Gintare Venckauskaite (LTU) hands over to Titas Puronas (LTU) on their way to victory in the Mixed Relay on the final day of the season-opening UIPM 2023 Pentathlon World Cup Cairo.
With Paris in sight, the stars of pentathlon lay down Olympic markers in Cairo

The first steps on the road to the Paris 2024 Olympic Games proved to be action-packed as the UIPM 2023 Pentathlon World Cup season kicked off in exhilarating fashion in Cairo (EGY).

With the World Cup Final in Ankara this summer offering the first automatic places for next summer’s Olympics in the French capital, the cream of the pentathlon crop were drawn to Cairo and delivered fireworks.

"For athletes this World Cup already counts in terms of qualification points for the World Cup Final in Ankara, where we will have the first direct qualification spots for the Olympic Games," UIPM President Dr Klaus Schormann said. "I am quite happy and thankful to all the volunteers, sponsors, supporters and technicians who made it happen — and of course to the athletes for their high performance in a spirit of fairness that shows our sport is in a good position on the way to Paris."

Michelle Gulyas of Hungary and Ahmed Elgendy of Egypt came from behind to start the season with superb individual victories at UIPM 2023 Pentathlon World Cup Cairo.

World No.1 Gulyas (HUN) took control of another Super Saturday as she overturned the lead of Elodie Clouvel of France to win the Women’s Final.

Clouvel (FRA) fought hard to hold on to silver ahead of Salma Abdelmaksoud (EGY), who claimed her second consecutive bronze in the season-opener.

Later, Tokyo 2020 Olympic silver medallist Elgendy (EGY) started the Laser Run almost half a minute off the lead but managed his race perfectly to win the Men’s Final ahead of silver medallist Csaba Bohm (HUN) and Martin Vlach of Czech Republic, who made up five places to claim bronze.

MEDALLISTS’ REACTION — WOMEN

Women’s champion Gulyas (HUN) said: "My technical disciplines were very good — Fencing and Shooting were really amazing, I couldn’t have wished for better. My physical disciplines not so good, but it was OK because I could compensate with my technical disciplines.

"I have a very good mental coach, and my coaching team is also very good at helping in my preparation for competitions. The main competition is still further away this year, but hopefully I can keep this up."

Medallists’ Reaction — Men

Men’s champion Elgendy (EGY) said: "First I’m very happy to get this medal in my home country and in front of this crowd and my family, friends and all my coaches. Also I’m happy to be back on the podium a year and a half after the Olympics, because of injury."
really hoped I could make it to the top three. The guys in front of me were just too fast for me today.”

Asked about the secret to his consistent Laser Run speed, he said: “I can’t mention just one thing, it’s a continuous process that takes years and years. My coaches know what to do so I just follow their instructions.”

Women’s Final: Gulyas (HUN) and Whitaker (GBR) put on pressure but brilliant Micheli (ITA) holds nerve

RIDING
Six athletes – including world No.1 Gulyas (HUN) and world champion Elena Micheli of Italy – led the charge with a maximum score of 300 points, while local hopefuls Malak Ismail (EGY) and Abdelmaksoud (EGY) only incurred minor time penalties.

Clouvel (FRA) lost seven points to her chief rivals with one obstacle dislodged, but 293 enabled her to remain in the overall lead. There were no eliminations but Olena Klunnikova of Ukraine was sadly unable to start the Final after winning her Semi-final on Thursday.

FENCING
Her performance in the Ranking Round had given Clouvel (FRA) a 15-point Fencing cushion over nearest rivals Gulyas (HUN) and Marie Oteiza (FRA), and she did everything she could to maintain her supremacy in the Bonus Round. Namely, by defeating Gulyas (HUN) in the final bout for an extra four points.

By then, Gulyas (HUN) had added four points of her own with two victories, and Micheli (ITA) also notched three important wins. Ismail (EGY) was the star of the Bonus Round with four wins.

SWIMMING
The best performance at the Paul B Hannon Swimming Pool came in the second of three heats – where Alice Sotero (ITA) set an irresistible pace.

After finishing 4th at the Tokyo 2020 Olympics in 2021, Sotero (ITA) took time out to have a baby but is now very much back and her time of 2min 13.01sec brought her 284 points – five more than Clouvel (FRA) who won the final heat in 2:15.52, just ahead of

LASER RUN
The Laser Run featured a classic sting by Gulyas (HUN), who put merciless pressure on her adversary at every opportunity – and it worked.

Clouvel (FRA) started with a 16sec lead but Gulyas (HUN) cut it to 4sec at the first visit to the range and then overtook the Rio 2016 Olympic silver medallist at the second. The nerveless Hungarian showed exceptional consistency with all four shots taking less than 9sec, while Clouvel (FRA) was above 15sec every time.

That wasn’t the end of the story, because with powerful running Clouvel (FRA) refused to give Gulyas (HUN) any sense of a victory lap, and she also fought back against Abdelmaksoud (EGY) every time she found herself back in 3rd after a shoot.

Outside of the medals story, Micheli (ITA) moved up from 7th to 4th with a solid performance, and while Sotero (ITA) pipped Ismail (EGY) on the line for 5th, the biggest surge came from 7th-placed Laura Heredia of Spain, whose 11:27.20 was comfortably the best Laser Run of the day. Marie Oteiza (FRA) completed the top eight.

Blanka Bauer (HUN) timed 11:41.80 while Gintare Venckauskaite of Lithuania recorded 11:45.10, but both were too far back among the 17 racers to advance.

Elena Micheli (ITA) notched three important wins in the Fencing Bonus Round as Elodie Clouvel (FRA) tried to keep her place at the front of the field.
Shaban (EGY) came into the Bonus Round having scored an impressive 26V/9D in the Ranking Round, two more victories than Tymoshchenko (UKR) and five more than any other competitor, giving him a 25-point lead over the chasing pack before today’s showcase. His overall lead after Fencing was 14 points but it was back up to 25 after the penultimate discipline.

**Riding**

Only five athletes in the Men’s Final escaped without an obstacle penalty, but three of the maximum scorers looked like serious podium contenders – Vlach (CZE), Bohm (HUN) and Valentin Prades (FRA).

Four of the five Egyptians in the 18-strong field – as well as Pavlo Tymoshchenko of Ukraine and Valentin Belaud (FRA) – stayed very much in contention with 293 points, but there were some damaging concessions as Seo Changwan of Korea incurred 18 penalties, Pierre Dejardin (FRA) 28 and Ahmed Hamed (EGY) 30.

**Fencing**

Hamed (EGY) recovered some ground in the Fencing Bonus Round, with four victories adding eight points to his tally – a tally matched by Patrick Dogue of Germany. There were three wins for Emiliano Hernandez of Mexico, and Fencing winner Shaban (EGY) beat Tymoshchenko (UKR) and five more than any other competitor, giving him a 25-point over the chasing pack before today’s showcase. His overall lead after Fencing was 14 points but it was back up to 25 after the penultimate discipline.

**Swimming**

As in the Women’s Final, the fastest performance came in Heat 2 and it was Elgendy (EGY) who posted the best time (2:02.65) to move into an ominous overall position of 3rd. Bohm (HUN, 2:04.84) won the final heat from Shaban (EGY, 2:05.71), while Moutaz Mohamed (EGY) was 3rd-fastest in 2:05.27.

**Laser Run**

Starting with a 25sec lead, Shaban (EGY) knew that there was some serious Laser Run quality in pursuit, not least Bohm (HUN) and Elgendy (EGY) in 2nd and 3rd but also others including Vlach (CZE), lying in 8th with a 39sec deficit to correct.

As many expected, the pressure was just a little too much for the inexperienced Shaban (EGY) and he was worn down, overtaken by Elgendy (EGY) and Bohm (HUN) on the third shoot and by Vlach (CZE) at the start of the fifth run. The second half of the race was a gripping race between Elgendy (EGY) and Bohm (HUN), the former moving in front with a series of sub-10sec shoots but then finding his rival coming back strongly on the 600m circuit. On the final lap, the pattern remained but this time Elgendy (EGY) had just enough stamina to pull away from Bohm (HUN) and become the home-town hero.

**President’s Reaction**

UIPM President Dr Klaus Schormann said: “Through the Qualification and Semi-finals and now the Finals, we’ve already had a great competition here at the American University in Cairo.

“We saw that the athletes are really well prepared from the winter season and they have adapted to the new format that we will have in Paris 2024. This is very hard, but when you see the results it is so exciting. The spectators and viewers who saw these two Finals see that we are on the right track in preparation for the Games in Paris.”

**Summary**

Men’s Final: Elgendy (EGY) holds off challenge of Bohm (HUN) in a gripping finale

The action was typically fast-paced on the piste in the Fencing Bonus Round in the Egyptian capital.

Behind them, Vlach (CZE) took his customary place at the top of the Laser Run standings with a 10:01.60 to make up 6sec on Elgendy (EGY, 10:07.90) and 11sec on Bohm (HUN, 10:12.90). There was some serious experience outside the top four places as positions 5-8 were claimed by Prades (FRA), Tymoshchenko (UKR), Taishu Sato of Japan and Belaud (FRA) respectively.

PRESIDENT’S REACTION

UIPM President Dr Klaus Schormann said: “Through the Qualification and Semi-finals and now the Finals, we’ve already had a great competition here at the American University in Cairo. We saw that the athletes are really well prepared from the winter season and they have adapted to the new format that we will have in Paris 2024. This is very hard, but when you see the results it is so exciting. The spectators and viewers who saw these two Finals see that we are on the right track in preparation for the Games in Paris.”
Faultless shooting from Venckauskaite and Puronas (LTU) leads Lithuania to Mixed Relay gold

Gintare Venckauskaite and Titas Puronas dug deep and served up an exhibition of sharp shooting to take Mixed Relay gold for Lithuania to bring the curtain down on UIPM 2023 Pentathlon World Cup Cairo.

In a breathtaking culmination to a great week of competition in the Egyptian capital, Lithuania (Venckauskaite/Puronas) clawed back a 25-second deficit in the Laser Run to take top honours.

Mexico had been long-time leaders but for a time it looked as though Mariana Arceo and Manuel Padilla would miss out on a medal until an incredible sprint finish from Padilla earned silver.

Korea’s team of Haeun Jang and Soengjin Kim took a deserved bronze narrowly ahead of home favourites Egypt (Haydy Morsy & Mohanad Shaban) in fourth. Great Britain (Emma Whitaker & Myles Pillage) battled to fifth with Poland (Ewa Pydyszewska & Lukasz Gutkowski) sixth.

It was a fittingly competitive and international end to the first World Cup of the 2023 season with a total of 12 teams from five continents vying for the first Mixed Relay honours of the campaign.

MEDALISTS’ REACTION

Gold medalist Puronas (LTU) said: “Our Fencing wasn’t so strong so we had to run fast. It’s our favourite discipline so we did our best!” His teammate Venckauskaite (LTU) added: “I came into this competition after a one and a half-year [absence] and I’m really happy that I could compete.”

Silver medalist Arceo (MEX) said: “My team is really fast in our running and I am really so happy with this medal.” Her teammate Padilla (MEX) added: “The running is my strength. We had worked a lot for this competition. We were really focused for the relays and we are really happy with that result.”

Bronze medalist Jang (KOR) said: “In the Laser Run we had great shooting and the running was good. We are very happy with a bronze medal.” Her teammate Kim (KOR) said: “Korea’s name is Team Korea, you know that, and coaches and athletes we are all a team, not personal. It’s important that we think this way. We are a strong team and a nice team.”

RIDING

While there were some mixed fortunes in the Riding round, it was the leaders who held their nerve to both separate themselves from the chasing pack and ensure things would remain tight at the top.

Three teams recorded perfect scores with Poland (Pydyszewska/Gutkowski) the first to do so as they jumped up the leaderboard. Korea (Jang/Kim) were also faultless with Germany (Cicelle Leh & Marc Spletzer) next to rack up a maximum score. Egypt (Morsy/Shaban) recorded an obstacle fault leaving Mexico (Arceo/Padilla) with a chance to extend their lead. However a refusal during Arceo’s ride saw them drop down into second place. Lithuania (Venckauskaite/Puronas) claimed 293 points to stay where they needed to be — within striking distance.

A couple of unfortunate struggles from Great Britain (Whitaker/Pillage) saw their chances of a medal dim. Earlier, the team of Panalee Palasarit and Nathaphorn Kesornphrom representing Thailand and Devan Wiebe and Robert Bonomo from Canada cut their teeth over fences with both countries welcome additions and adding even more of a global outlook to the event.

FENCING

Mexico (Arceo/Padilla) got their challenge off to formidable start as they dominated proceedings on the piste, coming out on top in the Fencing Ranking Round with 32 Victories followed by Egypt (Morsy/Shaban) who combined perfectly with 15 Victories each. Germany (Leh/Spletzer) were third with 26 Victories.
In the Bonus Round, Lithuania (Venckauskaite/Puronas) were red-hot, picking up an additional 10 points to move into striking distance of the top four. Their run was only ended by Mexico (Arceo/Padilla) who picked up four bonus points to move back into first place.

SWIMMING

The pool pedigree of Great Britain (Whitaker/Pillage) was more than evident as they tried to claw their way up the leaderboard, clocking the fastest time in the Swimming round as they were the only team to go sub-two minutes in a blistering 1:58.49.

Things tightened up further again at the top as Kim’s super anchor leg helped Korea (Jang/Kim) close the gap in a time of 2:01.14 with Germany (Leh/Spletzer) third fastest in 2:02.83.

LASER RUN

In a Laser Run that shaped to be truly climactic just 10 seconds separated first and fourth. Mexico (Arceo/Padilla) had the narrowest of leads, just a second head start on Egypt (Morsy/Shaban) with Germany (Leh/Spletzer) and Korea (Jang/Kim) hot on their heels. Lithuania (Venckauskaite/Puronas) were also firmly in the mix, 25 seconds back.

As is so often the case in such a tight fight the ultimate destination of the medals would be decided at the range and Jang (KOR) served up an exhibition of sharp shooting to catapult Korea into the lead after the first shoot. Morsy had Egypt in hot pursuit as Arceo (MEX) slipped back.

When Jang (KOR) repeated the trick at the second shoot, Korea found themselves with a little breathing room courtesy of a 12-second lead at the changeover. However Venckauskaite’s (LTU) dodged running had moved Lithuania all the way up to second ahead of Egypt and it was shaping up to be a barnstorming finish.

With Padilla (MEX) trying to get back into things, there was more exemplary shooting from the front two as Kim (KOR) and Puronas (LTU) both hit five from five. It would all come down to the final shoot and Puranas (LTU) picked his moment as he took the lead just as they approached the range. Despite struggling on his fifth target Puranas (LTU) got away first with Kim (KOR) falttering a little on the final shoot. That opened the door for silver and Padilla (MEX) dug deep and sprinted through.

Shaban (EGY) almost claimed another medal for the host nation as he hunted down Kim (KOR) but had to settle for fourth. Great Britain (Whitaker/Pillage) finished an admirable fifth with Poland (Pytaaszewska/Gartowicz) sixth.

PRESIDENT’S REACTION

UIPM President Dr. Klaus Schormann said: “The Mixed Relay is always a very special highlight way to end a World Cup. More younger athletes were involved against some more experienced, world-class teams and I think it’s so good to see more athletes having that possibility: to come together and learn and perform with the highest level of athletes. It really was a Mixed Relay in that sense.

“It was such an exciting moment at the end in the Laser Run. I said to my Korean colleagues that if the Korean athletes had been stronger runners they would easily win but in our sport you have to be strong at every aspect. We had a very good finish and the Mixed Relay remains a highlight in our movement.”
UIPM releases ‘Get Started with the new Modern Pentathlon’ brochure

Obstacle racers ready to embark on a journey to the Los Angeles 2028 Olympic Games are the target audience of a new UIPM brochure entitled ‘Get Started with the new Modern Pentathlon’.

The 12-page publication is an introductory manual for Ninja, Obstacle Course Racing (OCR) or Adventure Racing participants who are contemplating a switch to a sport that is about to undergo one of the most dramatic transformations in the history of the Olympic movement. The brochure provides tips on the initial steps of converting to Modern Pentathlon and aims to support not only the generation of athletes eying the dream of LA28 but Obstacle participants at all levels. The new UIPM Sports Pyramid sets out the wide range of opportunities.

The introduction to ‘Get Started with Modern Pentathlon’ poses the question: ‘Are you ready to tackle a whole new version of the Olympic Games’ most demanding sport?’

‘Obstacle will be integrated into Modern Pentathlon for the first time in 2023, and the journey to Los Angeles 2028 starts HERE!’

“So whether you’re an OCR athlete or a Ninja Warrior fan, or you just love hurtling across an obstacle course, this is YOUR MOMENT to get started. It’s the adventure of a lifetime, one that leads all the way to the top of world sport.”

Obstacle Discipline became an official discipline of Modern Pentathlon when it was added to the UIPM Statutes and UIPM Competition Rules & Regulations by the 72nd UIPM Congress, which took place online in November 2022.It forms part of an application sent by UIPM to the International Olympic Committee in respect of the LA28 sporting programme. The UIPM 2023 Pentathlon U17 World Championships in Alexandria (EGY) from July 12-16 will be the first global competition to feature Obstacle alongside Fencing, Swimming and Laser Run in the new-look Modern Pentathlon.

The ‘Get Started’ brochure follows a range of resources issued to support the UIPM Sports community with the transition, including the UIPM Obstacle Catalogue for competition organisers, the Obstacle e-learning module for judges, 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, and the Obstacle Discipline Training Tips for athletes and coaches.

UIPM President Dr Klaus Schormann said: “What a challenge for the future – the new Modern Pentathlon with Obstacle creates an incredible opportunity for athletes.

“We are merging a new, urban, TV-friendly sport with the prestige and heritage of the Olympic Games. It’s going to be fair and accessible to all athletes around the world – now is the time to get involved!”

“In close collaboration with the International Olympic Committee we are committed to an ongoing process of innovation in Modern Pentathlon in the spirit of our founder, Baron Pierre de Coubertin.”
Lights are green for 75 Laser Run and Biathle-Triathle Tours

Seventy-five cities across 30 countries. A long thread connecting the world as one big multi-sports movement.

UIPM’s 2023 development tour circuit began in Kuwait City (KUW) and is set to envelop the planet between March and December. The Global Laser Run City Tour and Biathle-Triathle National Tour are back!

Among the changes this year is a hosting fee, designed to make the GLRCT and BTNT models more sustainable and create a higher level of consistency within the product, with organisers able to introduce participation fees.

Equipment support is another enhanced feature, with organisers now able to select from four options:
1. Obstacle equipment kit (maximum 1 per NF) – one box of trusses as well as six different obstacle elements
2. Pentasuits – 10 per approved event
3. Shooting sets (laser pistols and targets) – five sets per approved event with a limit of 25 sets in total
4. Fencing – a maximum of two development sets per National Federation

Laser Run
With 58 venues confirmed, the first of two GLRCTs in Kuwait brought the popular urban racing concept to another new territory and other Asian newcomers (United Arab Emirates and Hong Kong, China) will follow in its wake this year. China, meanwhile, stands ready to host five Category A races, each with an estimated 600 participants. And the circuit sees the return of some of the traditional ‘regulars’ such as Egypt, Georgia and South Africa. The action began on March 9 in Kuwait City (KUW) with Alexandria (EGY), Bloemfontein (RSA) and Tashkent in Uzbekistan following in the same month.

Biathle-Triathle
Seventeen organisers have stepped up to the plate to give athletes who favour UIPM beach multi-sports opportunities to participate and compete. Spain comes forward as a new host of three BTNTs, one staged by the National Federation and two others by the Asturia club. Lithuania made its GLRCT debut in 2022 and this year offers three national BTNT events to enable athletes to continue their development up the UIPM Sports Pyramid and earn selection to the national team. Moldova is another new host in 2023, while Egypt, Georgia, Philippines and Sri Lanka continue the good vibes from previous years. The action is scheduled to begin in the middle of April.

Other multi-sport events
Beyond the GLRCT and BTNT there is a wide range of multi-sport competitions taking place across the continents in 2023.

• UIPM 2023 Laser Run World Championships combined with Pentathlon World Championships – Bath (GBR) August 19-21
• UIPM 2023 Biathle-Triathle World Championships – Bali (INA) November 1-5
• 2023 Southeast Asia Championships (Triathle) – Chon Buri (THA) May 19-21
• European Biathle-Triathle and Laser Run Championships – Erding (GER), June 28 - July 2
• Mediterranean Beach Games (Triathle) – Irakleion (GRE) September 9-16
• Asian Biathle-Triathle Championships – venue TBC

UIPM Executive Board for Development, Dr Viacheslav Malishev, said: “This year 2023 is the seventh year of the UIPM Global Laser Run City Tour and sixth year of the Biathle-Triathle National Tour.

“It is clear to see that the range of multi-discipline sports under UIPM’s development structure and pathway have become more and more accessible for countries and regions around the world regardless of culture and conditions.

“The various combinations of multi-discipline sports have also helped to establish strong awareness on all continents, among more and more populations, and also among all stakeholders from National Federations and local government and authorities to clubs and other international sports organisations and commercial sponsors.”
Bath is calling — Have you entered the Para Laser Run World Championships yet?

Following the success of the Para Laser Run event at the UIPM 2022 Laser Run World Championships in Lisbon (POR), the stage is set for an even bigger showcase of UIPM Para Sports in 2023.

The local organising committee of the UIPM 2023 Pentathlon and Laser Run World Championships in Bath (GBR) are working hard behind the scenes to make sure the event builds on previous years and is truly accessible to all athletes. With a large number of para-athletes competing, it is set to be a truly world class event.

If you have para athletes in your National Federation or local club, this is a great opportunity for them to enter and participate in a global competition. NF members are also encouraged to reach out to para athletes with an athletics background in their country or club.

Andrew Collings, Chair of the UIPM Para Pentathlon Commission, said: “The key to the success of the UIPM Para Sports movement is having a large grassroots base of athletes.

“As the starting discipline on the UIPM Para event pyramid, Para Laser Run it is a great place for para athletes to start on their Modern Pentathlon journey. “What’s more, growing the sport at the grassroots and ensuring that the Laser Run is accessible to all will help grown the number of para athletes competing in other disciplines.

“Being prepared and organized is the key – so reach out now. With just under six months to go, guides for para athletes and fundraising can be undertaken.”

Please email UIPM Para Sports (para@pentathlon.org) for more information and to receive the official poster.

Medals are handed out during last year’s hugely successful UIPM 2022 Laser Run World Championships in Lisbon.

Crossing the finish line during last year’s hugely successful UIPM 2022 Laser Run World Championships in Lisbon.

Action from the Irish capital Dublin during the 2018 Laser Run World Championships.
News from around the world

AMPC update: Secretary General Yeo has key meetings with Olympic stakeholders in Mungyeong (KOR)

A busy month of activities for the Asian Modern Pentathlon Confederation (AMPC) included a number of key stakeholder meetings at the Asian Hockey Federation Congress on March 23-24.

The AMPC was represented at the Congress in Mungyeong (KOR) by Secretary General Sangkeong Yeo, who had meetings with the Secretaries General of two National Olympic Committees – Turkmenistan and Tajikistan – with the aim of furthering development in Central Asia.

Mr Yeo also met with Naransabatar Otgonbaatar, Secretary General of the Modern Pentathlon Association of Mongolia, who reflected on the country’s first-ever Laser Run competition in Ulaanbaatar (MGL) in December. Mr Yeo offered support to enable more UIPM Sports activity to take place in Mongolia.

An in-person meeting with Ata Akmammedov, SG of the Turkmenistan NOC, was another highlight as Mr Akmammedov expressed energetic interest in the development of Modern Pentathlon based on the future composition of the sport with Obstacle joining Fencing, Swimming and Laser Run.

Mr Yeo said it was a very useful trip with improved lines of communication now existing with numerous partners who can make a big impact on the growth of UIPM Sports in Asia.

Woongtae Jun (KOR) greets Korea President Yoon during Sports Vision Report ceremony

Olympic bronze medalist Woongtae Jun (KOR) took centre stage when Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol oversaw the 2023 Korea Sports Vision Report by the Korean Sport & Olympic Committee (KSOC).

Jun (KOR) joined the leader of the Republic of Korea on stage during a glittering ceremony to mark the Report ahead of the Hangzhou Asian Games later this year and the 2024 Paris Olympics. The event on February 14 at Korea’s National Training Centre in Jincheon saw President Yoon make a congratulatory speech encouraging national team athletes and coaches ahead of the major events in the upcoming years.

It was President Yoon’s first visit to the NTC since taking office last year, and he pledged strong support for elite sports to revitalize the sports movement in Korea. He also stressed that his cabinet will foster the sports industry, as a future growth engine, and for this, elite Korean athletes should be among the world’s best. The government will fully support
national team athletes to concentrate on training and become world-class athletes.

Jun (KOR), currently ranked No.4 in the world rankings, took an oath in front of President Yoon on behalf of 1,600 Korean athletes and coaches. He was joined on stage with President Yoon and KSOC President Lee Kee Heung, who is an IOC Member.

After lunch, everyone, including the Korean national Modern Pentathlon team took commemorative photos with President Yoon.

Korea’s pentathletes at the NTC were in the midst of preparing for the Hangzhou Asian Games, originally scheduled for 2022 but postponed to September 2023.

When they identified themselves as the Modern Pentathlon national team, President Yoon acknowledged their chosen sport and described pentathlon as one of the hardest and oldest sport in the Olympics. He said he looked forward for a big success at the next Asian Games and also Olympic Games.

Coaches and judges join Janusz Peciak OLY for successful seminar in Mungyeong (KOR)

A fourth four Korean pentathletes currently among the top 20 in the men’s and women’s world rankings, the country’s status as a pentathlon powerhouse is clear.

The diligence and dedication to the cause extends to those helping to train, support and organize in the sport - and Korea hosted a highly productive gathering for coaches and judges recently.

The 2023 Modern Pentathlon Coaches’ and Judges’ Seminar, held over two days from February 16-17, saw UIPM Executive Board Member and 1976 Olympic champion Janusz Peciak OLY, Chairman of the UIPM Technical Committee, lead a group of almost 50 existing and new coaches and judges.

The seminar was held at Mungyeong, venue for the 2015 CISM Military World Games, and primarily helped guide participants through changes and updates to pentathlon rules as well as a focus on the new Obstacle Discipline, bring introduced for the first time in the 2023 season.

Mr Peciak was joined by Dongkook Chung (KOR), a members of the UIPM Technical Committee, and visited Korea’s National Training Center (NTC) on the second day of the seminar.

In his capacity as Deputy Chair of the NTC Mr Chung guided Mr Peciak through the training facilities for summer and winter sports as well as the medical center and dining facilities.

With 37 current and 12 new coaches and judges taking part, Mr Peciak was hugely impressed with the energy and keen interest of the Korean participants.

“This has been an excellent, well organized and very professional seminar,” he said. “It’s so pleasing to see almost 50 coaches and judges here. They asked so many interesting questions and had discussions about horse riding, the new Obstacle discipline as well as additional rules updates.

“Although it was just two-day course, I am sure that it significantly helped everyone to prepare the the 2023 season — and beyond.”
Anti-doping update: mandatory e-learning for all athletes competing in Paris 2024 Olympic qualification

Athletes competing in all Paris 2024 Olympic Qualification competitions must conclude the WADA e-learning “International Level Athletes Education Program” hosted on the World Anti-Doping Agency’s education platform, ADEL.

This e-learning covers essential anti-doping education and helps to support the fight for clean sport. The ADEL platform is available in multiple languages and UIMP will recognise submissions in all languages.

Completion certificates must be uploaded to the UIPM portal and confirmed by UIPM prior to the athlete’s participation in any Paris 2024 Olympic Qualification event. Click here to view the list of competitions in English or French.

UIPM requires athletes to engage in this process under Article 17 of the UIPM 2021 Anti-Doping Rules (see extract below):

UIPM shall plan, implement, evaluate and promote Education in line with the requirements of Article 18.2 of the Code and the International Standard for Education. UIPM may decide to request that Athletes complete Educational activities before and/or during their participation in select Events (e.g. Youth World Championships) as a condition of such participation. The list of Events for which Athletes will be required to complete Educational activities as a condition of participation will be published on UIPM’s website. Failure by the Athlete to complete educational activities as requested by UIPM may result in the imposition of sanction under UIPM’s disciplinary rules, unless the Athlete provides to UIPM a justification for such failure, which shall be assessed by UIPM on a case by case basis.

Three-time Olympian Aya Medany (EGY) elected to ANOCA Athletes Commission

Three-time Olympic pentathlete Aya Medany OLY has been elected to the ANOCA Athletes’ Commission of the Association of National Olympic Committees of Africa (ANOCA).

Medany (EGY) already sits on the International Olympic Committee (IOC) Athletes’ Commission having served as Chair of the UIPM Athletes Committee towards the end of her Modern Pentathlon career.

Now a Member of the Egyptian Parliament, Aya Medany OLY was elected to the ANOCA Commission as representative for the 11 Nile Basin countries of Rwanda, Uganda, Burundi, Tanzania, Kenya, Sudan, South Sudan, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Egypt and Somalia.

She said, “Thanks for the confidence of the Egyptian Olympic Committee and the members of the Players’ Committee in the Egyptian Olympic Committee who stood with me in the elections.”

UIPM President Dr Klaus Schormann said: “I have written to the Troy family to offer my condolences on behalf of the global Modern Pentathlon movement, after hearing that Col Guy Troy passed two days after reaching his 100th birthday milestone. But what a life and legacy he leaves behind!

“We all owe a debt of gratitude to the contribution and service of this great man through the years. In his various roles within the US Modern Pentathlon Association, UIPMB / UIPM, the US Olympic Committee and the Pan American Modern Pentathlon Confederation.

“The Helsinki 1952 Olympic Games was historic as the first Olympics to include a Modern Pentathlon team event, in which the USA team finished 4th. Also it was historic as the last time the USA fielded an all-military team in our Olympic competition. Col Troy played his part in those historic moments that provide our sport with a heritage to be proud of.”

Fond tributes have been paid to one of Modern Pentathlon’s greatest leaders and proponents Sameh Guemeih of Egypt, who died on January 27, 2023.

Sameh played a vital role in the development of the global UIPM Sports movement, across Africa and especially in Egypt, helping the country become a pillar of the sport in terms of athlete performance and competition organisation.

Sameh served for many years as President of the African Confederation of Modern Pentathlon (CAPM) and sat on the UIPM Executive Board.

At the UIPM 2016 Congress in Frankfurt (GER) he was awarded Honorary Membership of UIPM in recognition of his distinguished service to the sport.

UIPM President Dr Klaus Schormann said: “Sameh was a very special person within our movement, and I will personally miss him after working with him for many years, especially during his time as President of CAPM where he joined us on the UIPM Executive Board.

I always valued his advice and perspective, and this is something I will miss very much. His love for Modern Pentathlon was only exceeded by his commitment to our Athletes and their well-being, and of course his love for his family.

“Our global community is thinking of Sameh’s family and sending love and sympathy.”

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Col Guy Troy (1923-2023)

Two days after completing a century of life, one of Modern Pentathlon’s cherished heroes finally came to the end of his journey.

Colonel Guy Troy of United States marked his 100th birthday on March 15 as the oldest living Olympic pentathlete – two days before he passed.

From North Carolina, Col Troy began his international sports career when he joined the United States Military Academy in 1943. In 1951, he was made commander of the Pentathlon Training Centre and led the USA Pan American and Olympic Modern Pentathlon team as athlete and coach.

Troy (USA) won a team gold in the inaugural Pan American Games in Buenos Aires (ARG) in 1951 and duly competed in the Helsinki 1952 Olympic Games, finishing 14th in the individual and 4th in the team event.

After retiring from the military, Col Troy became a farmer and continued his involvement in Modern Pentathlon serving as Secretary and later President of the US Modern Pentathlon Association. As President and Founder of the Pan American Modern Pentathlon Confederation, he was the UIPM representative for North and Central America between 1988 and 1993 and served a member of the board of directors of the US Olympic Committee. He was an Honorary Member of the International Modern Pentathlon and Biatlon Union (UIPMB).

UIPM President Dr Klaus Schormann said: “I have written to the Troy family to offer my condolences on behalf of the global Modern Pentathlon movement, after hearing that Col Guy Troy passed two days after reaching his 100th birthday milestone. But what a life and legacy he leaves behind!

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“Our global community is thinking of Sameh’s family and sending love and sympathy.”
Coaching development in Africa continues space with successful CCP course in Cairo (EGY)

The Egyptian capital of Cairo may have been the scene of a pulsating opening instalment of the UIPM 2023 Pentathlon World Cup season. But the action didn’t end when the medals were handed out. The Monday morning after the opening instalment of the UIPM 2023 South American/ODESUR Games with the ODESUR President, Camilo Lopez Moreira (Member of the IOC Programme Commission). The 2026 edition of the ODESUR Games will take place in Santa Fe (ARG) with events held in the cities of Rosario, Santa Fe and Rafaela.

All aboard for Santa Fe (ARG) in 2026

Jorge Galas OLY, President of the South American Modern Pentathlon Confederation, signs an agreement (above) for the participation of Modern Pentathlon in the 2026 South American/ODESUR Games with the ODESUR President, Camilo Lopez Moreira (Member of the IOC Programme Commission).

Coaches present successfully passed and received their CCP Level 2 certification.

Africa has emerged as an area of exciting growth for UIPM sports in recent years and there is a continuing focus on coaching development ahead of the Dakar 2026 Youth Olympic Games. This course in Cairo (EGY) was the second of five in 2023 with three more to come.

“Cairo continues to be the site of very important moments in our sport and this recent course falls into that bracket too,” said UIPM Coaches Committee Chairman Christian Roudaut.

“We have been clear about the benefits of putting time and effort into developing coaching in Africa as our sports continue to grow there. It’s so pleasing to see two African nations represented on this course and two other countries where our sports are developing. I want to thank Raouf and the organisers and I look forward to three more courses to come later this year in Africa.”

Reflections on a great start to the 2023 season

After a long off-season, Modern Pentathlon has bounced back with a bang in 2023!

Our global season-opener in Egypt has become a popular staple and UIPM 2023 Pentathlon World Cup Cairo lived up to its reputation, with athletes providing a thrilling start to the Paris 2024 Olympic qualification pathway.

Not only did Cairo shine in the reflected glory of high performance levels from athletes, there was also a professional sheen across event organisation, with high promotion impact inside the hosting country, not to mention international interactions.

When you look at UIPM’s online outreach, we may not have outstanding numbers compared with some other Olympic sports. But Modern Pentathlon is starting to climb the mountain, with encouraging signs that we are on the way to being a more accessible sport, providing more possibilities for new athletes to join the movement with our Obstacle innovation, as well as catching the attention of more and more audiences.

Looking at social media during the first week of the UIPM competition season, the new feature of short, dramatic clips taken from the UIPMTV stream and quickly posted on social already proved popular, which is great to see! With more athlete-focused social outreach, we may not have outstanding performance levels sometimes be lower with some younger and newer athletes taking part.

Looking at TV, actually we enjoyed a small growth in broadcasters taking our feed in 2022, and already in 2023 we have seen a very significant increase in interest. Normally we have a surge in interest. Normally we have a surge of ‘takers’ for the UIPM Pentathlon World Cup Final and Pentathlon World Championships, but this time we started to have new requests for live coverage of the season’s first event.

It appears clear that networks prefer the shorter Finals format, with an elimination system reducing the number of athletes from 36 to 18 and five disciplines taking place in less than two hours. It is very encouraging to see the results of a more TV-friendly and presentable format.

Looking to the next stage of evolution that will determine our future, the International Olympic Committee finally announced the precise timeline of its decision-making around the Los Angeles 2028 sports programme.

The decision will be made by the IOC session in October 2023 in Mumbai (IND). This means we have six more months to solidify and continuously demonstrate our improvement at multiple dimensions. Remember the words of IOC President Dr Thomas Bach, when announcing the IOC’s expectations in December 2021.

“The UIPM must finalise its proposal for the replacement of horse riding and the overall competition format, and demonstrate a significant reduction in cost and complexity and an improvement across the areas of safety, accessibility, universality and appeal for young people and the general public.”

Our community still has six months to combine efforts and light a torch of unity and hope, so that we can realise the dream of a bright future for our youth generations.

Internally, the evolution of support and service programmes for our National Federations is realised step by step, and we have opened the tenders for Obstacle competition kit and training kit too, in order to provide additional assistance for our major event organizers who will be the first to integrate Obstacle into Modern Pentathlon.

More improvements and service to facilitate participants will come, and the pathway is never easy. Endurance, cooperation, understanding, open mindset and constant communications are crucial to getting this sport where it belongs.
Inside UIPM
President Dr Klaus Schormann’s activities

01.03.2023: UIPM Women’s Commission

UIPM President Dr Klaus Schormann, joined an online meeting of the UIPM Women’s Commission to brief Members about the ongoing situation of UIPM as well as about the delicate situation of Russian & Belarussian athletes in sport. He then followed the meeting, led by Women’s Commission Chair Cassandra Choh.

The Commission agreed to support the increase of women coaches and judges – education is the key to empower women to take bigger roles. Ms Choh, President of the Singapore Modern Pentathlon Association, also said the Commission and NFs needed to continue to advocate for respect and fairness, which were universal.

Commission Members shared a consensus view that it is necessary to have more women in leadership to close the gap between male and female leadership in the past years.

06.03.-12.03.2023: Cairo, EGY

President Dr Schormann attended the season-opening UIPM 2023 Pentathlon World Cup Cairo, where he had several meetings with the Egyptian Minister of Sport & Youth, Dr Ashraf Sobhy.

He also discussed steps for future development and integration with various National Federation leaders including Uganda Modern Pentathlon Federation President Simon Peter Komakech and Secretary General Joseph Ssemmanda, Lebanese Modern Pentathlon Federation President Ibrahim Khalil Zein and UAE Modern Pentathlon Federation Chairman Dr Huda Abdul Rahman Al Matrooshi.

The meetings with Lebanon and UAE were also joined by Asian Modern Pentathlon Confederation President Hyunjun Kim and Secretary General Sangkeong Yeo, who are important allies for developing Asian federations in supporting them to become established Modern Pentathlon nations.

President Dr Schormann mentioned the importance of communication and the advantages the new Obstacle discipline will bring to Modern Pentathlon worldwide. Lebanon and UAE are especially looking forward to the new discipline and the chance to use it as a vehicle for accelerated development.

With Uganda President Komakech, UIPM President Dr Schormann discussed together with UIPM Secretary General Shiny Fang and EB Member for Development Dr Viacheslav Malishev the challenges facing African nations in the various regional zones. Mr Komakech
stated that Uganda is now starting more and more to develop Modern Pentathlon and that the Federation has cooperative agreements for training to provide athletes with a base to become pentathletes.

On March 9, the UIPM President visited Sameh Guemeih’s family, with whom he has retained close contact and friendship.

The late Sameh Guemeih, a UIPM Honorary Member who served as President of the African Modern Pentathlon Confederation for more than 20 years, counts as one of Modern Pentathlon’s greatest leaders and proponents. He played a vital role in the development of the UIPM Sports movement across Africa and especially in his home country in Egypt, which has become a strong pillar of UIPM thanks to people with true vision and a commitment to sporting excellence.

14.03.-15.03.2023: Bath, GBR

UIPM President Dr Klaus Schormann was joined by EB Member for Marketing Martin Dawe for a site visit of the venue for the UIPM 2023 Pentathlon and Laser Run World Championships.

Opposite page, left: UIPM President talks to Lebanon NF President Ibrahim Zein during a meeting with EB Member Dr Viacheslav Malishev and AMPC President Hyunjun Kim also present, and then makes a presentation to President Zein.

Opposite page, right: President Dr Schormann meets Uganda NF President Simon Peter Rumatech and Secretary General Joseph Ssemmanda makes a presentation to President Rumatech.
The visit to Bath provided important opportunities to discuss political aspects of UIPM’s flagship competition with the newly elected Chairwomen of Pentathlon GB, Diana Hunter, and CEO Trafford Wilson. The visit also included meetings with the local organising team.

While in the UK, UIPM President Dr Schormann had an online meeting with Clark Chittenden, Head of External Affairs and International Relations at UK Sport. On this call was also Jennifer Browning (International Relations Advisor at UK Sport) and Pentathlon GB CEO Trafford Wilson.

Dr Schormann had the chance to explain the ongoing situation of change within the UIPM and to highlight what was done in recent months to ensure that Modern Pentathlon will stay in the Olympic movement after Paris 2024.

21.03.2023: UIPM Business Affairs Committee

President Dr Schormann joined the online meeting of the UIPM Business Affairs Committee (BAC), which discussed various matters including Uniform Guidelines & Rules.

He briefed all members about the financial and sport-political situation worldwide and underlined new possibilities on the commercial side, relating to the inclusion of Obstacle during UIPM’s Junior and Youth World Championships in 2023.

Martin Dawe gave a review of branding around the new Obstacle discipline and how this can be adapted in the near future. Furthermore, topics like TV, media and event presentation were covered. President Dr Schormann also raised the importance of new sponsors in connection with the new discipline, which UIPM needs from 2025 onwards, to assure that the sponsors are representing the five disciplines in the best possible way.

24.03.2023: UIPM Executive Board

The UIPM President chaired an online meeting of the UIPM Executive Board in which the main topic was the possibility of Russian & Belarussian athletes being permitted to resume participating in some Modern Pentathlon competitions.

Martin Dawe gave a review of branding around the new Obstacle discipline and how this can be adapted in the near future. Furthermore, topics like TV, media and event presentation were covered. President Dr Schormann also raised the importance of new sponsors in connection with the new discipline, which UIPM needs from 2025 onwards, to assure that the sponsors are representing the five disciplines in the best possible way.

27.03.2023: IOC President IF Consultation

UIPM President Dr Schormann joined IOC President Dr Thomas Bach’s latest consultation call with International Federations (IFs), whose leaders were invited to speak about Russia’s ongoing occupation of Ukraine and what possibilities the IFs see to bring Russian & Belarusian athletes back to the competitions and potentially back to the Olympic Games Paris 2024.
Pentathlon World Rankings

The PWR is updated live at www.pentathlon.org after each competition. PWR as at 30 March 2023:

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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.”