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UNION INTERNATIONALE  
DE PENTATHLON MODERNE



**World Pentathlon  
Newsletter**

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## UIPM 2024 PENTATHLON CHALLENGER EGYPT



World No.5 Ilke Ozyuksel (TUR) celebrates the start of Olympic year in style with victory in the Women's Final at UIPM 2024 Pentathlon Challenger Egypt - the first competition of the season with Olympic ranking points at stake





## UIPM 2024 Pentathlon Challenger Egypt



Action from the Fencing Ranking Round during UIPM 2024 Pentathlon Challenger Egypt, the first Olympic ranking tournament of the year

### Ozyuksel (TUR) and Elgendy (EGY) kick off season in style with victories in Cairo (EGY)

The UIPM Pentathlon Challenger series was introduced to add relevance and excitement to the process of Olympic qualification – and it delivered in style with a thrilling start to the 2024 season.

The Olympic year began in earnest in Cairo (EGY) and it was especially sweet for Ilke Ozyuksel of Türkiye and the home-town hero, Mohamed Elgendy of Egypt, who won the gold medals with performances of stunningly high quality.

In fact, the winning scores of Ozyuksel (TUR) and Elgendy (EGY) almost forced an adjustment to the Modern Pentathlon world records, as they came within two points and five points respectively of the sport's historic apex.

For Ozyuksel (TUR), now a perennial top-10 athlete aiming to improve on her 5th place at the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games, it was a second consecutive victory after her success last October in UIPM 2023 Pentathlon Challenger Kyrgyzstan.

She moved into 3rd position in the UIPM Olympic Pentathlon World Ranking list with a sublime performance, starting with 20 victories from her 35 bouts

in Fencing – bettered only by Amira Kandil (EGY, 24V/11D) and Veronika Novotna of Czech Republic (21V/14D).

Ozyuksel (TUR) charged into the lead with a maximum score of 300 in Fencing, followed by a 5th-ranked swim of 2min 20.81sec. Rather than taking it easy in Laser Run she blitzed the course with the 2nd-best time of the day, 11:10.70, to clinch gold by an astonishing 19sec.

The only athlete quicker around the course was, in fact, silver medallist Rita Erdos of Hungary, who in turn left her rivals without a chance.

To the delight of local spectators,



Action from Swimming in the Women's Final and, right, the Men's Final where Mohamed Elgendy (EGY) finished strongly in the Laser Run to win gold

18-year-old African champion Malik Ismail (EGY) came home strongly to win bronze with a 10sec cushion over Mariana Arceo of Mexico, who now tops the Olympic Ranking List.

Janine Kohlmann of Germany and Rebecca Castaudi of France completed the top six.

The Men's Final, held on the same day, was somewhat tighter as Mohamed Elgendy (EGY), younger brother of Tokyo 2020 Olympic silver medallist Ahmed, battled to victory by 7sec from Matej Lukes (CZE), who protected silver from Fabian Liebig (GER) by the narrowest of margins.

Elgendy (EGY) scored 25V/10D in Fencing, only inferior to Jozsef Tamas (HUN) who managed an eye-catching 27 victories. He held his nerve with 292 in Riding and despite dropping points in Swimming, produced the 3rd-fastest Laser Run to secure gold.



Moutaz Mohamed (EGY) finished the day very strongly with the fastest Swimming time of 2:03.23 followed by the quickest Laser Run of 9:52.27. Tamas (HUN) and another local athlete, Omar Wael (EGY), rounded out the top six.

Form guides taken from the

international season-opener are often highly accurate and many of the leading lights in this Pentathlon Challenger will be back in Cairo (EGY) for UIPM 2024 Pentathlon World Cup Cairo in March, where more Olympic ranking points will be on offer alongside the coveted medals.



# VOYAGE TO PARIS 2024

## Olympic Games Countdown: Part X



French President Emmanuel Macron celebrated six months to go to the Paris Olympics and insisted the host nation can savour success at the Games.

### Leading off...

#### France's President Macron sets expectations soaring for host nation's medal chances

Just a couple of weeks after the creme de la creme of Modern Pentathlon gathered at France's National Institute for Sport and Performance (INSEP) for the 2023 French Open Championship the complex welcomed another special guest.

To help mark the six-month countdown to this summer's Olympic Games in France's iconic capital city, French President Emmanuel Macron visited INSEP on January 23 and sent out two loud and clear messages: one, Paris is ready for a magical and memorable Games, and two, he believes the host country's athletes can deliver a historic medal haul.

"Our goal of finishing in the top five at the Olympic Games is more achievable than ever, which shows that France could have its best Games since 1900," Macron said. "I don't want to exert too much pressure, but it's sound, healthy pressure."

The gathered audience at INSEP of 1000 guests included almost 500 athletes and Macron was not shy in heaping expectations on the country's would-be sporting heroes.

"I am counting on you not only to win medals, but also to inspire young people," he added. "You have to be hungrier than the others, there is no other way."

Macron took special time to speak with the country's judo team but he could just as easily have outlined his expectations to France's leading pentathletes with two men, Valentin Prades and Valentin

Belaud, and two women, Marie Oteiza and Elodie Clouvel, currently inside the top 15 in the Pentathlon World Rankings.

Clouvel's silver medal at the 2016 Games in Rio de Janeiro remains France's highest place on an Olympic Pentathlon podium. The country has featured in the event a joint-second highest number of times, 24, since it made its debut in 1912, winning just one silver and two bronze in the 112 years since.

As anticipation continues to build with the clock ticking ever closer to the Games, Macron insisted Paris was ready to deliver a modern, efficient Games of which the entire country can be proud.

"These Games will be a great moment of French pride and celebration," he said. "Our organisation must be flawless."

No pressure, guys!

## > Paris Pointer

### Reigning Olympic champion Kate French (GBR) returns in time for a title defence

If the festive period offers a lot of thinking time, the start of a new year is instead a time for action.

It would appear that there was plenty of thinking, now converted into action, for the reigning women's Olympic champion. News emerged in late January that Kate French of Great Britain, who roared to Modern Pentathlon gold in Tokyo (JPN) three years ago, has decided to return to the sport in a bid to reach a third Olympics.

French (GBR) has only been seen in competition on two occasions since topping the podium in record-breaking style at the rescheduled Tokyo Games in August 2021 and took a proper break from Pentathlon during the entire 2023 season to consider her future in the sport. But the lure of Paris and a tilt at defending her crown proved too powerful to resist.

"I didn't want to regret not trying," French told Pentathlon GB. "I don't know what's going to happen this year, whether I will be good enough or not, but I didn't want to be watching the Games this summer and feel like I hadn't given it a go."

"I started training towards the end of August and have built back very gradually. I'm enjoying it and I think I'm doing OK so far. The main thing I am trying to do this year is enjoy the journey. That is my focus and hopefully the results will come."

"The dream is to try and defend my title but first I need to qualify! It's going to be very, very tough. There is a lot of strength and depth in the women's programme but that has always been the challenge with the British squad, not just qualifying but being selected. It's no different this year."

Compatriots Kerenza Bryson and



Kate French (GBR) spent all of 2023 away from Pentathlon as her team-mates earned quota places

Olivia Green have already claimed the maximum two quota qualification places for Great Britain so French knows she will have work to do. She will begin her season at the Hungarian Indoor Open in Budapest from February 8-12, with not just her teammates but the rest of the contenders at the elite end of women's Pentathlon sure to be keen observers.

"I really don't know what to expect over the next few months so Budapest will be a good indication of where I am," French said.

### Numbers game

**30,000** The number of police officers and gendarmes who will be patrolling Paris for the duration of the Games. They will be backed up by 15,000 military personnel, with upwards of 22,000 private security guards at the Olympic venues and in the fan zones to ensure Paris 2024 is a secure success.

### Qualification latest

Entering 2024, 44 of the 72 quota places at Paris 2024 have been claimed.

Women: Italy (2), Great Britain (2), China, Japan, Korea, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Spain, Lithuania, France, Hungary, Germany, Egypt, Australia, Czech Republic, Mexico USA, Brazil Ecuador and the International Athletes Team (EAI).

Men: Egypt (2), Mexico (2), Italy, China, Japan, Korea, Thailand, Kazakhstan, Great Britain, Hungary, France, Germany, Poland, Ukraine, Switzerland, Australia, Ecuador, Cuba, Argentina and EAI.

The focus now shifts to the remaining 28 places with six on offer at the 2024 UIPM World Championships in June and up to 22 via the UIPM rankings.

Full details of the Paris 2024 qualification process can be found at [uipmworld.org/olympic-games](http://uipmworld.org/olympic-games)



# Twinning and winning: Meet the Jurts

**In the latest in our 'Pentathlon Personalities' series, Swiss sisters Katharina and Florina Jurt talk 2028, Obstacle and a remarkable family...**

Some twins finish each other's sentences. Florina and Katharina Jurt finish each other's races.

As it happens, the 18-year-olds from Switzerland also do the sentence thing and they do it a lot. That's what happens when you spend 24 hours a day with the person you've pretty much never been separated from — ever. The only time that the Jurt twins would appear to be apart is when they're competing in Relay events.

Take Istanbul last July for example. When it came time for the decisive Laser Run in the Women's Relay on the opening day of the UIPM 2023 U19 Pentathlon World Championships, Florina had to stand and watch as Katharina ran away from her. They reconnected briefly at the changeover and by the time Florina came back to the finishing line, there was her technically older sister waiting with open arms.

By finishing one another's race so brilliantly on that day, the Jurt twins became world champions. Even for a family as remarkably sporting and successful as theirs it was a big, big moment. Victory is always sweet. But it would appear that winning while twinning is sweetest of all.

"It is still kind of hard to realise what we have achieved in this year but we're really happy to achieve what we have, especially in Istanbul," Katharina says. "It was the highlight because we could start together and come together on the finish line and celebrate together."

"It's always better together!" interjects Florina, before her sister jumps back in.

"Especially because we train together, live together and we're 24 hours a day together ... so to win together is so special."



Florina and Katharina Jurt became U19 Women's Relay world champions in Istanbul (TUR) in July 2023

Over 30 minutes of lively conversation between the Jurts and UIPM News, there was precious little silence. They talked about a hunger to defend their world title, dreams of the Los Angeles 2028 Olympic Games, their potent prowess in the new Obstacle discipline and what their brief down time looks like. While the twins often jump in to agree or expand or emphasise something the other is saying, they never talk over one another. That part surely comes when they leave the calm of the bedroom which they share.

Because though they may be world champions, once they step into their home the twins are just two-ninths of a big and raucous Jurt family. Sixteen years separate the oldest of their seven siblings and the youngest, with the twins landing right in the middle of the nine children. Eldest sister Anna is an elite

pentathlete ranked inside the world's top 40. Marlena was also on that track until serious injury intervened.

The full family list goes a little like this: Christian (24), Anna (22), Marlena (21), the twins (18), Ueli (13), Giulietta (12), Marisa (11) and Tom (8). You ask Florina and Katharina if there are more Jurt pentathletes in the pipeline after them and both nod vigorously and smile. "There definitely are!"

At least part of the sports influence comes from mother Barbara, a marathon runner. With Anna hunting a place at the Olympics in Paris and the twins having put in the best season of their young careers, you wonder how much Pentathlon talk there was when the family all gathered in Bern over the festive period when Florina and Katharina also celebrated their 18th



Twins Katharina and Florina Jurt, front, with older sisters Anna and Marlena and the whole family (top).

birthdays. "Actually when we have family time it's more family talk rather than Pentathlon talk," smiles Katharina. "All of us are of course very sports-focused but with family it's more about relax and games time."

"Our birthday gift was to relax in a hotel and there was a jumping room where you could do challenges and so we of course had to be the best," adds Florina.

"At Christmas we had challenges with groups, a team event because we were I think 20 people with boyfriends and grandparents, everybody. We did a lot of games together and it was very cool but very competitive."

It would be natural for some level of competition between the twins too. As well as their Relay excellence they put in brilliant individual performances at the UIPM 2023 Laser Run World Championships in Bath (GBR), where they took home Biathle silver and bronze.

"We don't see each other much as competition, it's more of a push for each other," insists Florina. "It's not 'oh

no, she's got one more point than me, I'm sad'. Instead we push each other."

Katharina agrees: "For the World Cup in Fencing, she qualified but I did not because I didn't perform good. But I was so grateful and happy for her because of what she achieved so I think I can handle a situation like that, where she is succeeding and I am not."

Their Laser Run prowess — Katharina also teamed up with Paris-bound Alexandre Dallenbach for a Mixed Relay gold at the Laser Run Worlds last year — is to be expected. Anna is also a formidable talent in the combined discipline. But where the twins already have a head start on their sister, and much of the wider sport, is in Obstacle.

When they soared to Relay gold in Istanbul (TUR) it was a blistering performance in the newest discipline which helped catapult them into contention.

"It was a big surprise," insists Florina. "We did many sports disciplines when we were younger apart from Pentathlon and one of those was gymnastics. So

we had a connection to that kind of challenge: we knew that the strength and the grip in our hands was good. It's a lot of upper body but also feeling your body. The rhythm is so important. You really have to feel the movements on the Obstacles and I think that's a big plus point for us."

In the euphoria of that winning moment last July both twins spoke of dreams of the Los Angeles 2028 Olympics. But it was only later in October that the IOC, thanks in part to UIPM's successful integration of Obstacle, confirmed that Modern Pentathlon would indeed be on the programme in Tinseltown.

"Los Angeles was always a goal, 2028, but now with Obstacle in we really know that we can target it," says Katharina. "It's also a motivation with Obstacle, it's a new discipline and we're good at it."

But first there is a Jurt chasing Olympic dreams in 2024. "If Anna manages to qualify for Paris, every single one of us in the family will go — for sure," smiles Florina. And there is also a World Championship for the twins to defend? They nod in perfect unison.

"We're looking forward to that probably the most," says Florina, as Katharina smiles. "We're so proud to be there as world champions but it also puts a little bit of pressure on you. If you know that you achieved that, there are then maybe people who think that we'll do it again. That puts a kind of pressure but it's a good pressure."

Twice the pressure but twice the fun. The Jurts can finish each other's sentences, races and more. They're just getting started.



# UIPM PARA SPORTS SPOTLIGHT

## Funding boost for British programme



The Pentathlon GB Para-Pentathlon Training Camp and Discovery event engaged new participants from across the UK as well as existing athletes.

### UK Para Pentathlon Projects receive a boost in funding from Liverpool John Moores University for 2024

The first ever Pentathlon GB Para-Pentathlon Training Camp and Discovery event was hosted in Liverpool (GBR) on January 13-14.

The training camp symbolised the progress already made in the Para-Pentathlon project which has already made a big impact in Great Britain.

The country was the site of much progress when during last year's UIPM 2023 Laser Run World Championships the UIPM Para Laser Run World

Championships was live-streamed for the first time, featuring Para athletes from Egypt, France and Great Britain.

The aim of the January camp in Liverpool was to extend existing registered athletes and engage new participants from across the UK in a multi-sport pathway involving both the Laser Run and swimming disciplines of the sport. In total, 35 athletes from Exeter to Edinburgh were involved over the weekend.

They were supported by national-level coaches and classifiers, as well as LJMU BSc Sport Coaching and MSc Sport Psychology students and aided

by LJMU Sport staff and Liverpool City Council as facility hosts.

The athletes were exposed to technical laser shooting drills, LaserRun cardio-based training, swimming technique, sport psychology workshops, as well as the new athletes engaging in the Para Pent Classification process.

At the start of the weekend a discovery event was also held to introduce new participants to the sport, with people attending from across Merseyside and beyond.

There was also a large emphasis on team building and fun. In addition, a



Feedback from the January event in Liverpool (GBR) was extremely positive with participants appreciative of the chance to build on their training knowledge.

separate activity stream was started with PhD student Jozef Grindley from the LJMU School of Engineering scoping the experiences of Visually Impaired athletes in seeking to re-design the pistols to augment feedback for the athletes.

Feedback from the event has been extremely positive relating to community building, developing self-belief and training knowledge as the research group continue to break down barriers to increase inclusivity in Modern Pentathlon.

The project, which is run by researchers Dr Nic Robinson and Danny Cullinane from the School of Sport and Exercise Sciences, launched in January 2023 and has since exploded in impact across all scales in its first year.



The project has exploded in interest and impact since being launched in January 2023 by researches at Liverpool's John Moores University.



News from around the world



UIPM issues range of updates to athlete support provision

UIPM has launched an updated Athletes Safeguarding Policy (ASP) as part of its commitment to fostering a secure and supportive environment for athletes worldwide.

The ASP encompasses a comprehensive set of measures and initiatives designed to prevent harassment, abuse and exploitation within the realm of Modern Pentathlon. This policy establishes a robust framework that mandates adherence from all UIPM National Federations.

The ASP aligns with the International Olympic Committee (IOC) Consensus Statement on harassment and abuse (non-accidental violence) in sport (2016) and follows the guidelines set forth in its Toolkit for International Federations and National Olympic Committees.

It contains extended definitions of safeguarding, harassment and abuse, providing a more nuanced understanding of these critical issues. The ASP also includes links to valuable resources from key stakeholders,

including the IOC, Athlete365 and the United Nations. These resources aim to disseminate additional information and educational materials on safeguarding, creating a knowledge-sharing network for athletes and stakeholders alike.

A dedicated chapter within the updated ASP focuses on the UIPM Safeguarding Officer, underlining the Union's commitment to transparency and accountability. This officer will play a pivotal role in overseeing the implementation of the safeguarding measures and act as a point of contact for athletes, ensuring that their concerns are addressed promptly and effectively.

As UIPM takes this proactive step towards safeguarding, athletes can expect a safer and more secure sporting environment that prioritises their safety and well-being, on and off the field of play.

Athletes committee makes human rights pledge

The UIPM Athletes Committee has adopted the principles of the Athletes' Rights and Responsibilities Declaration – a pledge created by the International Olympic Committee to support the

human rights of the Olympic athlete community.

UIPM Athletes Committee Chair, Yasser Hefny OLY, said: "As a representative body we are eager to support any mechanism that protects and enshrines the rights of all athletes to practise sport free of discrimination and manipulation.

"The AC is delighted to officially get behind the Athletes' Rights and Responsibilities Declaration and we look forward to supporting pentathletes around the world to ensure this pledge respects and promotes their human rights within the context of sport."

Working closely together, UIPM and the AC have provided the following initiatives to back up their shared commitment to athlete support, inside and outside of the Athlete Centred Programme (ACP):

- Educational activities including Athlete Forum at the UIPM 2023 U17 World Championships in Alexandria (EGY) with 60 participants
- Materials and tools created for



Left to right: IOC Athletes' Commission Member and three-time Olympian Aya Medany, UIPM Athletes Committee Chair and London 2012 Olympian Yasser Hefny, Brazil NOC Chair and London 2012 Olympic bronze medallist Yane Marques, UIPM Education & Projects Manager Anfisa Kasyanova and Mexico NOC Chair and Rio 2016 Olympic bronze medallist Ismael Hernandez attending an International Athletes Forum in Paris (FRA)

athlete performance and career advancement made available on UIPM Educational Platform

- Constant sharing of Athlete365 opportunities\* and services for athletes' dual career and career transition via UIPM social media and National Federation athletes representatives. This led to elite pentathlete Paolo Singh (FRA) being selected for the IOC Athlete365 mentoring programme and Krystina Ryabova (KAZ) completing Athlete365 Business Accelerator
- Participation of Yasser Hefny OLY in the International Athletes Forum in Lausanne (SUI)
- Athlete365 CV-writing workshops at UIPM 2023 Junior World Championships in Druskininkai (LTU) with 25 participants
- Athlete365 Self-discovery workshops online with 20 participants.

**Introduction to coaching Obstacle**  
As part of its ongoing commitment to the development and evolution of

Modern Pentathlon in the Obstacle era, UIPM is dedicated to providing support to its National Federations (NFs) during the transition period and is actively engaged in facilitating Obstacle training for coaches and athletes.

In 2023, UIPM provided training tips and videos, laying the groundwork for a smooth integration of the Obstacle discipline. Following the implementation experiences gained during the UIPM 2023 U17, U19 and Junior World Championships, discussions with on-site coaches revealed a need for additional tools and guidelines.

This led to the creation of a new publication entitled Introduction to Coaching Obstacle, a technical manual that builds upon the earlier UIPM Obstacle Training Tips published in the 2022/23 off-season, offering a more in-depth and sophisticated approach to preparing pentathletes for the new discipline.

With a blend of written, photographic and video content, UIPM envisions that this comprehensive resource will be widely used by NFs, athletes and coaches, empowering the global community to embrace the future of

the sport with this exciting discipline.

Beyond this provision of direct support for athletes, since December UIPM has furnished the community with the following resources:

- 11 Dec: a report to NFs telling the story of the Obstacle implementation in the 2023 season
- 13 Dec: launch of Introduction to Coaching Obstacle
- 20 Dec: launch of NF Integration Guidelines, providing a framework for UIPM and FISO-registered NFs to work together
- 21 Dec: launch of Obstacle National Competition Kit, giving UIPM-registered NFs a cheaper and simpler structure to make Obstacle competition accessible at national and regional level
- 5 Jan: launch of UIPM Obstacle Competition & Equipment Guidelines, a unified version of the existing Obstacle Catalogue and Competition Guidelines with updates for 2024



Olympic dreams in focus as big names gather at French Open Championship in Paris (FRA)

Some of the biggest names in Modern Pentathlon brought the curtain down on 2023 in the city that will be the epicentre of their 2024 season: Paris (FRA).

The 2023 French Seniors Open Championships took place in France’s National Institute of Sport, Expertise and Performance (INSEP) on the eastern outskirts of the French capital from December 16-18 with a star-studded field.

With the 2024 Olympic Games rapidly approaching, many of those taking part used the competition as a chance to acclimatise to the host city with many nations represented also holding training camps in Paris in the build-up with pre-season preparations ramping up worldwide.

In total, 16 nations from three continents took part with three of the current top six women in the world rankings — Kerenza Bryson (GBR), Rebecca Langrehr (GER) and Ilke Ozyuksel (TUR) competing. On the men’s side it was no less competitive with reigning Olympic champion Joseph Choong (GB), world No.1 Mohanad Shaban (EGY) and No.3 Emiliano Hernandez (MEX) all taking part.

As host nation of an Olympic Games for the first time in a century, French focus is very much on the summer too and all of the top senior French men and women were also in the field with the exception of the injured Marie Oteiza.

With a total of 46 women and 49 men taking part, the field was whittled down to 18 for both of Sunday’s finals. Emma Whitaker (GBR) and Shaban (EGY) claimed gold in the Open competition while Jean-Baptiste Mourcia and Jessye Gomesse took the French Championship gold.

French women’s champion Gomesse said: “The fact that this year there was



The 2023 French Seniors Open attracted a star-studded field as the Paris Olympics approach.

such a big international field made it all the more satisfying. Many world-class athletes were present, which proves that my level has evolved with this result.”

The event was attended by a number of dignitaries with H.E. Mr. Alaaeldin Zakaria Youssef Ibrahim, Egyptian Ambassador to France, an interested observer. Joel Bouzou OLY, President of the French Modern Pentathlon Federation and UIPM Vice-President, was also in attendance.

President Bouzou said: “It was a great pleasure and honour to welcome pentathletes and representatives of 16 nations in our open national

championships both for women and men. It gave us the opportunity to offer to our foreign friends a special taste of what the Olympics in Paris 2024 will be.”

Deadline for entry to historic 2024 FISU World Championships in Kaunas (LTU) rapidly approaching

The countdown clock is ticking fast and, for every university athlete who wants to be part of history, the time for action is now.

The 2nd edition of the FISU World University Championships Modern Pentathlon will take place in Kaunas (LTU) later in 2024 with an exhilarating new format making its debut: Obstacle



The 2nd edition of the FISU World University Championships Modern Pentathlon will take place in Kaunas (LTU) later in 2024 with an exhilarating new format.

Laser Run.

With a deadline for entries for the event rapidly approaching, student athletes across the globe are being advised to act now and book their slot.

Entries must be submitted by February 21, with student athletes encouraged to reach out to the National Federations to express interest and NFs similarly urged to liaise with their National University Sport Federation (NUSF) to ensure athletes are entered in time.

The 2024 competition, launched in October 2023, will run in the historic Lithuanian city from August 21-25 with students aged 18-25 eligible to compete.

The Obstacle Laser Run format is one of several new multi-sport permutations enabled by the integration of Obstacle into Modern Pentathlon, providing a highly accessible and dynamic format. The format allows for three exciting categories of competition to take place: Individual, Mixed Relay and Mixed Team.

- Individual: Participants will earn points based on their performance in Obstacle, translating into a handicap start for a subsequent Laser Run, as in Modern Pentathlon.
- Mixed Relay: Female athlete will

kick off the race, passing the relay to the male. The course will be identical for each athlete.

- Mixed Team: Teams will be composed of one female and one male athlete. Each athlete will specialise in one discipline, and teams have the flexibility to choose whether the female or male races first.

The inaugural edition of the FISU World Championships took place in Budapest (HUN) in 2018 and provided a launchpad for some of the biggest names in the sport today. Two-time senior world champion Elena Micheli of Italy and Tokyo 2020 Olympic silver medallist Ahmed Elgendy of Egypt were among the individual medallists in 2018.

Student athletes interested in securing their place ahead of the February 21 deadline can find full details in the event’s invitation letter on the UIPM website as well as the event webpage and the UIPM university page.

UIPM Athletes Committee Chair, Yasser Hefny OLY, said: “We have already seen how the World University Championships can be a big success in our sport with a lasting impact, as the inaugural competition saw many future champions shine on the major

competition stage.

“I strongly urge those who are interested to get the ball rolling now to avoid disappointment and secure their registration for the event.”

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

Twelve pentathletes who hold Belarus passports, along with four coaches and a physiotherapist, have been approved to participate in a neutral capacity in UIPM 2024 Pentathlon World Cup Cairo from March 5-10.

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 first 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





The demonstration Laser Run event was held by the Malian Federation of Modern Pentathlon at a school in the capital city of Bamako (MLI).

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 UIPM 2024 season-opener in Cairo (EGY). 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.

#### Laser Run event in Bamako (MLI) rounds off historic year of growth in Africa

The Malian Federation of Modern Pentathlon has continued its progress with a highly successful Laser Run schools development competition in the capital city of Bamako (MLI).

The demonstration event took place on December 22 in the Maarif school complex in the Badalabougou district of the city. It brought together middle- and high-school students who were put through their paces in the dynamic run/shoot format, with further events planned after the Christmas break.

For Africa, the year of 2023 was one of historic progress with Mali among a record number of countries who competed in the 2023 African/Oceania Championships in Cairo (EGY) in September. The historic 2026 Youth Olympic Games in Dakar (SEN), which will be the first Olympic Games to be held in Africa, is now just two years away.

Federation President Ismaila Lingany said: "It was very pleasing to round off a very busy and productive year for our Federation with this competition."

"The energy and excitement from all of the schoolchildren taking part and watching proved again that Laser Run is a big hit here. We are looking forward to more growth in 2024 and beyond."

#### UIPM Coaches Certification Programme: WISH Programme duo pass with flying colours in Madrid (ESP)

At the end of a prolific 2023 for UIPM's flagship coaching education initiative, there was time to squeeze in one last batch of eager students.

The UIPM Coaches Certification Programme course in the Spanish capital city of Madrid included two special participants, Maria Elena Panetti (ITA) and Rosario Paz Gajardo Lizama (CAN).

The two coaches are members of the Women in Sport High Performance Pathway (WISH), a program aimed at gender equality which focuses on equipping and upskilling women to help them succeed in gaining roles at elite coaching levels within their sport.

The WISH Programme has been developed in cooperation with the IOC/Olympic Solidarity, ASOIF, AIOWF and several International Federations that are already engaged in projects to increase opportunities and pathways for



A total of seven students took part in the UIPM CCP course in Madrid (ESP) in December including Maria Elena Panetti (ITA) and Rosario Paz Lizama (CAN).

high performance women coaches.

Panetti (ITA) and Gajardo (CAN) are currently taking part in the WISH Programme with the support of Olympic Solidarity and UIPM and, as part of their Pentathlon-specific training, were among the group who took part in the week-long CCP course in Madrid.

A total of seven students took part from November 29 to December 3 at the Centro Deportivo Militar La Dehesa. The course was overseen by UIPM CCP Level 4 coach Pedro Pérez (ESP) and the seven students — five women and two men — were all successful in achieving CCP Level 2 certification.

UIPM CCP educator Pedro Pérez (ESP) said: "We have had a very productive year in coaching education and I was very pleased to be able to help yet another group continue to develop and enhance their coaching skills. All of the participants were very engaged and eager and I wish them all great success in their careers."

Christian Roudaut, Chair of the UIPM Coaches Committee, added: "The UIPM Coaches Certification Programme continues to offer opportunities for the current and next generation of coaches."

"I was delighted to see Maria Elena and Rosario among the cohort for our

recent CCP course in Madrid. The goals of the WISH Programme are goals we enthusiastically share and I think it was particularly fitting that this course had such a strong female presence."

#### Former AMPC President Sangwoo Park appointed Minister in Korean government

Former President of the Korea Modern Pentathlon Federation (KMPF) and the Asian Modern Pentathlon Confederation (AMPC), Sangwoo Park, has been appointed Minister of Land, Infrastructure & Transport of the Republic of Korea.

President Park led the KMPF from 2016-19 and the AMPC from 2017-21, making a major contribution on both the continued success of Korea in Modern Pentathlon and also its wider growth throughout the Asian confederation.

Having previously served as CEO of the Korea Land and Housing Corporation, Mr Park has continued to make further impressive progress in his political career.

He was nominated as the new Minister in December of last year and subsequently was officially approved by the President of the Republic of Korea on December 25, with the consent of the National Assembly who recognised Mr Park's



Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol welcomes former AMPC President Sangwoo Park as the country's new Minister of Land, Infrastructure & Transport.

integrity, honest performance of public duties and excellent work abilities.

UIPM President Dr Klaus Schormann wrote to extend warm congratulations to Mr Park on his appointment.

"As President of the KMPF and the AMPC, our sporting movement benefited greatly from your expert leadership - also in your capacity as CEO of the Korea Land and Housing Corporation," said President Dr Schormann.

"Your continued support and friendship is very important to us, especially at a time when the AMPC and KMPF are doing outstanding work in upholding your legacy with exciting developmental progress across Korea and Asia."



## UIPM Awards 2023

**Micheli (ITA, Choong (GBR) and Shaban (EGY) among those honoured after a year to remember**

Some twins finish each other's sentences. Florina and Katharina Jurt finish each other's races.

The winners of the UIPM 2023 Annual Awards were announced during a live stream on UIPM TV on 22 December, honouring the athletes, coaches and organisers who did most in 2023 to excel and inspire and provide a platform for Modern Pentathlon to prosper worldwide.

A replay is available on the UIPM website, and the full list of winners is provided below:

**Best Overall Competition:** UIPM 2023 Pentathlon & Laser Run World Championships – Bath (GBR)

**Best New Competition:** UIPM 2023 Junior World Championships – Druskininkai (LTU)

**Best Promoted Competition:** UIPM 2023 Pentathlon World Cup Final – Ankara (TUR)

**Best Contribution – Asia:** Chinese Olympic Committee for the 19th Asian Games – Hangzhou (CHN)

**Best Contribution – Europe:** Polish Olympic Committee for the 3rd European Games – Krakow (POL)

**Best Contribution – Pan America:** Chilean Olympic Committee for the 19th Pan American Games – Santiago (CHI)

**Fair Play Award:** Pinelopi Nika (GRE)

**Best Coach:** Sayed Jawid Khawar (EGY)

**Best Team:** Egypt



**Best U17 Female Pentathlete:** Farida Khalil (EGY)

**Best Junior Female Pentathlete:** Malak Ismail (EGY)

**Best U17 Male Pentathlete:** Mathis Issaka Idelarge (FRA)

**Best Junior Male Pentathlete:** Leo Bories (FRA)

**Best U19 Female Pentathlete:** Katarzyna Debska (POL)

**Best Senior Female Pentathlete:** Elena Micheli (ITA)

**Best U19 Male Pentathlete:** Matteo Bovenzi (ITA)

**Best Senior Male Pentathlete:** Shared – Joseph Choong (GBR) and Mohanad Shaban (EGY)





## Inside UIPM

### President Dr Klaus Schormann's welcome to the 2024 season

*Dear UIPM Family, dear colleagues and friends,*

**W**e embark on the 2024 season, Olympic year, with a surge of momentum and a clear sense of purpose knowing that our sport is once again secure in the Olympic movement!

I write this welcome note three months after the 141st Session of the International Olympic Committee in Mumbai (IND) made its historic decision to confirm Modern Pentathlon's place on the programme of the Los Angeles 2028 Olympic Games.

At this point I must mention the fantastic team effort that delivered this result. Together we rose to the challenge of proving that our sport belongs not only in the history of the Olympic Games, but in its future. And within the UIPM family we are determined to take a lead role in delivering the IOC's important reforms.

In August in Paris, the world will see a beautiful picture of Modern Pentathlon in its current form, including the 90-minute showcase of all five disciplines that has proved so effective and popular since its introduction in 2023.

At the Palace of Versailles, the introduction of semi-finals will add extra competitive intrigue to our Olympic event, reducing the number of finalists to 18 women and 18 men. An additional day of competition will help us to reach more viewers and spectators with our historic and compelling multi-sport – a sport which never stands still.

This will be the first Summer Olympics built around the reforms of Olympic Agenda 2020+5. In Sydney 2000, Modern Pentathlon achieved gender equality and now the entire Games will become equally female and male



in terms of participating athletes. The centenary Games in Paris will also send a strong message about sustainability.

In the birthplace of Baron Pierre de Coubertin, founder of the Modern Olympic Games and Modern Pentathlon, we will be reminded of everything that makes the Olympic movement uniquely powerful. While our world continues to be shaken by war and political tension, sport will again shine as a beacon for respect and fairness, education and peace.

Turning to our own 2024 calendar, it will be a fascinating year with Olympic

qualification still the main focus for many of our elite athletes and a Pentathlon World Cup series in Egypt, Türkiye, Hungary and Bulgaria followed by our long-awaited return to China for the showpiece UIPM 2024 Pentathlon and Laser Run World Championships in Zhengzhou.

At the same time, we are managing a profound and essential transformation within our sport.

In 2023, Obstacle was integrated into Modern Pentathlon during the UIPM U17, U19 and Junior World Championships, and in many national



and continental events. Already we saw the increased accessibility of Modern Pentathlon at grassroots level and the potential of this transition to change the game for current and future audiences. Even the journalists who tried the Obstacle course loved it!

We understand that the end of an era is difficult for many athletes, coaches, judges, organisers and fans of our historic sport. Horses have been a feature of Modern Pentathlon from the start, in 1912. But it was clearly stated by the IOC President in Mumbai that if we

had not changed, we would have been changed.

In other words, Modern Pentathlon would now be heading for the Olympic Museum. Instead, we are heading for LA28 – another Games that gives us a chance to redefine what the Olympics means for new generations of fans and athletes.

With Obstacle now an integral part of our movement, we have fans and participants in every corner of the world, making Modern Pentathlon easier to

access for so many people who could only dream until now of becoming Olympians. On the governance side, the integration of FISO into UIPM will also make our global community stronger.

I hope you enjoy the 2024 season and the unique combination of excitement and joy, solidarity and hope for the future that sport brings to our lives.

**Sincerely yours,**

**Dr Klaus Schormann**



# Inside UIPM

## Secretary General Shiny Fang’s message

### 2024 will be the year we dip our toes into a blue ocean...

What do you want to see when you consider the future of our sport and our organisation? I see a blue ocean that we are about to put our toes in, and that is a very exciting place to be. However, I often ask myself the question: ‘Are you convinced about all the changes taking place?’

My answer is always positive (yes) but, in some aspects, it is tempered with caution (not yet).

Yes because I strongly believe we are moving in the right direction to make the big picture materialise. Not yet because we need to see substantial results and numbers in a lot of key areas, and we cannot rush this part of the process, it will inevitably take time.

During the most recent online meeting of the UIPM Executive Board on December 18, our 2024 goal and the key indicators of accomplishment were confirmed:

- 2024 goal:**
- To strengthen UIPM to be a more complete and stronger International Federation with more resources and possibilities after the full integration of Obstacle Sport.
- 2024 key indicators of accomplishment:**
- Smooth preparations and excellent demonstration of Modern Pentathlon competition in the Paris 2024 Olympic Games
  - Fix Fencing innovation and rules adjustment to fit the needs of the International Olympic Committee and Los Angeles 2028 before July/ August 2024
  - Agree a suitable venue for LA28 before Paris 2024 or soon after
  - Define our competition format for LA 2028 according to IOC and LA28 requirements by July/Aug

- Conduct a successful electoral UIPM Congress in Saudi Arabia with the adoption of necessary motions, with all preparations advanced from Q1 2024.

However, facing the imminent reality of 2024, I can’t stop thinking about our long-term future, which could include a real blue ocean for our sport and the organisation.

In the commercial world, the blue ocean strategy is described as “the simultaneous pursuit of differentiation and low cost to open up a new market space and create new demand. It is about creating and capturing uncontested market space, thereby making the competition irrelevant. It is based on the view that market boundaries and industry structure are not a given and can be reconstructed by the actions and beliefs of industry players”.

So there are questions we need to continuously answer and update.

What would be the guiding principles of the strategy if we decided to create our own blue ocean? For the strategy itself:

- Can we create a new boundary?
  - Can we focus more on wider impacts than numerical / financial outcomes?
  - Can we surpass current demands?
  - Can we set up a reasonable order of steps?
- Then for the implementation:
- Can we achieve continuous internal buy-in?
  - Can we align our implementation as part of our strategy?
  - Can we smoothly coordinate new value, benefits and personnel?
  - Can we keep updating our new blue ocean when needed later?

It is clear that we will need to draw our own map, deciding where and when to create and increase, deduct and delete.

Meanwhile, how can we attract more partners besides the ones who already stand beside us?

- Can we attract partners who are at the edge of our sports market?
- Can we attract partners who have traditionally avoided our sports?
- Can we attract partners we never met and never considered joining the sports world?

And more to the point:

- Is there common ground where we can identify a values match?
- Is it possible we can create some new demand for all these potential partners?
- Is there any chance we could merge some markets and demands in order to acquire their investment?

To achieve what we will aim for, can we be fair all the time in terms of:

- Engagement with our community?
- Clear explanations for all stakeholders?
- Clarify of expectations for the goal and tasks?

Last but not least, where does our governance model suit our mission and overall purpose, and where could there be clever adjustments?

None of the above is easy to answer on paper, let alone in practice, but it’s vital that we start to answer our own questions about future direction\ In a nutshell, can we find a value innovation? And can we be reconstructionist?

Indeed, my real feeling is that while 2023 was tough, 2024 will be no less challenging. But we are accustomed to this. The harder the storm, the stronger we will be when we sail through it and arrive in our blue ocean.

Given the choice, I choose to take the chance every time. And you?

# Inside UIPM

## President Dr Klaus Schormann’s activities



Left to right: Alexandre Franca (UIPM Events Operations Director), Badr Balobaid (Saudi Modern Pentathlon Federation Secretary General); Dr Klaus Schormann (UIPM President); Shiny Fang (UIPM Secretary General); Zuhair Al Shammasi (SMPF Executive Director)

### 14.01. – 15.01.2024: Riyadh, KSA

UIPM President Dr Klaus Schormann, along with Secretary General Shiny Fang and Operations Director Alexandre Franca, paid a visit to the Saudi Modern Pentathlon Federation (SMPF) to discuss preparations for UIPM 2024 Congress, which will take place in Riyadh in November.

President Dr Schormann expressed his enthusiasm, stating: “I am incredibly

impressed by the outstanding facilities showcased to us in Riyadh.”

During the visit, SMPF CEO Zuhair Al Shammasi and Secretary General Badr Balobaid professionally presented the accommodation, logistics, meeting and congress rooms.

What caught Dr Schormann’s attention most during the visit was SMPF’s strong focus on developing various UIPM Sports including Laser Run, Biathle

and Triathle, and the establishment of Obstacle training facilities.

The Federation is actively collaborating with neighbouring countries and fostering cooperation across training and competitions. Excitingly, Saudi Arabia is ready to host a youth and junior competition for the benefit of the Asian Confederation (AMPC).

Dr Schormann commended their efforts, highlighting their proactive





L to R: Badr Balobaid (SMPF Secretary General); Shiny Fang (UIPM Secretary General); Dr Klaus Schormann (UIPM President); Zuhair Al Shammasi (SMPF Executive Director); Alexandre Franca (UIPM Events Operations Director), Marian Gheorghe (Head Coach SMPF); SMPF athlete

engagement with other National Federations in Middle East Asia.

great event is a great honour for us and means a lot to us.

"We thank the efforts of UIPM for supporting the game and spreading it in the region."

These developments not only underscore the global collaboration within UIPM but also showcase the commitment of SMPF to elevate the standards of Modern Pentathlon and contribute to the positive transformation that has already been kickstarted with the integration of Obstacle in 2023.

SMPF President Nasser Al-Deghaither said: "During the past two days, 13/14/15 of January 2024, we were pleased with the visit of the UIPM President, Dr Klaus Schormann, and the Secretary General, Shiny Fang, and the Events Operations Director Alexandre Franca, to Saudi Arabia, as part of reviewing Riyadh preparations to host the General Assembly of the UIPM Congress in November 2024.

"The visit included a some of facilities and halls as options to serve as the headquarters of Congress. Actually, Riyadh's success in organising this



UIPM President Dr Klaus Schormann pictured during the two-day trip to Saudi Arabia in January



L to R: Prof Dr Gerald Fritz (German Olympic Academy Director); Dr Klaus Schormann (UIPM President & German NF Honorary President); Friedhelm Julius Beucher (President of German Paralympic Committee); Andreas Hahn (Government Director for Sport of German Armed Forces)

29.01.2024: Berlin, GER

UIPM President Dr Klaus Schormann, as the longest-serving President of an Olympic International Federation, attended the 'Stars of Sports' event in the German capital of Berlin.

He had the pleasure of meeting the Federal Chancellor of Germany, Olaf Scholz, Dr Thomas Weikert (President of the German Olympic Committee), Andreas Hahn (Government Director

for Sport of German Armed Forces), Friedhelm Julius Beucher (President of the German Paralympic Committee) and Andrea Milz (Secretary of State for Sport).

The German Olympic Academy was represented by its Director, Prof Dr Gerald Fritz.

The 'Stars of Sports' is a prestigious event in Germany, jointly organized by the German Olympic Sports

Confederation (DOSB) and the Volksbanken Raiffeisenbanken. The event recognizes and rewards the social engagement of sports clubs and projects in Germany.

Participating clubs are honoured for their innovative and impactful programs that have a positive influence on society. The event often attracts prominent figures from politics and sports and is a significant occasion in the German sports calendar.



## Pentathlon World Rankings

The PWR is updated live at [www.pentathlon.org](http://www.pentathlon.org) after each competition. PWR as at February 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	Linbin ZHANG	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](http://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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