

**MAY
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UIPM 2023 PENTATHLON WORLD CUP FINAL



Elena Micheli (ITA) and Mohanad Shaban (EGY) on their way to winning the individual titles at the UIPM 2023 Pentathlon World Cup Final in Ankara (TUR)



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UIPM 2023 Pentathlon World Cup Final

Drama and delight aplenty as Ankara (TUR) witnesses an epic UIPM 2023 Pentathlon World Cup Final

Elena Micheli of Italy and Mohanad Shaban of Egypt secured the first two direct qualification quota places for the Paris 2024 Olympic Games after winning individual gold on an incredibly dramatic Saturday at the UIPM 2023 Pentathlon World Cup Final.

The following day, Sunwoo Kim and Woongtae Jun of Korea turned on the style between the showers to take Mixed Relay honours in Ankara (TUR).

Micheli (ITA) won a thrilling Women's Final after holding off the challenge of local favourite Ilke Ozyuksel of Türkiye, who delighted the home crowd with silver, and bronze medallist Marie Oteiza of France, with Alice Sotero (ITA), Gintare Venckauskaite of Lithuania and Kerenza Bryson of Great Britain completing the top six.

The Men's Final almost had to be abandoned due to heavy rain, but it finally took place after a three-hour rain delay. And slippery conditions were a major factor in a heart-stopping Laser Run climax.

Shaban (EGY) ended up on his back at the first corner, but it was a slip from Tokyo 2020 Olympic champion Joseph Choong of Great Britain in the final metres that determined the winner as Shaban (EGY) prevailed in one of the most dramatic sprint finishes Modern Pentathlon has seen.

Emiliano Hernandez of Mexico held off pressure from Csaba Bohm of Hungary to secure bronze, while Woojin Park of Korea and Marek Grycz of Czech Republic completed the top six.

UIPM President Dr. Klaus Schormann said: "In the men's competition there



Sunwoo Kim and Woongtae Jun of Korea celebrate Mixed Relay glory in Ankara

was a really big challenge for all of us – for the organisers, for the Union and for the athletes and coaches – when we saw this unbelievable rainfall.

"After a long discussion with the coaches – and it was very important to listen to the athletes – we finally decided following the athletes' wishes that we could replicate all that was needed.

"When I was an athlete, along with some other UIPM Executive Board Members, we were used to running in difficult and often wet conditions, so for us this was normal. Today's athletes are used to very clean ground, so they had to adapt this weekend and we are all very happy that there were not too many falls.

"I also want to underline that the volunteers and referees and everyone

who is vital to a successful competition created a great foundation for our sport. The athletes were fantastic and let's see now what they can achieve in the continental championships and the UIPM Pentathlon World Championships in Bath coming up soon."

MEDALLISTS' REACTION

Women's champion Micheli (ITA) said: "I can't actually believe it, because I stayed at home for one week because of a little injury, and I came here thinking 'OK, let's try it for some experience, to add it to my baggage', and now I did it!

"Everything was happening, I was trying a new gun and also my dog threw me on the ground three days ago. So I came here to try, and then I noticed I was gaining points and moving up many positions, and I thought 'maybe I can do it today, I just need to believe in myself'.



Home favourite Ilke Ozyuksel (TUR) gets her challenge off to a solid start in the Riding discipline in Ankara

Silver medallist Ozyuksel (TUR) added: "I fell down at the beginning of the Laser Run, same as I did one month ago in the same place, so during the competition I felt so much pain.

"I'm happy. I wanted to take the first place for Olympic qualification, but with 2nd place I am happy too. We will look for qualification in the future at the European Games and World Championships."

Bronze medallist Oteiza (FRA) said: "It's a long process to be back at this level, and I am happy because my technical disciplines are better and better, and now it's just Swimming and Running that are coming back slowly.

"I'm really happy with this competition, which has the Olympic format – 3rd place is really nice. Shooting was OK but there were really good shooters and runners with me, and it was a battle – the last 600m was a real battle.

"Elena was better than me today, also Ilke, but I'm really satisfied with this race. I hope my family watched and my boyfriend, and I am really proud to show them that slowly, but surely, I am coming back."

Men's champion Shaban (EGY) said: "In my first World Cup of the season, in Egypt, I took the 4th place; then I got the gold here in Ankara and then the silver in Budapest. Then I came back here for the World Cup Final and I took the gold from the Olympic champion and the best finisher I think in Pentathlon – I'm so happy.

"I hope to do it again in Paris 2024, and nothing is impossible. Maybe I could."

Silver medallist Choong (GBR) added: "It was a great finish. We came down the slight slope and people had their phone lights on trying to light the floor – but it doesn't do anything, occasionally you hit a muddy bit and you slip.

"There was a bit of jostling, as there always is, but I hit the last corner and then hit a puddle and tilted forwards. From then I'm sliding, splashing around, a bit like ice skating, to be honest.

"But all credit to Mohanad, he's got a good finish and I think it's the first time someone has outsprinted me. Fair play – I'm not particularly happy about it but I'll have it next time."

Bronze medallist Hernandez (MEX) said: "I'm amazed. We did so much hard work this season, and I have a special coach who told me 'it's time to put the game in play, nothing to lose, everything to win'.

"I am amazed because that coach changed my mentality in this competition, and I am super happy. I hope everyone at home is happy and enjoying that Mexico is on the podium.

Women's Final: Micheli (ITA) returns to her finest form to book first berth for Paris 2024

RIDING

The nerves of competing on this elevated stage were apparent as athletes undertook a challenging Riding course, but Ozyuksel (TUR) did her best to calm the tension with a 293.

The big mover was Olivia Green (GBR), whose flawless round took her from 16th all the way up to 5th overall. Lithuania trio Venckauskaite (286), Laura Asadauskaite (279) and Ieva Serapinaite (286) stayed in contention and then the world champion announced her claim.



In such a star-studded field, action was unsurprisingly fast and frenetic on the piste in the Fencing round in Ankara

Micheli (ITA) rode serenely to register an immaculate score of 300 that moved her into the top three, and she was only denied further progress by a 300 from Karolina Krenkova (CZE) and a 299 from ice queen Oteiza (FRA), who moved 14 points clear overall.

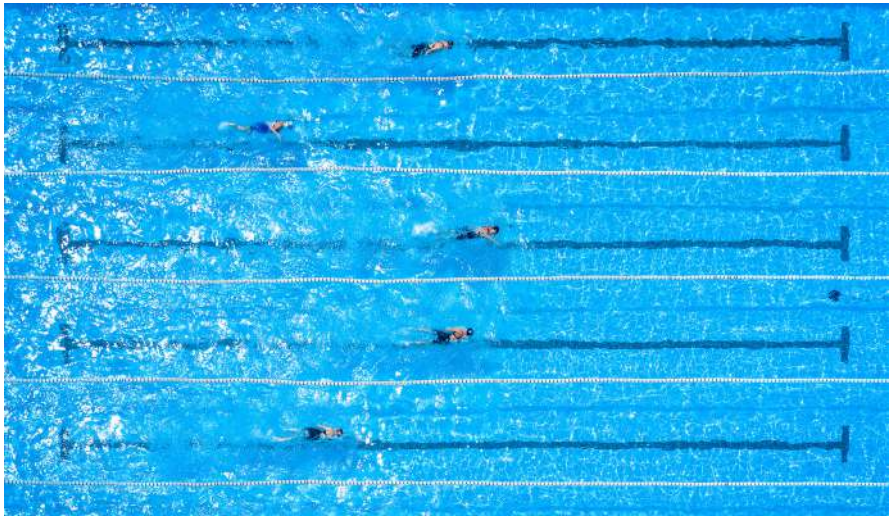
It was a tough round for Rebecca Langrehr of Germany and Elodie Clouvel (FRA), each of whom incurred 28 penalties, while Mariana Arceo (MEX) and Seungmin Seong (KOR) reached the end of the road with elimination.

FENCING

Having moved into the top 10 overall, the star of the Bonus Round was Ozyuksel (TUR) as she scored four victories for another eight points boosting her podium prospects.

Asadauskaite (LTU), Micheli (ITA) and Krenkova (CZE) also moved four points closer to their goal, but Oteiza (FRA) had the final word with a victory over Clouvel (FRA) that maintained her 14-point cushion.

Oteiza (FRA) had achieved the highest score of 24V/11D in the Fencing



An overhead view of the Swimming round in the Women's Final in Ankara

Ranking Round, with defending champion Clouvel (FRA) only one victory worse off.

Three athletes qualified for the Final after scoring a competitive 21V/13D – Langrehr (GER), Krenkova (CZE) and Seong (KOR).

SWIMMING

The swim was destined to be a showdown between the women who won the two biggest annual prizes in Modern Pentathlon last year.

And it was the 2022 world champion Micheli (ITA) who touched first in the final heat in 2min 14.77sec, beating the defending Pentathlon World Cup Final champion Clouvel (FRA) by 0.63sec. The overall lead of Oteiza (FRA) was cut to 12 points as Micheli (ITA) strengthened her position and Clouvel (FRA) gained six points on her teammate.

The fastest swim of the day came in the second heat, won by a huge margin by Sotero (ITA) as she moved from 11th to



Mariana Arceo (MEX) attempts to put up some green lights on the range during the Laser Run in the Women's Final

5th overall with a terrific 2:10.94.

LASER RUN

Immediately Oteiza (FRA) looked vulnerable in pole position, as her lead was eroded in the first run and then she suffered a 26sec shoot, allowing Micheli (ITA) and Krenkova (CZE) to take advantage. In fact it was Krenkova (CZE) who caught the eye most in the first half of the race and took the lead briefly after a second rapid shoot.

Behind the top three, Sotero (ITA), Ozyuksel (TUR) and Asadauskaite (LTU) were all advancing well, but Micheli (ITA) had the race-management experience and stamina to know that if she could control her shooting, she could win the race, and so it proved when a clamour of athletes arrived at the range for the final time and it was the world champion's clinical 10sec shoot that proved decisive.

Micheli (ITA) ran powerfully and held on to win by 3sec, leaving all the drama behind her. Having cut her knee so early in the race, the tenacious Ozyuksel (TUR) seemed to have enough momentum to achieve an unforgettable home win, but her final shoot let her down, like it had for Asadauskaite (LTU) on the third circuit.

Their struggles enabled Sotero (ITA) to leave the fourth shoot looking good for an Italian one-two, but she was caught by Oteiza (FRA) and then by the marauding Ozyuksel (TUR).

They were joined on the podium by Venckauskaite (LTU), whose Laser Run time of 11:26.30 was easily the best of the day, and Pentathlon World Cup Sofia champion Bryson (GBR, 11.47.10), who was quicker than everyone else except Ozyuksel (TUR, 11.41.90).

Men's Final: Challenging conditions provide drama to the very last stride as Shaban (EGY) prevails

RIDING

After a long wait for the rain to cease and the venue to become playable, another tense Riding round brought out the best of horsemanship in numerous athletes.

Clean rounds enabled Grycz (CZE), Hernandez (MEX) and Park (KOR) to move up the overall standings, with Hernandez (MEX) vaulting from 10th all



There was some impressive horsemanship on display in the Riding discipline in Ankara

the way up to 2nd.

Choong (GBR) and leader Shaban (EGY) each stayed in contention with a 286, while Matteo Cicinelli (ITA) and Bohm (HUN) remained prominent with only one knockdown in their rounds.

The field of 18 contenders was reduced to 15 with elimination for Marvin Dogue (GER), Pavlo Tymoshchenko of Ukraine and, to the relief of the other medal favourites, defending champion and world No.1 Woongtae Jun (KOR).

FENCING

The Fencing Bonus Round is not the most heavily-weighted part of the sport but sometimes in the final analysis, victory in a single bout can appear to be a decisive factor. So it proved when Shaban (EGY) took his opportunity to add four points to his tally and, in doing so, deny Choong (GBR) two points to the six he had already gained from three wins.

The other stars of the Bonus Round were Changwan Seo (KOR) with four wins and Grycz (CZE) with three.

The Ranking Round had been dominated by Shaban (EGY), continuing his irrepressible form of 2023. With an impressive 25V/10D, he managed one more victory than Jun (KOR) and Linbin Zhang of China. Choong (GBR) was joined by Manuel Padilla (MEX) and Park (KOR) on a solid 22 victories.

SWIMMING

Predictably, world No.2 and reigning world champion Choong (GBR) boosted his victory bid in the pool, but only gained three points on Shaban (EGY) while Cicinelli (ITA) posted what was narrowly the best time of the day, 2:03.55.

Choong (GBR) also ducked under 2:04 in the Pentathlon Arena 25m pool for 303 points, while Bohm (HUN) added 301 and Shaban (EGY) 300 to their overall tally.

LASER RUN

There had to be an element of



Choong (GBR) and Shaban (EGY) duel on the piste — much like they did all day in the Men's Final



Action in the pool during the Men's Final in the Turkish capital

improvisation in the way the venue was rearranged to enable the Men's Final to take place, and there were areas of the running course that the floodlights could not reach. Shaban (EGY) found this to his cost when he ran into the opening corner and lost his footing completely in a puddle.

It was remarkable how well the 22-year-old Egyptian recovered from that mishap to protect his 10sec starting lead. Once he again he shot with masterful consistency (12sec/12sec/8sec), only giving Choong (GBR) a chance at the last visit to the range when he took 17sec to fire his shots.



Joseph Choong (GBR) takes a spectacular fall just inches from the finishing line as Mohanad Shaban (EGY) wins the Men's Final

Choong (GBR) seemed to have seized his chance as he muscled past his rival before entering the darkened wooded section of the cross-country course, where overtaking was unlikely. But Shaban (EGY) gritted his teeth and stayed right on the elbow of the more celebrated athlete, setting up a frantic sprint to the line that evoked memories of the epic duel between James Cooke (GBR) and Valentin Prades (FRA) at the UIPM 2018 Pentathlon World Championships in Mexico City (MEX).

Speaking of Mexico, winning bronze was a monumental achievement for Hernandez (MEX), younger brother of Rio 2016 Olympic bronze medallist Ismael Hernandez (MEX). Especially as he held off the challenge of one of the hottest athletes of this Olympic cycle, Bohm (HUN).

Conditions being as bad as they were, those who mastered the conditions best could be truly proud of their



All smiles on the extended podium after a pulsating conclusion to the Men's Final in Ankara

efforts, as Balazs Szep (HUN) managed the day's best time of 10:30.57, with Seo (KOR, 10:31.99) next-fastest ahead of Choong (GBR, 10:36.60).



Conditions were slightly better as the Mixed Relay competition got underway in Ankara with the Riding discipline

Mixed Relay: Korea's class shines through even in tough conditions as Kim and Jun prevail

Sunwoo Kim and Woongtae Jun of Korea turned on the style between the showers to win the Mixed Relay at the UIPM 2023 Pentathlon World Cup Final.

Winning Korea's third gold medal of the Pentathlon World Cup season, Kim and Jun were unassailable all day, coming out on top in Fencing and Swimming to start the Laser Run more than half a minute ahead of the chasing pack.

It was another day of disruption and slippery surfaces caused by heavy rain, but there were resolute performances from across a multi-continental field. Rebecca Castaudi and Christopher Patte of France moved ahead of 2nd-placed starters Amira Kandil and Eslam Hamad of Egypt to claim silver, while there was an even bigger comeback from Blanka Bauer and Balazs Szep of



Teamwork makes the dream work on horseback in the Mixed Relay

Hungary as they won bronze despite having ranked last in Fencing.

Korea's success meant that they

narrowly defeated Egypt to finish the UIPM 2023 Pentathlon World Cup season on top of the medal table. Both nations managed three golds but

Korea also managed two silvers to Egypt's one. With three bronzes, Egypt won the most medals overall, while Hungary finished 3rd in the table with two golds, two silvers and a bronze.

Success for Kim (KOR) followed her victory in the Mixed Relay alongside Changwan Seo (KOR) in UIPM 2023 Pentathlon World Cup Budapest, where Jun (KOR) was the individual men's champion.

MEDALLISTS' REACTION

Gold medallist Jun (KOR) said: "Yesterday didn't go so well for me but today was a different competition and I was very focused. The ground conditions were a little bit bad and we had to be careful on the running course.

"Today I did the Mixed Relay with Sunwoo and we are the gold medallists again – and we are very happy."

Partner Kim (KOR) added: "For me the individual competition was so sad, but it's great to win gold in the Mixed Relay

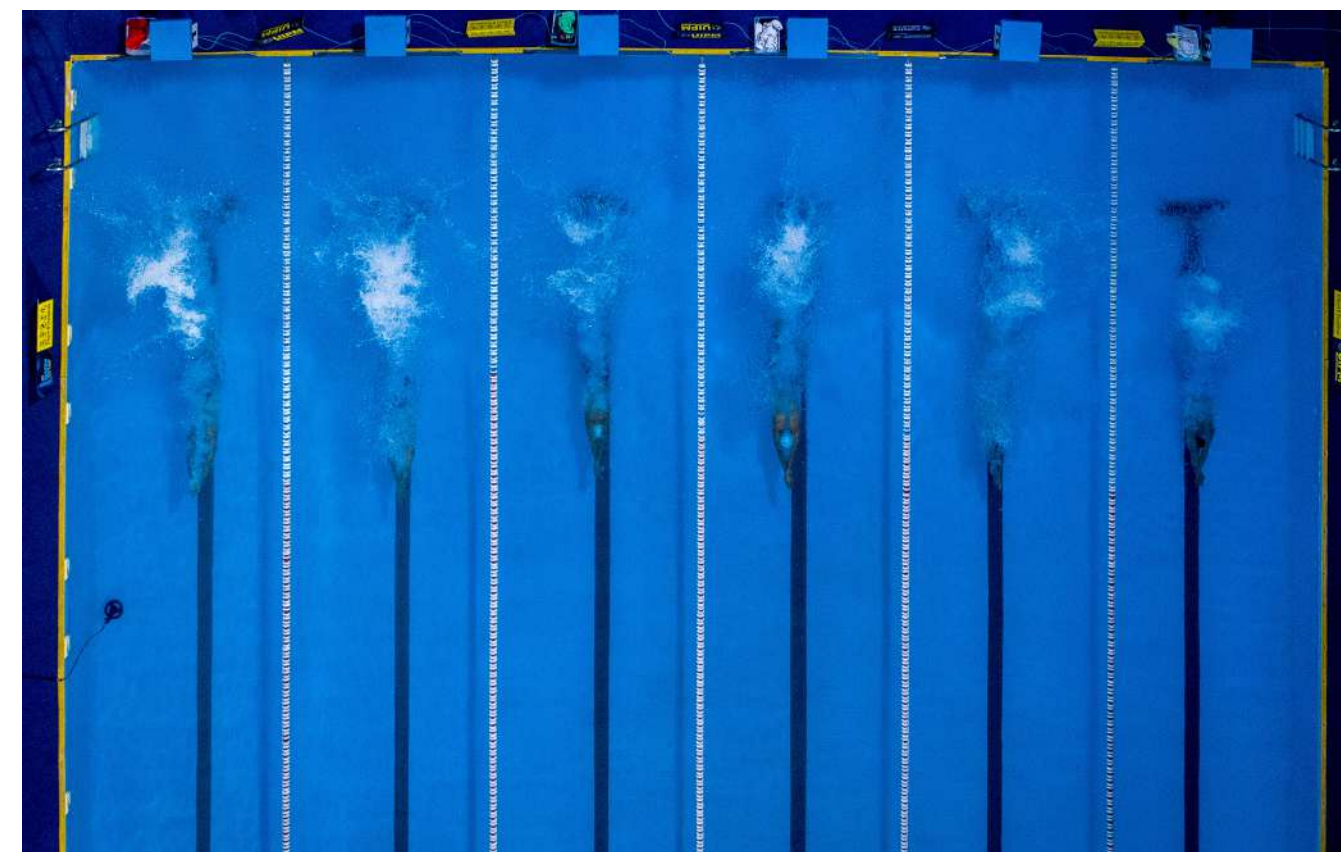


The France team of Castaudi and Patte celebrate during the Fencing Bonus Round in Ankara

with Woongtae again – I'm so happy."

Silver medallist Patte (FRA) said: "I'm very happy today because we found hard conditions in Ankara, but I knew that with good Fencing and Shooting we could reach the podium."

Bronze medallist Szep (HUN) said: "We are very happy, because we had the only clear round in Riding and that was very good for us. In the Laser Run, Blanka and me are good runners and shooters, so it was a good day."



A view of the action during the Swimming discipline during a competitive Mixed Relay in Ankara



With the Koreans out in front and all but uncatchable, the Mixed Relay focus shifted to silver and bronze in the Laser Run

RIDING

Knowing that conditions had been challenging all week, it was admirable that Hungary (Bauer/Szep) were able to register a blemish-free round and emerge unscathed with 300 points that kept them in the mix for medals.

Riding last, Korea (Kim/Jun) also looked unflappable with only one knockdown, same as France (Castaudi/Patte). All eyes were on Tokyo 2020 Olympic champion Joseph Choong of Great Britain after his unfortunate slip on the final straight of Laser Run the night before, but his weekend didn't get any better as his horse struck an obstacle and fell, sending Choong (GBR) tumbling forwards.

Both rider and horse were shaken but they were able to walk off the course within a few minutes, albeit it was the end of the competition for Choong

and Olivia Green (GBR), eliminated along with Mariia Shtukina and Vasilii Lukianov of Kyrgyzstan.

FENCING

Korea (Kim/Jun) put themselves on course for victory with an excellent Fencing Ranking Round performance, winning 29V/11D to build a 21-point buffer over Mariana Arceo and Manuel Padilla of Mexico and Egypt (Kandil/Hamad), who managed 26 victories apiece.

Kim (KOR) herself managed a remarkable tally of 16 successes, and she added one more in the Bonus Round, halting the run of Castaudi (FRA), but Patte (FRA) defeated Jun (KOR) to take the French tally to 10 bonus points and move into 2nd place overall, 21 points behind Korea (Kim/Jun).

SWIMMING

Once again it was Korea (Kim/Jun) who showed their multi-disciplinary mastery, with a fastest swim of 2min 00.39sec. Competition was fierce, though, and the Poland duo of Natalia Dominiak and Lukasz Gutkowski also went under 2:01, just ahead of Egypt (Kandil/Hamad) in 2:01.41.

It meant that Korea (Kim/Jun) would start the Laser Run with a huge 31sec advantage over Egypt (Kandil/Hamad), with France (Castaudi/Patte) a further 13sec behind and Mexico (Arceo/Padilla) hot on their heels.

LASER RUN

Kim (KOR) showed no sign of nerves as she completed her two laps and shot with a high level of accuracy, leaving all the intrigue behind her and handing Jun (KOR) one of the easiest victory laps of his career.



Eventual winners Kim and Jun (KOR) turned the Laser Run into a victory procession with an excellent display to claim Mixed Relay gold

Initially the hard-running Arceo (MEX) was the biggest mover, but she faltered on both visits to the shooting range and it was Castaudi (FRA) who seized the moment, with two rapid shoots taking her into 2nd place ahead of Kandil (EGY), who came back well on the final lap to allow Hamad (EGY) to start only 2sec behind Patte (FRA).

The first men's lap saw Patte (FRA) gain a few seconds and he gained a lot more at the first shoot, moving into a decisive silver position as Hamad (EGY) took almost 20sec to get away, enabling Szep (HUN) to move into the medal equation.

It was the same story at the final shoot as Szep (HUN) finished his World Cup season on a high with a bronze, teaming up with Bauer (HUN) for the fastest Laser Run time of the day.



The Mixed Relay podium was topped by the impressive Korean duo of Kim and Jun

UIPM 2023 Pentathlon World Cup Sofia



Kerenza Bryson (GBR) and Valentin Prades (FRA) savour their moments of glory as they took home victory in the Women's and Men's Final respectively

Bryson (GBR) and Prades (FRA) time their runs to perfection to pounce for gold in Sofia (BUL)

There were breakthroughs and comebacks on a truly Super Saturday as Kerenza Bryson of Great Britain and Valentin Prades of France took home gold from UIPM 2023 Pentathlon World Cup Sofia.

In crowning a first-time champion, seeing a former prolific winner return to the top of the podium and six medalists from six different countries, the Bulgarian capital was treated to two exhilarating finals that delivered drama aplenty.

In the Women's Final on Saturday morning, Bryson (GBR) crowned a remarkable personal week with her first ever World Cup medal as she held off a spirited attack from Seungmin Seong of Korea who took silver, also a first senior World Cup medal of her career.

Earlier this week Bryson (GBR) toasted becoming a doctor and a maiden gold on the back of a superb Laser Run display was just the prescription to round off her celebrations.

Medals are becoming a much more common occurrence for Ieva Serapinaite of Lithuania who claimed another podium place as she took a deserved bronze to go with her gold from UIPM 2023 World Cup Ankara. Her vaunted compatriot Laura Asadauskaite of Lithuania was again in the mix as the two-time Olympic medalist finished fourth for the second-consecutive event with Jessica Varley of Great Britain in fifth and Marie Oteiza of France sixth.

French colours would fly higher later in the afternoon when Prades (FRA) claimed his first gold medal since the UIPM 2021 Pentathlon World Cup Final, his third triumph in that competition. With this year's World Cup Final back in Ankara (TUR) just weeks away and

the first qualification places for next summer's Paris Olympics on the line in Türkiye, there was so much at stake in Sofia for those trying to book a Final spot.

It was Prades (FRA) who held his nerve and dug deep in an action-packed Men's Final Laser Run to wrestle the lead from Taishu Sato of Japan, who was overjoyed with his silver medal. Marvin Dogue of Germany bridged a four-year gap to celebrate his first individual podium since 2019 as he raced to bronze.

Having tried to claw his way into contention for much of the final, reigning Olympic champion Joseph Choong of Great Britain settled for fourth place with World No.3 Balazs Szep of Hungary slicing through the field to finish fifth and Pierre Dejardin of France sixth.

MEDALLISTS' REACTION



The Riding discipline provided lots of drama in the Women's Final in Sofia

Women's champion Bryson (GBR) said: "I'm so happy. I don't think it's sunk in yet, I can't really believe it. I went into this competition dreaming of a podium but it feels like it's been a long week. The course isn't that easy and I'm not going to lie, I didn't start the day thinking I was going to end up on the podium so I'm so, so happy."

"I'm not going to forget this. I've spent six years studying medicine and I did my last exam a few weeks ago and got the results on Tuesday, on the day of the qualification. I was really happy to find out that I passed my exams. It's been a really good week for me."

Silver medallist Seong (KOR) added:

"In the Fencing Ranking Round I made many mistakes but I focused again for the Riding and in the Shooting I had good contact so the majority has been good. Shooting, don't forget, is my style. The focus is really important. Today was very good."

Bronze medallist Serapinaite (LTU) said: "I'm really very happy to be on the podium again. It doesn't matter if you win gold or bronze, it's still nice for me. I did the best results in the Fencing, I did well in Swimming so this has maybe helped me to win this medal."

Men's champion Prades (FRA) said: "I'm very happy. It's my first gold medal since 2021 and I worked hard for this. It's a

consequence of hard work with my team and it's a good thing for the future.

"I just fight. I like to fight with my strongest [energy]. I'm happy because I won and because I know I can be better."

Silver medallist Sato (JPN) added: "It was a very incredible race. I have never felt this emotion. This competition has been an extra step [forward] for me. I want to thank everyone who has supported me, thank you so much. I am so happy today."

Bronze medallist Dogue (GER) said: "It's hard to explain now but there was a long time where I didn't show off my level and I think it was a lot of mental problems which I tried to fix. After the Olympics, I just took one year off then I changed my coach and last year was a little bit of a comeback. Now I hope I can rise up to my former level."

Women's Final: Bryson (GBR) completes a wonderful personal week with a golden finale

RIDING

There was an early shake-up in the pecking order when the Riding round provided plenty of drama with three riders eliminated and leader Serapinaite (LTU) tumbling down the leaderboard too.

Yet there was also room from some stellar performances on horseback with five finalists completing perfect rounds. Bryson (GBR), her Great Britain teammate Emma Whitaker, Oteiza (FRA), Elzbieta Adomaityte of Lithuania and Hungary's Blanka Guzi all achieved top marks.

Teammates Sunwoo Kim and Haeun Jang of Korea both found peril as they came off their horses and were eliminated while Blanka Bauer of Hungary was the third athlete to meet a misfortunate result and score zero points.

In that context, Serapinaite (LTU) wasn't

quite as unlucky however she had her own travails with a refusal, a knockdown and a time penalty all adding up to her losing 31 seconds which left her facing an uphill climb the rest of the way.

Her most experienced Lithuania teammate, London Olympics gold medalists and Tokyo silver medalist Asadauskaite (LTU) loomed back into contention as she scored 292 points in the Riding round with all of the pedigree to make up further ground.

FENCING
Serapinaite (LTU) had dominated the Fencing Ranking Round with 25 victories and began her arduous task of getting back into contention as she added four points in a Fencing Bonus Round where eight different athletes added to their tallies.

The Asian duo of Sunwoo Kim of Korea and Xiuting Zhong of China had been joint-second best with 22 victories in the Ranking Round, one more than Bryson (GBR). Kim (KOR) bumped up her tally marginally with two points in Saturday's Bonus Round but Bryson



Kerenza Bryson (GBR), left, in Fencing action en route to gold in the Bulgarian capital

(GBR) picked up two more victories for four extra points.

SWIMMING
Bryson (GBR) carried a narrow lead into the Swimming round but, without the pool pedigree of many at the top of the field, her aim was to try to keep her rivals within reach.

Serapinaite (LTU) scorched to the day's

fastest time, her 2:15.87 just enough to remarkably catapult herself back to the top of the leaderboard. But Seong (KOR) wasn't far behind with an impressive swim of 2:17.16 and Oteiza (FRA) third-fastest in 2:19.58.

Bryson (GBR) achieved her aim of staying within touching distance of the leaders with a time of 02:28.49 ensuring things remained close at the top.



The action stayed competitive in the pool during the Swimming discipline in Sofia



The Laser Run provided the Women's Final with a gripping conclusion in Sofia with just 38 seconds separating the top 14 in the field at the outset

LASER RUN
In truth it was tight throughout the field with just 38 seconds separating Serapinaite (LTU) in first and Varley (GBR) in 14th. With so many capable contenders packed in between the stage was set for another exciting conclusion, in keeping with a superb UIPM World Cup season.

Serapinaite (LTU), a two-time UIPM World Cup gold medalist and winner in Ankara this season, led them off with Oteiza (FRA) and Zhong (CHN) both in hot pursuit. Bryson (GBR) began the Laser Run in fourth place, 14 seconds behind the leader but by the time they'd completed a formation lap and reached the shooting range for the first time she had moved into second.

Serapinaite (LTU) didn't display any nerves with a faultless first shoot with Bryson (GBR) equally dead-eyed. Behind them Seong (KOR), who had started seventh, was already making moves as were the dangerous Asadauskaite (LTU) and Great Britain teammates Varley and Follett.

When the front pair again shot nervelessly and set off for another lap, Bryson (GBR) put her foot down and

surged into the lead for the first time.

The morning sun was finally shining as the athletes came in for a pivotal final shoot and this time Bryson (GBR) delivered, setting off in front with Seong (KOR) just a couple of seconds behind. Serapinaite (LTU) was out of gold contention but shot well to maintain her podium place.

Any hope of a sprint finish between the front duo was put to bed when Bryson (GBR) belied her inexperience by finding another gear and racing away to a maiden victory. Seong (KOR) also claimed a first career World Cup medal with silver and Serapinaite (LTU) finished narrowly ahead of compatriot Asadauskaite (LTU) to secure bronze.

Men's Final: Prades (GBR) digs deep in a dramatic Laser Run to rise to top of podium

RIDING
After proceedings over horseback had shaken up the Women's Final, things were somewhat more serene for their male counterparts with some exemplary displays in the saddle in the afternoon. Fully 13 of the 18 finalists racked up

scores of 290-plus points and seven riders scored full marks.

Jihun Lee of Korea was among those who recorded a perfect round and it was enough to move him ahead of leader Prades (FRA) who had been travelling so comfortably until knocking down two late obstacles. Dogue (GER) was another to hit the full 300 points but his performance was unquestionably the round's most impressive, having lost his right stirrup from the first obstacle but somehow making it around clear.

The others to find perfection were Sato (JPN), Dejardin (FRA), Marek Grycz of Czech Republic and Hungary teammates Richard Bereczki and Szep.

Having been eliminated in the Riding round at UIPM 2023 World Cup Ankara, Choong (GBR) needed to be nearly faultless to stay in touch and he was just that with a lone obstacle penalty seeing him score 292 and Eslam Hamad of Egypt was even closer to perfect with 299.

Home favourite Todor Mihalev of Bulgaria had been enjoying a terrific week but his chances came to an unlucky conclusion when he was forced out of the saddle and eliminated.



World No.1 Joseph Choong (GBR) tries to make up ground on the leaders in the Riding, above, and in the Fencing Bonus Round, right

Christopher Patte of France was another to see his hopes dashed as he too was eliminated after a spate of refusals.

FENCING

Prades (FRA) had been in imperious form in Friday's Fencing Ranking Round racking up a phenomenal 27 Victories and he added what could have been a crucial extra win in the Fencing Bonus Round as he bested Lee (KOR), who himself had added four points to his impressive tally of 25 Victories in the Ranking Round.

It was ultra competitive on the piste as 11 of the finalists added points in the Bonus Round, with Hamad (EGY) and Gergely Regos of Hungary both adding six points each.

Swimming

All of the contenders would have been well aware of the pool prowess of both Choong and his Great Britain teammate Myles Pillage and the Swimming round offered the reigning Olympic champion the chance to move further up the field.

In the end the time of Choong (GBR)

wasn't his blistering best but 2:06.69 was nonetheless fourth-fastest. Moutaz Mohamed of Egypt quickest of all in a time of 2:05.37.

Lee (KOR) cemented his position atop the field with the sixth-fastest swim in 2:07.60, putting further time between him and Prades, who was second-slowest in 2:13.77

LASER RUN

While Lee (KOR) would enjoy a 13-second buffer on the field, there was just over 30 seconds separating the leader and the top six down to Choong (GBR) and there were other deep threats in such a talented field.

Sato (JPN), 13 seconds back, and Prades (FRA), 14 seconds, set off in rapid pursuit

of Lee (KOR) and had already made up ground by the time they reached the range for the first time. As the leader struggled to find his shooting rhythm, Sato (JPN) put up five rapid green lights to take the lead with Prades (FRA) pushing Lee (KOR) down to third.

By the time they came back around for the second shoot, Dogue (GER) had already moved from fifth to third and Hamad (EGY) was also pressing the leaders. Further back Szep (HUN) showed all his class as he picked off rivals ahead of him. Choong (GBR) was performing well but couldn't yet find the burst to propel himself into medal consideration.

It was neck and neck and stayed that way through the penultimate shoot



While the Swimming discipline may have offered some contenders a chance to catch up, the leaders maintained their advantage

with Regos (HUN) now moving into contention for the extended podium too. Having bided his time, Prades (FRA) made his move shortly before the final shoot and took the lead from Sato (JPN).

Disaster looked to have struck when the leader took over 18 seconds on the crucial last shoot and both Sato (JPN) and Dogue (GER) jumped ahead of him. However the imposing figure of Prades (FRA) is built of stern stuff and he showed remarkable energy reserves to rapidly move up on first Dogue (GER) and then take the overall lead from Sato (JPN) and sprinting to a superb victory.

Choong (GBR) belatedly found his trademark burst to claim fourth with

Szep (HUN) also showing his pedigree, jumping six places to finish fifth with Dejardin (FRA) narrowly pipping an exhausted Hamad (EGY) to sixth.

Mixed Relay: Bryson and Brown (GBR) prove to be an instant hit to lead Britain to second Sofia gold

Kerenza Bryson and Charles Brown proved an instant hit as their first time teaming up secured a dominant Mixed Relay gold for Great Britain on the final day of UIPM 2023 Pentathlon World Cup Sofia.

After some scintillating displays all week there was still time for more as the Relay saw a host of talented teams vie for silver and bronze. Great Britain

(Bryson/Brown) were rarely threatened as Bryson (GBR) added a second gold in the space of 24 hours, having won her first Women's Final while Sunday's triumph marked a first gold for Brown (GBR).

A stunning Laser Run performance by Mexico (Catherine Mayran Oliver & Emiliano Hernandez) continued a remarkable run for the country who have now medalled at every stop of the UIPM World Cup season. Behind them Jessye Gomesse and Jean-Baptiste Mourcia secured back-to-back bronze medals for France after they'd also finished third in Budapest last month.

On a colder afternoon in Sofia, it was a hotly contested podium throughout the



The lead changed hands numerous times during a gripping Laser Run before Valentin Prades (FRA) took home the Men's Final honours



Kerenza Bryson and Charles Brown teamed up for the first time and proved an instant hit as they claimed Mixed Relay gold to bring the curtain down in Sofia

day and Germany (Rebecca Langrehr & Pele Uibel) narrowly missed out on a medal as they finished fourth with China (Lishan Zheng & Shuhuan Li) in fifth and Czech Republic (Veronika Novotna & Matous Tuma) sixth.

MEDALLISTS' REACTION

Gold medalist Bryson (GBR) said: "It couldn't be better. I'm really pleased. It was great that Charlie could fly out just for the Relay so we had fresh legs, compared to me, who did not! It's been a great day, I really enjoyed it. We hadn't done a Relay together yet and it was fun. I think we will have this team again."

Silver medalist Hernandez (MEX) said: "I love Bulgaria. It's always good to me. I hope next year, an Olympic year, it's good to me in individual. We had an amazing relay and I'm really happy. We are working so hard. Next up is the World Cup Final and we will work hard there to get gold!"

Bronze medalist Gomesse (FRA) said: "We are very, very happy because it was a great competition for us. We had a very good start to the day with Fencing. We rode well and the swimming was very good. For me the running was a little difficult but the shooting was very

good." Her teammate Mourcia (FRA) said: "For me it's a second teammate and a second bronze medal. I'm very happy for that. It was a great competition."

RIDING

A chilly and damp Sunday afternoon in Sofia made for tricky conditions as the action got underway but the competitors made light of it with some really impressive displays in the Riding round. Three of the teams put up perfect rounds including a historic first when Phaelen French and Tyler Evans of USA racked up a maximum 300 points for the first time.

Great Britain (Bryson/Brown) and China (Zheng/Li) were the others to put in faultless rounds to stretch ahead at the top of the leaderboard but with France (Gomesse/Mourcia), Germany (Langrehr/Uibel) and Czech Republic (Novotna/Tuma) all scoring north of 290, things remained tight among the leading contenders.

With standards so high, Japan (Hana Shibata & Kaoru Shinoki) were the only team to find misfortune when they were eliminated due to too many refusals. Fencing

While Great Britain (Bryson/Brown) and Mexico (Oliver/Hernandez) excelled in the Fencing Ranking Round with 24 Victories and 23 Victories respectively to put themselves out in front, they had others quickly on their heels.

France (Gomesse/Mourcia), who had scored 21 Victories in the Ranking Round, added four points in the Fencing Bonus Round with Mourcia in formidable form on the piste.

An enthralling final fence between Mourcia (FRA) and Brown (GBR) saw Brown pull off an incredible foot touch to stop the French adding to their tally.

SWIMMING

Japan put their disappointment from the Riding round firmly behind them as they blazed to the fastest swimming time of not just the Mixed Relay but of the entire week as they became the only team to break the two-minute barrier in a time of 1:58.61.

Germany (Langrehr/Uibel) were the fastest of the medal contenders to moved up the leaderboard after clocking 2:02.67 in the pool with China (Zheng/Li) closed behind in 2:04.12. However leaders Great Britain (Bryson/Brown) ensured

their advantage wasn't eaten into as they finished in a time of 2:04.45.

LASER RUN

Chasing her second gold medal of the weekend, it was Bryson who set off for Great Britain (Bryson/Brown) with a formidable 22-second advantage over China (Zheng/Li) and France (Gomesse/Mourcia) a further five seconds behind.

Mexico (Oliver/Hernandez), having enjoyed much Relay success this term, had a 35-second gap to make up on the leaders. Behind them Germany (Langrehr/Uibel) and Czech Republic had the pedigree to threaten too

Ultimately it felt like it would require a slip-up on the range for Great Britain (Bryson/Brown) to lose their spot at the head of the field. Bryson (GBR) shot superbly on both visits to ensure the chasing back remained at a safe distance.

Oliver (MEX) put in a brilliant run and shoot to move Mexico into silver medal position with the experience of Langrehr (GER) shining through to bring Germany into podium contention too with the order shuffling significantly. At the changeover it was now France (Gomesse/Mourcia) and China (Zheng/Li) who had ground to make up to clinch a medal, in fourth and fifth respectively.

While Brown (GBR) dug in and shot well, behind him a stunning 6.9-second first shoot from Hernandez (MEX) had chopped the lead to just 11 seconds. Suddenly the final shoot took on major tension for all three spots on the podium with Mourcia (FRA) having overtaken Uibel (GER).

Understandably, there was a hint of nerves from Brown (GBR) as he took 18 seconds to put up five green lights in the final shoot but with Hernandez (MEX) unable to replicate his brilliant first shoot, Brown (GBR) raced off to the first gold of his senior career.

Hernandez (MEX) secured yet another medal for Mexico (Oliver/Hernandez) in second with France (Gomesse/Mourcia) in third.



There were many impressive Riding displays in the Mixed Relay



French duo Jessye Gomesse and Jean-Baptiste Mourcia celebrate a Fencing Bonus Round victory



The action didn't let up during the changeover in the Swimming discipline

VOYAGE TO PARIS 2024

Olympic Games
countdown: Part II



All of the temporary Olympic Games arenas at the Palace of Versailles will be dismantled after the Games, leaving no trace on the iconic grounds

Leading off...

How the former home of France's King Louis XIV will prepare to welcome pentathlon royalty

As one of the green lungs of Paris, the estate of the Palace of Versailles has been helping to breathe life into the French capital for generations. Next summer it will do the same in fittingly grandiose style to the 2024 Olympic Games.

The one-time royal residence of King Louis XIV has long since become a getaway for millions with the palace, its iconic gardens and sprawling parklands

declared France's first UNESCO World Heritage Site almost half a century ago. These days Versailles attracts more than 15 million visitors a year.

Next summer it will welcome 72 VIP guests when the brightest lights of Modern Pentathlon compete for Olympic glory in the historic surrounds of the palace gardens. Fresh from Tokyo Stadium being transformed into a Pentathlon Arena in the Japanese capital city's delayed Games in 2021, pentathlon will again find itself in a spectacular setting for its Olympic moment.

The Château de Versailles, 35km west

of central Paris, will also host a number of equestrian events during the Games with a temporary outdoor arena set up on the Etoile Royale esplanade at the heart of the Palace's gardens.

While the opulent surroundings and history may at first seem somewhat removed from elite sport, King Louis XIV and his royal family enjoyed sporting pastimes from the very first days of the palace with jousting, carousels, sled races and early versions of golf and tennis all played at Versailles.

From August 8-11 next year it will be pentathlon royalty that will be checking in — and aiming for a coronation.



Out in front on her way to claiming the first Olympic qualification quota spot for Paris 2024, Elena Micheli (ITA) has Italian fans dreaming of glory

> Paris Pointer

Can Micheli (ITA) end a 36-year wait and build a bridge back to Olympic glory for Italian fans?

When Italy's Carlo Massullo added a fourth Olympic medal to his collection in Barcelona (ESP) in the summer of 1992, his home country could hardly have imagined it would be the last they would see of such scenes for a generation.

Massullo, Gianluca Tiberti and Roberto Bompreszi claimed team bronze that year as Massullo continued his remarkable streak. He had taken individual silver and helped compatriots Daniele Masala and Tiberti to team silver at the Seoul 1988 Games. Four years earlier, Masala himself had claimed individual gold in Los Angeles with Massullo winning bronze and the pair combining with Pierpaolo Cristofori for team gold. It was an Azzurri medal rush!

To this day, Italy still sit in seventh place in the all-time Olympic medal table. But Massullo's silver in 1988 remains the last time an Italian stood on an individual Olympic podium. There have been some

admirable near misses — Alice Sotero finished 4th at Tokyo 2020 and five years earlier, at Rio 2016, Riccardo De Luca finished 5th after a mass sprint to the line.

Yet Italian fans now have reason to believe their drought won't stretch all the way to 40 years, with next summer's Paris 2024 Games offering the country a route back to Olympic medal glory.

Elena Micheli's stellar performance claiming gold at the UIPM 2023 Pentathlon World Cup Final in Ankara didn't just secure Italy the first direct qualification quota place at Paris 2024 — it also confirmed Micheli's return to her podium best.

The 2022 season was remarkable for the 24-year-old, who finished inside the top 10 in every event she entered, winning UIPM 2022 Pentathlon World Cup Cairo and returning to Egypt to be crowned world champion in July.

While form and minor injuries led to a slightly less red-hot start to this season, the world No.3 is again showing her major event pedigree and it's enough to get Italian fans dreaming of glory.

Numbers game

45,000 the total number of Olympic volunteers who will help to keep the Games running next year. The Olympic volunteers are an absolutely crucial part of any Games and that will again be the case next July and August, especially with Paris hosting events across a total of 35 distinct venues.

Qualification latest

Now that the first two quota places at Paris 2024 have been secured by Micheli (ITA) and Mohanad Shaban (EGY), the chase begins for the remaining 70 spots.

Things will get hectic in a hurry with another 16 athletes ready to realise their Olympic qualification dreams by the end of June.

The upcoming 3rd European Games in Krakow-Malopolska (POL) offers eight qualifying spots for women and eight for men from European nations. Full details can be found at www.uipmworld.org/olympic-games.

New Pentathlon Discipline

UIPM and World Obstacle join forces in historic new title partnership for major competitions

UIPM and World Obstacle have collaborated on the rebranding of two major Obstacle competitions to include the name of both International Federations (IFs).

The two competitions are now named the World Obstacle/UIPM 2023 OCR World Championships and World Obstacle/UIPM 2023 Ninja World Cup USA.

The alliance reflects the collaboration between the sports enabled by the decision of the UIPM 2022 Congress to add Obstacle as a new discipline of Modern Pentathlon.

This historic change provides a pathway for obstacle athletes around the world to realise their Olympic dream.

It also transforms Modern Pentathlon, creating the potential to engage an estimated 1bn people who watch global hit television show competitions like Ninja Warrior and SASUKE, and compete worldwide in mass participation events like Spartan.

At least nine UIPM National Federations have led the way by implementing the change in national competitions, helping athletes to prepare for the three UIPM Pentathlon World Championships in summer 2023 that will go down in history as the first global competitions to include the new format.

Running in parallel to those age-group competitions will be two major Obstacle events that become the first to reflect UIPM's collaboration with World Obstacle.



The collaboration provides a pathway for obstacle athletes to realise their Olympic dreams



World Obstacle/UIPM 2023 OCR World Championships

Taking place in Genk (BEL) from September 14-17, the flagship annual Obstacle Course Racing (OCR) event includes a 100m sprint category similar to the format that is being introduced in Modern Pentathlon, as well as 3km and 15km endurance events. There are numerous age categories starting at Youth (age 10-15), including para categories.

The Belgian Obstacle Course Racing Association (BOCRA) and the City of

Genk will host the 2023 Championships in the 12,000-hectare Thor Park.



World Obstacle/UIPM 2023 Ninja World Cup USA

Taking place in Orlando (USA) from July 27-30, the North American leg of the 2023 Ninja World Cup follows the opening Asian event which took place in Manila (PHI) in April and the upcoming European leg in Swiecie (POL).



Athletes who participate in Obstacle Course Racing (above) and Ninja (below) will be part of the UIPM / World Obstacle collaboration in 2023

Produced by World Obstacle and The ATS Team, Ninja World Cup USA will be hosted at the Orange County Convention Centre alongside the International Obstacle Sports Expo. The format is a 100m head-to-head sprint familiar to viewers of the popular Ninja television shows.

World Cup USA will be held in conjunction with the Ultimate Ninja Athlete Association (UNAA) World Series Finals, World Ninja Athlete Games (WNAG) Championships, and the Federation of International Ninja Athletics (FINA) World Finals.

UIPM President Dr Klaus Schormann said: "UIPM's partnership with World Obstacle in the naming of two major Obstacle racing competitions in 2023 is a significant step.

"Through this partnership we can demonstrate that UIPM is getting actively involved in the existing Obstacle racing scene and creating pathways for athletes who are ready to transfer their skills to a new challenge and join our multi-sports movement.



"The new, more accessible Modern Pentathlon with Obstacle creates an incredible opportunity for athletes in all countries. We are merging a new, TV-friendly and mass participation sport with the prestige and heritage of the Olympic Games."

World Obstacle President Ian Adamson

said: "Obstacle athletes and national federations are collaborating with their pentathlete colleagues in many countries, putting into practice sport solidarity and the power of the unity of multi-sports. Obstacle athletes of all ages are excited for the possibilities the collaboration presents."

ON SITE: UIPM 2023 Pentathlon and Laser Run World Championships, Bath (GBR)



All nine officials who attended the one-day training event held near Bath (GBR) ahead of the UIPM 2023 Pentathlon World Championships passed the exam

Officiating programme for Riding discipline gets underway

With less than 100 days to go until the UIPM 2023 Pentathlon and Laser Run and Modern Pentathlon World Championships this summer in Bath (GBR), the technical officials' recruitment and training programme has got underway in the UK.

Of the five disciplines, the officials' training course for Riding is arguably the most challenging to plan and deliver, requiring coordination of the trainee officials, athletes, horses and venue logistics.

The officiating programme for the World Championships is being led by Riding Director Eve Staveley, in collaboration

with UIPM and Pentathlon GB. Eve is an international showjumper and BSJA accredited coach who has also been riding coach to Pentathlon GB's Talent Pathway since 2020.

Commenting on the show-jumping element of Modern Pentathlon, Eve says: "The athletes have just 20 minutes before competing to learn as much as possible about the horse they have been allocated in the draw - they need to get inside the horse's head and develop a partnership. It requires confidence, braveness and quick decision-making to ensure they have the best ride possible."

The one-day training event was held at the West Wiltshire Equestrian Centre near Bath on Wednesday 24

May, delivering training at Levels 1 to 3. The volunteer officials had already completed a three-hour online learning programme earlier in the week.

This included the new regulations, agreed last year by the UIPM Riding Working Group, to further protect the welfare of the horses. For example, the height of the jumps has been reduced from 1.20 metres to 1.10 metres, there are penalties for incorrect whip handling that could cause pain to the horse and riders face immediate elimination in the event of a fall.

Eve adds: "Horse welfare is very important, and we will be adhering very closely to the UIPM guidelines."

"All our horses will be medically vetted



New regulations agreed to by the UIPM Riding Working Group last year have further protected the welfare of horses

before the competition to check they are fit to jump.

"The judges and officials will also be on the lookout for any unsafe riding both during the 20-minute warm-up when athletes become familiar with their horses and in the main arena.

"We will be quick to intervene if a rider is clearly not getting on with their horse."

The officials on 24 May were briefed and assessed by UIPM Technical Committee Member Andrea Dell'Amore. They also

participated in practical sessions to build technical knowledge and skill in their different various officiating roles and familiarisation with the competition protocols and course plan, which is numbered one to ten and includes two doubles. The day ended with a one-hour exam which all nine officials passed.

Looking ahead to August when the World Championships will be held at the University of Bath, Eve Staveley added: "I'm very excited to be involved with the World Championships, it's such a prestigious competition and its

status as an Olympic qualifier for Paris 2024 means it will attract the world's best athletes to Bath.

"I'm looking forward to playing my part in delivering a successful Riding event that will set the tone and contribute to the exciting build-up to the Modern Pentathlon competition at the Paris Olympics next year."

Visit www.wch2023.org for more information and to buy tickets for the UIPM 2023 Pentathlon and Laser Run and Modern Pentathlon World Championships.

UIPM PARA SPORTS SPOTLIGHT

Para Obstacle Q&A



Members of the Philippine adaptive athlete team at a World Cup obstacle sports event in the Philippines earlier this year

All of your questions about Para Obstacle answered — by experienced amputee athlete John de Haan

In September, the rebranded World Obstacle/UIPM 2023 OCR World Championships will recognise the union of two sporting movements. And the celebration will not be exclusive to able-bodied athletes.

There will also be a Para OCR World Championships as part of the inclusive athlete gathering in Genk (BEL), underlining the potential of Obstacle Racing to enhance the UIPM Sports movement now that Obstacle Discipline has been formally integrated into Modern Pentathlon at under-age levels.

World Obstacle has an established para athlete scene, driven by a pioneering spirit embodied by John de Haan, an experienced amputee athlete who chairs the para movement. In this Q&A,

John provides information for aspiring Para Obstacle/Para Pentathlon athletes and highlights the benefits of the ongoing cooperation.

Who can participate in the Para OCR World Championships?

Adaptive athletes with a disability in the race categories PO1 to PO5 can compete in the para competition waves. Having this category structure doesn't mean that we always have award and competition waves for each category. Depending on the numbers of participants, we can combine categories to enable more athletes to compete.

Does the athlete need to become a member of Obstacle NF?

You need to be a member of your Obstacle Sports National Federation to compete in the OCR World Championships. Also you need to check the qualification criteria of your country, because it differs by country.

So does the qualification procedure which determines how NFs select athletes to compete in the OCR World Championships.

How can athletes get classified for OCR competitions?

They must fill in a medical form and send it to myself at John.dehaan@worldobstacle.org. The World Obstacle Medical Commission will review the application and send it back to the athlete with the correct category on it. If they need more information they will reach out to athletes.

To what extent does the UIPM Obstacle Catalogue support the training needs of a Para team?

To learn the basic techniques, it's okay to train on those obstacles. In the races you will be facing a lot bigger and more technical obstacles, so be prepared for that. But a lot of them can be overcome with the basic technical skills.



John de Haan is an experienced amputee athlete who chairs the Para Obstacle Racing movement

What training tips would you like to share?

1. Make sure that you can make a good foot lock in a rope.
2. Train every single muscle in your body, because you need them all during a race.
3. Watch videos of obstacles and keep trying new techniques.

Is it currently possible to cater for wheelchair athletes?

Wheelchair is a tough category for the competition waves, because athletes are not able to complete the course on their own power. The best races for wheelchair athletes are the flat

races, where the surface is normally no problem for them (sand, mud, forest).

Why should athletes compete in Para Obstacle Racing?

The reason they must compete is simple. Everyone wants to push his or herself to their limits.

Competing in an adaptive race makes it easier to push yourself hard to get a great result. Running for fun is always great, but it doesn't test your limits. You need that extra drive that competition provides, and the fact that Obstacle Sport is becoming part of Modern Pentathlon means it's all good training and investment in your future programme within UIPM Sports.

What excites you about the future of the UIPM/World Obstacle collaboration?

The integration of Obstacle to the UIPM Sports programme is going to benefit so many athletes. Working together with UIPM is going to make it easier to combine the two sports and the two communities.

Every athlete benefits when organisations work together, as long they have the same goal.

For now, World Obstacle and UIPM have the same goal, and that's to establish Obstacle as part of Modern Pentathlon and the Olympic Games, so we need to work together to make this happens.

News from around the world

UIPM appoints independent panel to review neutral athlete eligibility

The Union Internationale de Pentathlon Moderne (UIPM) has appointed a five-person independent panel to review the eligibility of athletes with Russia or Belarus passports who apply to compete in UIPM Sports in a neutral capacity.

The panel, chaired by three-time Olympian Aya Medany OLY (Egypt) and comprising Ana Ruth Orellana (Guatemala), Sungjoo Park (Korea), Nishanthe Piyasena (Sri Lanka) and Dr Harald Vervaecke (Belgium), will assess all applications from athletes and support personnel based on criteria to be set by the UIPM Executive Board in collaboration with the International Olympic Committee (IOC).

The panel will also consider timings for the opening of the pathway back to competition in UIPM Sports for any athletes who fulfil the criteria, and any other relevant aspects.

The UIPM panel (see biographies below) was assembled in response to the IOC’s recommendations published on 28 March in respect of the rights of athletes who are currently restricted from competing because of the sanctions imposed on Russia and Belarus since the military invasion of Ukraine in February 2022.

UIPM President Dr Klaus Schormann said: “First I would like to underline that UIPM is unwavering in its solidarity to the Ukraine Modern Pentathlon community, and we will continue to support athletes who are affected by the invasion of Ukraine in any way possible.

“On behalf of the UIPM Executive Board I express my deep satisfaction

that the individuals appointed to sit on this review panel are highly qualified and objective, bringing a wide variety of expertise to this complex task.

“The panel will ensure that all neutral athlete applications are thoroughly considered and assessed based on the criteria agreed with the IOC.

“This follows UIPM’s commitment given on to supporting a pathway for athletes with Russia and Belarus passports to return to UIPM Sports.

“I take this opportunity to reaffirm our firm commitment to a policy of non-discrimination in the UIPM Sports movement.”

Panel member biographies:

Chair: Aya Medany OLY PhD (Egypt)

- Three-time Olympian in Modern Pentathlon (Athens 2004, Beijing 2008, London 2012) and two-time world champion
- Serving Member of the Egyptian Parliament (2021-2026)
- Champion for Peace ambassador with Sport and Peace
- Member of the IOC Athletes Commission, IOC Olympics 365 Commission, IOC Public Affairs and Corporate Communications Commission
- Chair of the Egyptian Olympic Committee Athletes Commission
- Chairperson of the Islamic Solidarity Sports Federation (ISSF) Athletes Commission
- Former Chair of the UIPM Athletes Committee

Ana Ruth Orellana (Guatemala)

- Member of the UIPM Technical Committee
- International Judge in Modern Pentathlon and UIPM Judges Certification Programme (JCP) Instructor

- Executive Board Member and former Secretary of the Guatemala Modern Pentathlon Association
- Former member of the Women in Sport Committee at the Guatemalan Olympic Committee
- Pan American Championship silver medallist in Modern Pentathlon
- Central American and Caribbean Games bronze medallist in Fencing

Sungjoo Park PhD (Korea)

- Director, Institute of Sport Ethics
- Professor (tenured), majoring in Sport Ethics at Kookmin University
- Vice President of the Korean Philosophy Society for Sport & Dance
- Vice President of the International Society for eSports Studies
- Published author in multiple journals and academic publications

Nishanthe Piyasena (Sri Lanka)

- Chef de Mission of Sri Lanka team for the 2023 Asian Games
- Former Olympic Solidarity Sport Administrator course director at the National Olympic Committee of Sri Lanka
- President and Founding Member of the Modern Pentathlon Federation of Sri Lanka
- Assistant Secretary General of the Asian Modern Pentathlon Confederation
- Member of the UIPM Sport for All Commission
- International Judge in Modern Pentathlon

Dr Harald Vervaecke PhD (Belgium)

- Secretary General, International Lifesaving Federation
- Lecturer and Professor in Sports Management at the University of Leuven



The UIPM 2023 Southeast Asia Championships proved to be the biggest ever competition organised by the Asian Confederation

- President, Belgian Modern Pentathlon Federation
- Member, UIPM Commission for Culture and Education
- Former Director of Sport, International Military Sports Council (CISM)
- Coordinator of Master Plans for multi-sport Games including the 1st Military World Games and the 2006 Asian Games in Doha (QAT)
- Author of numerous books and more than 100 scientific articles

UIPM 2023 Southeast Asia Championships: Beaches of Pattaya (THA) host biggest-ever Asian event

The sun-kissed sands of Pattaya, Thailand became a hive of activity as the UIPM 2023 Southeast Asian Championships raised the bar as the biggest edition of the competition to date.

The three-day event lit up one of the most beloved tourist destinations in Asia from May 19-21, with Pattaya hosting over 80 athletes from 15 competing nations – a record for an Asian Modern Pentathlon Confederation (AMPC) competition.

Having stepped in as a replacement host venue for the 2023 UIPM Southeast Asian Championships, the event in Pattaya (THA) was initially open only to Southeast Asian member federations.

However, with many other Asian nations expressing interest in competing, UIPM, AMPC and the organisers from the Modern Pentathlon Association of Thailand (MPAT) agreed it was a unique opportunity to welcome nations and athletes from across the region. The expanded competition provided both a great test for established competitors and a fertile learning ground and building experience for newer nations.

Among the 15 competing countries were five SEA members (Thailand, Philippines, Singapore, Indonesia and Malaysia), seven non-SEA members (Japan, Hong Kong, Sri Lanka, Mongolia, UAE, Saudi Arabia and Lebanon) and three non-AMPC members (Vietnam, Myanmar and Laos).

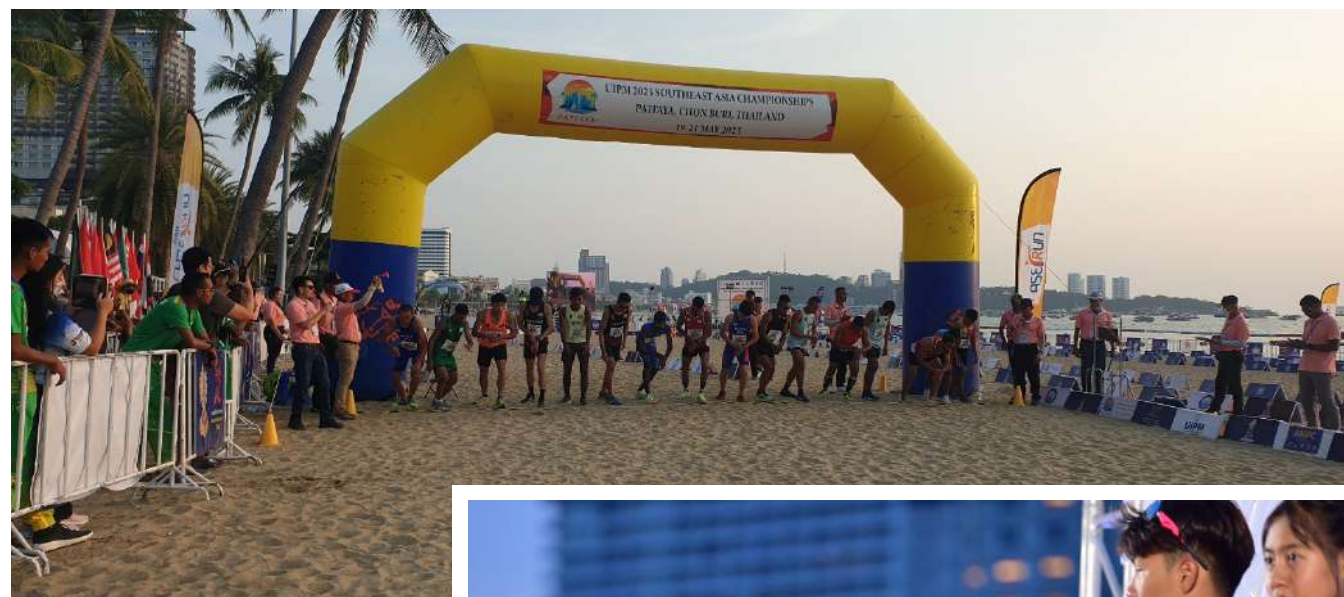
Asia has seen a consistent area of growth in UIPM sports development and it is hoped that those three non-AMPC members could join

the confederation as fully-fledged members in the near future.

The 33 female and 48 male entrants competed in both Laser Run and Triathlon events on the beaches of Pattaya and the standard of competition was impressively high.

There was a triumph to savour for the host nation when Chua-In Khemjira of Thailand took gold in the Women’s Triathlon Final, with Joseph Godbout of the Philippines winning the Men’s Triathlon Final. There were two further golds for the Philippines when Samuel German (PHI) took Men’s Laser Run gold and Juliana Savilla (PHI) won the Women’s Laser Run final.

UIPM President Dr Klaus Schormann, who attended the event, said: “This has been a truly great week for our sport in Asia. We have seen what is indeed one of the best competitions that the confederation has held in terms of both the performance of the athletes from a record number of nations and the brilliant organisation by the Modern Pentathlon Association of Thailand (MPAT), led by President Admiral Srivardhana and his team.



UIPM President Dr Klaus Schormann presents medals to some of the winners during the 2023 UIPM Southeast Asia Championships, right, after some exciting competitions on the beaches of Pattaya (THA)

"Everything from the equipment, the commentators and big screen on the beach for fans and viewers, the entertainments before the awards and well-decorated venue and a competition which was always kept on time by the minute, it was so impressive.

"I want to pay tribute to the AMPC for all of their work in making this Southeast Asian Championships such a success, also to the organisers, the judges and volunteers and of course the coaches and athletes too. The growth of UIPM sports in Asia has continued to be strong and this event is another sign of that."

AMPC President Mr Hyunjun Kim (KOR) said: "Together with MPAT, we are so happy to have been able to set this stage for all of our athletes who are the pillar of our sport in the future.

"The UIPM 2023 Southeast Asia Championships saw 15 members taking part, which is the biggest number in the history of Asia. This event can become part of the AMPC's legacy and will also serve to be a foothold for future development, not only in this area but also all around Asia.

"I want to thank MPAT and President



Admiral Srivardhana for their efforts and also thank UIPM President Dr Klaus Schormann for his support and attendance here in Thailand this week."

Twenty judges certified for Central American and Caribbean Games in Santo Domingo (DOM)

With the 2023 Central American and Caribbean Games just around the corner, preparations are ramping up across the region with the 24th edition of the multi-sport event split across two host nations.

While San Salvador (SLV) will serve as the primary site for the Games, the capital city of the Dominican Republic,

Santo Domingo, will also be playing host to seven sports including Modern Pentathlon.

The city was the scene for a UIPM Judges Certification Programme (JCP) course from April 26-30, enabling 20 judges to become certified in time for the June 23-28 competition.

UIPM Technical Delegate Ana Ruth Orellana (GUA) led the five-day course, which featured participants from across the Americas with 15 from the host nation, four from Brazil and one from Cuba. There were seven female judges among those successfully certified.

Rob Stull OLY, President of the NORCECA Modern Pentathlon



The UIPM Judges Certification Programme course ran for a full week in Santo Domingo (DOM) in April and saw 20 judges become certified

Confederation, said: "It is always so pleasing to hear of new participants beginning their journey in the UIPM Judges Certification Programme. Judges are essential to our sport being a success and I thank our diligent instructor, Ana Ruth, for all of her efforts during the course and look forward to a great competition in June."

UIPM Technical Delegate Ana Ruth Orellana (GUA) said: "The Central American and Caribbean Games are not very far away now and it gave me great pleasure to help prepare our newly-certified judges in Santo Domingo for the excitement to come.

"This was such an enjoyable JCP course to oversee, with so many eager and energetic participants. I want to say a big thanks to all who took part and to the local organisers in the Dominican Republic."

UIPM statement on the 47th ASOIF General Assembly

UIPM would like to clarify some outcomes from the 47th ASOIF

General Assembly with the following statement:

Modern Pentathlon's future received a significant boost from a restructuring decision announced at the 47th General Assembly of the Association of Summer Olympic International Federations (ASOIF) in Lausanne (SUI) on May 31.

The decision relates to the International Olympic Committee revenue-sharing mechanism that determines the distribution of Olympic Games profits to be reinvested in the participating sports. UIPM has been moved from Category 5 of this structure into Category 4, which is the biggest group of IFs.

This is another important step towards securing Modern Pentathlon's future within the Olympic Movement, which is the current main priority of UIPM, as evidenced by the integration of Obstacle – a change made in response to a clear IOC directive to modernise the sport to align more closely with the IOC Olympic Agenda 2020+5.

UIPM would also like to clarify that there has been no change to the decision-making process in relation to the sporting programme of the Olympic Games Los Angeles 2028 (LA28).

Despite media speculation to the contrary, there has been no change to Modern Pentathlon's status in this process, as stated at the outset by IOC President Dr Thomas Bach as being 'different' to the two sports omitted from the provisional LA28 programme because of governance issues.

UIPM continues to work closely with the IOC Sport Department to provide information supporting the decision-making process and ultimately to satisfy the IOC Programme Commission and Executive Board that the new Modern Pentathlon meets the criteria set out for inclusion in LA28.

UIPM remains highly confident in the outcome of the 140th IOC Session in Mumbai (IND) in October 2023 and continues to work tirelessly to preserve Modern Pentathlon's Olympic status.

Inside UIPM

President Dr Klaus Schormann's activities



UIPM President Dr Klaus Schormann and Secretary General Shiny Fang, together with BMPF President Kameliya Aleksandrova and former BMPF President Andrey Kuzmanov, meet with the State President of Bulgaria, Mr Rumen Radev, who receives a Coubertin plaque from President Schormann (below)

10.05. – 14.05.2023: Sofia, BUL

UIPM President Dr Klaus Schormann held a meeting with the State President of Bulgaria, Rumen Radev, during his attendance at UIPM 2023 Pentathlon World Cup Sofia.

President Radev received the UIPM President and Secretary General Shiny Fang, along with Bulgaria Modern Pentathlon Federation (BMPF) President Kameliya Aleksandrova and former Sports Minister and BMPF President Andrey Kuzmanov, at his Presidential office in the capital city.

They spoke about matters relating to the development of UIPM Sports in Bulgaria and the benefits of sport to wider society.

President Radev wished success to all athletes participating in the Pentathlon World Cup and accepted a specially



made plaque depicting the five Olympic circles, which is unique in its kind, from President Dr Schormann.

President Dr Schormann said: "The Bulgarian State President, Mr Rumen Radev, kindly welcomed us in his office and we had a very stimulating discussion about the importance of sport in society, especially for younger generations.

"We also discussed the evolution Modern Pentathlon based on an innovative vision to bring new audiences to the Olympic Games and new athletes to our historic multi-sport.

"Bulgaria has become a pillar of our movement and this country has the potential to make UIPM Sports available not only in a world-class Modern Pentathlon venue but also in parks, on beaches and in urban city venues.

"Sport can function as a powerful tool to build a solid base of athletes in Bulgaria, with many benefits for wider society."

Shortly afterwards, Bulgaria Sports Minister Vesela Lecheva hosted another meeting with the UIPM and BMPF delegations and wished them success in the ongoing development of Modern Pentathlon in Bulgaria and worldwide.

Minister Lecheva, who was given a special award by President Dr Schormann, spoke about the importance of volunteers in the staging of sporting competitions and said that Bulgaria was proud to be entrusted with the hosting of an event as important as UIPM 2023 Pentathlon World Cup Sofia, especially as part of the Paris 2024 Olympic qualification pathway.

The UIPM President and Secretary General also met with Stefka Kostadinova, President of the Bulgarian Olympic Committee, while in Sofia.

The BOC celebrated its 100th anniversary this month, with IOC President Dr Thomas Bach among the dignitaries who attended the celebrations. President Dr Schormann congratulated President Kostadinova



UIPM President Dr Klaus Schormann, Secretary General Shiny Fang and Executive Assistant Lena Nussbaumer (far left), join Andrey Kuzmanov and Kameliya Aleksandrova in meetings with, above, Bulgaria Youth & Sport Minister Vesela Lecheva, and below, Bulgaria NOC President Stefka Kostadinova



and conveyed gratitude to the Bulgarian Olympic movement for its support of UIPM Sports over the years.

President Kostadinova, the Atlanta 1996 Olympic high jump champion, underlined her strong support for Modern Pentathlon during their discussion, also attended by BMPF President Aleksandrova and former President Kuzmanov.

President Dr Schormann said: "We had

a very important meeting with President Kostadinova, discussing the current landscape of sport in Bulgaria and how important it is to build up the youth as a solid base for the future of all sports.

"President Kostadinova praised the strength of the Bulgarian Modern Pentathlon Federation and we had the opportunity to explain the changes taking place in our sport in relation to the Los Angeles 2028 Olympic Games. The integration of Obstacle promises



to transform the popularity of Modern Pentathlon and benefit the whole Olympic movement by following the IOC's vision for a more accessible, cost-efficient and exciting Olympic Games.

"The NOC President was very excited to hear about UIPM's plans to reshape its Olympic sport and she spoke very strongly in favour of the change, which gives new generations of athletes from countries all over the world to take part and pursue the dream of becoming Olympians."

17.05. – 24.05.2023: Pattaya, THA

During a visit to the South East Asia (SEA) Championships, President Dr Schormann had the chance to meet and greet 16 Asian countries and speak with them about the future of Modern Pentathlon and the transformative phase of the UIPM Sports movement.

The new Obstacle discipline enables UIPM to assure countries that have previously not been able to take part in World Cups that all countries will have better access to Modern Pentathlon. Countries like Thailand, Malaysia and Saudi Arabia spoke strongly in favour of the change and the way it enables them to train athletes for international competitions.

Dr Schormann met Nicholas Chan and Tunku Nazroff, President and Secretary General of the Federation of Modern Pentathlon Malaysia (MPMAS), to discuss future possibilities and how Malaysia can become a host of UIPM multi-sport competitions. The SEA Championships was the biggest event in the history of the Asian Confederation (AMPC), with 16 nations coming from all over Asia to compete, including Lebanon, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, Japan, Sri Lanka and Mongolia.

The competition counted 33 female and 48 male athletes, with Myanmar, Laos and Vietnam getting their first experience of UIPM Sports. The competition can become a catalyst for them to build new National Federations



UIPM President Dr Klaus Schormann with SEA Championships Competition Director Bernhard Petruschinski and (centre) Admiral Apiwat Srivardhana, President of the Modern Pentathlon Association of Thailand

(NFs) in their countries, with the shared aim of UIPM and AMPC to create as many NFs as possible to take part in the SEA Games 2025 in Thailand.

The successful competition enabled athletes not only to compete and sharpen their skills but also to create new friendships through sport.

24.05.2023: Bangkok, THA

The UIPM President was joined by the President of the Modern Pentathlon Association of Thailand, Admiral Apiwat Srivardhana, and other NF delegates, in a



Left to right: Bernhard Petruschinski (SEA Championships Competition Director), Lek Kaewtab, Admiral Sutheepong Kaewtab (MPA Thailand Vice President), Dr Somsak; Khunying Patama Leeswadtrakul (IOC Member), Dr Klaus Schormann (UIPM President), Admiral Apiwat Srivardhana (MPA Thailand President), Admiral Pinyo Tolieng (MPA Thailand Secretary General)



ASOIF President Francesco Ricci Bitti and UIPM President Dr Klaus Schormann at the ASOIF General Assembly in Lausanne (SUI)

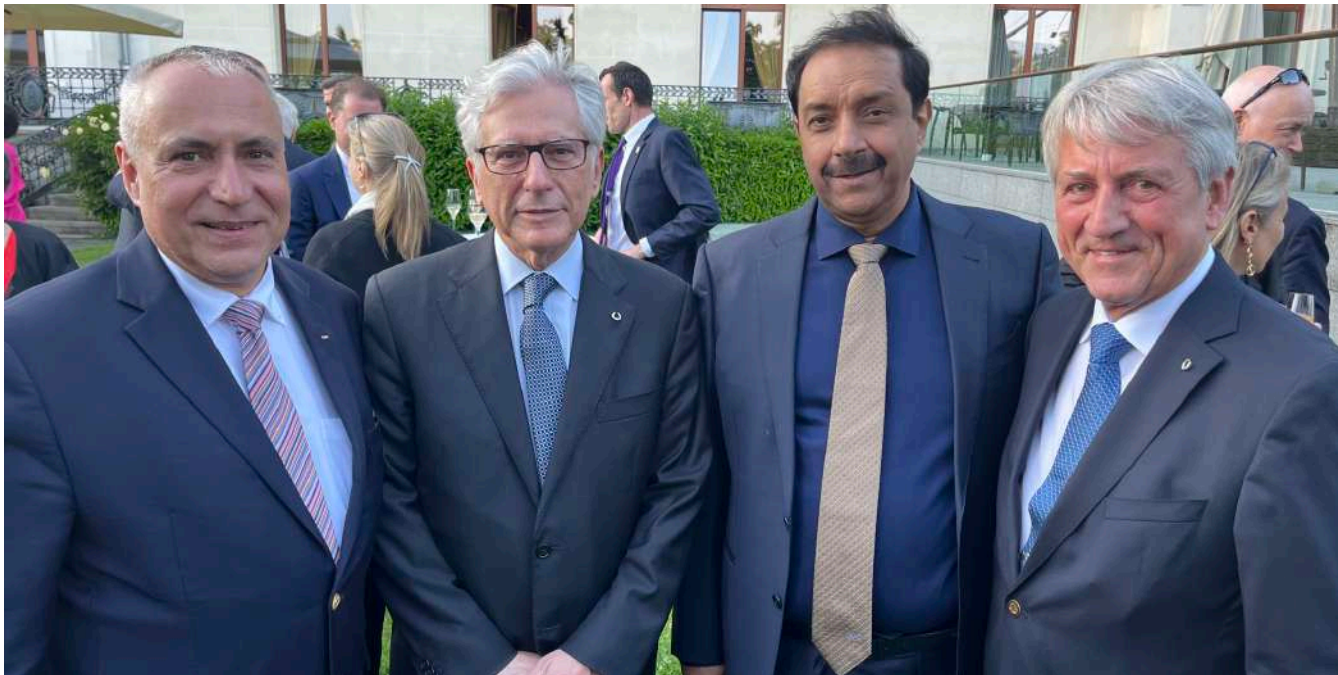
meeting with IOC Member and Culture & Olympic Heritage Commission Chair, Khunying Patama Leeswadtrakul.

During their business lunch they discussed some important matters of the Olympic Movement linked to the Culture & Olympic Heritage Commission,

of which President Dr Schormann has been a member since 1994. As well as development aspects of Modern Pentathlon, especially in Thailand and the successful Southeast Asian Championships in Pattaya from May 19-21, they also focused on the SEA Games 2025 which will be in Thailand.

30.05. – 31.05.2023: Lausanne, SUI

UIPM President Dr Klaus Schormann, Secretary General Shiny Fang and Executive Assistant Lena Nussbaumer attended the 47th General Assembly of the Association of Summer Olympic International Federations (ASOIF).



Left to right: Ingmar De Vos (FEI President & IOC Member), Emmanuel Katsiadakis (FIE Secretary General), Tayyab Ikram (FIH President), Dr Klaus Schormann (UIPM President) at the 40th anniversary of ASOIF in Lausanne (SUI)



UIPM President Dr Klaus Schormann and Turkish Modern Pentathlon Federation President Prof Veli Ozan Cakir stage a media conference before the start of the UIPM 2023 Pentathlon World Cup Final in Ankara (TUR)

President Dr Schormann took the chance to speak to colleagues from other sports and also to understand their stance in regard to the issue of neutrality for athletes with Russia and Belarus passports in light of the ongoing military occupation of Ukraine and UIPM's decision to appoint a panel to assess applications from any such athletes in relation to UIPM Sports.

During the GA, a new revenue-sharing structure for all member IFs was discussed and new sports federations were accepted as full ASOIF members.

31.05. – 04.06.2023: Ankara, TUR

President Dr Schormann visited the capital of Türkiye for one of the showpiece competitions of the season, the UIPM 2023 Pentathlon World Cup Final, where the first two athletes claimed direct quota qualification places for the Paris 2024 Olympic Games.

At the start of the week, the UIPM President joined Prof Veli Ozan Cakir, President of the Turkish Modern



Left to right: Turkish Modern Pentathlon Federation President Prof Veli Ozan Cakir, UIPM Secretary General Shiny Fang, Turkish NOC President and IOC Member Prof Dr Ugur Erdener, UIPM President Dr Klaus Schormann, UIPM Executive Assistant Lena Nussbaumer



The capital city of Türkiye, Ankara, once again played host to a UIPM Modern Pentathlon showpiece with its bespoke Pentathlon Arena

Pentathlon Federation (TMPF), at a press conference at the competition venue in Ankara (TUR).

During his time in the city, President Dr Schormann shared an evening meeting with Prof Dr Ugur Erdener, IOC Member and President of the National Olympic

Committee of Türkiye. President Dr Erdener is a strong supporter of Modern Pentathlon and the two Presidents shared a stimulating discussion about various matters of sports politics and UIPM Sports development in Türkiye, accompanied by UIPM Secretary General Shiny Fang.

Throughout the event, President Dr Schormann had meetings and conversations with National Federation representatives, athletes and coaches taking part in the World Cup Final, held for the second year in succession in a bespoke Pentathlon Arena.



UIPM President Dr Klaus Schormann takes part in the medal ceremony for the Women's Final at UIPM 2023 Pentathlon World Cup Final in Ankara (TUR)

Inside UIPM

Secretary General Shiny Fang's message

How to win the race for sporting survival

There are few days in the year when we have the opportunity to be in the same room as the people who are leading and managing other International Federations.

When we do, at times such as last week's General Assembly of the Association of Summer Olympic International Federations (ASOIF), we realise how much we all have in common.

All sports are investing in innovation, reshaping themselves in order to attract young people and to be accessible to as many athletes as possible.

All sports are competing to engage more audiences with compelling content while people's attention and spare time are getting shorter and shorter.

New sports certainly have a lot of advantages from how they are born, usually from an activity or concept that is already popular with young people.

Traditional Olympic sports, on the other hand, need to treasure their loyal fanbase with one hand, while using the other to creatively tempt and attract new fans.

The sports world has never been so competitive, and it is very fierce.

So how should we respond, as guardians of a sport introduced by Baron Pierre de Coubertin more than 11 decades ago? Should we quit, or take a back seat and let fate decide?

No, taking either of those options would be wrong – because Pentathlon is very well equipped to survive and thrive in this competitive arena.



Volunteers were vital to the success of UIPM 2023 Pentathlon World Cup Final in Ankara (TUR)

It has heritage and innovation, as per the tagline you see in our email signatures.

We respect tradition and history, while embracing change and global trends that cannot be turned around.

By listening to young athletes and fans, we provide them with the elements and information they need to understand how tough it is to be a complete athlete.

We have an opportunity through Obstacle to make the sport more and more accessible, and keep facilitating the entry path for as many participants as possible.

Continued innovation enables our multi-sports to be presented at multiple event levels.

We have a flexible UIPM Sports Pyramid that enables continuous development via multiple sports combinations

to suit all countries, cultures and demographics.

Fully integrating a ready-made community of Obstacle athletes and fans is only going to create more opportunities and potential.

We also know that we need to constantly act to:

- provide as much assistance as possible to current athletes, coaches and professionals.
- enrich the pentathlon industry with its multi-sport advantages.
- treasure the volunteers and professionals who work tirelessly for the sport and the Union.
- act always in a spirit of unity and solidarity, open-mindedness and faith!

Pentathlon World Rankings

The PWR is updated live at www.pentathlon.org after each competition. PWR as at 5 June 2023:

MEN

RANK	NATION	NAME	POINTS
1	GBR	Joseph CHOONG	203
2	EGY	Mohanad SHABAN	195
3	HUN	Balazs SZEP	183
4	EGY	Ahmed ELGENDY	174
5	HUN	Csaba BOHM	173
6	MEX	Emiliano HERNANDEZ	168
7	FRA	Valentin PRADES	166
8	KOR	Changwan SEO	165
9	KOR	Woongtae JUN	155
10	EGY	Mohamed ELGENDY	152
11	CZE	Martin VLACH	150
12	FRA	Valentin BELAUD	150
13	FRA	Christopher PATTE	148
14	HUN	Richard BEREZKI	144
15	GER	Marvin DOGUE	144
16	HUN	Bence DEMETER	142
17	FRA	Pierre DEJARDIN	128
18	JPN	Taisho SATO	127
19	POL	Lukasz GUTKOWSKI	126
20	ITA	Matteo CICINELLI	123

WOMEN

RANK	NATION	NAME	POINTS
1	ITA	Elena MICHELI	208
2	HUN	Michelle GULYAS	190
3	TUR	Ilke OZYUKSEL	185
4	FRA	Elodie CLOUVEL	171
5	GBR	Kerenza BRYSON	166
6	EGY	Salma ABDELMAKSoud	162
7	GER	Rebecca LANGREHR	161
8	LTU	Ieva SERAPINAITE	159
9	GBR	Olivia GREEN	159
10	FRA	Marie OTEIZA	156
11	GBR	Charlie FOLLETT	152
12	LTU	Laura ASADAUSKAITE	150
13	LTU	Gintare VENCKAUSKAITE	148
14	ESP	Laura HEREDIA	144
15	GBR	Jessica VARLEY	143
16	ITA	Alice SOTERO	142
17	MEX	Mayan OLIVER	141
18	HUN	Blanka GUZI	139
19	KOR	Seungmin SEONG	136
20	MEX	Mariana ARCEO	136

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



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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