr Schormann attended Military World Championships in the Sport Expo together with Egypt's Caldas da Rainha (POR) this year Minister for Youth & Sport, Dr Ashraf

Championships. Dr Schormann agreed to this idea and they also spoke about future CISM World Championships with Spain and Hungary as potential hosting nations.

Furthermore, they will review and update the Memorandum of Understanding signed between UIPM and CISM in 2021 in the coming weeks.

06.03. - 10.03.2024: Cairo, EGY

UIPM President Dr Schormann attended the first major competition of the 2024 Olympic season, UIPM Pentathlon World Cup Cairo, while also taking part in sportpolitical functions.

combined with the UIPM U17 World Sobhy, Egyptian Modern Pentathlon

Federation (EMPF) President Sharif Elerian OLY and World Olympians and French Modern Pentathlon Federation (FFPM) President Joel Bouzou OLY.

The Sport Expo allows all sectors to present commercial products and cutting-edge services that will serve the sports industry for years to come.

Outside of such official commitments, the UIPM President met also with various National Federation (NF) leaders during the competition, further discussing strategies to develop the sport in their countries and establish a solid base for future competitions.

Two of the NF officials he met were Joseph Collins Ssemmanda (Secretary General, Uganda Modern Pentathlon Federation) and Ismalia Lingany (President, Mali Modern Pentathlon



UIPM EB members watch the opening event of the season, UIPM 2024 Pentathlon World Cup Cairo, where 45 nations were represented.

For Uganda and Mali, UIPM Pentathlon had attended the competition to cheer meeting, which took place in a hybrid World Cup Cairo provided an opportunity for athletes to compete in diversity of Modern Pentathlon.

starting in the Mixed Relay at the last day of the competition. President Dr the Deputy Ambassador of Kuwait, who

the Kuwaiti athletes.

a Category A competition in their own President Dr Schormann expressed his continent of Africa. Forty-five nations pride that new federations at an early were represented in Cairo (EGY), a stage of development had the initiative mark of the increasing accessibility and to attend World Cups to gain experience and learn from other nations, connect with the UIPM society, discover how The newly-installed Kuwait Modern others train and build up friendship Pentathlon Federation also had athletes through sport – which has the power to connect people across borders.

Schormann had the chance to speak to On March 7 President Dr Schormann chaired the UIPM Executive Board

format as there was a big attendance of Board Members in Cairo (EGY).

The President's Report included the CISM World Championships, the latest situation with neutral athletes holding Russia and Belarus passports, the integration of Obstacle and the new UIPM Art & Sport Contest.

Pentathlon World Cup Cairo was the first UIPM competition where athletes from Belarus were granted access to compete with individual neutral athlete



Left to right: Joseph Collins Ssemmanda (Secretary General Uganda MPF); Dr Klaus Schormann (UIPM President); Ismalia Lingany (President Mali MPF).



UIPM leadership welcomes the Mixed Relay team from the newly-installed Kuwait Modern Pentathlon Federation.



















President Dr. Klaus Schormann with Members of the UIPM Executive Board pictured during UIPM 2024 Pentathlon World Cup Cairo

(AIN) status having gone through the rigorous checks of an independent panel.

Furthermore, the EB discussed how NF can better merge with the Obstacle society in their country and the next steps to integrate Obstacle into Modern Pentathlon.

With Paris 2024 looming in one of the world's most important historical and cultural cities, President Dr Schormann a long-serving member of the IOC Commission for Culture & Olympic Heritage – proposed the introduction of an Art & Sport Contest lasting from April until June, enabling professional and amateur artists among the Modern Pentathlon community to create work



representing the Olympic Games, The UIPM Executive Board met in a hybrid format with so many members present in Cairo (EGY)













UIPM President Dr. Schormann with Egyptian Youth & Sport Minister Dr. Sobhy and assembled guests at the Egyptian Sports Forum "Road to Paris 2024"

founder, Baron Pierre de Coubertin.

After the Finals on Saturday, the Ministry of Youth and Sports, President was joined by Joel Bouzou International Federations and other key OLY and UIPM Athletes Committee stakeholders in the sports industry. Its The theme for this year's Forum was Chair Yasser Hefny OLY in attending the Egypt Athletes Forum.

purpose is to build up a community of Egyptian champions, highlight their

Modern Pentathlon or the sport's The Forum gathers Olympians, athletes, success, understand their struggles, sports authorities, National Olympic support them in their careers and help Committees, athlete commissions, them make history by encouraging them in international competitions.

> The Road To Paris, with a panel topic of Sport Diplomacy.



UIPM President Dr Klaus Schormann, VP Joel Bouzou OLY and Athletes Committee Chair Yasser Hefny OLY speak at the Egypt Athletes Forum









11.03.2024: Dubai, UAE

Emirates National Olympic Committee, Ministry for Education, Sport Council and UAE Modern Pentathlon Federation started with the NOC Secretary General HE Faris Mohamed Al-Tawah. President Dr Schormann and the NOC SG spoke about the future possibilities for Modern Pentathlon within UAE as well as historic competitions organised some years ago.

Dr Schormann then met HE Dr Ahmed Belhoul Al Falasi, Minister of Education and Chairman of the General Authority of Sport, at the NOC headquarters. The meeting was attended by HE Ghanim Mubarak Rashid Al Hajeri (Director-General of the General Authority of Sport), HE Sheikh Suhail Bin Butti Al Maktoum (Executive Director of the Sports Development Sector at the Authority), and HE Dr Huda Al Matrooshi (UAEMPF President).

They discussed key ways to enhance cooperation and the Union's future plans to develop the Olympic sport in the UAE. They also explored opportunities for the UAE to host Modern Pentathlon competitions, aiming to boost the UAE's sports competitiveness and status by welcoming the replacement of Riding with the more urban sport of Obstacle

In addition, the UIPM President also had a chance to meet with the Sharjah Sport Council, which manages all sports competitions in Dubai and supports the UAEMPF.

Top, I to r: Tamer Samy (UIPM Senior Technology Manager), Abdulaziz Ibrahim Hussein Ali al-Salman (UAE NOC Member), H.E. Faris Mohamed Al-Tawah (UAE NOC Secretary General); Dr. Klaus Schormann (UIPM President); Dr. Huda Almatrooshi (UAEMPF President); Lena Nussbaumer (UIPM Executive Assistant); Qais Abdulla Al Dhalai (UAE NOC Member)

Middle: Presidents Dr Schormann and Dr Almatrooshi with (left) Ghanim Mubarak Rashid AL Hajeri (Director General of General Sports Authority), and (right) HE Dr Ahmad Belhoul Al Falasi (Minister of Eduaction + President of General Sports Authority of UAE), after their meeting (bottom) in Dubai (UAE)









Left to right: Tamer Samy, Lena Nussbaumer, President Dr Klaus Schormann, HE Issa Hilal Al-Hazami (Chairman Sharjah Sports Council), President Dr Huda Almatrooshi and Mostafa Hassan (UAEMPF Director)

Its Chairman, HE Issa Hilal Al-Hazami, spoke about the good experience they had so far with the UAEMPF and with UIPM, based on the previous staging of two Biathle & Triathle World Championships in Dubai (UAE).

President Dr Schormann was supported in meetings by UIPM Senior Technology and IT Manager, Tamer Samy, and Executive Assistant Lena Nussbaumer.

14.03. - 15.03.2024: Madrid, ESP

President Dr Schormann met with Carlos Jimenez del Castillo, President of the Spanish Modern Pentathlon Federation, Secretary General Jaime Gonzalez Almaraz and Dr Viacheslav Malishev, UIPM Executive Board Member for Development.

Discussions centred around the future strategies of the Spanish NF and avenues for integrating the Spanish Obstacle society into the existing framework.



Left to right: President Dr Huda Almatrooshi; HE Issa Hilal Al-Hazami (Chairman Sharjah Sports Council): President Dr Klaus Schormann. Lena Nussbaumer and Tamer Samv

















While UIPM provided guidelines for this integration process, it was acknowledged that each nation and federation face unique circumstances requiring tailored approaches.

Furthermore, they discussed the possibility of hosting the CISM 2025 Modern Pentathlon Military World Championships, due to their close cooperation with the Army in Spain.

Additionally, Dr Schormann provided insights into the ongoing situation involving neutral athletes from Belarus and Russia, along with updates on UIPM's successful organisation of the season-opening UIPM 2024 Pentathlon World Cup Cairo.

Furthermore, the group discussed ways to enhance competitiveness within the sport, exploring strategies aimed at advancing Modern Pentathlon in Spain and ensuring that athletes receive the support to thrive on the international stage.

Highlighting the success story of athletes like Laura Heredia, who secured a Paris 2024 direct qualification quota place for Spain at the 2023 European Games in Krakow (POL), served as inspiration for other athletes.

On March 15. UIPM President Dr Klaus Schormann met with 1st Vice President Juan Antonio Samaranch (also IOC Vice President) at his office in Madrid. They shared updates on UIPM activities leading up to Paris 2024 and beyond.

19.03.2024: London, GBR

Before the competition season gains full momentum and with the upcoming Paris 2024 Olympic Games, President Dr Schormann travelled to London for an in-person meeting with Jon Tibbs (CEO) and his JTA agency colleagues Justin Shea and Nick Dawes, along with UIPM Executive Assistant Lena Nussbaumer.

Discussions centred around strategic communication plans tailored for the



Above: UIPM President Dr Klaus Schormann and 1st Vice President (also IOC Vice President) Juan Antonio Samaranch meet in Madrid (ESP). Below: a meeting with JTA agency in London (GBR)













UIPM President Dr Klaus Schormann met with journalist Alain Lunzenfichter and UIPM EB Member Martin Dawe to discuss the historical book project

showcase Modern Pentathlon.

strategies, the group explored ways only for the upcoming Olympics but to effectively convey the unique aspects of the sport, especially its historical significance intertwined with equestrianism, while emphasising the need for adaptation to resonate with future generations.

Sport Accord and other international sports events, will be used as platforms for President Dr Schormann to represent the sport to maximise positive media coverage.

In essence, the meeting served timeline aiming for the completion over the past 112 years.

effectively positioning Delving into the communication Pentathlon on the global stage, not also for the future.

25.03. - 26.03.2024: Darmstadt, GER

IPM President Dr. Klaus Schormann met with experienced former L'Equipe journalist Alain Lunzenfichter Upcoming competitions, as well as and Martin Dawe, UIPM Executive Board Member for Marketing, over a two-day period to discuss the progress and next steps for UIPM's historical book project.

Paris 2024 Olympics, aiming to leverage as a pivotal moment to refine of the book before UIPM Congress Dr Schormann's presidency to effectively communication strategies, strengthen in November 2024, ensuring that it partnerships and align efforts towards becomes a tangible piece of history Modern accessible to all.

MARCH 2024

The comprehensive book will encompass various facets of Modern Pentathlon history, including profiles of all Olympic champions, a Hall of Fame section, anecdotes about pivotal figures such as Baron Pierre de Coubertin, and other significant contributors to the Modern Pentathlon Movement.

Additionally, there will be a dedicated section for artwork, featuring pieces by renowned artists, alongside The meeting's action plan outlined a showcasing the sport's innovative path









Pentathlon World Rankings

The PWR is updated live at www.pentathlon.org after each competition. PWR as at April 1, 2024

MEN			
RANK	NATION	NAME	POINTS
1	EGY	Mohanad SHABAN	210
2	GBR	Joseph CHOONG	210
3	MEX	Emiliano HERNANDEZ	205
4	KOR	Woongtae JUN	180
5	EGY	Ahmed ELGENDY	177
6	HUN	Csaba BOHM	175
7	KOR	Changwan SEO	159
8	ITA	Giorgio MALAN	154
9	FRA	Valentin BELAUD	150
10	GER	Marvin DOGUE	149
11	FRA	Valentin PRADES	146
12	HUN	Balazs SZEP	146
13	CHN	Linbin ZHANG	146
14	EGY	Mohamed ELGENDY	143
15	CZE	Martin VLACH	141
16	KOR	Jihun LEE	135
17	JPN	Taishu SATO	129
18	GBR	Myles PILLAGE	129
19	CZE	Marek GRYCZ	128
20	FRA	Pierre DEJARDIN	125

The latest UIPM World Rankings, World Cup
Rankings and Olympic Games Rankings are
all available at www.pentathlon.org

WOMEN				
RANK	NATION	NAME	POINTS	
1	ITA	Alice SOTERO	201	
2	ITA	Elena MICHELI	197	
3	GBR	Kerenza BRYSON	190	
4	GER	Rebecca LANGREHR	176	
5	TUR	Ilke OZYUKSEL	173	
6	LTU	Laura ASADAUSKAITE	168	
7	FRA	Marie OTEIZA	160	
8	GBR	Olivia GREEN	159	
9	HUN	Michelle GULYAS	157	
10	MEX	Mariana ARCEO	155	
11	LTU	Ieva SERAPINAITE	153	
12	ESP	Laura HEREDIA	153	
13	LTU	Gintare VENCKAUSKAITE	148	
14	KOR	Sunwoo KIM	139	
15	GBR	Jessica VARLEY	138	
16	HUN	Blanka GUZI	136	
17	POL	Anna MALISZEWSKA	130	
18	EGY	Salma ABDELMAKSOUD	130	
19	KOR	Seungmin SEONG	130	
20	FRA	Elodie CLOUVEL	129	



Baron Pierre de Coubertin

"The Modern Pentathlon event would test a man's moral qualities as much as his physical resources and skills, producing thereby the ideal, complete athlete."

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