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72ND UIPM CONGRESS

UIPM Congress on screen behind (l to r) UIPM 1st Vice President Juan Antonio Samaranch, President Dr Klaus Schormann and Secretary General Shiny Fang
72nd UIPM Congress

History is made as 83% say yes to Obstacle Discipline

The global UIPM Sports community has voted to secure the future of Modern Pentathlon in the Olympic Games with the formal adoption of Obstacle Discipline.

Of the 83 voting members that submitted a valid vote on adding Obstacle Discipline to UIPM Statutes on the first day of UIPM 2022 Congress, 69 of them (83.3%) voted in favour, with 11 voting against and three abstaining.

The result provides UIPM with a mandate to propose a new-look Modern Pentathlon – with Obstacle Discipline replacing Riding – to the International Olympic Committee (IOC) for inclusion in the Los Angeles 2028 Olympic Games.

On the first day (November 12), UIPM Congress also voted to amend the Competition Rules & Regulations so that Obstacle Discipline could be introduced in UIPM’s Junior (Under 22), U19 and U17 World Championships as well as continental championships starting in 2023.

Congress also voted to introduce new term limits for UIPM office-bearers – setting a maximum of 12 years for Executive Board Members, and a separate limit of 12 years for the UIPM President – from January 1, 2025.

Speaking on November 12, UIPM President Dr Klaus Schormann said: “It’s very important that our voting members today provided a strong mandate for Obstacle Discipline to be integrated into our Olympic multi-sport.

Proposals will now be sent to the IOC Programme Commission and Sport Department, and this is very important for the Union so that we have a free hand to act for the future generations to come, and still not forgetting that we need to enable athletes to prepare properly for the Olympic Games Paris 2024.

For the next stage of Obstacle Discipline testing, we heard a request from Africa to host test events and yes, we will do this worldwide. All different societies will be asked for input so that our new-look sport can be as complete as possible.

The first day of the online UIPM 2022 Congress was held in a very, very friendly, and more popular in a growing sea of competing events vying for consumer attention,” – Michael Payne, former IOC Marketing Director (pictured below).

Participants in the online Congress fiercely debated the issues at stake, with advocates for the change and those who prefer to keep Riding demonstrating their shared passion for a sport that was created especially for the Olympic Games when it was introduced by Baron Pierre de Coubertin 110 years ago.

President Dr Klaus Schormann spoke in favour of the change, as did four other keynote speakers. Highlights from their addresses can be found below:

• “Modern Pentathlon’s objective in this effort isn’t only to save your sport, but it must also make the Games stronger. You must be a catalyst for a Games that attracts more youth, fosters greater fan engagement, is more broadcast friendly, and more popular in a growing sea of competing events vying for consumer attention,” – UIPM Vice President Joel Bouzou OLY

• “I cannot read the minds of the IOC Executive Board, other than to say this and say it for certain: if we do not approve the proposed new format going forward, we have zero chance of remaining in the Olympic Games,” – UIPM 1st Vice President and IOC Vice President Juan Antonio Samaranch

Malta and Guinea became the 130th and 131st National Federations to join the UIPM community after their applications for membership were rubber-stamped by Congress.

On the second and final day (November 13), Dr Klaus Schormann won a vote of no confidence in his position as UIPM President.

• “If we are brave enough, if we are willing to work together and place our emphasis on the athletes of tomorrow…not of the past…I am certain we can give future generations a truly “modern” version of Modern Pentathlon.” – UIPM Vice President Joel Bouzou OLY

• “We in the Union have to look to the future. We are not forgetting our past, our heritage, but our goal is the future and I think the transparency in how we presented this Congress should also be recognised.”

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• “I attended all four of the Obstacle Test Events. I even participated on the course, and I can tell you there is nothing easy about it. It is a demanding sport for every skill of an athlete. But more importantly, I listened to the athletes who participated,” – UIPM Athletes Committee Chair, Tasser Hefny OLY

• “If we are brave enough, if we are willing to work together and place our emphasis on the athletes of tomorrow…not of the past…I am certain we can give future generations a truly “modern” version of Modern Pentathlon.” – UIPM Vice President Joel Bouzou OLY

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UIPM President Dr. Klaus Schormann said: “The nations in our global community have again expressed confidence in my leadership, and this is a wonderful result for myself and for our Union. Even after 29 years, my leadership is ongoing and when I’m elected I do all my best with all my passion, and it was so nice to see the remarks from the nations and Executive Board Members who supported me.

“We are a big and strong team focused on the future, and I am sure that we will have success. There is one result that we want – to be in the Olympic Games in LA28 – and I thank all the nations who understand what we are doing, and are not only criticising. Criticism is sometimes good, but not permanently, knowing that the criticism will not help, it will only destroy.

“In sport you should always do what you can to develop for better times, stay together and look after the young generations. Therefore I’m more than happy to have got the votes in this way, overwhelmed that I’m the leader elected already last year with 87%, and I feel strongly motivated with my strong health to continue with my wonderful Executive Board members, staff and Commission and Committee members.”

On another day of energetic debate, Congress also voted on motions relating to anti-doping procedures, UIPM Election Rules, the UIPM Masters movement, Competition Rules in Modern Pentathlon and Biathlon-Triathlon, Riding reform – and UIPM Congress itself.

President Dr Schormann (pictured right) closed the event by declaring that all efforts will be made to fulfil the award of an in-person Congress to Antigua (GUA) in 2024.

President Dr Schormann added: “This Congress has shown how far we are, how openly and transparently we discuss important matters. There were a few nations from the first to the last second speaking and speaking, and we have shown that we listen to them, but we also have to ask nations to understand that we are a Union from all continents, and other nations also have the right to speak, to be respected, and that was clearly stated today.

“Regardless of the level of money and access to facilities in each country, we have to help each other. We are having terrible times with wars in some parts of the world, and we will continue to give support to those in danger, and to help our athletes in difficulty, not only in Ukraine but in other countries like Afghanistan too. We have to act for everybody, and I don’t forget our athletes in Belarus and Russia – they belong to our Union and let’s hope that a diplomatic way can be found for all athletes in our Union to compete and prepare for the next Olympic Games Paris 2024.”

All results of decisions were approved by a notary public. At the end of Congress, UIPM awarded the following competitions for 2023/24:

UIPM 2023 Pentathlon World Cup
- UIPM 2023 Pentathlon World Cup: Ankara (TUR)
- UIPM 2023 Pentathlon World Cup Final: Ankara (TUR)

UIPM 2023 World Championships
- UIPM 2023 Pentathlon Youth World Championships (U17) – Alexandria (EGY)
- UIPM 2023 Pentathlon Youth World Championships (U19) – Istanbul (TUR)

UIPM 2024 Pentathlon World Cup
- UIPM 2024 Pentathlon World Cup: Rome (ITA)
- UIPM 2024 Pentathlon World Cup Final – Ankara (TUR)

UIPM 2024 Pentathlon World Cup
- UIPM 2024 Pentathlon World Cup: Rome (ITA)
- UIPM 2024 Pentathlon World Cup Final – Ankara (TUR)

Finally, the winners were announced of the UIPM 2022 Annual Awards:

- UIPM 2022 Best Promoted Event: UIPM 2022 Pentathlon World Championships, Alexandria (EGY)
- UIPM 2022 Best Overall Event: UIPM 2022 Tetraathlon Youth World Championships (U19/U17), Lignano Sabbiadoro (ITA)
- UIPM 2022 Best New Organizer: Turkey (UIPM 2022 Pentathlon World Cup, Ankara & World Cup Final, New Pentathlon Discipline Test Event)
- UIPM 2022 Best Promoted Event to the Sport: Korean Modern Pentathlon Federation, Lithuania Modern Pentathlon Federation, Polish Modern Pentathlon Association – for special support to Ukraine
- UIPM 2022 Best Modern Pentathlon Relay Team: Italy
- UIPM 2022 Fair Play Award: Patrick Dougé OLY (GER)
- UIPM 2022 Best Overall Modern Pentathlon Team: Egypt
- UIPM 2022 Best Coach: Janos Martinek OLY (HUN)
- UIPM 2022 Best Youth Male Pentathlete: Moutaz Mohamed (EGY)
- UIPM 2022 Best Youth Female Pentathlete: Lucie Hlavackova (CZE)
- UIPM 2022 Best Junior Male Pentathlete: Mohamed Elgendy (EGY)
- UIPM 2022 Best Junior Female Pentathlete: Emma Whittaker (GBR)
- UIPM 2022 Best Senior Male Pentathlete: Joseph Choong OLY (GBR)
- UIPM 2022 Best Senior Female Pentathlete: Michelle Gulyas OLY
UIPM releases dates for major competitions in 2023

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 in Ankara (TUR).

The latter competition 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 Semifinals 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 Championships (3)
- 2023 Africa 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. Visit uipmworld.org/olympic-games 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), Dresno (POL), Madrid (ESP), Bishkek (KGZ) and Cairo (EGY).

UIPM President Dr Klaus Schormann said: “One month ago we had a 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.

I thank everybody who is involved in preparations for Paris 2024, which will be a very special Olympic Games held in the home city of the founder of Modern Pentathlon, Baron Pierre de Coubertin.”
Athletes invited to study with scholarship at the World Academy of Sport

Pentathletes have again been invited to apply for a scholarship to study sports management at the World Academy of Sport (WAoS).

One successful applicant will be awarded a 100% scholarship to undertake the Postgraduate Certificate (PG Cert) in International Sports Management. Up to 10 others can secure a 25% scholarship to cover £974 of the £3,896 course fee.

Ideal candidates for the scholarship will be elite pentathletes who are still active or beginning their transition into a post-athletic career. All applicants should have an undergraduate degree or at least five years of relevant management experience.

Apart from being able to study for the PGCert without paying course fees, the athlete who secures the 100% scholarship will also be offered a six-month internship with UIPM.

The other main eligibility criteria applies to non-native English speakers, who must have the equivalent of a 6.5 IELTS language certificate or a written piece that confirms. They must also have access to a computer with an internet connection.

The course is run in conjunction with the University of London and the core modules address the key areas of Strategy, Leadership, Governance and Financial Management, with two further elective modules.

The offer is part of a Memorandum of Understanding between UIPM and the World Academy of Sport (WAoS) initiated in 2020.

The Athletes’ Opportunities section of UIPM’s new Athletes Centred Programme (ACP) will provide registered athletes with a list of opportunities from UIPM and partners including international Olympic and sports organisations. This list is updated weekly.

All scholarship applications will be evaluated by WAoS, the University of London and UIPM. For any questions please contact projects@pentathlon.org

UIPM Coaches Certification Programme: Entry point for 24 coaches in Sattahip (THA)

Thailand has made excellent strides in UIPM Sports development in recent years and 24 coaches from the country recently gained their first qualification.

The introductory Coaches Certification Programme (CCP) course in Sattahip (THA) closely followed Thailand’s latest appearance in the UIPM Biathle-Triathle World Championships in Machico (POR), where they featured on the medal table.

In August, athletes from the country took part in New Pentathlon Discipline Test Event II in Manila (PHI), and the leading Thai pentathletes are in preparation for the 2023 Asian Games in Hangzhou (CHN).

The week-long Level 1 CCP course from November 7-12 was overseen by UIPM Instructor Bernhard Petruschinski (GER), who said: “The Modern Pentathlon Association of Thailand (MPAT) can be proud that so many participants passed the CCP Level 1 course and can start to spread their Modern Pentathlon knowledge now in various institutions.

“It was also amazing to see what kind of impact this course can have if participants are all open-minded. The first day was full of doubts, problems and barriers to the potential for development of Modern Pentathlon here.

“The presentation on the last day of the course on the same question was totally different: full of new ideas, optimistic thoughts and hopes for the future of the sport in Thailand. That shows me how the idea and structure of the UIPM CCP can help to change mindsets in just five days.”

Journey begins for 22 coaches in Cochabamba (BOL)

The city of Cochabamba has become an epicentre for Modern Pentathlon in Bolivia in recent years. Having already hosted the 2017 South American Championships and 2018 ODESUR Games, the city recently opened its doors to a new generation of pentathletes as it staged the 2022 South & Pan American Youth Championships (U19/U17).

In the days running up to the competition, 22 coaches gained their first qualification as Modern Pentathlon coaches, completing a week-long Level 1 UIPM Coaches Certification Programme (CCP) course from November 12-16.

Ten female and 12 male coaches gained the qualification and UIPM Instructor Guillermo Filipi (ARG), who oversaw the course, said: “The UIPM courses generate an excellent opportunity for coaches to

Tuition takes place on the beach and in the classroom for Level 1 CCP coaches in Sattahip (THA), who received their certificates from UIPM Instructor Bernhard Petruschinski (bottom)
continue increasing their knowledge.

“In many countries they are motivated to continue advancing in the development of our sport in America. I’m very happy and grateful to be able to provide these tools.”

Jorge Salas OLY, President of the South American Modern Pentathlon Confederation, added: “It was very pleasing to see the Level 1 coaching seminar take place in Bolivia soon after the Level 2 course in Argentina.

“This development opportunity in Cochabamba not only provided 22 coaches with a new qualification, it also helped to focus minds ahead of the South & Pan American Youth Championships, helping Bolivia to do a great job of hosting.

“We look forward to seeing the continued development of Modern Pentathlon in Bolivia, where the sport can grow in profile with inclusion in competitions such as the Bolivarian Games.”

“The mix of knowledge was an asset as it spurred good discussion. Participants came from different regions of South Africa, and several had never met each other in the past.”

Jenny O’Hanlon, Secretary General of the South African Modern Pentathlon Association (SAMPA), said: “This was a great milestone for SAMPA as we formalise our coaches certification. This is also a requirement from our National Olympic Committee.

“The commitment from our coaches in a quest to understand the complex and complete athlete bodes well for the future of pentathletes in South Africa.”

Like all CCP courses, coaches will earn their Level 1 and Level 2 qualifications when they conclude the syllabus by completing e-learning courses covering anti-doping and harassment prevention.

UIPM Instructor Guillermo Filipi gives advice to Level 1 CCP coaches in Cochabamba (BOL) beside the Swimming pool, above, and poses with the successful students as they gained their qualifications, right.

Thirteen coaches empowered by Level 2 course in Cape Town (THA)

South Africa is a perennial powerhouse in Triathle, Biathle and Laser Run and continues to work on supporting athletes to make the grade in Modern Pentathlon.

To that end, 13 coaches were empowered by a week of personal development in Cape Town (RSA) as they earned the Level 2 qualification of the UIPM Coaches Certification Programme (CCP).

The course took place at Stellenbosch Academy of Sport from December 7-11 and was overseen by UIPM Level 3 coach and Beijing 2008 Olympian Joshua Riker-Fox (CAN).

Joshua Riker-Fox said: “The Level 2 course took place in an excellent venue with training facilities a short walk away. It was good to see that the course was followed by a training camp, enabling the coaches to immediately put their new skills and learnings into practice.

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Coaches Committee Chair Statement

UIPM Coaches Committee Chairman Christian Roudaut said: “It was very pleasing to hear about the success of the Level 1 CCP courses in Thailand and Bolivia, which enabled 46 coaches to gain a qualification through expert tuition and to refine their coaching techniques in Modern Pentathlon.

“I would like to thank Bernhard and Guillermo and everybody involved in these successful introductory courses, another sign of progress in our movement which can inspire other countries in South-east Asia, South America and all around the world.

“Also it’s great news that 13 coaches from South Africa progressed to Level 2 of the CCP. I would like to thank Josh and everybody involved in this successful course, which demonstrates South Africa’s commitment to the development of athletes who can compete at all levels.”

‘It felt like we were truly united through sports’ – Kyra Seow (SGP) on the UTS World Youth Festival

When the world went into lockdown and meaningful engagement could only be achieved by virtual ingenuity, many people rose to the challenge and exceeded their own expectations and those of others.

One such individual was Kyra Seow of Singapore, who received an award for her “truly outstanding” work as an Ambassador for UIPM Sports in the inaugural Virtual Youth Festival (VYF) in 2020.

The VYF was the initiative of United
Through Sports (UTS), with patronage from the International Olympic Committee, Paralympic Committee, Special Olympics, SportAccord, GAISF, and AIMS. And when the chance came to continue her ambassadorial role in person at the 2022 UTS World Youth Festival in Bangkok (THA) in November, Kyra jumped at the chance. Below the inspirational 13-year-old describes her experience in her own words.

I was honoured to represent Singapore and UIPM at the UTS World Youth Festival 2022 in Thailand as one of 15 selected UTS Youth Ambassadors.

The day before the festival began, we had an Ambassador Welcome dinner where I finally met my fellow UTS ambassadors in person after only seeing them virtually the past three years! I felt like I was meeting my extended family after a long time. When the opening ceremony was about to commence the following day at Srinakharinwirot University, a downpour started just as the performers began their drumbeat. We quickly moved under shelter. I was amazed at how quickly the organisers dried up the seats, amazing Thailand! Everyone immediately came back together to clean up, and it was a special moment for me as I felt we were truly united through sports.

Throughout the ceremony, I was constantly awed by the myriad of talent on show from Muay Thai performance to symphony orchestra and hip hop dance. Again, amazing Thailand! I was glad to be part of this grand ceremony as a flag bearer in a parade with my fellow ambassadors at the flag handover.

Over the next few days, I took part in many educational seminars by presenters from eminent sporting organisations on a range of topics impacting the sporting fraternity such as anti-doping, gender equality, human trafficking and youth development. There were many sports, including para sporting activities. That I could try throughout the festival, I also participated in workshops on self-defence and Muay Thai where I had the honour of training with world champions. I was impressed how inclusive and non-judgmental everyone was. They made me feel so welcome.

I even had the privilege of sharing the stage with the UTS President, Stephan Fox, talking about Modern Pentathlon and my personal story, and promoting my multi-advocacy project to encourage every individual to do their part no matter how big or small to make the world a better place. I made this presentation to the sports leaders present and it was also broadcast on the Olympic Channel, Festival website and the UTS YouTube channel.

The UTS World Youth Festival was an eye-opener and great learning experience for me. I learned first-hand how UTS is making a difference in thousands of children’s lives around the world through sports and education. I had such a blast and will definitely keep in touch with my fellow ambassadors, and I hope to meet everyone again! A big thank you to UIPM for giving me the opportunity.

UTS President Stephan Fox said: “UTS Ambassadors were at the centre of the UTS World Youth Festival 2022 in the heart of Bangkok. Kyra was invited as a selected exceptional ambassador, not only to meet the other young leaders, but to also take an active role in the educational and sporting activities.

“We are proud of Kyra and are honoured to have her join us, representing UIPM as an ambassador of sport under the Olympic values, and promoting inclusion of everybody.”

UTS CEO Julia Govinden added: “I have seen Kyra grow over the last few years with dedication, consistency and heart. Through the power of sport we have invited young change-makers such as Kyra to have the opportunity to unite with shared values, moving together as one.”

“UTS works to give opportunity and Kyra has been phenomenal not only during the festival but before it, and no doubt she will continue advocating for a better world through her environmental project. We look forward to contributing towards Kyra’s journey and will do our best to nurture a community of youth who we believe can truly change the world.”

JOEL BOUZOU OLY said: “It is an immense honour to receive this 2022 Peace Summit Award. I would like to thank the World Summit of Nobel Peace Laureates Committee for the great recognition it has given to the approach we have chosen 15 years ago: contributing to a more inclusive and peaceful world through sport.”

Kailash Satyarthi, 2014 Nobel Peace Laureate, added: “Peace and Sport has built a growing international community of peace through sport change makers worldwide, composed of political decision-makers, peace leaders, civil societies, NGOs, athletes and sport institutions, with great achievements.”
The UIPM President, Dr Klaus Schormann, attended two days of meetings in Paris (FRA) designed to strengthen heritage and educational links with the family of the founder of Modern Pentathlon, Baron Pierre de Coubertin.

With the Paris 2024 Olympic Games now just 18 months away, the Coubertin family is eager to promote the legacy of the man who was central to the revival of the Olympics and the philosophy of Olympism at the start of the 20th century.

UIPM also takes strong responsibility for telling the story of the origins of Modern Pentathlon, and promoting the positive values espoused by Coubertin, who created the five-discipline sport especially for the Olympic Games and introduced it to the world in Stockholm in 1912.

UIPM President Dr Schormann said: “We are so thankful that members of the UIPM Pierre de Coubertin Commission had the chance to enjoy deep discussions with the Coubertin family during this visit.

“It was fascinating to visit locations that were so special to Coubertin himself, including the 16th-century castle in Normandy where he lived. We got a lot of background information about the whole society, about the origins of Pierre and his family. It’s important to understand that Coubertin was not only an educator who created the modern Olympic movement, he was also an artist and a writer.

“The Commission discussed a number of activities that will start in the coming year to enlarge the knowledge of athletes, from the youngest to the most high-profile, in preparation for the Olympic Games Paris 2024 in Coubertin’s home country.

“Promoting the legacy and heritage of Coubertin is one of UIPM’s main goals, and we do so with close cooperation with the Pierre de Coubertin Committee under the leadership of Prof Dr Stephan Wassong, and other societies like the Olympic Academies and the International Olympic Academy in Olympia.

“We hope to give our athletes a better understanding of where our sport originated – from the movement of Coubertin, who created Modern Pentathlon as the only sport designed especially for the Olympic Games.

“During the trip we also discussed our mutual understanding of the historic changes in our sport, and it was clearly underlined by all the living members of the Coubertin family that had the Baron been with us today, he would choose to introduce other disciplines, just as he did in the beginning of the 20th century when the ancient Pentathlon was modernised.

“Therefore, we are living in the philosophy of Coubertin, following the advice of his statements and making sure that his vision remains intact to this day.”

Alexandra de Navacelle added: “L’Association Familiale Pierre de Coubertin took great pleasure in taking the UIPM Pierre de Coubertin Commission members on a two-day visit following the footsteps of Pierre de Coubertin and his family.

“We were especially touched by the interest and attention that the Commission Members expressed in understanding Coubertin’s roots and the philosophy of his work, and the importance of his influence on modern sport and Olympic ideals.”
the historical context he lived it. We look forward to collaborating with the UIPM on cultural programmes to promote the philosophy behind the Olympics. Alain Lunzenfichter, a renowned former editor of L’Équipe newspaper who was President of the World Association of Olympic Journalists from 2006-2014, wrote his own description of the experience, an English translation of which appears below.

Most people know the story of Pierre de Coubertin and that of the renovation of the modern Olympic Games at the Sorbonne on 23 June, 1894 and the birth of the IOC. This is the official side of its extraordinary story, but it is only the tip of its iceberg, the unknown part is just as abundant.

This is what the UIPM Pierre de Coubertin Commission tried to discover during a rainy weekend in mid-November 2022.

In fact, we discovered not only Pierre de Coubertin, but also his entire family. That of the past but also that which still perpetuates the memory of the renovator today.

In fact, President Klaus Schormann at the head of the Commission was surprised by the traces left by Pierre de Coubertin and his family in Paris and Minville, where the renovator of the Olympic Games spent all his youth.

The first stop of the commission at the Coubertin Foundation in Saint-Rémy-lès-Chevreuse in the suburbs of Paris. This foundation was born from the meeting of Yvonne de Coubertin, Pierre’s niece, humanist of conviction and Jean Bernard, artist and stonemason, President of the Fenelon association, she made her life and fortune available to this association and was keen to offer young girls accommodation that did not exist at the beginning of the 1920s.

Very quickly the foundation became mixed and became a workers’ university which welcomed each year about 30 young men and women exercising a manual trade with board and lodging in Saint-Rémy-lès-Chevreuse. They were dedicated to the trades of carpentry, metalwork, stone cutting and masonry as well as foundry and boilermaking.

These young people dedicated their time to working for the Rodin Museum, for the renovation of many sites throughout the France and in particular the gates of honour of the Palace of Versailles, where coincidentally, the Modern Pentathlon events will take place during the Paris 2024 Olympic Games.

With Alexandra de Navacelle de Coubertin, Member of our Commission, we visited the Sorbonne where Pierre de Coubertin gave his speech on the renovation of the Olympic Games on June 23, 1894. It was moving to see the plaque in the office on the first floor of the University that traces this event.

In the company of Yvan de Navacelle we were able to admire the paintings of Charles de Coubertin, Pierre’s father. They are enshrined in the churches of the Foreign Mission and Saint-Ignace in Paris. The Commission then took the direction of Normandy and its green countryside.

After almost three hours’ drive we arrived at a beautiful house of the 16th century, recognized as a historical monument in 1975, where each room retains the feeling of the presence of Pierre de Coubertin. The small lake adjoining the castle still resonates with the bursts of voices of the renovator who rowed there. Jacques de Navacelle, with a brief history of the castle, gave the opportunity to follow in the footsteps of the family of Pierre de Coubertin, the inventor of the Modern Pentathlon.

Our end of 2022 reflections and 2023 resolutions

The end of a year is a time for reflection, and the start of a new year is about resolution.

As we say goodbye to 2022 and prepare to say hello to 2023, it’s no different to the normal routine but the feelings are stronger, because these are momentous times for our movement.

First let us reflect on 2022. If we didn’t think anything could be more challenging than 2021, we were wrong, but sometimes it takes adversity for humanity to truly thrive. Our athletes certainly thrived in 2022, adapting to the demands of a new competition format. In Modern Pentathlon to underline why they are the most versatile athletes in the world.

The shorter elimination system was challenging for athletes, but they adapted really smoothly, and we also received great feedback from TV networks that demonstrated the value of this change.

Across the UIPM Sports pyramid, there was deserved reward for commitment and endeavour. We saw record participation levels in the UIPM Laser Run and Biathle-Triathle World Championships, where athletes of all ages reminded us of the sheer joy of sport in a global context, which was so sadly missed in 2020 and for much of 2021.

Outside of our established sports and disciplines, there were also unforgettable
scenes of enjoyment and fun, not to mention athletic prowess, in the four Obstacle Discipline Test Events that brought a new future dimension to Modern Pentathlon.

After the overwhelming support for this new concept at the 72nd UIPM Congress, which was an open forum for National Federations to express constructive opinions about the implementations and improvements needed, we are just a few months from integrating Obstacle into Modern Pentathlon for the first time in the UIPM Youth and Junior World Championships.

Nobody can deny that this is a seismic change in our sport, with a new discipline added to UIPM Statutes for the first time, but it does maintain a pattern of continuous development based on the 4E programme (Education, Equipment, Empowerment, and Expansion) since 2015, where the results and numbers tell a powerful story about our sports pyramid.

Change creates communication challenges but again, this is not new for our sport. That said, we did see positive signs of continuous engagement with our existing community, while also taking the opportunity provided by the new discipline to reach out to wider audiences.

Communication, Conduction, Coordination, Commitment and Continuity were the key words of 2022, and their successful implementation was dependent on the whole UIPM team’s tireless work and endeavour.

Now on to our aims for 2023. This is a vital year for the careers of many athletes working hard to fulfill their dreams by qualifying for the Paris 2024 Olympic Games. The new format designed for Paris has been successfully embedded but Riding is still a focal point and the discipline will continue to be monitored and reviewed and improved throughout the season, to ensure that the world sees the best possible Modern Pentathlon showcase in Versailles in the summer of 2024.

Good governance is our commitment to the community, and it will also be continuously improved. Not only will the new-look Modern Pentathlon with Obstacle be introduced in our Junior, U19 and U17 World Championships, it will also be a feature of regional and national competitions, and all results will be channelled towards further conduction and improvement so that it can be incorporated smoothly into senior events after 2024.

Following the publication of UIPM’s first Obstacle Discipline Competition Guidelines, a further series of resources will be released in January, February and March to support athletes, coaches, officials and National Federations and facilitate the new discipline’s integration. Additional services will be provided and built to facilitate the participation and the process for NFs and organisers. Above all, UIPM’s new year resolution and the most important objective of the whole sport in 2023 will be to secure Modern Pentathlon’s place on the Los Angeles 2028 Olympic programme. To achieve that, we must move forward as a community with collective purpose.

Unity, Solidarity, Opportunity, Embracing and Strengthening will be the key words for 2023, and we look forward to working closely with all of you for the greater good of the sport and for our young generations!

Dr Klaus Schormann | UIPM President
Shiny Fang | UIPM Secretary General
President Dr Klaus Schormann’s activities

03.11.2022: AMPC General Assembly

UIPM President Dr Klaus Schormann joined the online General Assembly of the Asian Modern Pentathlon Confederation (AMPC) and gave a short briefing about the role that sport can play in times of war.

President Dr Schormann praised the humanitarian aid that was provided to Ukraine in 2022 by the AMPC and the Korean Modern Pentathlon Federation, where Ukrainian athletes were directly supported to train in countries such as Poland and Germany.

He also discussed ways support can be provided to other NFs where sporting activity is restricted by a difficult political situation, such as Afghanistan. He suggested that neighbouring countries could again play a vital role, where it is not easy to provide support inside the country. In this way the AMPC and UIPM will find a way to help athletes in Afghanistan. In general, the UIPM President underlined that the Union is taking care of athletes as a priority, especially when political events are interfering with sporting activities.

08.11. - 13.11.2022: Nice, FRA

UIPM President Dr Klaus Schormann chaired a two-day UIPM Executive Board meeting that included deep discussion and preparation of documents for the 72nd UIPM Congress, which took place online and marked a historical turning point for the Modern Pentathlon movement.

When the General Assembly voted with 83% of the eligible votes in favour of adding Obstacle Discipline to the UIPM Statutes and Competition Rules, it created new possibilities for nations that until now have struggled to enable athletes to compete in all five disciplines. Obstacle gives Modern Pentathlon an opportunity not only to survive but to become one of the most dynamic, popular and accessible sports in the Olympic Games, reducing the cost and complexity of the sport and attracting a new audience.

17.11. - 20.11.2022: Paris / Normandy, FRA

President Dr Schormann met with the UIPM Pierre de Coubertin Commission to discuss an action plan for the coming years linked to the Olympic Games Paris 2024. They visited various important sites integral to the life and legacy of Baron Pierre de Coubertin, the founder of the modern Olympic Games and creator of Modern Pentathlon.

The Commission had several meetings with the Coubertin family and such meetings are very valuable in strengthening the heritage and legacy of Coubertin’s Olympic multi-sport. UIPM has a responsibility for telling the story of the origins of Modern Pentathlon and promoting its positive values.

During the trip, Commission Members gained precious insights from the Coubertin family, their Association and the background work they are doing.
Alexandra de Navacelle de Coubertin, as well as her father Yvan, his brother Jacques and his son Thibaut joined the Commission in all visits to Meville and La Sorbonne university in Paris.

23.11.2022: Brainstorming session

President Dr Klaus Schormann chaired a video meeting with representatives of the UIPM Athletes Committee, Executive Board and Innovation Commission to discuss further steps in developing and promoting Obstacle as a newly-elected discipline of Modern Pentathlon.

In a brainstorming format, the group spoke about the options for staging Obstacle events in the coming years and where they should take place. For UIPM it is important that athletes’ voices are heard and they can put their opinions, suggestions and proposals on the table.

27.11. - 29.11.2022: Lausanne, SUI

In his capacity as a Member of the IOC Culture & Olympic Heritage Commission, UIPM President Dr Klaus Schormann attended a Session on November 28 at the Olympic Museum.

The Commission, chaired by IOC Member Khunying Patama Leeswadtrakul, discussed important steps and actions for the coming year.

The agenda included:
• 2022 updates, success and key projects of the Olympic Foundation for Culture and Heritage
• Futureproofing our digital ecosystem and expanding reach
• Olympic values and education’s role in arts and culture initiatives
• Olympic Studies Centre.

After the meeting the Commission had a tour of the Olympic Museum and the Olympic Studies Centre.

IF Forum
While in Lausanne (SUI), UIPM President Dr Klaus Schormann participated along with Secretary General Shiny Fang, Operations Director Alexandre Franca and Executive Assistant Lena Nussbaumer in the International Federations Forum in Lausanne under the theme: “Leading the way in safe sport and sustainable development”.

Day one of the forum featured powerful keynotes on human rights and sustainability, which can help to strengthen the principles for good governance in sport. The UIPM delegation met Dr Harald Vervaecke, President of the Belgian Modern Pentathlon Federation and Secretary General of the International Lifesaving Federation.

30.11. - 01.12.2022: Monaco

UIPM President Dr Klaus Schormann attended the Peace & Sport Awards, hosted by Peace and Sport Founder and President Joel Bouzou OLY – former world champion pentathlete and UIPM Vice President.

President Dr Schormann had a short meeting with UIPM’s Honorary President, HSH Prince Albert II of Monaco, who expressed his congratulations on the successful 72nd UIPM Congress held online earlier in November.

The Peace & Sport Awards are an annual highlight for various organisations that try to make a positive difference to lives through sporting initiatives. The
Special Jury Prize was awarded to the International Cycling Union (UCI), which has set up solidarity actions in favour of Afghan women cyclists.

**03.12. - 10.12.2022: Cape Town, RSA**

UIPM President Dr Klaus Schormann travelled to South Africa for meetings with the Executive Board of the African Confederation of Modern Pentathlon (CAPM).

After a briefing from President Dr Schormann and Dr Viacheslav Malishev, UIPM EB Members discussed the preparation of African teams for the Dakar 2026 Youth Olympic Games, which will be the first Olympics to be held in the continent.

President Dr Schormann said: “It was very important that, together with the EB Members of CAPM, we discussed ways to make our sporting movement as strong as possible in Africa in preparation for the Youth Olympic Games Dakar 2026. Also we discussed deeply the possibilities for future development of Modern Pentathlon across the whole continent.

“The new Obstacle Discipline, which will replace Riding after Paris 2024, offers great potential for countries all over the world but especially in Africa, where the lack of horses has limited the growth of Modern Pentathlon until now. We are very confident that the integration of Obstacle into our sport will make it much more accessible for athletes worldwide.”

Dr Viacheslav Malishev added: “We had a very important and useful meeting with the CAPM EB and I’m delighted to see that an action plan for 2023 is in place. We’re very happy to continue working closely together with the Confederation President and all EB Members.”

In addition to meeting with SAMPA President Frans van Niekerk, UIPM President Dr Schormann also met with two of his predecessors and former pentathletes, Mark Wiley (a former Senator and Western Cape Interior Minister) and Neil Fourie (a stadium and sport facility designer and project manager previously commissioned by the IOC to design two IOC Youth Development Centres in Haiti and Zambia). All have enthusiastically embraced the addition of Obstacle to the sport with the aim of inclusion in the Los Angeles 2028 Olympic Games.

Presidents Schormann and van Niekerk also met with regional political leaders Anroux Marais (Western Cape Provincial Minister for Sport and Culture), Hermann van der Westhuizen (Western Cape Head of Ministry of Cultural Affairs & Sport) and Alderman JP Smith (City of Cape Town Executive Committee Member with responsibility for Events, Safety and Security).

They discussed future Modern Pentathlon projects in South Africa, including competitions in the Western Cape Province, and training and seminars in Stellenbosch and Cape Town. Minister Marais also reiterated support for Obstacle’s addition to the Modern Pentathlon format, and pledged to help with all future SAMPA activities.

The UIPM President’s visit included a meeting at the Stellenbosch University of Sport with participants in
A UIPM coaching seminar, where Dr Schormann, Dr Malishev and SAMPA President Niekerk briefed the coaches on next steps for competitions including Obstacle as a replacement for Riding and preparatory steps for Paris 2024.

In recognition of SAMPA’s 70th anniversary and the UIPM 1996 Pentathlon World Cup Final in Stellenbosch (RSA), UIPM President Dr Schormann planted a tree together with Dr Malishev, SAMPA EB Members and coaching seminar participants.

On December 8, the trip concluded with a visit to a multi-sport complex in Franschhoek that is under construction based on a design by Mr Fourie. The complex includes a FINA (International Swimming Federation) high-performance centre and will offer facilities for all Modern Pentathlon disciplines.

In January 2023, SAMPA President Van Niekerk will prepare all documentation to acquire the necessary assistance to develop new Modern Pentathlon training facilities that include Obstacle Discipline.

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The latest UIPM World Rankings, World Cup Rankings and Olympic Games Rankings are all available at www.pentathlon.org.
UNION INTERNATIONALE DE PENTATHLON MODERNE

O SPORT, YOU ARE PEACE!
You promote happy relations between peoples,
bringing them together in their shared devotion to a strength which is controlled,
organised and self-disciplined.

Ode to Sport by Pierre de Coubertin, founder of the Modern Olympic Games

SEASON’S GREETINGS & HAPPY NEW YEAR 2023