

**FEBRUARY
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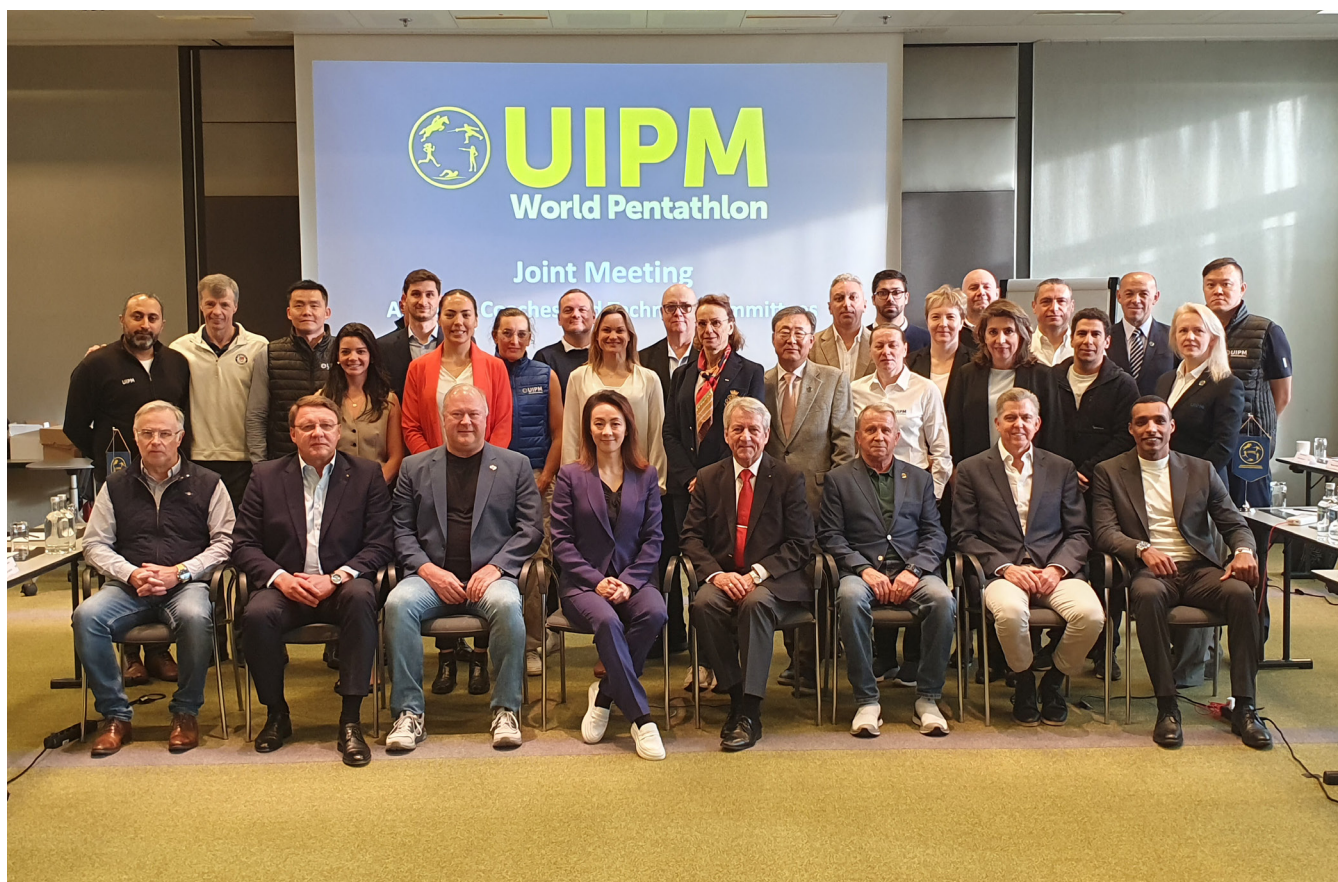


**World Pentathlon
Newsletter**

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UIPM JOINT COMMITTEES MEETING



The global UIPM family gathered in Frankfurt-am-Main (GER) for three days of discussions during the UIPM Joint Committees Meeting



UIPM Joint Committees Meeting



UIPM Coaches Committee Member, London 2012 Olympic silver medalist Cao Zhongrong (CHN), leads a meeting in Frankfurt (GER).

UIPM Joint Committees propose three LA28 Fencing proposals for testing

The Union Internationale de Pentathlon Moderne (UIPM) has moved a step closer to finalising the Modern Pentathlon format for the Los Angeles 2028 Olympic Games.

At the end of their annual joint meeting (February 16-18), UIPM's Athletes Committee, Coaches Committee and Technical Committee decided to propose three options for the Fencing discipline to the UIPM Executive Board (EB).

The Committees based their proposals on the recommendations of the Fencing Working Group appointed in November 2023.

All three proposals contain a single-elimination format, meaning pentathletes will compete for the first time in the knockout structure used in many other Olympic sports – preliminary rounds, quarter-finals and semi-finals culminating in a final bout between the last two surviving fencers.

The various formats will be tested by several volunteering National Federations in March, April and May.

Testing results will be analysed by the EB with a view to presenting any relevant motions to UIPM 2024 Congress.

The Fencing format finally selected for LA28 – if approved by the International Olympic Committee (IOC) – will replace the current two-venue model of a full-scale Ranking Round followed by a Bonus Round with a ladder-style elimination format.

UIPM President Dr Klaus Schormann said: "After three days of invigorating discussion I am pleased that our three main UIPM committees have come together to agree on an exciting



A single-elimination Fencing format is likely to make its Olympic debut in 2028 at the Los Angeles Games.

proposal for Fencing at LA28, which we know will be a game-changer for Modern Pentathlon in the Olympic Games.

"Once again, we have been challenged to redefine our sport to make sure it remains a compelling part of the world's greatest sporting event. And our community has responded with innovation and creativity, always keeping in mind the need to adjust to the needs of the IOC and the host city, in this case Los Angeles.

"A single-elimination format in Fencing will be another important landmark in the evolution of Modern Pentathlon. UIPM was asked by the IOC President, Dr Thomas Bach, to reduce the cost and complexity of our sport while making it more accessible and more appealing, and this goes beyond the introduction of Obstacle as a new

discipline – it applies to the overall competition format. I now look forward to our discussions within the UIPM Executive Board."

The Joint Committees Meeting also covered the following areas:

- General aspects linked to the 2024 season, including Olympic qualification, Paris 2024 preparation and UIPM 2024 Congress.
- Discussions about the LA28 format in consistency with the decision made by the 141st IOC Session in Mumbai (IND) in October 2023.
- Analysis of Obstacle implementation including athlete training and performance progression, as well as equipment solutions provided by UIPM.

- The potential participation in UIPM competitions of neutral athletes (AIN) with Belarus and Russia passports in the 2024 season.

- Suggestions for athlete recognition, career development, and interaction with the Obstacle racing community.
- Suggestions for the development of coach education and considerations about safety aspects for Obstacle training.
- Suggestions from the Technical Committee regarding Technical Delegates' event preparation and the assurance of high-quality Riding standards at Paris 2024, including support to athlete preparation, selection of horses, course design and animal welfare.

VOYAGE TO PARIS 2024

Olympic Games Countdown: Part XI



The Paris 2024 Olympic Village will benefit 6,000 residents after the Games with around one-third of the 2,800 apartments destined for public housing

Leading off...

It takes a village as Paris Olympic hub is handed over to organisers and it's all a long way from 1924

In bringing young people from every nation together, [the Olympic Games] help foster this sense of cordiality that teaches men to become acquainted with each other better first and then to hold each other in higher esteem, a process that the Paris Games will have greatly aided."

Those words were not uttered by French President Emmanuel Macron when he inaugurated the Olympic Village in Paris's northern suburbs last week.

Instead the words came a full century earlier from Frantz Reichel, Secretary General of the Organising Committee

of the Olympic Games Paris 1924.

This summer the French capital is celebrating a centenary anniversary of its 1924 Games — by hosting the extravaganza all over again. But the Olympic Village is also toasting its 100th anniversary.

The 1924 Olympics was the first to feature an Athletes Village, although the set-up was a little rudimentary compared to modern times. "These Games saw small wooden huts house the majority of athletes just a few minutes' walk away from the Stade Olympique de Colombes in north-west Paris," an IOC report remembered.

The 72 lucky modern pentathletes who check in at this summer's Village can expect more comfortable surrounds.

The 52-hectare village, located just

north of central Paris stretches across the municipalities of Saint-Denis, Saint-Ouen and Ile-Saint-Denis, and will host 14,500 athletes. After the Games, the village will be transformed into an eco-friendly neighborhood with 2,800 apartments, featuring two schools, a hotel, a public park, shops and offices, plus planted areas for pedestrians and non-motorized vehicles.

The Olympic Village is always a hive of activity and energy during the Olympics and Paralympics. But now that the keys have been handed over to organisers, it doesn't mean things will be quiet between now and the Games. Organisers are set to spend the next four months fitting out the village with more than 300,000 furniture and decoration items.

We have come a long way from wooden huts. It takes a village, after all.

> Paris Pointer

For powerhouse nations, the race to be among the lucky Olympians is hotting up too

If you think that the hard part has already been done by the Egyptian men, you would be wrong.

Four nations have so far claimed the maximum two Olympic qualification quota places: Egypt and Mexico (men) and Great Britain and Italy (women). For the Egyptians and the British particularly, the fight is really only beginning.

Such is the depth of talent in both nations currently that the identities of who ends up occupying those two precious places in Paris is still far from a settled matter.

Next week in Cairo, a hotly anticipated UIPM 2024 World Cup season kicks off and observers on all sides of the Nile will be watching how their leading lights fare. Current World No.1 Mohanad Shaban would in most circumstances be considered a favourite for Paris. But the talent beside him is daunting.

Ahmed Elgendy made history in Tokyo by claiming Olympic silver and looked back to his best at times in 2023. However his younger brother Mohamed continues to shine, kicking off 2024 with victory in UIPM Pentathlon Challenger Egypt. Meanwhile veteran Eslam Hamad showed he still has plenty in the tank with an impressive silver at the Hungarian Indoor Open last month and 2022 U19 world champion Moutaz Mohamed continues to blossom. It's a crowded field.

We spoke last month in this space about how Kate French's return to the sport after an extended sabbatical could make the fight for Great Britain's two spots in Paris all the more ferocious. The reigning Olympic champion made her return in Budapest, qualifying for the final but did so alongside five of her compatriots with Emma Whitaker and Kerenza Bryson taking silver and bronze, respectively. Currently Great



Left to right: Egypt team-mates and rivals Mohamed Elgendy, Ahmed Elgendy and Eslam Hamad

Britain has four athletes ranked inside the top 21 in the world.

UIPM season kicks off with UIPM 2024 Pentathlon World Cup Cairo.

More squeezes are on the horizon: Lithuania has only claimed one women's quota spot so far but boasts three of the top 14 in the world in veteran champion Laura Asadauskaite, Ieva Serapinaite and Gintare Venckauskaite. So while many are still battling to clinch qualification, for others the fight simply continues which makes every event so captivating.

Numbers game

3,200 The number of seats at the 24-hour restaurant at the Paris 2024 Olympic Village. Catering to 14,500 athletes, it promises to serve six different culinary themes (Italian, Asian, French among them.) and will include a non-alcoholic bar, a leisure area and training facilities.

Qualification latest

At last the race for the final 28 spots at Paris 2024 will resume when the

As things stand, 44 of the 72 quota places at this summer's Games have been claimed. Women: Italy (2), Great Britain (2), China, Japan, Korea, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Spain, Lithuania, France, Hungary, Germany, Egypt, Australia, Czech Republic (pending validation), 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.

Six places are on offer at the 2024 UIPM World Championships in June but there are 12 more through the UIPM rankings which makes the World Cup season, kicking off in Cairo, so key for those targeting rankings points.

Full details of the Paris 2024 qualification process can be found at uipmworld.org/olympic-games

Back in the fast lane: Meet Michelle Gulyas

In the latest in our 'Pentathlon Personalities' series, Hungary's brightest light reflects on growing pains, bouncing back, that Ferrari hat and her dreams of Paris...

Imagine a season like this: kick off with an emphatic victory in your home Indoor Open; win gold in the season-opening World Cup; silver in your next World Cup event; another top-10 finish and with it a precious Olympic qualification ticket at the European Games and, finally, a top-20 place at the World Championships.

Sounds pretty damn good, right? It is not only mere mortals who would be ecstatic with a campaign like that. There is quite a section of the Modern Pentathlon elite who would call it a season to remember.

Michelle Gulyas is no mere mortal. And she is not like a lot of her fellow competitors, either. At various moments during a compelling conversation about her journey to date, the Hungarian described her 2023 season as 'tough', 'frustrating', 'a bad year' and once going so far as to call it 'terrible'. These are the sky-high standards that Gulyas lives by.

"I had a good year and a bad year really. There were so many things to learn and take away from it," she told UIPM News from her home in Budapest as she wound down from a long day of training. "I had to skip a few competitions last year because I had to write a thesis. In Hungary it's a long way to finish university and I had my head more on that than on sports. But I'm really happy that I was able to get an Olympic quota at the European Games — even in a bad year."

At the outset of the 2023 season Gulyas would have been a hot favourite for gold at the Paris 2024 Olympics. The level of podium consistency she had shown over the previous two years was nothing short of remarkable.

But if the past 12 months have seen her slip from that position at the very apex of the sport, her performance at the



Michelle Gulyas (HUN) savours one of her numerous victories on the Pentathlon World Cup circuit

Hungarian Indoor Open in her home capital last month was a signal of intent: in this Olympic year, Gulyas is aiming to get right back to pentathlon's summit.

"I learned from last year," the 23-year-old added. "You have to be mentally so prepared for it all. Because of school last year I was definitely a little mentally tired. I was there at the competition on the starting line and was physically ready. I don't think mentally I was, don't think my body and mind were fully in sync."

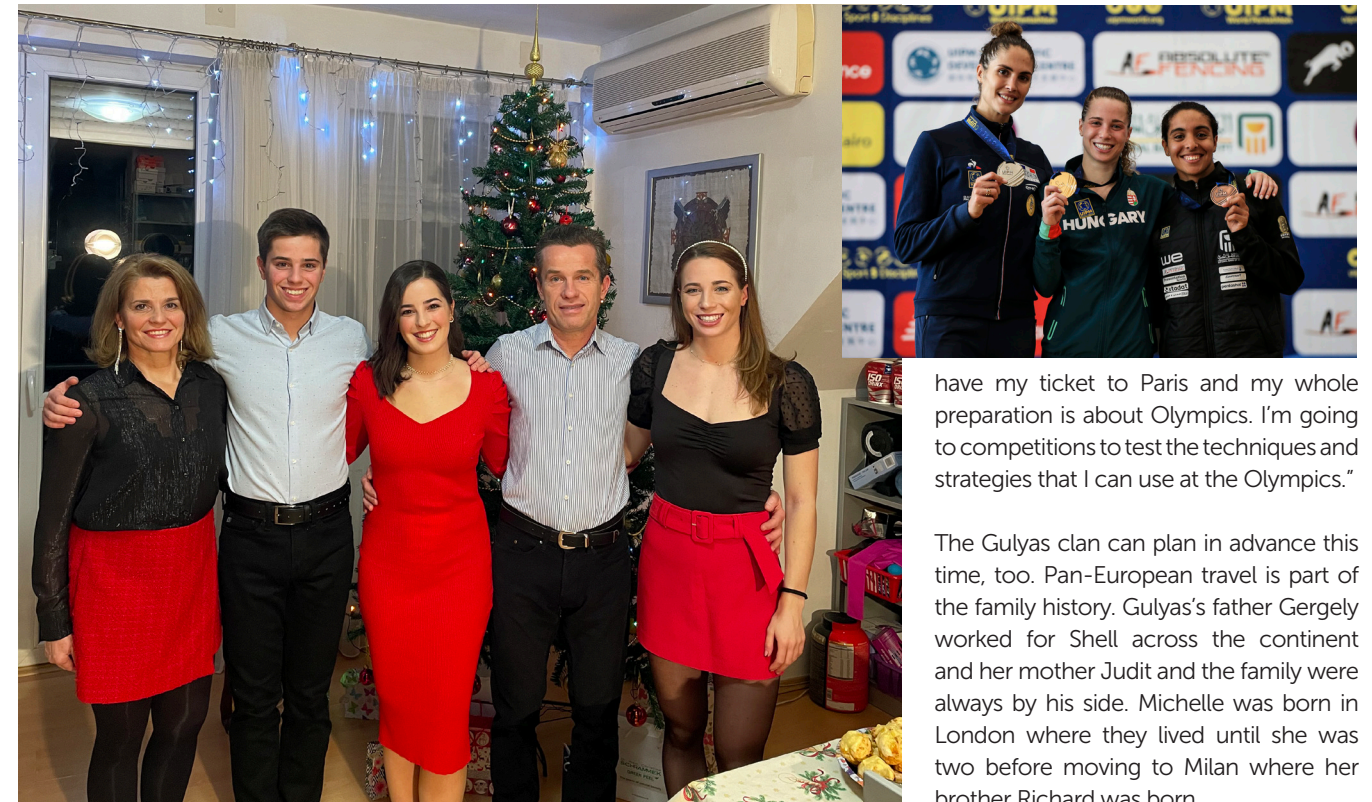
"This is why I was so happy with [the Hungarian Open]. You get the hunger from maybe not doing as well as you [can]. You want to get better, get stronger. And maybe my coaches are motivated as well. They all want me to get back to where I was and to find the spots where we can still improve to make it to the top. I think I had more hunger this pre-season for sure."

"It's good to leave behind what didn't work and now we have something new and strategic for running especially that I hope will work better."

After the very relative disappointments of last season Gulyas took a solid month of decompressing, visiting Greece with friends and catching up with family. Like sport, loved ones got squeezed a little during her final years of studying to be a police detective. Remarkably it was arguably her greatest sporting rival who helped her clear her final university hurdle.

Gulyas and world No.1 Elena Micheli of Italy are what the internet would call the best of frenemies. Fierce competitors who go toe-to-toe at World Championships but close friends too. So close that when Gulyas had to do her thesis last year, she turned to Micheli for help.

"I think I would say she is one of my best friends from another country. Rebecca



The Gulyas family at Christmas and, top right, Michelle clutching gold on the podium

Langrehr is the other one but I think with Elena I just know her for such a long time," explained Gulyas. "We were 16 or maybe even 15 when we first met at a competition and since then, at all the European and World Championships, we've been together. We've been to Rome for a training camp, they have come to Hungary for training camps."

"She helped me with my thesis actually. Because the police has this separate place for sportspeople and athletes who also want to be police, this was my thesis: can this system really work in Hungary or not? And she was one of my people who I interviewed. She was my case study. We have a good relationship, we chat sometimes on social media."

The 2022 season was mostly spent with Micheli and Gulyas trading positions at the top of the podium in a captivating rivalry. With Gulyas weighed down with university commitments last year, Micheli drove on, winning a second consecutive Pentathlon World Championships gold. Now the Hungarian wants to get back to business with her close friend. "Yeah I want it! I'm working hard to be back there so I hope the rivalry will be back."

It's important to look back at the consistency which had become Gulyas's trademark. Between April 2021 and April 2023 she competed in the finals of 14 competitions and finished on the podium in 13 of them. Her 12th-place finish at the Tokyo 2020 Olympics was the only outlier. Except for difficulties with her horse, the result in Japan could have also been a medal. So how is she so consistent?

"I wouldn't say that I have a best discipline," Gulyas responded. "There are lots of athletes who are the best runners in the entire field. So we know, for example, that if Laura Asadauskaite is coming from fifth or sixth place in a Laser Run she is surely winning the entire competition because her running and shooting is so good that she'll make it."

"My strongest field is that I'm not actually the best in anything but I'm so good in everything that I can still make it to the top. I don't really have a weak discipline that can give me a big setback."

In hindsight, Gulyas feels that Tokyo almost came too soon for her. "It was a surprise...I wasn't totally ready. This year is completely different because I already

have my ticket to Paris and my whole preparation is about Olympics. I'm going to competitions to test the techniques and strategies that I can use at the Olympics."

The Gulyas clan can plan in advance this time, too. Pan-European travel is part of the family history. Gulyas's father Gergely worked for Shell across the continent and her mother Judit and the family were always by his side. Michelle was born in London where they lived until she was two before moving to Milan where her brother Richard was born.

It was Gergely's Shell connection that first made Michelle fall in love with Ferrari and Formula 1. As she racked up the medals, her red Ferrari cap became an iconic part of her Laser Run routine. "The logo is too big for the Olympics so maybe I will message Ferrari and say 'hey, I love running in your hat, can you arrange one with a smaller logo for Paris!'"

Either way, this summer the Gulyas family will be packing up their own car and setting off from Budapest, collect elder sibling Claudia in Vienna and make it to Versailles in time to see Michelle compete. "They have already bought their tickets. They have planned where they are staying. They are the most excited about the whole situation."

That, of course, is only partly true. Gulyas is plenty excited herself. Hungary's golden Olympic Pentathlon tradition is one of many motivating factors as she heads to the French capital aiming to deliver the performance she knows she is capable of.

"I am very, very excited. I love Paris. I have been there more times...with family and friends. I've been to Versailles too and I know where the venue is. It's amazing."

Para Sports Spotlight

Q&A with Dr Roberto Nahon, UIPM's new Head of Classification on his aims for the job and Para progress

As UIPM continues to focus on ensuring its sports are both innovative and inclusive, the development and focus on Para Sport initiatives continues apace. Recently, vastly experienced Dr. Roberto Nahon was appointed as UIPM's new Head of Classification.

In this key role Dr. Nahon, who has previously worked as Chief Medical Officer of the Brazilian Olympic Committee, will be a driving force of UIPM's continued development and changes in Para Sport classification. Dr. Nahon sat down for an interview soon after taking up his new role...

Congratulations on your appointment. What aspects of this role are you most looking forward to?

Several elements of this position particularly enthuse me. To begin with, I am afforded the unique opportunity to contribute to the promotion of a para-sport within Modern Pentathlon that I have long admired. This is especially significant to me, having had the privilege to collaborate with esteemed pentathletes in Brazil, including Yane Marques.

Furthermore, I am invigorated by the prospect of supporting UIPM's dedication to inclusivity and the endeavor to make the sport universally accessible. This commitment resonates deeply with my personal ethos. I am convinced that establishing avenues for athletes with disabilities is not merely beneficial for the advancement of para-sport but is crucial for the holistic development (including non-athletes) and impact of the sport at large. Additionally, the Modern Pentathlon, with its amalgamation of diverse disciplines requiring both physical and



Dr Roberto Nahon (BRA) was recently appointed as UIPM's new Head of Classification.

mental excellence, presents a unique appeal. Promoting this and facilitating participation, particularly among para-athletes, represents a dual challenge (a professional and personal) that I am eager to tackle.

What will your initial months in this position entail?

My primary focus during the initial phase will be to integrate myself with the

extensive work that has already been undertaken, a collaboration spanning multiple people and countries. I intend to dedicate time to learning from my colleagues, comprehending UIPM's strategic objectives, and acquainting myself with the various aspects that UIPM encompasses, including its role in both Paralympic and Olympic integration.



Classification systems serve as the backbone for fair competition in Para sports such as Para Pentathlon, explains Dr Roberto Nahon.

A tangible outcome of this collaboration has been the development of a new approach to classification. It includes different classes and minimum eligible criteria for Para-Pentathlon. This innovative approach maintains a criterion for inclusion in the sport, while simultaneously simplifying the classification process to ensure it does not act as a barrier to entry.

Can you tell us about some of the long-term goals and targets you have?

My overarching ambition is to help position UIPM as a frontrunner in the global promotion of Modern Pentathlon, with a strong focus on inclusivity and accessibility. I envision UIPM cultivating a broad-reaching community that equally embraces Olympic and Paralympic athletes, fostering unity and camaraderie among diverse participants.

To be more specific, I aim to expand our participant base, including the induction of new athletes and the inclusion of new countries, from a sports development perspective and in collaboration with the UIPM Para Pentathlon Commission.

From a classification standpoint, the goal is to pursue continuous improvement through the application of data-driven strategies, refining our approach to better serve our athletes and our sport.

Making sport accessible to all is obviously a key aim. How does classification play a part in that?

Classification systems serve as the backbone for fair competition in Para sports, such as Para-Pentathlon, by classifying athletes based on the nature and degree of their impairments, focusing on what athletes can do rather than what they cannot. This differentiation facilitates the establishment of competitive classes, ensuring that athletes with varying levels of ability can compete equitably, without undue advantage or disadvantage.

While discussing fairness in competitive sports can be challenging, it's crucial to recognize that beyond fostering competition, classification also ensures that training programs and facilities are inclusive, addressing the diverse needs of athletes. The development and

consistent application of classification systems are vital in guaranteeing that every athlete, regardless of their competition level, has an equal opportunity to participate and excel.

What possibilities can the new Obstacle movement within UIPM create for the para movement?

The new Obstacle discipline comes at a critical juncture, especially for the Para-Pentathlon movement, which is currently transitioning to a "new approach", for which the final aim is a data-driven classification system. This timing is crucial as it allows any new initiative, such as the new Obstacle, to benefit from and contribute to this period of data collection and system refinement.

The integration of something as innovative as Obstacle not only takes advantage of this pivotal moment but also promises to accelerate the development of both the new discipline and the evolving classification system. This synergy is expected to enhance the sport's inclusivity and accessibility, making it a win-win for the development of the sport and its athletes.

Athlete365 Mentoring



ATHLETE365 MENTORING

POSITIONING YOURSELF FOR SUCCESS

Guidelines for Mentees and Mentors



The Athlete365 Mentoring initiative is now accepting applications of interest for its second cohort.

Q&A with pentathlete Paolo Singh (FRA) about his experiences in the programme

The International Olympic Committee recently opened the application process for the second edition of its hugely successful Athlete365 Mentoring programme.

The initiative matches athletes who are still competing, who recently finished their sporting career, or who are already in a workplace environment, with mentors from the Worldwide Olympic Partners or wider Olympic Movement, to help guide the athlete's

transition into a career beyond sport.

UIPM News caught up with 26-year-old pentathlete Paolo Singh of France, who was part of the first intake of Athlete365 Mentoring, to discuss how it works and how he benefited from the mentorship.

How did you learn about the programme and was it difficult to apply? How did you make the decision to apply?

If I remember correctly, I learned of the programme through the UIPM Instagram feed, and I applied because it seemed really interesting. It was fairly

easy to apply, thanks to the site, with my motivation and basic profile.

What were your expectations from the programme and what does mentoring mean to you?

I really didn't know what to expect from the programme, some kind of assistance in my career. It's been helpful to receive advice and share the challenges I face.

For me, mentoring is simply sharing advice and experience from someone who been through it, to usually a younger person who needs help. In this case a retired world-class athlete is



Paolo Singh (FRA) reaped hugely positive benefits from his Athlete365 Mentoring experience

a source of inspiration and wisdom to us younger competing athletes.

Who was your mentor and how was the programme structured?

My mentor now works at a global consulting company, and competed at

the highest level in his sport, eventually winning an Olympic medal. His name is Matthew Deakin, a gold medallist in rowing in the Athens Olympics in 2004, competing for USA.

The programme was roughly six

months, with meetings when the athlete needed it, usually one every six weeks or so.

How did the process help you? Did it help to develop new perspectives and skills?

The first thing is the meetings were in English, which might be a minor detail, but for me it was a great opportunity to speak another language. I exposed my "problems" to my mentor: balancing training/life, making a living, the transition to the next career after sports.

All in all, it really is a huge inspiration to learn from a champion who has been there and understands what you are going through.

I finished the programme with my mentor offering me to reach out any time. I'm happy to have learned so much, about me and about my career beyond sports.

Why do you think such programmes are important for athletes?

I think it's hugely important, firstly to get some help from experienced people from any field, and secondly to prepare the transition to the next career after sports.

It really matters, and helps you to focus better on the present, knowing that tomorrow will be alright. I would strongly recommend this opportunity to all fellow pentathletes.

Do you have suggestions on how athletes can be helped more?

Maybe the UIPM could set up the same kind of programme. The tricky part is that everyone is different, so each person has to find what works for them. But I would like to thank the Athlete365 team, they are doing such crucial work, and UIPM.

For more information on IOC Athlete365 Mentoring and full details on how to apply, see the IOC website: <https://olympics.com/athlete365/mentoring/>

News from around the world



Michelle Gulyas (HUN) and Charles Brown (GBR, below right) won gold at the Peridot Hungarian Indoor Championships in Budapest (HUN).

Home favourite Gulyas (HUN) back to her best on home soil with Brown (GBR) also victorious

After a 2023 season of ups and downs, Michelle Gulyas of Hungary laid down a marker for a more consistent 2024 season as she again delivered in front of her home crowd at the Peridot Hungarian Indoor Championships

On the men’s side, Charles Brown of Great Britain took gold in a richly talented field in Budapest (HUN).

Always a favoured February destination for elite pentathletes, this year’s competition attracted a typically strong entry with the Olympic Games just six months away. Over 100 athletes took part in the event from February 8-12 with



10 nations competing in the women’s event and nine nations represented on the men’s side. Gulyas (HUN) regained the title she first claimed in 2021 – also

an Olympic year. The world No.9 was impressively consistent across all five disciplines and held off a two-pronged British assault, crossing the line 12sec



Coaches from across the global Modern Pentathlon community can now register for one of the most popular courses on the UIPM CCP.

ahead of Emma Whitaker (GBR) with 2023 silver medallist Kerenza Bryson (GBR) taking bronze. Reigning Olympic champion Kate French (GBR) made her return after a break from the sport, finishing 16th in the final.

The ever-improving Brown (GBR) went one better than his compatriots when he came out on top in a gripping men’s competition as he raced to gold with 15 seconds to spare over Eslam Hamad of Egypt in second with Marvin Dogue of Germany claiming bronze. World No.1 Mohanad Shaban (EGY) crossed in fourth place.

Women’s gold medallist Gulyas (HUN) said: “I was really happy about this first competition because finally there was a chance to see what the hard work has done and what it has improved. It’s great motivation, not just for me but for the coaches as well.”

The UIPM competition season begins with UIPM 2024 Pentathlon World Cup Cairo from March 5-10.

UIPM Coaches Certification Programme: Time to apply for Level 3 course

Coaches from across the global Modern Pentathlon community have been urged to register for one of the most popular courses on the UIPM Coaching Certification Programme (CCP).

The highly anticipated fourth edition of the CCP Level 3 course for senior coaches will take place online from April 6-9, and registration closes on March 7.

The Level 3 course, delivered in English, takes coaches on an immersive journey towards a comprehensive understanding of how to plan and periodise Modern Pentathlon coaching.

It also contains insights into the latest advancements in training methodologies and technological tools for sport evaluation and analysis, enabling coaching to elevate their skills to new heights.

UIPM Coaches Committee President Christian Roudaut said: “I strongly recommend the Level 3 CCP course for any coaches who want to broaden their skill set and reach a new level in their individual progression.

“I know that the fourth edition of this course will provide a stimulating syllabus for coaches who aspire to work at the highest levels of our sport.”

Applicants are required to complete a personal data sheet and motivation letter and can apply for the course by visiting <https://www.uipmworld.org/coaches-level-3-course>

Masters athletes tackle snow and obstacles in Davos (SUI) and Bompas (FRA)

The UIPM Masters community continued its resurgence at the start of 2024 with two competitions followed by a key meeting.





Action from the first-ever Masters competition to include the Obstacle discipline, arranged by the French Modern Pentathlon Federation

The annual Winter Pentathlon took place in Davos (SUI) from 1-4 February with eight disciplines in total.

Participants took part in Riding and Laser Shooting on the opening evening, followed by Cross-country Skiing, Swimming and Giant Slalom on the first full day, and Fencing, Laser Run and Laser Sprint (skiing) on the second.

There were senior women’s and men’s categories, as well as a youth category, across Winter Pentathlon, Winter Tetrathlon, Pentathlon and Tetrathlon.

A week later, the French Modern Pentathlon Federation (FFPM) held the first-ever Masters competition to involve the new Obstacle discipline in Bompas and Perpignan (FRA).

There were eight obstacles on the course, with five mandatory and the other three optional. Nineteen athletes in age categories stretching from M30 to M60 completed the discipline with no reported injuries.

The following day, the UIPM Masters Working Group held an online meeting – UIPM President Dr Klaus Schormann



– to reflect on a successful start to the 2024 season and to discuss targets for the rest of the year, including a discussion about the UIPM 2024 Masters World Championships.

UIPM 2024 Pentathlon World Cup Ankara & Budapest: 12 athletes with Belarus passports approved to compete as neutrals

Twelve pentathletes who hold Belarus passports, along with five

coaches and two physiotherapists, have been approved to participate in a neutral capacity in UIPM 2024 Pentathlon World Cup Ankara (April 16-21) and UIPM 2024 Pentathlon World Cup Budapest (April 23-28).

Rather than representing their country of origin, any of the 12 athletes who take part in the competition (a maximum of four female and four male athletes, only in the individual category) will be designated as independent neutral athletes (AIN).

The approval relates to the second batch of applications sent to the UIPM 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’ rights.

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

Your voice is heard: Frankfurt meeting becomes a hub of UIPM democracy

What makes an international sports governing body meaningful in a different way to other organisations?

Every time we meet in February for the UIPM Joint Committees Meeting, there is a powerful reminder that the answer to this question is democracy.

More broadly, it becomes an important reinforcement of our responsibilities, our duties, the need to respect differing opinions and voices, and the fundamental principle that the majority matters.

Specifically in relation to UIPM, and the challenge that lies in front of us, this annual gathering is vital because it helps us to find common ground when leading our sports movement to a direction that has a future. We all care about the various stakeholders inside and outside of our community and we discuss ways to better assist, serve and help.

So what was on the agenda this year, and who was represented in Frankfurt?

- Members of the UIPM Athletes, Coaches and Technical Committees each presented during the course of the joint meeting; each of them spoke openly and explained their priorities, concerns and points on behalf of their group
- Some relevant Executive Board members and leadership presented, debated and accepted suggestions from various angles
- Members of the Administration team responsible for respective Committees presented, providing real facts and context to facilitate effective discussions.

And how does this meeting underscore the importance of democracy within UIPM?

- It allows space for differing opinions and angles
- Members can debate and find compromised proposals
- Coaches absolutely have a say from their standpoint
- Technical Committee members reinforce the importance of precision in their tasks during the conduction of events
- The atmosphere as relaxed, people feel constructive and respected.

This year’s meeting was the catalyst for a new electoral period across the three Committees, as well as the UIPM Confederations, so don’t miss the opportunity to express yourself and stand up!

- The athlete voice has never been so loud within the decision-making process
- Changes and innovations are for

athletes and for future generations, therefore, expressing the athlete view from all representing Committees means a lot and needs your efforts

- Pay attention to your continental championships, UIPM Pentathlon World Cups and World Championships, and contact the current Athletes Committee to request more information.

Democracy is never easy to implement, but this is the philosophy we all agree to follow and to respect. There may be no such thing as the perfect scenario, but there is always the best possible approach, so I ask all members of our community to share your voices and opinion with your representing group – whether you are an athlete, coach or technical official – and they will listen to you and will appreciate your engagement!

Your Voice
Is
Heard!

Inside UIPM

President Dr Klaus Schormann’s activities



UIPM President Dr Klaus Schormann with Dr Wolfgang Dietz (CEO Dietz AG), his wife Stefanie (right) and Executive Assistant Lena Nussbaumer (left)

06.02.2024: Belgian NOC

UIPM President Dr Klaus Schormann convened with Olav Spahl, Sport Director of the Belgium Olympic & Interfederal Committee, to explore ways for establishing a vibrant Modern Pentathlon Federation in Belgium.

Their discussions centred around supporting athletes in their journey to fulfil their Olympic aspirations, particularly with the upcoming Paris 2024 Games and beyond.

The Belgian NOC has shown keen interest in further developing the sport of Modern Pentathlon, particularly with the emergence of Obstacle as a new discipline.

Belgium has the potential to implement UIPM strategies tailored for smaller nations to integrate Modern Pentathlon as an Olympic sport.

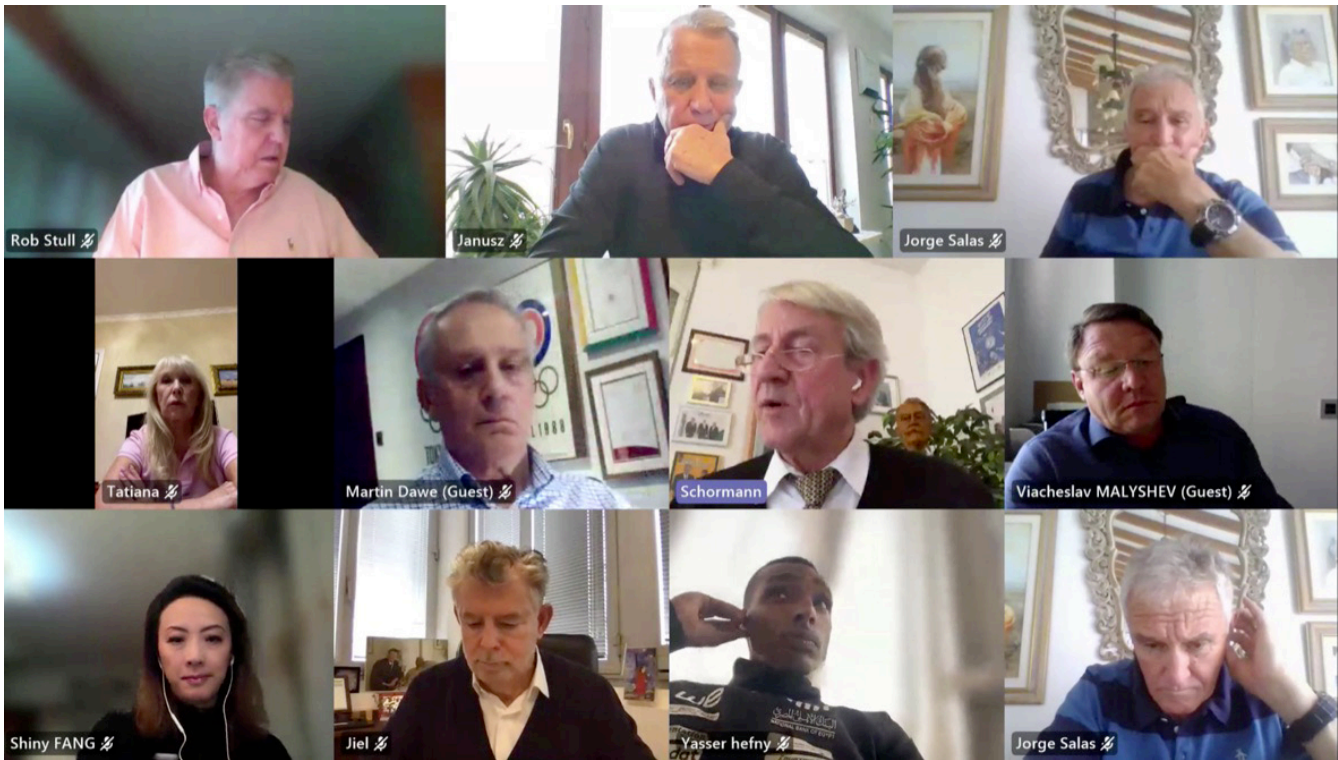
Former Belgian NOC President Raoul Mollet participated in 1936 and 1948 in the Olympic Modern Pentathlon.

07.02.2024: UIPM Sponsors

President Dr Schormann was joined by Executive Assistant Lena Nussbaumer in a meeting with UIPM Sponsor Dr Wolfgang Dietz and his wife, Stefanie.

They discussed the upcoming Paris 2024 Olympic Games and the future partnerships between UIPM and Dietz AG, based on the integration of Obstacle.





A screenshot of the UIPM Executive Board meeting on 12 February, chaired by President Dr Klaus Schormann

05.02. – 12.02.2024: Online meetings

Throughout the first two weeks of February, President Dr Schormann participated in various online calls with UIPM Commissions, Working Groups and external experts. His purpose was to provide updates on the current sport-political landscape within the Union and to engage in discussions on various topics.

The calls encompassed meetings with the Sport for All Commission,

the Masters Committee, the Fencing Working Group, culminating in an Executive Board Meeting on 12 February.

During these meetings, it was possible to address important points for an even better and broader development in the future, as well as to consider different approaches to solutions, such as those proposed by the Medical Committee on how to better document and enquire about possible injuries in the future.

07.02.2024: UIPM competition hosts

The UIPM President invited the Presidents of all UIPM 2024 Pentathlon World Cup organising committees for a collaborative online meeting.

The purpose was to exchange sports-related information and provide updates on the upcoming season. In this session, the Presidents and Secretaries General from Egypt, Hungary, Türkiye and Bulgaria had the



Screenshots of the UIPM Masters Working Group meeting (left) and the UIPM 2024 Pentathlon World Cup competition hosts meeting (right)



UIPM President Dr Klaus Schormann with UIPM Honorary President HSH Prince Albert II of Monaco (centre) and UIPM Vice President Joel Bouzou OLY (left)

opportunity to share their experiences, discuss current challenges and explore positive prospects for the future.

The meeting was attended by Sharif Elerian (UIPM Vice President, Egyptian Modern Pentathlon Federation President); Prof Dr Veli Cakir (Turkish Modern Pentathlon Federation President); Attila Mizser (Hungarian Modern Pentathlon Association Secretary General); Andrey Kuzmanov (Bulgarian Modern Pentathlon Federation President) and Kameliya Aleksandrova (Bulgarian Modern Pentathlon Federation Secretary General).

13.02.204: Monaco, MON

UIPM President Dr Klaus Schormann held a private meeting with UIPM's

Honorary President, HSH Prince Albert II of Monaco (IOC Member), where they engaged in discussions covering matters pertinent to the Union and broader topics within the Olympic movement.

President Dr Schormann provided HSH Prince Albert with updates on the integration process of Obstacle/FISO and shared information about ongoing consultations within UIPM Committees and Commissions following the decision of the 141st IOC Session in Mumbai (IND) to maintain Modern Pentathlon's place in the Olympic programme.

Furthermore, they delved into discussions about the Paris 2024 Olympic Games, where Riding will appear in the Olympic Modern Pentathlon for the last time, and

extensively explored strategic initiatives for the Los Angeles 2028 Olympic Games.

Transitioning from the sport-political agenda, HSH Prince Albert and President Dr Schormann focused on ensuring robust governance of UIPM both at present and into the future. Additionally, they raised environmental issues and what UIPM can do to become even more sustainable and eco-friendly.

At the end of a lengthy meeting, UIPM Vice President Joel Bouzou OLY joined the President and Honorary President.

Before his meeting with HSH Prince Albert II, the UIPM President had visited the UIPM Headquarters to speak with staff members and work out future steps in all departments from financial,



UIPM President Dr Klaus Schormann, flanked by Treasurer John Helmick and Secretary General Shiny Fang, chairs the UIPM Joint Committees Meeting

operational and development to logistics and hospitality, in respect of the Paris 2024 Games.

15.02. – 18.02.2024: Frankfurt-am-Main, GER

Each year UIPM President Dr Klaus Schormann attends the annual Joint Committees Meeting, where members of the UIPM Athletes, Coaches and Technical Committees convene to deliberate profound strategies for future actions within Modern Pentathlon.

These discussions are crucial in shaping the sport's development, especially in anticipation of the upcoming Olympic Games in LA28. Key topics of discussion centred around refining the Fencing format for LA28 and

devising strategies to enhance Modern Pentathlon's appeal and engagement with audiences.

Prior to the Joint Committees Meeting, on February 15-16, a gathering of marketing experts and Obstacle insiders convened with UIPM President Dr Klaus Schormann and Secretary General Shiny Fang, alongside UIPM Branding & Marketing Manager Alexandre Mauran and long-standing agency partner OIKO, to explore avenues for the organisation's rebranding and future prospects.

Notable attendees included Michael Payne, the International Olympic Committee's first Marketing Director and Pierre de Coubertin Medal winner, and US Modern Pentathlon Association President Tom Shepard, a

former Executive Vice President at Visa International.

They added valuable insights to the discussions, as did International Obstacle Sports Federation (FISO) President Ian Adamson, accompanied by Media Director Travis Ford. The group also comprised UIPM Executive Board Member for Marketing Martin Dawe and Treasurer John Helmick.

20.02.2024: Frankfurt-am-Main, GER

The remarkable contribution and lifelong dedication to the German Olympic Academy Willi Daume eV (DOA) of Dr Klaus Schormann, who was one of the founders and a long-standing Board Member, were celebrated during a special ceremony.



UIPM held a special brand marketing meeting in Frankfurt (GER). Back row (l to r): UIPM Treasurer John Helmick, OIKO Design CEO Giancarlo Alfani, UIPM EB Member for Marketing Martin Dawe, UIPM Branding and Marketing Manager Alexandre Mauran, World Obstacle Media Director Travis Ford; UIPM Events Operations Manager Alexandre Franca; front row (l to r): UIPM Secretary General Shiny Fang, OIKO Design Account Director Raffaella Capponi, UIPM President Dr Klaus Schormann, World Obstacle President Ian Adamson, USMPA President Tom Shepard, UIPM advisor Michael Payne

The UIPM President received a special certificate in recognition and appreciation of his long-standing work since the founding of the DOA on May 4, 2007.

The DOA Executive Board – which includes Prof Dr Holger Preuss (UIPM Innovation Commission Member), Prof Dr hc Gudrun Doll-Tepfer (President of the DOA and the European Olympic Academy), Prof Dr Gerald Fritz (DOA Director), Dr med Lenka Dientsbach-Weck and Prof Dr Anette Hofmann – came together with dedicated employees to honour Dr Schormann's exemplary work and achievements

as he concluded his tenure as a DOA Board Member.

07.02.2024: Paris, FRA

UIPM President Dr Klaus Schormann was joined by Secretary General Shiny Fang, Treasurer John Helmick, Service Manager Alexandra Sumina and Executive Assistant Lena Nussbaumer on a visit to the Paris 2024 Olympic Games Organising Committee.

Sport project, Equipment, Volunteers, Gustavo Cerqueira, Paris 2024 Modern Pentathlon Sport Manager, discussed

various aspects related to:

- Updates on venue preparations and readiness
- Equipment procurement and distribution plans
- Volunteer recruitment, training and deployment strategies
- Coordination with other sports teams for venue sharing and scheduling
- Security measures and emergency preparedness at venues.

Lorick Joseph (Event General Manager – Chateau de Versailles) and Anahid Ruivo (Event Operations Coordinator – Chateau de Versailles)





UIPM President Dr Klaus Schormann receives a certificate in honour of his lifelong dedication to the German Olympic Academy



Left to right: Alix Sibiodon (Paris 2024 Sport Services Coordinator); Christophe Boisson (MP Riding Coordinator); Lena Nussbaumer (UIPM Executive Assistant); Margot Laplaine (Paris 2024 MP Technical Operations Manager); John Helmick (UIPM Treasurer); Dr Klaus Schormann (UIPM President); Gustavo Riberio (Paris 2024 MP Sport Manager); Shiny Fang (UIPM Secretary General); Alexandra Sumina (UIPM Service Manager)



A working session between UIPM and the Paris 2024 Olympic Games team in charge of Modern Pentathlon

engaged in discussions regarding event management strategies and coordination with representatives.

Elise Francois (Event General Manager – Cluster Nord / North Paris Arena) addressed event management matters, focusing on specific areas concerning:

- Detailed discussion on specific aspects of event management handled by the team
- Updates on any challenges faced and solutions implemented
- Alignment of efforts with overall event objectives and strategies.

Morgane David (Accreditation Project Manager) explored accreditation processes and requirements with the aim of ensuring efficient management of participant credentials. They discussed:

- Accreditation categories and criteria
- Procedures for issuing and validating accreditation passes
- Integration with security measures and access control systems
- Communication strategies for informing participants about accreditation requirements.

Discussions on sport presentation

strategies were led by Greg Bowman OAM (Sport Presentation Director), planning for opening and closing ceremonies and spectator engagement activities during competitions.

Clement Dindault (Ticketing Project Manager) informed the UIPM delegation about the following ticketing aspects:

- Pricing strategies for various ticket categories
- Sales channels and distribution methods
- Ticketing policies regarding refunds, exchanges and transfers.

The group also discussed transportation logistics and arrangements with Maxime Mayer (Venue Transport Manager) and Oliver O'Hana (Transport Project Manager - Client Services for International Federations), aiming to facilitate smooth movement during the event. They covered the following points:

- Transport routes and schedules for athletes, officials and spectators
- Parking facilities and shuttle services
- Traffic management plans around venues.

27.02.204: Windsor, GBR

UIPM President Dr Klaus Schormann and his wife Karin attended a service of thanksgiving for the life of HM King Constantine of the Hellenes, who was Patron of UIPM from 1995 until his death in January 2023.

Their attendance was based on an invitation extended by HM Queen Anne-Marie of the Hellenes and HRH Crown Prince Pavlos of Greece. HM King Constantine first served as Patron of the Union Internationale de Pentathlon Moderne et Biathlon (UPMB) from 1995 to 1998, and subsequently for the Union Internationale de Pentathlon Moderne from 1998 to 2023.

In recognition of his contributions, HM King Constantine was inducted into the UIPM Hall of Fame in 2016.

The service of thanksgiving at St Sophia's Greek Orthodox Cathedral in Windsor Castle was attended by a wide variety of dignitaries including HM Queen Camilla of the United Kingdom, HRH the Princess Royal (also a Member of the International Olympic Committee), and members of the Danish and Spanish royal families.

Pentathlon World Rankings

The PWR is updated live at www.pentathlon.org after each competition. PWR as at March 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	HUN	Csaba BOHM	179
6	EGY	Ahmed ELGENDY	177
7	KOR	Changwan SEO	159
8	ITA	Giorgio MALAN	154
9	FRA	Valentin PRADES	152
10	FRA	Valentin BELAUD	150
11	GER	Marvin DOGUE	149
12	CZE	Martin VLACH	148
13	CHN	Zhang LINBIN	146
14	EGY	Mohamed ELGENDY	143
15	JPN	Taishu SATO	141
16	HUN	Balazs SZEP	140
17	KOR	Jihun LEE	135
18	GBR	Myles PILLAGE	129
19	CZE	Marek GRYCZ	128
20	CHN	Shuai LUO	124

WOMEN

RANK	NATION	NAME	POINTS
1	ITA	Elena MICHELI	208
2	ITA	Alice SOTERO	201
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	FRA	Elodie CLOUVEL	149
14	LTU	Gintare VENCKAUSKAITE	148
15	EGY	Salma ABDELMAKSoud	142
16	GBR	Jessica VARLEY	139
17	HUN	Blanka GUZI	136
18	KOR	Seungmin SEONG	130
19	CHN	Mingyu ZHANG	126
20	ITA	Alessandra FREZZA	124

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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