Competitive spirit and global community friendship were strong themes of the UIPM 2023 Biathle/Triathle World Championships in blissful Bali (INA)
Life’s a beach in Bali (INA) as 450 athletes from 34 nations savour a spectacular week of competition.

Athletes from all six continents joined in a global celebration of beach multi-sport as blissful Bali hosted the UIPM 2023 Biathle-Triathle World Championships.

With a mixed running course of sand, grass and asphalt, and ocean currents setting a stern swimming test in hot and humid conditions, the competition served up a highly demanding test of athleticism. It was also a joyous sporting experience for the many families who competed across age categories stretching from Under 9 to Masters 70+.

Two-time Olympian Gintare Venckauskaite of Lithuania proved her versatility by becoming senior world champion across Triathle and Biathle, with elite pentathlete team-mate Ieva Serapinaite (LTU) winning silver in both finals.

Titas Puronas (LTU) won the Senior Men’s Triathle before Triathle silver medallist Meirlan Iskakov of Kazakhstan broke the run of Lithuania – who also won both Mixed Relay titles – by clinching the Senior Men’s Biathle gold.

In total, 450 athletes from 34 nations flocked to one of Indonesia’s prime beauty spots to participate in the popular two-format Championships, with Biathle and Triathle Mixed Relays and Individual Semi-finals and Finals stretching across four days.

UIPM 2023 Biathle/Triathle World Championships

Across the age categories, there was no doubting the dominant force as South Africa claimed an incredible haul of almost 50 gold medals. Thailand led the Asian challenge with an impressive seven golds, with three staying in the host nation Indonesia. World titles were also claimed by Egypt, Germany, Hungary, Japan, Korea and Portugal.

UIPM President Dr Klaus Schormann said: “First of all, I think it was the right decision from us to accept the offer from the National Federation of Indonesia to host the UIPM 2023 Biathle-Triathle World Championships here in Bali. This is a great place for tourism and now more and more for sport. It was a big promotion for our future aspirations of being included in the Asian Beach Games.

“In Asia we have the biggest population in the world, and to have more National Federations taking part in all UIPM multi-sports is very important for development – as we saw recently with the Southeast Asian Championships in Pattaya, Thailand.

“We have great possibilities in Asia for more grassroots development and later to see more young athletes training for Fencing and then being able to compete in a full Pentathlon thanks to the integration of Obstacle. We have a new challenge in front of us and Asia is very important on the commercial side and on the media side.”

Champions’ Reaction

Women’s Senior double champion Venckauskaite (LTU) said: “Yesterday I said that the Triathle was five times harder than Pentathlon, but today with Biathle I’m saying it’s 10 times harder! When you are swimming, you think maybe you are close to 200m and then you see the buoy and realise it’s 100m more, so it’s very hard.

“I just thought about getting to the finish; it doesn’t matter in what place. It’s a fight with myself. I think our Federation will be very happy with the result, and we will have a small party now because yesterday was my birthday. Today we will have the chance to celebrate.”

Men’s Senior Biathle champion Iskakov (KAZ) said: “Today the Biathle was easier than the Triathle, and it’s so good for our team to have the top three places. Kazakhstan was strongest today but congratulations to all teams that competed. We are triathletes and we can run fast, but we are not so good at shooting, that’s why today was easier.”

There was drama aplenty as competition stayed hot in every age category.

The stunning blue waters of Indonesia’s stunning tourist hotspot of Bali were both an incredible backdrop and the scene of frenetic action.

Emotions ran high with world championships medals on the line early and often.
Men’s Junior double champion Barenthaler (AUT) said: “It’s amazing to have two gold medals.”

Girls’ U9 double gold medallist Roqia Abd Alsalam (EGY) said: “I am so happy for this medal. I thank my parents and all of the coaches behind me. I appreciate the efforts that everyone has done for me. I don’t ever get tired because I trained well.”

After winning an incredible photo finish in the Women’s Biathle U17 Final, double champion Simone Van der Merwe (RSA) said: “When I went around the bend I was nearly dead and then one of my team-mates was shouting from the side and I just thought with all these people watching, I would give it a try – and I did it. It was so close.”

Men’s U17 Biathle champion Guilherme Neves (POR) said: “I competed with a guy from Great Britain who was really strong. I tried to stay on his feet during the swim and we came out at the same time and I knew I was a little bit better in the running than him. I’m really proud. I worked hard to be able to compete here and my country should be really proud, and I’m really happy.”

Men’s U19 Biathle champion Youssef Amer (EGY) said: “I’m so happy. I came here to take this medal. I was world champion in 2022 in Madeira and now I defend my title. I thank my coaches, the National Bank of Egypt and everyone who supported me. I was a little sad from yesterday when I didn’t win, but I came back hard today to get the gold.”

Women’s Masters 40+ double champion Andrea Ranger (RSA) said: “It’s amazing. I’m very well pleased with that. I’m happy to pay for the excess luggage for four gold medals! I was happy and confident but it all depends on race day. There are so few ladies, elderly ladies, who do this so I’d just like to encourage more mums. Just participate, it’s really fun!”

Masters 70+ Biathle men’s champion Johan Windt (RSA) said: “It’s absolute hard work. Your mind wants to go but your body says no. It’s not easy any more. You train hard, you train more cleverly but it’s not easy. The children said I have to keep on going. The event was so well organised...except for the sea. The sea wasn’t easy this week!”

Women’s Masters 70+ Biathle gold medallist and Triathle silver medallist Emily Lean See Freund (GER) said: “It was a very hard run. It is really, really hot. I had to put in a lot of energy to get into first place. “It’s a lot of hard training and energy put into it. Not an easy job. It is very important to encourage the young ones to join in. At this age you need to learn that you can do it to a ripe old age. You just need to stick with it and have discipline.”
Leading off...

Golden tickets are gone in a flash with Modern Pentathlon among sports to put up sold-out signs

In a recent interview with UIPM News, rising Great Britain star Kerenza Bryson explained how snaring a quota qualification spot for Paris 2024 opened the door to a brand new stress: how to ensure loved ones can be there to watch their Olympic mission.

“I’ve got a good few tickets already but they’re really difficult to get hold of,” Bryson said. “We get given two tickets each and the rest we have to figure out. So I’ve been navigating the ballots on phone screen on November 30 when the latest batch of golden tickets were made available. We hope they weren’t left disappointed but it’s quite possible they were.

Remarkably, of the 400,000 tickets put on sale, 380,000 sold within the first 24 hours according to IOC officials. That meant that with a full seven months to go to the Opening Ceremony, 75 million tickets out of 10 million overall for the Olympic Games have been sold. “As a result of this overwhelming demand, the Organising Committee decided to put an additional 50,000 tickets on sale,” an IOC update reported. “More than 20 disciplines are currently sold out. Since the start of the sales, tickets have been sold to spectators from 197 countries in addition to France. Great Britain, USA, Germany and the Netherlands are the top five countries along with France.”

It appears that Modern Pentathlon, which will be hosted in the stunning grounds of the Palace of Versailles from Thursday August 8 to Sunday August 11, is indeed among those sports currently sold out. A trawl through the Paris 2024 ticketing site found not a single ticket available for any of the Modern Pentathlon sessions.

While there will still be a couple more windows in 2024 for those final few tickets, Bryson and her supporters will have to be quick on the click given how scorching demand has been so far.

> Paris Pointer

Turkish delight as Unal and Ozyuksel show off an adventurous spirit in the pursuit of Olympic places

Nobody said that the road from home to Paris had to be a straight-forward one. It’s often the case that the road less-travelled can offer plenty of opportunities.

An adventurous attitude is already paying off for Turkish teammates like Ozyuksel and Bugra Unal. The duo have shown so much prowess as a pairing, most emphatically when they won UIPM 2023 Pentathlon World Cup Mixed Relay on home turf in Ankara (TUR) in April. But taking their show on the road has reaped rewards too.

The rebranded UIPM Pentathlon Challengers series of competitions offer a precious route towards Olympic qualification in the form of ranking points, with three events having taken place so far and the fourth and final instalment rapidly approaching in January in Egypt.

At the most recent event in Bishkek, the capital of Kyrgyzstan in mid-October, Ozyuksel (TUR) and Unal (TUR) came out on top, both claiming gold medals and a haul of ranking points. Ozyuksel (TUR) was already significantly further up the World Rankings than her teammate but that victory helped push her inside the top five in the world, with the four ahead of her already having grabbed quota qualification spots.

Unal (TUR) has further to go but has shown his hunger to keep on climbing. Having recorded a respectable 15th place at UIPM Pentathlon Challenger Spain in Madrid in early October, his victory in Kyrgyzstan saw him move inside the top 50 in the World Rankings but also inside the top three of the Olympic Rankings.

Always such a positive fun-loving duo when teaming up, Ozyuksel and Unal have found success the hard way. Perhaps it can take them to Paris.

Numbers game

90,000 The number of people who have applied to be torch bearers on the Olympic Torch Relay from Greece to Paris. While there are a whopping 10,000 slots available that still means there are going to be tens of thousands of disappointed fans who will have to make do with cheering along the Relay route.

Qualification latest

At the end of the 2023 Pan American Games in Santiago (CHI) in November, 44 of the 72 quota places at Paris 2024 had been claimed. Women: Italy (2), Great Britain (2), China, Japan, Korea, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Spain, Lithuania, France, Hungary, Germany, Egypt, Australia, Czech Republic, Mexico, USA, Brazil, Ecuador and the International Athletes Team (EAI). Men: Egypt (2), Mexico (2), Italy, China, Japan, Korea, Thailand, Kazakhstan, Great Britain, Hungary, France, Germany, Poland, Ukraine, Switzerland, Australia, Ecuador, Cuba, Argentina and EAI.

Now that more than 60% of the precious places at Paris have been secured, the focus will shift to the remaining 28 berths. However the hectic qualification rush over recent months will now slow down a little with no further places being decided until June 2024.

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

Sports lovers from across the globe will be descending on Paris with the IOC confirming that people from 197 countries have bought tickets. Picture: IOC

Qualification latest

At the end of the 2023 Pan American Games in Santiago (CHI) in November, 44 of the 72 quota places at Paris 2024 had been claimed. Women: Italy (2), Great Britain (2), China, Japan, Korea, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Spain, Lithuania, France, Hungary, Germany, Egypt, Australia, Czech Republic, Mexico, USA, Brazil, Ecuador and the International Athletes Team (EAI). Men: Egypt (2), Mexico (2), Italy, China, Japan, Korea, Thailand, Kazakhstan, Great Britain, Hungary, France, Germany, Poland, Ukraine, Switzerland, Australia, Ecuador, Cuba, Argentina and EAI.

Now that more than 60% of the precious places at Paris have been secured, the focus will shift to the remaining 28 berths. However the hectic qualification rush over recent months will now slow down a little with no further places being decided until June 2024.

Full details of the Paris 2024 qualification process can be found at uipmworld.org/olympic-games
The heart of a champion: meet Emiliano Hernandez

In the latest in our Pentathlon Personalities series, Mexico’s World No.3 talks about family, focus and why height doesn’t measure heart...

Emiliano Hernandez is a man in a hurry. Years of waiting will do that to you.

The 25-year-old Mexican is off to Paris. But unlike the other 43 pentathletes who have already booked precious places at the 2024 Olympic Games, Hernandez is not waiting until next summer to take his talents to the French capital. Instead he will kick off Christmas week on the banks of the Seine competing in the French National Championships.

Finding room for one more trans-Atlantic trek in this hectic year is typical of Hernandez. Leaving absolutely no stone unturned in the quest for Olympic glory is also par for the course. For almost eight years now the determination to make it to the greatest show on earth is also par for the course. For almost eight years now the determination to make it to the greatest show on earth is also par for the course. For almost eight years now the determination to make it to the greatest show on earth is also par for the course. For almost eight years now the determination to make it to the greatest show on earth is also par for the course. For almost eight years now the determination to make it to the greatest show on earth is also par for the course. For almost eight years now the determination to make it to the greatest show on earth is also par for the course. For almost eight years now the determination to make it to the greatest show on earth is also par for the course. For almost eight years now the determination to make it to the greatest show on earth is also par for the course. For almost eight years now the determination to make it to the greatest show on earth is also par for the course. For almost eight years now the determination to make it to the greatest show on earth is also par for the course. For almost eight years now the determination to make it to the greatest show on earth is also par for the course. For almost eight years now the determination to make it to the greatest show on earth is also par for the course. For almost eight years now the determination to make it to the greatest show on earth is also par for the course. For almost eight years now the determination to make it to the greatest show on earth is also par for the course. For almost eight years now the determination to make it to the greatest show on earth is also par for the course. For almost eight years now the determination to make it to the greatest show on earth is also par for the course. For almost eight years now the determination to make it to the greatest show on earth is also par for the course. For almost eight years now the determination to make it to the greatest show on earth is also par for the course. For almost eight years now the determination to make it to the greatest show on earth is also par for the course. For almost eight years now the determination to make it to the greatest show on earth is also par for the course. For almost eight years now the determination to make it to the greatest show on earth is also par for the course. For almost eight years now the determination to make it to the greatest show on earth is also par for the course. For almost eight years now the determination to make it to the greatest show on earth is also par for the course. For almost eight years now the determination to make it to the greatest show on earth is also par for the course. For almost eight years now the determination to make it to the greatest show on earth is also par for the course. For almost eight years now the determination to make it to the greatest show on earth is also par for the course. For almost eight years now the determination to make it to the greatest show on earth is also par for the course. For almost eight years now the determination to make it to the greatest show on earth is also par for the course. For almost eight years now the determination to make it to the greatest show on earth is also par for the course. For almost eight years now the determination to make it to the greatest show on earth is also par for the course. For almost eight years now the determination to make it to the greatest show on earth is also par for the course. For almost eight years now the determination to make it to the greatest show on earth is also par for the course. For almost eight years now the determination to make it to the greatest show on earth is also par for the course. For almost eight years now the determination to make it to the greatest show on earth is also par for the course. For almost eight years now the determination to make it to the greatest show on earth is also par for the course. For almost eight years now the determination to make it to the greatest show on earth is also par for the course. For almost eight years now the determination to make it to the greatest show on earth is also par for the course. For almost eight years now the determination to make it to the greatest show on earth is also par for the course. For almost eight years now the determination to make it to the greatest show on earth is also par for the course. For almost eight years now the determination to make it to the greatest show on earth is also par for the course. For almost eight years now the determination to make it to the greatest show on earth is also par for the course. For almost eight years now the determination to make it to the greatest show on earth is also par for the course. For almost eight years now the determination to make it to the greatest show on earth is also par for the course. For almost eight years now the determination to make it to the greatest show on earth is also par for the course. For almost eight years now the determination to make it to the greatest show on earth is also par for the course. For almost eight years now the determination to make it to the greatest show on earth is also par for the course. For almost eight years now the determination to make it to the greatest show on earth is also par for the course. For almost eight years now the determination to make it to the greatest show on earth is also par for the course. For almost eight years now the determination to make it to the greatest show on earth is also par for the course. For almost eight years now the determination to make it to the greatest show on earth is also par for the course. For almost eight years now the determination to make it to the greatest show on earth is also par for the course. For almost eight years now the determination to make it to the greatest show on earth is also par for the course. For almost eight years now the determination to make it to the greatest show on earth is also par for the course. For almost eight years now the determination to make it to the greatest show on earth is also par for the course. For almost eight years now the determination to make it to the greatest show on earth is also par for the course. For almost eight years now the determination to make it to the greatest show on earth is also par for the course. For almost eight years now the determination to make it to the greatest show on earth is also par for the course. For almost eight years now the determination to make it to the greatest show on earth is also par for the course. For almost eight years now the determination to make it to the greatest show on earth is also par for the course. For almost eight years now the determination to make it to the greatest show on earth is also par for the course. For almost eight years now the determination to make it to the gre...
Big names and big decisions from a season to remember help chart the path to 2024 — and beyond

As 2023 gets ever nearer to its close, elite pentathletes across the world have already put it behind them and begun the hard work towards 2024. Such are the multisport demands that those at the centre of it all have a little time to take a break and reflect. With an Olympic Games on the schedule for next year, the stakes are higher than ever and timelines are now crunched tighter than before.

But that doesn’t mean the rest of us cannot take a look back at what was an action-packed, drama-filled and truly consequential year for UIPM sports. The most fitting approach might be for us to take five…so here we go, with five highlights from 2023.

**2023 season highlights**

It’s Forza Azzurri as Micheli leads Italian renaissance

The season began with expectations of Michelle Gulyas of Hungary and close friend Elena Micheli of Italy continuing a rivalry that lit up much of 2022, but in fact Micheli (ITA) emphatically established herself as the dominant individual in Women’s Modern Pentathlon.

The 24-year-old claimed the first quota for 2023 World Cup gold in Cairo (EGY), followed by Tokyo 2020 Olympic champion Joseph Choong of Great Britain and Emiliano Hernandez de Mexico in third.

Europeans occupy the first nine places, with the increasingly consistent Mariana Anco of Mexico in 10th, but there’s no doubt that the Italians are the ones to catch.

**Olympic favourites headline the form book**

The season before an Olympic Games year can provide something of a crystal ball for how things are shaping up. Yet 2023 mostly saw those at the business end of men’s competitions crystallise their reputations as big-game hunters.

The year ends with Mohanad Shaban of Egypt dominating the World Rankings followed by Tokyo 2020 Olympic champion Joseph Choong of Great Britain and Emiliano Hernandez de Mexico in third. Those positions pass end of men’s competitions crystalise their reputations as big-game hunters.

Further integrations at the UIPM U19 World Championships, the best emerging talent got to grips with the Fencing/Obstacle/Swimming/Laser Run format that will be adopted at all levels of the sport after the Paris 2024 Olympic Games. It proved an instant and emphatic hit with competitors as well as the watching public.

History clears a significant Obstacle

The Egyptian city of Alexandria has a monumental history and it saw a little more in July when Obstacle was integrated into Modern Pentathlon for the first time at global level.

At the UIPM 2023 U17 World Championships, the best emerging global talent got to grips with the Fencing/Obstacle/Swimming/Laser Run format that will be adopted at all levels of the sport after the Paris 2024 Olympic Games. It proved an instant and emphatic hit with competitors as well as the watching public.

Having worked tirelessly to meet the challenge of the IOC President to carry out ‘critical reform’ and find a replacement for Riding as one of Modern Pentathlon’s five disciplines, UIPM’s successful integration of Obstacle proved to be a key factor in the decision.

“We can say with absolute confidence that Coubertin’s legacy is safe thanks to the faith in our movement communicated by the 141st IOC Session here in Mumbai,” said UIPM President Dr. Klaus Schorschmann.

“Today, we can say with absolute confidence that Coubertin’s legacy is safe thanks to the faith in our movement communicated by the 141st IOC Session here in Mumbai,” said UIPM President Dr. Klaus Schorschmann.

Obstacle made its impressive entry in 2023 Asia rising at an ever-faster speed

That the final major event of the 2023 calendar took place in gorgeous sunshine in Asia at the UIPM 2023 Biathlon-Thriatle World Championships felt fitting. The continent has been a region of consistent growth for UIPM Sports for some time but this was a year of accleration.

From the continent’s Southeast to its Middle East and Far East, both interest and investment have been booming. The Southeast Asian Championships in Pattaya (THA), much like the Biathlon-Thriatle World Championships held in Bali (INA), proved to be hugely successful events attracting young athletes from across the region. As many as 12 Asian countries hosted Global Laser Run City Tour events this year.

Meanwhile construction began on the stunning UIPM Asia-Pacific Development Centre in Kunming (CHN). The state-of-the-art and sustainable facility for training and competition was visited by UIPM leadership in March with phase one of the project planned for completion by 2025. And it won’t be long before the eyes of the Pentathlon world turn to Asia again, with the inaugural UIPM Open Middle East Asia Championships coming soon in Kuwait City (KUV) followed by the flagship UIPM 2024 Pentathlon and Laser Run World Championships in Zhengzhou (CHN) in June.
Obstacle integration update

Ad-hoc Working Group agrees on five principles of integrating FISO into UIPM

The Ad-hoc Working Group charged with formalising the integration of the Federation Internationale de Sports d’Obstacles (FISO) into the Union Internationale de Pentathlon Moderne (UIPM) has met for the first time.

Chaired by UIPM President Dr Klaus Schormann, the seven-strong group met on November 17 and 18 and agreed on an integrated vision and mission statement for the expanded International Federation. The meeting proved to be harmonious and established a productive and positive environment for the integration and future of the sports.

The group also agreed on five principles of the integration, based on the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding in Bath (GBR) in August, namely:

1. The world governing body of Obstacle sport will be UIPM.
2. There will be only one National Federation per country recognised by the respective National Olympic Committee and under UIPM jurisdiction.
3. FISO representatives will work with their current member National Federations on supporting the integration process.
4. FISO will have representation within UIPM.
5. The three current Obstacle sport categories – Ninja, Obstacle Course Racing (OCR) and Adventure Racing – will be incorporated into the UIPM Sports Pyramid.

All of the above recommendations will be referred to the UIPM Executive Board and FISO Central Board for approval before actions can be formally initiated.

The working group, announced on September 19, is composed of the following Modern Pentathlon and Obstacle sport leaders:

- Dr Klaus Schormann, UIPM President
- Joel Bouzou OLY, UIPM Vice President
- Shiny Fang, UIPM Secretary General
- Rob Stull OLY, NORCECA Modern Pentathlon Confederation President
- Ian Adamson, FISO Founding President
- Alberto Agra, Asia-Pacific Obstacle Sports Federation President
- Panna Utpaul, Pan American Obstacle Sports Federation President

Meanwhile, UIPM released a new high-performance publication aimed at supporting coaches to prepare their athletes for Obstacle in a more systematic way. The 24-page Introduction to Coaching Obstacle manual builds on the Obstacle Training Guidelines, merging the previous Obstacle Catalogue and Obstacle Competition Guidelines.

World Obstacle / UIPM 2024 OCR World Championships heading to Costa Rica

The Union Internationale de Pentathlon Moderne (UIPM) and Federation Internationale de Sports d’Obstacles (FISO) will co-host the 2024 OCR World Championships in San Jose, Costa Rica.

The four-day competition (August 22-25) will be jointly hosted by the two organisations for the second occasion, after the inaugural 2023 championships in Genk (BEL).

The 100m and other short-course races, together with the opening and closing ceremonies and a concert, will be held at Estadio Nacional de Costa Rica and La Sabana Park in the capital city of San Jose. Coming just days after the Paris 2024 Olympic Games where Riding will feature in Modern Pentathlon for the last time, numerous participating athletes will have their eyes set on the Los Angeles 2028 Olympic Games where Obstacle will make its debut.

The longer endurance races (15km and 5km) will be held at the beautiful Doka Coffee Estate and adjacent wilderness at 2,000m elevation with views of the central volcanic mountain region.

The event is being hosted by OCR Costa Rica and members of the Costa Rica Modern Pentathlon community in partnership with Visit Costa Rica and the Costa Rican Tourism Board, with event services and obstacles from Grupo Publicitario, Spartan Race and OnePlan.

OCR Costa Rica President Rodolfo Vilallobos said: “Hosting the OCR World Championships is a logical progression for our event companies. We have been producing events for international and Olympic sports for many years and look forward to delivering the highest-quality experience for the athletes, entourages, spectators and viewing audience.”

Qualification and national team size is specified by each national member federation for competitive categories and registration is now open for all events.

Tips released earlier in 2023 and is written by French OCR expert Laurent Puigsegur.

National Federations have also been supported with the provision of a new and updated publication entitled UIPM Obstacle Competition and Equipment Guidelines, merging the previous Obstacle Catalogue and Obstacle Competition Guidelines.

OCR Costa Rica President Rodolfo Vilallobos said: “We are excited to be collaborating with our colleagues in Costa Rica. Their expertise in event production in the region is unparalleled and delivering the championships with top international producers in sport, television, and event production will provide the most exciting races on the OCR calendar catering to national teams from Pentathlon and Obstacle federations from 120 countries.”

OCR Costa Rica President Rodolfo Vilallobos said: “Hosting the OCR World Championships is a logical progression for our event companies. We have been producing events for international and Olympic sports for many years and look forward to delivering the highest-quality experience for the athletes, entourages, spectators and viewing audience.”

Qualification and national team size is specified by each national member federation for competitive categories and registration is now open for all events.
UIPM 2024 Congress awarded to Riyadh as Saudi Arabia is named host for the first time

After a fallow period when the movement struggled to gain post-pandemic momentum, UIPM’s magical Masters community has bounced back with a successful European Championships held in Chisinau (MDA).

The Executive Board (EB) of the Union Internationale de Pentathlon Moderne (UIPM) has agreed unanimously to award the 73rd UIPM Congress to Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. The elective Congress will take place on November 16-17, 2024 as the capital of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia hosts UIPM’s global decision-making summit for the first time.

UIPM 2024 Congress was originally awarded to Antigua (GUA) but the award was withdrawn in March 2023 after the suspension of the Guatemala Olympic Committee by the International Olympic Committee. A bid process resulted in two bidders, Saudi Arabia and Egypt, which withdrew their offer during yesterday’s EB meeting.

The award of Congress to a nation in the Middle East follows a period of accelerated progressive development in the Asian region, with the inaugural UIPM Middle East Championships set to take place in Kuwait City (KUW) in early 2024. UIPM President Dr Klaus Schormann said: “I am pleased that the UIPM Executive Board has awarded the 73rd UIPM Congress and we can now start to plan for what I am sure will be a memorable elective Congress in Riyadh.”

Youth star Khalil (EGY) rounds off stunning year by being named Champion of United Nations initiative

Farida Khalil of Egypt has enjoyed a season beyond anyone’s dreams — even those of a 12-year-old. Now one of Modern Pentathlon’s shooting stars has rounded off a remarkable year with yet another honour.

Khalil, crowned UIPM U27 world champion on home soil in Alexandria (EGY) earlier this year, has been named as a champion of the Egyptian version of the global United Nations ‘Generation Unlimited’ initiative.

Records tumbled at the feet of Khalil this year as she took the individual U17 crown at the age of just 12 and then took Women’s Relay silver at the UIPM 2023 U19 World Championships. She followed that up with gold medals at the UIPM 2023 Laser Run World Championships in Bath (GBR) and the UIPM 2023 Biathlon-Triathlon World Championships in Bali (INA).

Launched by the UN Secretary General in 2018 under the UNICEF umbrella, Generation Unlimited aims to connect the world’s 1.8 billion young people to opportunities for skillling, working and social impact. The Egyptian branch of the initiative is called Shaba Balad, which means Country’s Youth.

“This young Egyptian athlete is not only excelling in her field of play, but is also dedicated to finding solutions and opportunities for the youth in her society and Egypt as a whole,” Shaba Balad said.

The announcement was attended by Dr Ashraf Sobhy, Egyptian Minister for Youth & Sports, along with UN and UNICEF representatives at a special ceremony on November 10 in the Gezirah Youth Centre in Cairo (EGY).

UIPM Congresses are a key moment in the calendar of UIPM’s multi-season that saw the 12-year-old haul in medals.

UIPM Judges Certification Programme: Kuwait City (KUW) continues to prepare for historic 2024

A year of significant growth for the UIPM movement in the Middle East continued with further investment in the immediate and longer-term future of the region as Kuwait hosted its first UIPM Judges Certification Programme.

Kuwait City will mark a piece of history in early 2024 when the capital hosts the inaugural UIPM Middle East Asia Championships, which continues the process of the Asian Modern Pentathlon Confederation (AMPC) offering opportunities to Asian athletes to compete internationally within their own geographical area.

Middle East Asia is one of UIPM’s fastest-growing regions, with member federations in Afghanistan, Bahrain, Kuwait, Iran, Iraq, Lebanon, Palestine, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syria and United Arab Emirates. Earlier this year, Kuwait City held its first ever Global Laser Run City Tour event.

In a landmark move, UIPM also announced that its Executive Board had unanimously agreed to award the 73rd UIPM Congress to Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, bringing its global decision-making summit to the region for the first time. With one eye on the historic Middle East Asia Championships, which begin on March 4 with a Laser Run format, 24 judges were put through their paces on an intensive UIPM JCP course in late October, organised by UIPM and the Kuwait Modern Pentathlon Committee.

The two-day course was run by UIPM educator Rui Lucena (POR) and offered participants a chance to earn certification in JCP Levels 1, 2 and 3.

The course on October 25-26 had a truly international feel with six nations from across three continents represented by the eager students. There were 13 participants from the host nation with seven from Egypt, and one each from Bulgaria, Kenya, India and Sri Lanka. The group comprised 13 women and 11 men.

Rui Lucena said: “After a really productive year for our Judges Certification Programme worldwide, it felt fitting that we brought together an international group in Kuwait City. With so many developments in the country and the region, and particularly the upcoming

Farida Khalil (EGY) piped up a stunning 2023 season that saw the 12-year-old haul in medals.

UIPM JCP educator Rui Lucena led the course in Kuwait City and praised all participants.
A lot of important work took place at the UIPM 2023 Biathlon World Championships and everyone is working extra hard to ensure a successful programme course hosted by Modern Pentathlon Indonesia took place in Bali on October 29-30 and was spearheaded by UIPM JCP educator and Technical Committee member Agnes Kulcsar (HUN).

With 28 participants from the host nation taking part, Agnes Kulcsar’s guidance helped all attending to achieve Level 1 certification in time for the UIPM 2023 Biathlon-Triathlon World Championships and with Southeast Asia showing green shoots of growth for UIPM Sports, hopefully beginning a long and successful journey as judges.

Agnes Kulcsar said: “We were very lucky to welcome such a diligent group of students who were eager to begin their journey. I thank them for their focus and dedication and hope this is just the beginning for them.”

Anthony Charles Sunarjo, Modern Pentathlon Indonesia President, added: “Hosting such a successful Biathlon-Triathlon World Championships was a moment of pride and honour for federation and country.

It took a lot of hard work and dedication from all involved including the new judges who played a key role in the competition. I would like to express my gratitude to UIPM and Agnes Kulcsar for her help in preparing these students.”

UIPM representative takes part in global Paralympic Classification meeting in Cairo (EGY)

Classification representatives from across the Paralympic Movement gathered in Cairo, Egypt, at the 2023 IPC Annual Classification Meeting to discuss proposed changes to the draft Classification Code, exchange practices in classification and strengthen collaboration between organisations.

UIPM was represented at the gathering in late October by Para Project manager Radka Zapletalova. Over the three days of the Annual Classification Meeting, participants discussed items related to the new draft Classification Code, as part of the final consultation phase of a multi-year long review process.

During a highly productive gathering, in-depth discussions took place in a working group format to address stakeholder views and to explore how changes are to be implemented.

Participants included 31 representatives from National Paralympic Committees, 42 representatives from International Federations, International Organisations of Sports for the Disabled and Recognised International Federations. IPC Classification Compliance and Oversight Committee members interacted with the participants.

Radka Zapletalova said: “From a UIPM perspective, it was both very useful and important to take part in this event. Having an opportunity to consult our own classification during the process of the creation will prove to be beneficial.”

World No.1 Micheli (ITA) leads delegation of champions to meet President of Italy

The President of Italy, Sergio Mattarella, welcomed a delegation of some of the brightest talents from the country’s booming Modern Pentathlon scene to Quirinal Palace, his official residence in Rome in late November.

Two-time world champion and world No.1 Elena Micheli (ITA) led the delegation after a truly memorable year for Italian pentathletes and their national federation (FIPM), represented by President Fabrizio Bittner and Technical Director Andrea Valentini along with Italian NOC President Giovanni Malagò.

President Mattarella paid tribute to the group, saying: “Alongside this extraordinary heritage of such important value – medals and successes – it was important that you have induced many young people to engage in sport,” he said.

Success for Brazil and Mexico in South American & Pan American Youth Championships in Lima (PER)

Across the age categories, Pan American powerhouse Mexico won another four individual golds while there were also individual titles for Peru and Ecuador.

A spokesperson for the local organising committee said: “It was gratifying to see so many young pentathletes and especially to receive the delegations from Panama and Colombia who are restarting a new stage of development.

“Closing the year of competitions in South America, Jorge Salas, President of CPFF and CSPM, and UIPM Treasurer John Helmick had words of praise and a desire to continue consolidating our sport on the continent.”

Gali (HUN) scores double gold in European U24 Championships in Zielona Gora (POL)

Andras Gali of Hungary ended the 2023 season the same way he had started it – on top of the podium.

Gali (HUN) was the winner of the season-opening Peridot Indoor Open in Budapest (HUN) and the 20-year-old closed the year in style with a double victory at the European U24 Championships in Zielona Gora (POL).

Having won the Men’s Individual title, he added the Mixed Relay gold alongside Emma Meszaros (HUN), completing a clean sweep after the Women’s Individual victory of their team-mate Rita Erdos (HUN).

Competing in the current Pentathlon format that will be seen for the last time in the Paris 2024 Olympic Games, nine countries entered athletes in the competition and there were medals for host nation Poland, Czech Republic, Lithuania and Ukraine.

Brazil enjoyed success at the South American and Pan Am Youth Championships in Lima (PER)

Santiago (CHI), South America staged another important gathering as Lima (PER) hosted the South American and Pan American Youth Championships.

There were categories from U13 to U19 and in the highest age category, Joao Correia of Brazil won double gold in the Men’s Individual and Mixed Relay alongside Ana Clara Bezerra. The Women’s Individual champion was Dara Tavira of Mexico, who earned a big margin of victory in the Tetraathlon event (Fencing/Swimming/Laser Run).

Having won the Men’s Individual title, he added the Mixed Relay gold alongside Emma Meszaros (HUN), completing a clean sweep after the Women’s Individual victory of their team-mate Rita Erdos (HUN).

Elena Micheli and Alice Solteri take a picture with Italian President Sergio Mattarella.
Learning to remain open, positive and reasonable – no matter what!

Last month I shared some reflections on the state of global Olympic sport coming from the IOC Session, where we received good news about Modern Pentathlon looking ahead to LA28. Now that we are at the end of this historic year, it feels like the right time to reflect on our journey from January. And what a journey!

It began with UIPM in a difficult place. To keep going with the journey metaphor, we knew our destination and had a route map and enough resources to get there, but we also knew we were carrying a complex load across an uncertain terrain. I start my reflections on 2023 with three things that were causing me to feel concerned at the start of the year, with three things that were causing me to feel concerned at the start of the year, before describing what I learned and what I loved about the 12 months of progress and achievement that followed.

Three things that worried me:

- With many parts of our infrastructure already built for past years, newer elements needed to be brought up to speed and/or required to be started from scratch. And with service demands and standards rising more and more, I feared that the administration team could struggle or even be overwhelmed.
- In this 2021-2024 Olympic cycle it seemed we never stopped using the word “transition” to describe our sport and our organisation – the transition of a new 90-minute format in Modern Pentathlon from 2021/2022, the transition of selecting a new 5th discipline and testing it from 2022, and then in 2023 the transition of integrating Obstacle into our sport at youth and junior levels. There was the added pressure of needing to prepare for further progress in 2024 so that the format will be ready for our senior age group in 2025. Not to mention the ongoing transition of integrating stakeholders and members.
- Seeing athletes happy. Although we didn’t see this as often as we would have liked, due to the recent environment and circumstances, still athlete satisfaction is our motivation.

The happy faces of youth athletes felt like the reward of all our hard work, and I loved seeing that raw joy. And now that the year is almost over, we look ahead to 2024 and see challenges in front of us, but what would you expect?

Three things I learned:

- I learned in 2023 to always remain open to talking about requirements and needs within the community, to make things understandable all the time.
- It’s important to be positive even during negative moments, and to share opinions no matter whether it feels good or bad to do so.
- It is not possible to please everyone all the time, but it is possible to explain to everyone, and to be reasonable.
- There is no perfect scenario, but there are ways to find the best possible balance and solutions, as long as you never give up!

Three things I loved:

- I enjoyed receiving fair comments, encouragement and, especially, compliments for our teamwork.
- I also loved the understanding and cooperation that came from stakeholders and members.

Three challenges I’m excited about:

- The new 90-minute format has been accepted by broadcasters after two years, but still there are things to adjust to better suit the needs of TV. And I’m looking forward to the further improvement of the product in 2024.
- More dynamic Obstacle events inside Modern Pentathlon competitions, enabling youth and junior athletes to build on their experiences in 2023, and in 2024 we can expect to witness new world records.
- The integration of the Obstacle community, enhancing our sports base and enlarging the growth potential of the organisation, which I dearly wish will make a true and tangible difference in 2024.

Challenges create opportunities. At UIPM we choose to see big opportunities and work together to overcome challenges!
Office the opportunity for close partnerships between the Sport and Tourism Ministry to enable future sporting events to be held on the beautiful island.

Dr Schormann handed over diploma certificates to a group who passed Level 1 of UIPM’s Judges Certification Programme (JP) together with Technical Delegate Agnes Kulcsár.

13.11. – 15.11.2023: Lausanne, SUI

UIPM President Dr Klaus Schormann and Secretary General Shiny Fang held a meeting with IOC President Dr Thomas Bach one month after the historic outcome of the 141st IOC Session in Mumbai (IND), where Modern Pentathlon was confirmed in the programme for the Los Angeles 2028 Olympic Games.

The purpose of the meeting was to discuss ongoing initiatives within UIPM and the commitment of the Union to ensuring the success of the Paris 2024 Games.

The UIPM leadership aims to enlarge television viewership, a priority shared by the IOC. Additionally, the focus is on preparing a spectacular sporting event beyond 2024, with the integration of Obstacle as a new discipline for Modern Pentathlon.

After the IOC President meeting, President Dr Schormann led the UIPM leadership in discussions with LA28 Sports Director Niccolo Campriani and LA28 Senior Advisor of Sport Planning Katy Dunnet. Among the topics addressed were the potential modifications to Fencing, which will revert to a different format in LA28.

UIPM also asked for information about potential sports venues in Los Angeles to ensure a remarkable showcase that includes the Obstacle component.

Attending the International Federations (IF) Forum hosted by SportAccord in the Olympic Museum from November 13-15, entitled ‘Sport (Revolution),’ the UIPM President had discussions with peers from various IFs. They discussed the structures of IFs and how they approach crucial issues within their communities.

Other key topics discussed on the podium during the Forum included sustainability, gender balance and strategies for empowering young women to leadership roles, recognising the important role women play in sports leadership. The women’s movement in Modern Pentathlon started in 1972 and achieved full gender equality when a women’s event was introduced to the Sydney 2000 Olympic Games. Gender equality has a priority on the agenda of UIPM President in the upcoming year.

Prof Dr Uğur Erdener, who was elected unanimously as SportAccord’s new President during the event, said: “This was an excellent edition of the IF Forum, packed full of quality speakers in a dynamic atmosphere that encouraged lots of networking and knowledge-exchange. On behalf of SportAccord, I would like to express sincere thanks to all partners, speakers, delegates and stakeholders who made this event such an outstanding success.”

17.11. – 19.11.2023: Ad-hoc Working Group

UIPM President Dr Klaus Schormann chaired a two-day meeting of the Ad-hoc Working Group charged with formalising the integration of the Federation Internationale de Sports d’Obstacles (FISO) into UIPM, welcoming FISO President Ian Adamson and Vice-President Panna Upatul to Fis Presidential office in Darmstadt (GER).

The purpose of this group is to evaluate upcoming steps in the integration, including the dissolution of FISO and the recognition of only one National Modern Pentathlon Federation in each country, getting support from FISO representatives for the integration process and ensuring that FISO maintains representation within UIPM.

The meeting was also attended by Shiny Fang (UIPM Secretary General), Joel Bouzou (UIPM Vice President and World Olympians Association Confederation President), Rob Stull (UIPM Executive Board Member and NORCECA Confederation President), Alexandre Franca (UIPM Events Operations Director), Fulvia Lucantonio (UIPM Legal Counsel) and Lena Nussbaumer (UIPM Executive Assistant).

21.11.2023: IOC Culture & Olympic Heritage Commission

UIPM President Dr Schormann took part in an online IOC Culture and Olympic Heritage Commission meeting under the leadership of IOC Member Khunying Patama Leesawadtrakul. Dr Schormann contributed to the meeting with his knowledge about art and educational skills.

The IOC office informed the members that the Culture and Heritage
UIPM President Dr. Klaus Schormann attended the 2023 IOC Culture and Olympic Heritage Commission meeting, which was held in Brussels. The meeting focused on the following key areas:

1. Opening Ceremony images from Paris 2024 and Los Angeles 2028.
2. Inauguration of the Pierre de Coubertin Museum, including exhibitions and talks about the founder of Modern Pentathlon.
3. An exhibition and talks about the 125th anniversary of the Olympic Movement.
5. An event on the founder of Modern Pentathlon.

Dr. Schormann stressed the importance of Fencing in the Olympic landscape, highlighting the success of LA28 and the potential for future Olympic Games. He also discussed the role of partnerships and the importance of digital platforms in modern sports.

The fourth item on the agenda was Sporting Diplomacy. Dr. Schormann highlighted the key initiatives that will shape the future of global sports governance. He presented a comprehensive report on the sports landscape in the European Olympic Committees' (EOC) EU office in Brussels, providing insights into the current situation.

The fifth item on the agenda was E-Sports on the Horizon. Dr. Schormann discussed the changing landscape of E-sports and reflected on the dynamic of modern sports. He also mentioned that E-Sports have become a potential bid to host future Olympic Games, aiming to measure public enthusiasm and set the stage for future sporting events on German ground.

The last item on the agenda was Global Solidarity Amidst Crisis. The assembly discussed the issues surrounding athletes from Belarus and Russia. Insights and recommendations from IOC member Dr. Mroz and UIPM President Dr. Schormann helped to increase clarity on the current situation.

The second agenda item was German Olympic Bid and Public Sentiment. Delegates explored the atmosphere of the German population regarding the event plan for Paris 2024, celebrating Coubertin’s legacy, with a concert, exhibitions, and talks about the founder of Modern Pentathlon.

The third agenda item was Upcoming International General Assemblies. Anticipation filled the air as discussions unfolded about the 2024 assemblies featuring crucial elections that will shape the future of global sports governance. The fourth item was Sporting Diplomacy. Dr. Schormann highlighted the key initiatives that will shape the future of global sports governance. He presented a comprehensive report on the sports landscape in the European Olympic Committees’ (EOC) EU office in Brussels, providing insights into the current situation.

The fifth item on the agenda was E-Sports on the Horizon. Dr. Schormann discussed the changing landscape of E-sports and reflected on the dynamic of modern sports. He also mentioned that E-Sports have become a potential bid to host future Olympic Games, aiming to measure public enthusiasm and set the stage for future sporting events on German ground.

The last item on the agenda was Global Solidarity Amidst Crisis. The assembly discussed the issues surrounding athletes from Belarus and Russia. Insights and recommendations from IOC member Dr. Mroz and UIPM President Dr. Schormann helped to increase clarity on the current situation.

The second agenda item was German Olympic Bid and Public Sentiment. Delegates explored the atmosphere of the German population regarding the event plan for Paris 2024, celebrating Coubertin’s legacy, with a concert, exhibitions, and talks about the founder of Modern Pentathlon.

The third agenda item was Upcoming International General Assemblies. Anticipation filled the air as discussions unfolded about the 2024 assemblies featuring crucial elections that will shape the future of global sports governance. The fourth item was Sporting Diplomacy. Dr. Schormann highlighted the key initiatives that will shape the future of global sports governance. He presented a comprehensive report on the sports landscape in the European Olympic Committees’ (EOC) EU office in Brussels, providing insights into the current situation.

The fifth item on the agenda was E-Sports on the Horizon. Dr. Schormann discussed the changing landscape of E-sports and reflected on the dynamic of modern sports. He also mentioned that E-Sports have become a potential bid to host future Olympic Games, aiming to measure public enthusiasm and set the stage for future sporting events on German ground.

The last item on the agenda was Global Solidarity Amidst Crisis. The assembly discussed the issues surrounding athletes from Belarus and Russia. Insights and recommendations from IOC member Dr. Mroz and UIPM President Dr. Schormann helped to increase clarity on the current situation.

The second agenda item was German Olympic Bid and Public Sentiment. Delegates explored the atmosphere of the German population regarding the event plan for Paris 2024, celebrating Coubertin’s legacy, with a concert, exhibitions, and talks about the founder of Modern Pentathlon.

The third agenda item was Upcoming International General Assemblies. Anticipation filled the air as discussions unfolded about the 2024 assemblies featuring crucial elections that will shape the future of global sports governance. The fourth item was Sporting Diplomacy. Dr. Schormann highlighted the key initiatives that will shape the future of global sports governance. He presented a comprehensive report on the sports landscape in the European Olympic Committees’ (EOC) EU office in Brussels, providing insights into the current situation.

The fifth item on the agenda was E-Sports on the Horizon. Dr. Schormann discussed the changing landscape of E-sports and reflected on the dynamic of modern sports. He also mentioned that E-Sports have become a potential bid to host future Olympic Games, aiming to measure public enthusiasm and set the stage for future sporting events on German ground.

The last item on the agenda was Global Solidarity Amidst Crisis. The assembly discussed the issues surrounding athletes from Belarus and Russia. Insights and recommendations from IOC member Dr. Mroz and UIPM President Dr. Schormann helped to increase clarity on the current situation.

The second agenda item was German Olympic Bid and Public Sentiment. Delegates explored the atmosphere of the German population regarding the event plan for Paris 2024, celebrating Coubertin’s legacy, with a concert, exhibitions, and talks about the founder of Modern Pentathlon.

The third agenda item was Upcoming International General Assemblies. Anticipation filled the air as discussions unfolded about the 2024 assemblies featuring crucial elections that will shape the future of global sports governance. The fourth item was Sporting Diplomacy. Dr. Schormann highlighted the key initiatives that will shape the future of global sports governance. He presented a comprehensive report on the sports landscape in the European Olympic Committees’ (EOC) EU office in Brussels, providing insights into the current situation.

The fifth item on the agenda was E-Sports on the Horizon. Dr. Schormann discussed the changing landscape of E-sports and reflected on the dynamic of modern sports. He also mentioned that E-Sports have become a potential bid to host future Olympic Games, aiming to measure public enthusiasm and set the stage for future sporting events on German ground.

The last item on the agenda was Global Solidarity Amidst Crisis. The assembly discussed the issues surrounding athletes from Belarus and Russia. Insights and recommendations from IOC member Dr. Mroz and UIPM President Dr. Schormann helped to increase clarity on the current situation.

The second agenda item was German Olympic Bid and Public Sentiment. Delegates explored the atmosphere of the German population regarding the event plan for Paris 2024, celebrating Coubertin’s legacy, with a concert, exhibitions, and talks about the founder of Modern Pentathlon.

The third agenda item was Upcoming International General Assemblies. Anticipation filled the air as discussions unfolded about the 2024 assemblies featuring crucial elections that will shape the future of global sports governance. The fourth item was Sporting Diplomacy. Dr. Schormann highlighted the key initiatives that will shape the future of global sports governance. He presented a comprehensive report on the sports landscape in the European Olympic Committees’ (EOC) EU office in Brussels, providing insights into the current situation.

The fifth item on the agenda was E-Sports on the Horizon. Dr. Schormann discussed the changing landscape of E-sports and reflected on the dynamic of modern sports. He also mentioned that E-Sports have become a potential bid to host future Olympic Games, aiming to measure public enthusiasm and set the stage for future sporting events on German ground.

The last item on the agenda was Global Solidarity Amidst Crisis. The assembly discussed the issues surrounding athletes from Belarus and Russia. Insights and recommendations from IOC member Dr. Mroz and UIPM President Dr. Schormann helped to increase clarity on the current situation.

The second agenda item was German Olympic Bid and Public Sentiment. Delegates explored the atmosphere of the German population regarding the event plan for Paris 2024, celebrating Coubertin’s legacy, with a concert, exhibitions, and talks about the founder of Modern Pentathlon.

The third agenda item was Upcoming International General Assemblies. Anticipation filled the air as discussions unfolded about the 2024 assemblies featuring crucial elections that will shape the future of global sports governance. The fourth item was Sporting Diplomacy. Dr. Schormann highlighted the key initiatives that will shape the future of global sports governance. He presented a comprehensive report on the sports landscape in the European Olympic Committees’ (EOC) EU office in Brussels, providing insights into the current situation.

The fifth item on the agenda was E-Sports on the Horizon. Dr. Schormann discussed the changing landscape of E-sports and reflected on the dynamic of modern sports. He also mentioned that E-Sports have become a potential bid to host future Olympic Games, aiming to measure public enthusiasm and set the stage for future sporting events on German ground.

The last item on the agenda was Global Solidarity Amidst Crisis. The assembly discussed the issues surrounding athletes from Belarus and Russia. Insights and recommendations from IOC member Dr. Mroz and UIPM President Dr. Schormann helped to increase clarity on the current situation.
It was pointed out that when Modern Pentathlon was changed to a one-day event, it showed the IOC’s new audience appeal that is so important today. This was around the same period of time when Modern Pentathlon expanded from 63 UIPM member nations to 133.

Dr Schormann also traced the process for the replacement of Riding with Obstacle and how this can increase the number of active national Modern Pentathlon training programmes. Mr Lough and his writing colleague, sport historian Kevin Witherspoon, plan to submit the article to the Journal of Olympic History in late 2024.

06.12.2023: Bad Homburg, GER

UIPM President Dr Schormann accepted an invitation from Dalibor Jurkic, Germany Consul General to Bosnia-Herzegovina, to further strengthen connections between Germany and Guinea. German and Swiss business institutions were present and Dr Schormann established additional potential contacts, such as in the healthcare sector with Dr Michael Despeghel, a pioneer in the integration of medicine and artificial intelligence.

Additionally, President Dr Schormann had the possibility to speak to a consultant of the President of Commerce office of Guinea, Ly Mamadou Lamarana, about the governance of sport in Guinea and the Commerce office of Guinea, Ly Mamadou Lamarana, about the governance of sport in Guinea and the Guinea Modern Pentathlon Federation (FGPM).

06.12.2023: IOC President online

UIPM President Dr Schormann and Secretary General Shiny Fang participated in an online meeting with the IOC President, Dr Thomas Bach, and representatives from all IFs.

The IOC President shared updates from the 12th Olympic Summit, covering various topics such as Peace Mission, Olympic & Paralympic Games Paris 2024, Anti-Doping, Politation of Sport, Olympic Winter Games Milano Cortina 2026, Future Games, E-Sports, Digital Engagement and Safeguarding.

Dr Schormann took the opportunity to inform the IOC and other IFs about UIPM’s policy regarding Russian and Belarussian athletes. UIPM has established an Independent Panel to access all applications from athletes with Russia or Belarus passports to participants in UIPM competitions, ensuring compliance with the IOC’s criteria for “neutral athletes”.

One of the priorities is to prevent any athletes from engaging in political propaganda. President Dr Schormann also called for close solidarity among IF Presidents to support the Olympic Movement and ensure the success of the Paris 2024 Olympic Games.

UIPM President Dr Klaus Schormann joins fellow attendees at a reception in Bad Homburg (GER), including a consultant of the President of Commerce office of Guinea, Ly Mamadou Lamarana

Reflections and new commitments
Open letter from the UIPM President

Dear friends and colleagues of the UIPM movement,

In 2023 we initiated, accomplished and achieved incredible successes that should not be forgotten. The year demanded much from us, but it also gave us a lot in return.

We made every effort to keep our sport in the Olympics, and our efforts paid off. In October, during the 141st IOC Session, there was unanimous support for the inclusion of Modern Pentathlon in the Olympic movement, and now we have an opportunity to present the sport, with Obstacle as our new 5th discipline, at the Olympic Games in Los Angeles 2028 and beyond.

This opens up the possibility for athletes from a wider diversity of nations to fulfil their Olympic dreams and not only participate in the Games but compete for medals.

How did we achieve this?

After two years of hard work and challenging publicity, we remained true to ourselves. We connected with our history, laid out by the founder of the Modern Olympic Games, Baron Pierre de Coubertin, and surpassed our own expectations.

We worked closely with the IOC to fulfil and even exceed the desired requirements. However, it is also about integrating this new discipline into our sport effectively and creating a smooth transition for athletes. We achieved this by organising UIPM World Championships at U17, U19 and Junior levels with Obstacle, receiving positive feedback from younger athletes and coaches.

Despite these significant achievements and our daily efforts to make the sport more innovative, sustainable, accessible and exciting, we must not forget the current political situation in which we live.

With ongoing wars casting a dark shadow over sport and the Olympic ideal of bringing nations together, we at UIPM fully adhere to the recommendations of the IOC and retain hope that sport has the power to make the world a better place.

In addition to these endeavours, we have achieved a lot and can be proud of our work. Each one of you has contributed to where we stand today, so we can proudly say:

“We have been Olympic since 1912 and will continue to be!”

UIPM will always strive to act in the best interests of athletes and the sport to generate the best possible outcome. This year, we had successful World Cups, a strong World Championship in Great Britain, and crucial Continental Games in Europe, Asia and Pan-America where athletes took the chance to secure a quota place for Paris 2024.

We also continued to promote our developmental sports, hosting a well-attended Masters competition with participants from numerous nations and a large number of participants at the Biathle-Triathle World Championships in Bali, including para athletes who delivered a fantastic competition.

Take the time to reflect and truly appreciate what you have accomplished this year — because we can all be proud of it!

Looking ahead to 2024, there are, of course, important tasks ahead, such as the dissolution of the International Obstacle Sports Federation (FISO) and its integration into UIPM. We are also undergoing a rebranding to stay up-to-date and re-evaluate the goals, visions and missions of Modern Pentathlon.

Additionally, we need to continue our developmental efforts in emerging countries to be more transparent and ensure personal communication. Especially in the Olympic year, our focus is on sustainability, aligning with the Olympic Games motto, and further promoting the women’s movement.

UIPM President Dr Klaus Schormann joins an online IF President’s meeting with the IOC President
in our sport, striving for more gender equality in leadership positions.

In this letter I would like to make three additional commitments as UIPM President, based on three pillars of my philosophy – credibility, solidarity and universality.

1. Reinforce the CREDIBILITY of UIPM’s elected representative body
   • We can strengthen the Executive Board as UIPM’s supreme decision-making body through transparent communication with and between our members.
   • Let’s broaden the Executive Board to make it truly reflect UIPM’s geographic diversity, with fair representation for all nations.
   • As elected representatives we can drive and implement sporting policy that enables the UIPM Administration to successfully service the community on a daily basis, with UIPM Headquarters becoming an open and welcoming home for worldwide Modern Pentathlon.

2. Increase SOLIDARITY and rebuild unity among National Federations and other key stakeholders
   • Let’s continue to fine tune and intensify the new Modern Pentathlon format with the integration of Obstacle, embracing new technology that enables the sport to have maximum appeal for fans, media and sponsors.
   • We can renew and amplify our fanbase, so that we can all start the year 2024 with new energy.
   • We can renew and amplify our relationship with the media, so that we can all start the year 2024 with new energy.
   • We can strengthen the Executive Board to make it truly reflect UIPM’s geographic diversity, with fair representation for all nations.
   • As elected representatives we can drive and implement sporting policy that enables the UIPM Administration to successfully service the community on a daily basis, with UIPM Headquarters becoming an open and welcoming home for worldwide Modern Pentathlon.

3. Ensure the UNIVERSALITY of competitions
   • We need to examine possibilities to increase the number of athletes from different nations participating in the various parts of our multi-sport Union.
   • Let’s continue to develop the format of each sport in the UIPM Sports Pyramid and revitalise some existing competitions to be more inclusive, accessible and attractive to athletes of all competitive levels and socio-economic origins.
   • We should also recognise supporters as an essential part of the identity of our national teams.

With so many exciting opportunities to make the world a better place through sport, I wish you all a peaceful time, quality moments with family and friends, so that we can all start the year 2024 with new energy.

With my best personal wishes,

Dr Klaus Schermann
UIPM President
"Olympism seeks to create a way of life based on the joy found in effort, the educational value of a good example and respect for universal fundamental ethical principles."

Pierre de Coubertin, founder of the Modern Olympic Games

SEASON’S GREETINGS & HAPPY NEW YEAR 2024

Juan Antonio Samaranch
First Vice-President

Dr h.c. Klaus Schormann
President

Shiny Fang
Secretary General