The new Obstacle discipline will be integrated into Modern Pentathlon for the first time in the various under-age UIPM World Championships in 2023.
Dawn of a discipline: Modern Pentathlon prepares to embrace Obstacle

UIPM has ushered in a new era for Modern Pentathlon with the release of resources integral to the introduction of the new discipline, Obstacle.

While most senior athletes remain focused on qualification for the Paris 2024 Olympic Games, which will be the last to feature Riding in Modern Pentathlon, many who are pinning their dreams on Los Angeles 2028 and Brisbane 2032 will have opportunities to sample the new Pentathlon in 2023.

After a series of successful test events in 2022, the new year will be the first to include Obstacle as one of the five disciplines in Modern Pentathlon, and the new discipline will feature in the following competitions:

- UIPM 2023 Pentathlon U17 World Championships – July 12-16, Alexandria (EGY)
- UIPM 2023 Pentathlon U19 World Championships – July 26-30, Istanbul (TUR)
- UIPM 2023 Pentathlon Junior World Championships – September 12-17, Druskininkai (LTU).

Fencing will be the first discipline in each of those competitions, followed by Obstacle, Swimming and Laser Run.

To assist national teams with preparations for this opportunity, UIPM in December distributed the first Obstacle Discipline Competition Guidelines, which will be used to regulate the new discipline until the first Competition Rules are presented to UIPM 2024 Congress.

UIPM has now followed up with another publication called Obstacle Discipline Training Tips, complemented by a three-part video. Both can be accessed by clicking on the UIPM website.

Further resources, including the UIPM Obstacle Catalogue, provide visual and technical details of the eight obstacles that will form each of the 60m-70m courses built for the various World Championships that feature the new discipline.

This will be followed by an Obstacle Module for judges under the UIPM Judges Certification Programme (JCP) and Guidelines for Competition Organisers – all scheduled to be launched before the start of the UIPM 2023 competition season.

Obstacle Discipline was added to both the UIPM Statutes and UIPM Competition Rules & Regulations by the 72nd UIPM Congress, which took place online in November 2022.

UIPM Athletes Committee Chair Yasser Hefny OLY said: “As our sport is now in a transitional phase that provides challenges as well as opportunities, I believe it’s essential to help guide nations in building a foundation for the new discipline and coordinating the training between all five disciplines.

“The educational documents and videos are beneficial and handy to satisfy this purpose. The AC assures athletes that we will work hand in hand with all parties involved to feed the community with essential educational content in a consistent, professional way.”

UIPM Coaches Committee Chair Christian Roudaut said: “Obstacle presents a lot of opportunities for development and athlete recruitment, while remaining faithful to the original premise of the sport. The advice and recommendations within Obstacle Training Tips should allow our community to lay the foundations for training planning to gradually adapt to the new training load.

“For all coaches, the singularity of the Obstacle event will have to be taken into account in Pentathlon training. It is a complex challenge but also an opportunity for coaches to reinvent training methodologies for our Olympic sport with a positive attitude and great enthusiasm. Together we can create a legacy of training for future generations of pentathletes.”

UIPM President Dr Klaus Schormann said: “Two months ago we had a historic UIPM Congress where our global community voted for change. Now the hard work is continuing as we start to implement this exciting evolution, and I am delighted to see resources from UIPM that will support the community as Obstacle becomes integrated into Modern Pentathlon.

“I thank everybody who is involved in preparations for Paris 2024 and in the longer-term reinvention of our sport. This reform is central to our mission to not only survive in the Olympic Games, but to transform Modern Pentathlon into one of the most dynamic, accessible and popular sports in the Olympic movement.”
“In all our actions we respect Pierre de Coubertin’s vision to provide the ultimate test of athletic skills in a modern sporting context.”

UIPM releases key Obstacle discipline resources for organisers and judges

UIPM has scaled up the integration of Obstacle into Modern Pentathlon with the release of more resources supporting the transition. The UIPM Obstacle Catalogue provides visual and technical details of the obstacles that will form each of the courses built for the various Modern Pentathlon competitions that will feature the new discipline in 2023.

The UIPM Obstacle Catalogue was created in May 2022 after the historic decision by the EB to select Obstacle for testing as a new discipline of Modern Pentathlon.

The 14 obstacles are:
1. Steps
2. Big wheel
3. 1.5m wall
4. Over-under
5. Over-under-through
6. Rings
7. Balance beam
8. Giant steps
9. Lisbon steps
10. Wheels
11. Monkey bars
12. Swinging globes
13. Tiling ladders
14. Finish wall

The 14 obstacles were selected by the ad-hoc group assigned in 2022 to elaborate and test competition features and technical details. Taken from existing obstacle racing concepts, they were chosen according to the following criteria:
• To provide elements that challenge pentathletes’ skills
• To be attractive and appealing for athletes and the public, especially young generations
• To reduce the cost and complexity of training and competition
• To be universally accessible
• To ensure safe conditions for its practice.

The UIPM 2023 Pentathlon U17 World Championships in Alexandria (EGY) will be the first global competition to feature Obstacle alongside Fencing, Swimming and Laser Run in the new-look Modern Pentathlon.

The release of new resources follows the issuing of the first Obstacle Discipline Competition Guidelines, which will be used to regulate the new discipline until the first Competition Rules are presented to UIPM 2024 Congress, as well as the Obstacle Discipline Training Tips for athletes and coaches.

Obstacle Module

The Obstacle Module, created in May 2022, is an excellent resource and provides detailed advice on the make-up of the Obstacle course, the points and penalties system, safety, equipment regulations and the authorities that will be appointed by each LOC.

The module comprises two videos, a theory section and a test and provides detailed information on the technical and tactical aspects of the discipline, ensuring safe conditions for its practice. The test and theoretical section will be used as a preparation for live officiating duties in the upcoming season.

“Competition organisers and judges will play a vital role in this transitional phase and thanks to these new resources they have a clearer idea about how they can contribute to the evolution of our Olympic multi-sport.”

“I commend everybody who has worked hard on the creation of the Obstacle Catalogue and Obstacle Module, especially the ad-hoc group that was created in May 2022 after the historic decision by the EB to select Obstacle for testing as a new discipline of Modern Pentathlon.

The integration of Obstacle is central to our mission to not only survive in the Olympic Games, but to transform Modern Pentathlon into one of the most dynamic, accessible and popular sports in the Olympic movement.”

Montreal 1976 Olympic champion Janusz Peciał OLY, UIPM Executive Board Member for Sport, said: “I am pleased that all registered judges in our global community now have the opportunity to learn about Obstacle and how the competitions that feature the discipline in 2023 will be overseen.

Along with the Obstacle Discipline Competition Guidelines, the Obstacle Module is an excellent resource and I encourage all technical officials to complete the online course and add this certification to their profile.”

UIPM President Dr Klaus Schormann said: “On behalf of the UIPM Executive Board I am delighted to see the release of additional resources that will support the community during this important 2023 season when Obstacle becomes integrated into Modern Pentathlon for the first time.”

“The integration of Obstacle is central to our mission to not only survive in the Olympic Games, but to transform Modern Pentathlon into one of the most dynamic, accessible and popular sports in the Olympic movement.”
The inclusion of obstacle in Modern Pentathlon will bring so much to the UIPM Sports movement, argues Yasser Hefny

Yasser Hefny OLY: Modern Pentathlon’s switch from Olympic passenger to driver

As athletes, we are always trying to improve. We look at what we can control and how we can refine or adjust to give ourselves the maximum chance of success.

We must drive this. We cannot sit back and wait for others to overtake us.

At the 72nd UIPM Congress in November 2022, the member nations did exactly that as they voted to take control of our sport’s future.

After a long and consultative process of determining the best 5th discipline for Modern Pentathlon, 83 per cent of the member nations voted in favour of obstacle.

This was a historic moment for our sport. It opens so many doors and gives us endless possibilities. For example, in the future I would love to see a week-long youth festival of Modern Pentathlon with mixed combinations of disciplines, something that works for Laser Run specialists and Obstacle specialists and brings everyone together.

The most important thing for the future of Modern Pentathlon is not just to survive but to transform into one of the leading sports in the Olympic Games.

To do that we have to be a driver not a passenger of change.

We all know the numbers who watch Ninja Warrior and other obstacle races worldwide.

We know how popular it is. More than 1 billion people watch obstacle broadcasts and more than 160 countries televise Ninja Warrior or the original SASUKE.

This is our opportunity to tap into bigger markets and newer markets outside of the traditional Modern Pentathlon strongholds.

It is our opportunity to engage athletes from all these nations who otherwise would not be a part of our sport.

I know that change is not easy. I have heard how difficult it has been for many of my fellow athletes to come to terms with the changes which have been made, especially the replacement of Riding with Obstacle.

As Chair of the UIPM Athletes Committee, it is my responsibility to listen to our athletes and represent the views of the majority.

I have heard how difficult it has been for many of my fellow athletes to come to terms with the changes which have been made, especially the replacement of Riding with Obstacle.

Obstacle provides an opportunity for Modern Pentathlon to tap into entertainment and mass participation markets.

It opens so many doors and gives us opportunities that those of my generation never had the chance to experience.

The more I learn about the potential of Obstacle to transform our sport, the more I am convinced it is the right decision. With the changes that have been made and that have been approved by the UIPM Congress, Modern Pentathlon is no longer a passenger.

It is the driver: driving forward change which will benefit athletes for generations to come.

The inclusion of obstacle in Modern Pentathlon will bring so much to the UIPM Sports movement, argues Yasser Hefny.

UIPM will now propose for inclusion in the Los Angeles 2028 Olympic Games a new Modern Pentathlon which honours our sport’s incredible history while offering exciting opportunities for our athletes and a new generation of fans.

The inclusion of obstacle in modern pentathlon will bring so much to our sport. It will open the sport to new nations across the five continents, expanding the representation of athletes at our events.

It will also diversify our medal tables. With obstacle now in the mix, the picture changes for all the nations who have excelled in laser run or biathle/triathle but have found horse riding a barrier to success.

In the years to come, the number of competition organisers will increase dramatically as more and more nations are able to fulfil the requirements needed to host this new-look modern pentathlon. And this will also help to increase participation.

Besides growing the number of participants in modern pentathlon, obstacle can increase young people’s participation in sport generally. I have memories as a kid of creating obstacle courses. It is an activity which comes naturally to all young people and is enjoyed in homes, playgrounds and parks around the world. Parents see the benefit.

And by formalising what is already so widely practised, obstacle can become a foundation for sport and physical activity in young kids, in the same way as athletics, gymnastics and swimming.

Obstacle provides an opportunity for Modern Pentathlon to tap into entertainment and mass participation markets.

It opens so many doors and gives us

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It opens so many doors and gives us
leading experts break new ground at three-day summit in Frankfurt (GER)

five years after the first combined gathering of UIPM’s athlete, technical and coach representatives, the annual UIPM Joint Committees Meeting ended on February 26 with a range of important outcomes.

The UIPM Athletes Committee (chaired by Yasser Hefny OLY of Egypt), UIPM Technical Committee (chaired by Janusz Peciał OLY of Poland) and UIPM Coaches Committee (chaired by Christian Roudaut of France), convened for three days of expert talks in the heart of Europe from February 24-26.

Among the outcomes of the meeting were:

• A new Youth League will be launched from the 2024 season to introduce UIPM Obstacle Laser Run, which will also be the new University format proposed for the FISU 2024 Pentathlon World University Championships.

• Obstacle Laser Run is one of the many multi-sport combinations featured in the new UIPM Sports Pyramid, which was signed off during the Joint Committees Meeting.

• UIPM’s Obstacle implementation strategy for 2023 and 2024 was presented to the Committees in detail, with suggestions and input collected to be taken as improvement opportunities during the process.

• A full commitment was given to deliver a successful Riding competition in the Paris 2024 Olympic Games, with thorough processes of horse selection and accurate course design and athlete performances monitored in all qualification events (in parallel to the ongoing work of the UIPM Riding Review Panel), with Riding camps provided before the Games.

Initiatives to increase the participation of women in courses under UIPM’s Coaches Certification Programme (CCP) and Judges Certification Programme (JCP) in the next two seasons were presented and discussed.

The three Committees discussed their action plans for the upcoming season, which begins in less than two weeks with UIPM 2023 Pentathlon World Cup Cairo, along with the Paris 2024 Olympic qualification pathway and actions to support athletes in career transition via the UIPM Educational Platform.

Besides the three Committee heads, the meeting was chaired by UIPM President Dr Klaus Schormann and the Executive Board was also represented by Treasurer John Helmick, Secretary General Shiny Fang and Member for Development Dr Viacheslav Malishev.

Dr Atanas Andreev (BUL) represented the UIPM Medical Committee in the joint sessions, while Bernhard Petruschinski (GER) was invited as a Modern Pentathlon expert and Chair of the UIPM Equipment Commission.

President Dr Schormann said: “The Joint Committees Meeting in Frankfurt-am-Main has become a cornerstone of our annual calendar and this year from February 24-26 we had a riveting exchange of proposals and views. “We are fortunate to have such expertise and passion in our athlete, technical and coach communities, and as our global community heads into the 2023 season, they can do so knowing they have been represented strongly in all of the discussions that took place and the action plans that were created.”
As we approach the 500-day countdown to the next Olympic Games, the Paris 2024 Organising Committee has revealed the official pictograms.

The concept of Olympic pictograms was created by the organisers of Tokyo 1964 and has become a popular design feature, adding unique design characteristics to each Games. Paris 2024 created a ‘coat of arms’ style pictogram for each sport on the programme, including Modern Pentathlon.

The organising team said in a statement: “Paris 2024 has reinvented the concept of Olympic and Paralympic pictograms, elevating them from mere visual aids to striking coats of arms serving as rallying cries for sports fans.

“The 62 pictograms of the Olympic and Paralympic Games are standards that symbolise not only the different sports, but also pride, values, and a large and diverse family.”

The Paris 2024 Olympic Games take place from July 24 to August 11, 2024, with Modern Pentathlon featuring on the last four days.

UIPM releases 2023 competition key dates

UIPM has released competition dates for 2023 as Modern Pentathlon begins another Olympic qualification journey.

While the sport is undergoing a long-term transition with the adoption of Obstacle, most senior athletes remain focused on the Paris 2024 Olympic Games, which will be the last to include Riding.

The official Road to Paris begins with the season-opening UIPM 2023 Pentathlon World Cup Cairo in March, and the circuit continues through Ankara (TUR), Budapest (HUN) and Sofia (BUL), with the season’s best 72 performers qualifying for the UIPM 2023 Pentathlon World Cup Final.

That competition in Ankara (TUR) will closely resemble the Paris 2024 Olympic competition, with the new 90-minute showpiece format that was successfully introduced in the 2022 season. The 36 female and 36 male athletes will compete in Semi-finals with only 18 per gender reaching the Final.

The showpiece competition of next season will be the UIPM 2023 Pentathlon and Laser Run World Championships in Bath (GBR) in August, while many athletes will be targeting their continental championships in the hope of securing the coveted prize of a place in the Paris 2024 Olympics.

The maximum number of automatic quota places for Paris 2024 on offer at individual competitions (per gender) is as follows:

- UIPM 2023 Pentathlon World Cup Final (1)
- UIPM 2023 Pentathlon World Championships (3)
- 2023 African and Oceania Championships (2)
- 2023 Asian Games (5)
- 2023 European Games (8)
- 2023 Pan American Games (5)
- UIPM 2024 Pentathlon World Championships (3)

As host nation, France is guaranteed at least one place per gender. Click here to see the full qualification system for Modern Pentathlon at Paris 2024.

In 2023 there will be additional opportunities for athletes to earn points towards the UIPM Olympic Pentathlon World Ranking List, with ranking competitions taking place in Budapest (HUN), Drzonkow (POL), Madrid (ESP), Bishkek (KGZ) and Cairo (EGY). Click here to see the full competition calendar.

UIPM President Dr Klaus Schormann said: “One month ago we had a historic UIPM Congress where our historic UIPM Congress where our global community voted for change.

I assure our senior pentathletes that nothing will compromise their road to qualification for the Paris 2024 Olympic Games in the next two seasons, and everything will be done to make sure the competition in Versailles is a true showcase of our sport.

Modern Pentathlon in 2023 – major competitions

- Mar 7-12: UIPM 2023 Pentathlon World Cup Cairo (EGY)
- Apr 11-16: UIPM 2023 Pentathlon World Cup Ankara (TUR)
- Apr 25-30: UIPM 2023 Pentathlon World Cup Budapest (HUN)
- May 9-14: UIPM 2023 Pentathlon World Cup Sofia (BUL)
- May 31 – Jun 4: UIPM 2023 Pentathlon World Cup Final (Ankara, TUR)
- Jun 25 - Jul 1: 3rd European Games (Krakow, POL)
- Jul 12-16: UIPM 2023 Pentathlon U17 World Championships (Alexandria, EGY)
- Jul 26-30: UIPM 2023 Pentathlon U19 World Championships (Istanbul, TUR)
- Aug 19-28: UIPM 2023 Pentathlon and Laser Run World Championships (Bath, GBR)
- Sep 6-11: 2023 African and Oceania Championships Cairo, EGY
- Sep 12-17: UIPM 2023 Pentathlon Junior World Championships (Druskininkai, LTU)
- Sep 20-24: 19th Asian Games (Hangzhou, CHN)
- Oct 21-27: 19th Pan American Games (Santiago, CHI)
Tributes have been paid to His Majesty King Constantine II, Patron of the Union Internationale de Pentathlon Moderne (UIPM), after his death on January 10 at the age of 82.

An avid sportsman who won sailing gold for Greece at the Rome 1960 Olympic Games, HM King Constantine trained in all five Modern Pentathlon disciplines during his youth.

In 1994 His Majesty accepted an invitation to become Patron of UIPM, which governed both Modern Pentathlon and Biathlon, and four years later he became Patron of UIPM. The last Monarch of Greece had already served the global Olympic movement with distinction having become a Member of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) in 1963 and an Honorary Member in 1974.

His Majesty was also Honorary President of the Hellenic Olympic Committee, the International Olympic Academy, the Royal Greek Yachting Association and World Sailing.

King Constantine was one of the inaugural inductees of the UIPM Hall of Fame in 2016, and he was a keen supporter of Modern Pentathlon who continued to attend UIPM competitions and events until his declining health prevented him from travelling.

His Majesty died in hospital in Athens on Tuesday, after a long illness. He is survived by his wife, HM Queen Anne-Marie, and five children, Alexia, Pavlos, Nikolaos, Theodora and Philippos.

UIPM President Dr Klaus Schormann led the tributes, saying: "His Majesty King Constantine was a wonderful person. It was a privilege to have visited him and his wife, Her Majesty Queen Anne-Marie, in the summer of 2021 in their private home in Porto Helio. "Over the years we shared so many great moments together, and His Majesty led many constructive discussions about sport and the Olympic movement. He had a sharp mind and clear perspective that made him an outstanding ambassador for sport.

"I and the entire Modern Pentathlon family mourn the loss of our Patron, who supported and stood by the side of Modern Pentathlon throughout the past 28 years. "A great personality has left the world and we were honoured to have known him personally, and to have stood beside him in solidarity for a better and more peaceful world through sport. We wish Her Majesty and her family endless strength at this sad time."

UIPM has governed the Olympic sport of Modern Pentathlon since its formation in 1949. Today it oversees a range of multi-discipline sports (Modern Pentathlon, Triathlon, Blade, Laser Run, Obstacle and World Schools Equestrian) which form a development pyramid with Modern Pentathlon at the top.
Two elite athletes aspiring to compete at the Paris 2024 Olympic Games have an early cause for celebration after winning scholarships to study at the World Academy of Sport (WAoS).

Sarolta Simon of Hungary and Mattia Parisi of Italy have been granted full scholarships to undertake the Postgraduate Certificate (PG Cert) in International Sports Management, meaning they can study towards a qualification while training and competing in the Paris 2024 cycle.

The course is run online by WAoS in conjunction with the University of London, and the full coverage of fees for the two awarded athletes consists of contributions from WAoS and UIPM, following a Memorandum of Understanding signed in 2020.

Simon (HUN), 25, was a bronze medallist at the 2021 European Championships and has become a regular finalist at the highest level after a strong junior career. She said: "I saw the invitation on the UIPM website and because last June I finished my third diploma, I felt I could manage to study more. At universities in Hungary, I studied Sports Management and Sports Economics, which is the reason I thought this scholarship could help me to broaden my horizons and learn to look at things from new viewpoints."

"I was very happy when I noticed my application was successful. This means a lot to me because I always wanted to study at a foreign university, but due to my sports preparation which is taking place in Hungary, a university abroad was not a real option for me."

"Now this scholarship is a fantastic possibility for me to make my dreams come true and study at the University of London besides my preparation for the Olympics. I believe these studies will greatly improve my knowledge about sports business and my management abilities and will hopefully help advance my career."

Parisi (ITA), 28, won a breakthrough silver medal at UIPM 2022 Pentathlon World Cup Budapest on the back of excellent results such as 7th in the UIPM 2018 Pentathlon World Cup Final in Astana (KAZ).

He said: "I heard about the WAoS through UIPM’s publications on the website and social media. I have decided to apply because I believe it is an incredible opportunity to study what I like and be a student at such a prestigious university."

"When I saw the acceptance letter I felt so excited and I honestly couldn’t believe I received the full scholarship. I trust these studies will greatly improve my knowledge about sports business and my management abilities and will hopefully help advance my career."

Laser Run athletes write ‘new chapter in Mongolian sports history’ in Ulaanbaatar (MGL)

The growth of Laser Run, UIPM’s most popular and accessible development sport, has embraced another new territory after the Modern Pentathlon Association of Mongolia (MPAM) held its first Laser Run National Championships.

The event was held on January 21 indoors at the Steppe Arena in Ulaanbaatar, organised by MPAM in collaboration with the Mongolian Sports Corporation.

A total of 76 athletes — 25 women and 51 men — were drawn from the military, police and local sports and crossfit clubs, and participated in four categories.

The National Championships were televised live by two of Mongolia’s local free-to-air broadcasters (C1 and TV5) with coverage on their social media pages. Visit the Pentathlon Mongolia Facebook page to find out more.

A spokesperson for the MPAM said: “With the great support from UIPM, we’re able to organize competitions here. We do believe the Laser Run NC would be a big step for development of the Pentathlon in Mongolia.

“Thank you to all athletes, organizers and supporting organizations for opening a new page in Mongolian sports history.”

The 2023 edition of UIPM’s Global Laser Run City Tour will kickstart in March and April with events in Kuwait, South Africa, Lithuania and Georgia.
Tribute to Ainars Leja (1931-2023)

One of the founding fathers of Modern Pentathlon in Latvia died in January 2023, aged 91.

Ainars Leja, who created the Latvia Modern Pentathlon Federation and gave the sport in 1954, was presented with the UIPM Honorary Medal by UIPM President Dr Klaus Schormann in Riga (LAT) for his services to Modern Pentathlon.

Together with fellow coach Ainars Zvirgzdins, he trained 104 pentathletes including world junior champion Uldis Putnins and silver medallist Vladimirs Kravcovs, and had a long and successful tenure as senior coach of the national team.

Janis Liepins, President of the Latvia Modern Pentathlon Federation, said: “We are very sad that Mr Ainars Leja, owner of the UIPM Honorary Member Medal, outstanding coach and personality, founder and creator of the Latvian Modern Pentathlon Federation, has passed away at the age of 91.”

UIPM Coaches Certification Programme: South Asian expansion continues in Colombo (SRI)

Sri Lanka has been something of a hotbed for UIPM sports in recent years with both the Global Laser Run City Tour and the Biathle/Triathle National Tour making stops in the country.

Now a new generation of coaches stands ready to help mould and inspire the growing pool of talent in the South Asian country after a successful UIPM Coaches Certification Programme (CCP) course in Colombo’s Torrington Ground.

The Level 1 course ran from January 23-27 in the capital city with Carina Tomas Vicente (POR) on hand to deliver her first CCP course, instructing a group of 15 ambitious coaches.

UIPM Level 3 coach Carina Tomas Vicente (POR) said: “Colombo has welcomed us with open arms and the 15 participants from various parts of the country have worked hard over the week to achieve an incredible environment of learning and the motivation required to develop the sport in Sri Lanka.

‘From discussing coaching matters, to strategies on scouting new athletes and how to keep them motivated in training sessions, our participants ended the course wishing to work together and with the federation to promote the sport.’

UIPM Coaches Committee Chairman Christian Roudaut said: “I am so pleased to see another successful CCP course take place in Sri Lanka and this one served as another reminder of the value we place on gender equality across the movement.

‘Promoting coaching opportunities for women is a crucial part of continuing to grow our sports in South Asia and beyond. I congratulate Carina as well as all those whose efforts were crucial to the organisation of this course.’

Like all CCP courses, coaches will earn their Level 1 qualification when they conclude the syllabus by completing e-learning courses covering anti-doping and harassment prevention.
UIPM Coaches Certification Programme: Major year for African coaching kicks off in Kampala (UGA)

A landmark 2023 for development in Africa began with a productive week in Uganda as a wave of new Modern Pentathlon coaches took their first steps on the ladder.

Sixteen coaches undertook Level 1 of the UIPM Coaches Certification Programme (CCP) in the capital Kampala over five days from January 31 to February 4. The eager students learned under the expert tutelage of Yasser Hefny OLY, Chair of the UIPM Athletes Committee, who represented Egypt at the London 2012 Olympic Games.

The five-day course at Kampala Parents School was organised in co-operation with the IOC’s Olympic Solidarity program and was the first of five CCP courses in Africa in 2023 as UIPM continues to invest resources in the continent. Africa has been a key area of growth for UIPM in recent years and with the Dakar 2026 Youth Olympic Games taking place in Senegal, growth continues apace.

UIPM CCP Level 3 Coach Yasser Hefny (EGY) said he was proud to be involved in helping the next generation of coaches in his native continent.

“I was very glad to took part as an instructor in this course. Especially because of the part it plays in continuing to develop Africa, the continent to which I am proud to belong.”

“I thank the UIPM and the Ugandan Modern Pentathlon Federation for organising this course. We had coaches from different sports backgrounds who have a strong will to build a big base of athletes in the upcoming period. "From what I have seen during my short stay, Uganda has big potential in hosting Biathle, Triathle and Laser Run competitions. As for the full Pentathlon, focusing on qualifying for Dakar 2026 is a realistic and attainable goal.”

UIPM Coaches Committee Chairman Christian Roudaut said: “I’m very happy to hear about the success of the Level 1 course in Uganda, helping many new coaches to refine their coaching techniques in Modern Pentathlon. “This is another important landmark for coaching in Africa and comes at a crucial time. It is important for coaches in all nations to be ready to seize on the huge opportunity of Dakar 2026.”

World No.1 Michelle Gulyas of Hungary confirmed her class yet again by repeating her 2021 triumph at the Peridot Hungarian Indoor Championships in Budapest (HUN).

And there was a double celebration for the host nation in the annual season-opener as Andras Gall (HUN) won gold in the men’s event.

Gulyas (HUN) is one of the favourites for gold at the Paris 2024 Olympic Games after two exceptional seasons, and she dug deep to hold off the challenge of silver medallist Kerenza Bryson of Great Britain by a margin of 8sec. Malak Ismail of Egypt picked up the bronze.

Gall (HUN) scored a comfortable 27sec victory over silver medallist Leo Bories of France, with Pele Uibel of Germany finishing 4sec further back for bronze.

In all there were 63 male and 46 female competitors, with nine countries sending athletes to a competition that doubled as Hungary’s senior national championships.

World No.1 Michelle Gulyas of Hungary shows her composure on the shooting range on her way to gold in the Peridot Hungarian Indoor Championships.
Winter wonderland as athletes sample eight disciplines in three days in Davos (SUI)

A little-known fact about the Winter Pentathlon is that it once took place as a demonstration sport in the Winter Olympic Games, in St Moritz (FRA) in 1948, where Gustav Lindh (SWE) emerged as champion.

The sport never made it to the official Olympic programme, but it remains a popular annual staple of the UIPM Masters calendar thanks to the committed organisers of the Winter Pentathlon in Davos (SUI).

The 2023 event took place in early February with 27 athletes from eight countries (Austria, France, Germany, Great Britain, Greece, Hungary, Italy and Switzerland) and in fact the athletes were able to compete across eight disciplines in a Modern Pentathlon and a Winter Pentathlon.

The individual champions were Gesche Reimers (GER) and Peter Partics (GRE), who won gold in each of the five men’s overall rankings.

Romain Chauvet (FRA) said: “It was amazing to be able to compete in so many disciplines in just three days, and to participate in both modern pentathlon and winter pentathlon in the same competition.

“It was also very interesting to have a unique ranking where age and gender are taken into account. The atmosphere in Davos was great and we had very nice weather. Markus Hostettler and his team are passionate about the sport and are always motivated by having people visiting their wonderful mountains.”

In total, 27 athletes from eight different countries gathered in Davos (SUI) for the Winter Pentathlon in early February. The eight disciplines were Riding, Shooting, Cross-country Skiing, Swimming, Slalom, Fencing, Laser Ski and Laser Run.

How new registration system can boost para-athlete numbers

In 2022, UIPM launched a new para-athlete registration and licensing system to promote accessibility and universality within the global Modern Pentathlon community.

This was a positive first step, but it was only the start of what promises to be an exponential increase in UIPM Para Sports participation.

In 2023 UIPM is encouraging and supporting all National Federations to use the para-athlete registration system to grow individual athlete numbers. The following Q&A provides further information but if you have any questions, check out the contacts at the end of the article.

Why are we trying to grow the para-athlete movement for Modern Pentathlon?

To answer this question it is useful to look at the origins of the Paralympic Games, developed by Sir Ludwig Guttmann.

A German neurologist who lived in Great Britain, Sir Ludwig established the Stoke Mandeville Games, a sporting competition for British World War II veterans. This was the first official sporting event for people with disabilities and later evolved into the Paralympic Games.

Four years later, athletes from the Netherlands joined in. This was the start of the Paralympic movement as we know it today.

With Modern Pentathlon having been purpose-built for the Stockholm 1912 Olympic Games based on its ancient pentathlon counterpart and with the intention of examining the skills of the ideal soldier, there is a clear military connection, even though the majority of athletes are drawn nowadays from the civilian population.

Encouraging para-athlete participation is another means of keeping the military history of the sport alive.
Inside UIPM
Secretary General Shiny Fang’s message

Leading and serving are the aim to continuously improve!

At the end of a challenging 18 months since the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games, when UIPM was in a constant state of accelerated evolution, we finally had the chance to breathe at the start of 2023.

It was a time to reboot and reassess our roles and responsibilities, as the governing body of a sports movement with a great history behind it and a great future to look forward to.

As head of the UIPM Administration, this is how I want our organisation to fulfil its commitment to lead and serve the global UIPM community in the name of continuous improvement.

- To lead and plan: our goal all the time is to set the strategy and lead on delivery of Congress and Executive Board decisions and discussions, with feasible plans to achieve final results within an efficient time frame.
- To facilitate: the importance of accessibility is not confined to our sport disciplines, it also extends to all our stakeholders’ involvement in the sport; therefore, our tasks cover anything that could facilitate participation.
- To provide: the level of services the satisfaction of our stakeholders matters and means everything, to serve is what we do.
- To standardise: only with clear standards can our sports activity be repeated and enlarged, but the process of standardisation is never easy; your cooperation and understanding can make the difference.
- To look for possibilities: it is our responsibility to find opportunities and to demonstrate the bright future of the sport.
- To create a sustainable model: sustainability with its multiple dimensions should be considered during all of our conductions, although it takes time and needs constant effort.
- To become more autonomous: we want to find a way that one day we don’t rely on IOC revenue; it is a long journey, but not an impossible mission, if we could all work together and be united focused on the bigger picture...

There are a few other points that are worth underlining:
- We asked the community to adapt to a new reality, we appreciate the cooperation and the faith retained in UIPM after so many up and down in the past two years; it also shows that we can overcome everything with constant effort.
- In this historical decision-making year of 2023, the UIPM Administration has been upgraded based on all aspects of what is needed to better serve the entire community and fulfil as much as possible the requirements that will bring us great results at the end!

I wish you all a fulfilling 2023 season and look forward to continuing our mission hand in hand.

Who can participate in para events?
A para-athlete is an athlete who has a disability or impairment that enables them to compete in para sports – see Section 7 of the UIPM Para-Sport Regulations.

The UIPM uses an evidence-based classification with a range of individual para categories for the sub sports of Modern Pentathlon. Further information will be provided in upcoming ‘Para Pentathlon Spotlight’ articles and will be available on the UIPM website.

How you can help, as a National Federation?
National Federations are key to continually growing an athlete base that progresses through the UIPM pyramid. The same principles apply to growth in the para space.

As a first step, we encourage all National Federations to simply spread the word to all athletes, clubs, schools and other sporting bodies, that Modern Pentathlon now has a para-athlete registration system and para events.

As a second step, National Federations are encouraged to start using the registration system. The system can be accessed via the normal portal and has a range of details to complete. Please note, you don’t need to provide all details to start, as the UIPM Para Pentathlon Commission is there to assist.

Need more information?
If you have any questions, members of the Para Pentathlon Commission are here to serve National Federations 24/7.

The key contacts are:
- Radka Zapletalova – Para Project Manager
- Andrew Collings – Chairman, Para Pentathlon Commission

Throughout 2023, regular articles will provide further details on para athletes, upcoming events and how countries can help to grow the movement.

UIPM President Dr. Klaus Schormann presents medals to participants from the Para Laser Run competition in Cairo

Action from the Mixed Para Relay at the UIPM 2022 Laser Run World Championships in Lisbon
Inside UIPM
President Dr Klaus Schormann’s activities

09.01.2023: Monaco, MON

UIPM President Dr Klaus Schormann and his wife Karin attended a reception to mark the 50-year anniversary of the International German Club of Monaco (CAI). Dr and Mrs Schormann are Honorary Members of CAI.

The reception at the Hotel Hermitage Monte-Carlo was hosted by Karl Vanis, CAI Honorary President and Founder, under the patronage of HSH Prince Albert II of Monaco, UIPM Honorary President.

President Dr Schormann visited UIPM Headquarters during the trip and briefed staff members on the urgent steps to be taken during online meetings ahead of the 2023 season.

11.01.2023: Luxembourg NOC

UIPM President Dr Klaus Schormann met with Dr Sandra Heck, Executive Board Member of the International Council of Sport Science and Physical Education (ICSSPE), and Raymond Conzemius, Technical Director at the National Olympic Committee of Luxembourg (CDSL).

The online meeting related to the development of Modern Pentathlon in Luxembourg, starting with Laser Run competitions and leading to the creation of a National Federation (NF).

16.01.2023: UIPM Executive Board

After the 72nd UIPM Congress in November 2022, UIPM President Dr Klaus Schormann chaired the first online conference of the UIPM Executive Board to discuss with all Members the necessary steps for the upcoming season.

The EB clarified important actions for local organising committees and received a briefing from President Dr Schormann about all activities following on from the successful Congress.

They spoke deeply about the IOC policy linked to Russia’s invasion of Ukraine and the consequences for athletes from Russia and Belarus based on the fact the Paris 2024 Olympic qualification is beginning this spring.

It was also important to hear updates on various development projects around the world and actions relating to the establishment of the new Obstacle discipline, ahead of its formal integration into Modern Pentathlon in under-age UIPM World Championships later in 2023.

17.01.2023: IOC President

A day after the UIPM EB meeting, Dr Klaus Schormann and other IF leaders joined a call with IOC President Dr Thomas Bach, who told the IFs the IOC would maintain its position in relation to the war in Ukraine. He also explained in more detail about the principle of neutral representation and the exclusion of any Russian or Belarusian national symbols, colours, anthems or flags.

The call enabled all IF leaders including President Dr Schormann to get a full understanding of the IOC’s direction.

17-18.01.2023: UIPM Historical Book

President Dr Schormann hosted Martin Dave (UIPM Executive Board Member for Marketing) and Alain Lunzenfichter (UIPM Pierre de Coubertin Commission Member) in his office in Darmstadt (GER) where they resumed work on a historical book about Modern Pentathlon.
within Modern Pentathlon during the Paris 2024 cycle.

The Working Group includes experts from the International Equestrian Federation (FEI), extending the long-held collaboration between the two sports.

20.01.2023: New 5th Discipline Working Group

After the successful 2022 Congress, UIPM decided to schedule some online follow-up meetings with members of the New 5th Discipline Working Group to make sure that everything is in line and to discuss last steps before the IOC Session in Mumbai (IND), which will vote on the proposals of the IOC Programme Commission in respect of the Los Angeles 2028 Olympic Games sporting programme.

27.01.-29.01.2023: Stockholm, SWE

As part of a long-time partnership the UIPM President and his Executive Assistant, Lena Nussbaumer, were invited by the International Handball Federation (IHF) to the Semi-Finals and Finals of the Men’s Handball World Championships. President Dr Schormann handed over the Player of the Match award after the Germany v Norway match to German goalkeeper Andreas Wolff.

During his visit the World Championships, Dr Klaus Schormann had the opportunity to speak to a lot of international sportspeople and to exchange thoughts about issues of sporting politics around the world.

31.01.2023: UIPM Executive Board

UIPM President Dr Klaus Schormann chaired an online meeting of the UIPM Executive Board (EB) in which the main topic on the agenda was the possibility of athletes from Russia and Belarus participating at the Paris 2024 Olympic Games in a neutral capacity.

The IOC has confirmed that the two countries will have no official representation at the Games, but it is examining ways in which individuals who fulfil certain criteria relating to the invasion of Ukraine and anti-doping rules could be permitted entry. Each IF has been asked by the IOC to carefully consider the options that might facilitate a qualification pathway for neutral athletes, given the political complexities.
IOC Sport Director Kit McConnell joined the call and helped the EB to understand some of the context around the IOC’s standpoint, before answering questions.

05.02.2023: UIPM Medical Committee

The UIPM President opened an online meeting of the UIPM Medical Committee with a briefing about issues of international sporting politics and the position of UIPM. Committee Member Dr Douglas Stull provided an important report about medical issues relating to the new Obstacle discipline, with very positive findings.

Chair Dr Natalya Ofitserova informed the Committee about anti-doping procedures and risk assessments around the new competition format and all international standards.

She also outlined the main directions of the Injury Prevention Programme, emphasising the importance of collecting data and studying permanent injury statistics.

15.02. – 16.02.2023: Munich, GER

UIPM President Dr Klaus Schormann met together with colleagues Joerg Brokamp and Thomas Urban as the TV 34 council (representing 34 German sport federations) with the TV agency Sport A (ARD & ZDF). They discussed further broadcasting issues and examined the revenues of various sports as well as their popularity, and made new directional decisions.

Dr Schormann also used this trip to meet Christian Keidel (UIPM legal advisor) to discuss matters based on good governance and the consequences for IFs relating to the potential return of Russian and Belarusian athletes to the competitive arena.

He also met with the President of the Bavaria Modern Pentathlon Federation, Olaf Kleidon, to further analyse the integration of Obstacle and what it means for the future in terms of training and competition systems. They also discussed the 2023 European Laser Run & Biathle/Triathle Championships with Obstacle elements taking place in Erding (GER) from June 28 to July 2.

17.02. – 19.02.2023: Oberhof, GER

UIPM President Dr Klaus Schormann attended the International Biathlon Union (IBU) World Championships.

Biathlon belonged to the Union Internationale de Pentathlon Moderne (UIPM) from 1958-1998. 1968 Biathlon was included in the name of UIPM until 1998, when they became completely independent as IBU. To
this day, a close relationship and cooperation exists between the two IFs.

Together with IBU President Olle Dahlin, President Dr Schormann discussed the global economic and political situation based on the war in Ukraine. They also discussed the long partnership and historical documentation from both Olympic sports.

In summer there will be a joint meeting at IBU headquarters in Salzburg (AUT) to continue this research.

24.02. – 26.02.2023: Frankfurt-am-Main, GER

UIPM President Dr Klaus Schormann again chaired the annual Joint Committees Meeting in the central European transport hub of Frankfurt (GER). During these three days the Committee Members discussed a lot of matters for the coming season, but also the future Youth & Junior competitions including Obstacle as a new discipline.

President Dr Schormann chaired the joint meeting and briefed all participants about the global international sport movement and economic consequences.

He gave clear guidelines for all members of the UIPM Athletes, Technical & Coaches Committees.

Besides the heads of the various committees, the UIPM EB was also represented by Secretary General Shiny Fang, Treasurer John Helmick and Member for Development Dr Viacheslav Malishev.

Dr Atanas Andreev (BUL) represented the UIPM Medical Committee in the joint sessions, while Bernhard Petruschinski (GER) was invited as a Modern Pentathlon technical expert and Chair of the Equipment Commission.

For UIPM Para Sports, the change of Riding to Obstacle is a huge step in a new direction. With the new discipline it could be possible to include Para Pentathlon at the Paralympic Games as a recognised sport in the near future.

26.02.2023: UIPM Para-Pentathlon Commission

President Dr Schormann attended an online meeting of the UIPM Para-Pentathlon Commission, whom he briefed about the ongoing situation of Modern Pentathlon and news regarding the new discipline, with up-to-date information about discussions that took place during the Joint Committees Meeting in Frankfurt (GER).

UIPM President Dr Klaus Schormann chaired the Joint Committees Meeting in Frankfurt (GER) five years after the first combined gathering.
The PWR is updated live at www.pentathlon.org after each competition. PWR as at 1 March 2023:

**MEN**

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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.”