Damaris Garza & Jorge Hernandez (MEX) celebrate winning the U19 Mixed Relay at the UIPM 2022 Youth World Championships in Lignano Sabbiadoro (ITA)
Shin (KOR) claims double gold as Egypt dominate medal table

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Sumin Shin of Korea and Moutaz Mohamed of Egypt are the new Under 19 world champions after outstanding performances at the UIPM 2022 Youth World Championships.

For 16-year-old Shin (KOR) it was a remarkable double as she added U19 gold on ‘Super Sunday’ to the U17 title she had already won earlier in the week.

The individual gold medal for Mohamed (EGY) and men’s team gold extended his country’s tally to seven, and they won an eighth title for good measure in the closing event, the U17 Mixed Relay.

France, Hungary and Mexico also won medals on ‘Super Sunday’, the final day of the competition, while Roman Popov earned U19 individual silver for Ukraine.

Seventy-two athletes became the first from Youth age groups to compete across three days (Qualification / Semi-finals / Final) according to the new elimination format designed for the Paris 2024 Olympic cycle. In total, more than 260 athletes from 35 nations competed in the combined championships.

UIPM 2022 Youth World Championships (U19/U17)

France took the silver medal thanks to Diego Lavillat and Etienne Clergeau, while Korea claimed bronze through Jeongwook Son and Dohoon Kang.

Competitors from Egypt, Mexico, Italy and Brazil made up the rest of the top seven.

France (Lavillat / Clergeau), while the fastest Laser Run time of 12min was set by Mexico (Jorge Hernandez & Angel Martinez).

U19 WOMEN’S RELAY
Malak Ismail of Egypt retained the U19 Women’s Relay title she won on home soil in Alexandria (EGY) last year after an excellent win alongside Zeina Amer (EGY).

Silver went to Verity Clements and Gabrielle Holland of Great Britain while Korea achieved their second bronze in successive days thanks to Yena Kim and Sumin Shin.

Again, there was a multi-continental appearance to the top of the leaderboard as Mexico (5th) joined Hungary (4th) and France (6th) in the top six.

Egypt (Amer/Ismail) narrowly topped the standings in Fencing with 19V/7D and four points in the Bonus Round.

Host nation representatives Sara Forti and Teresa Gioia of Italy managed 18
Korea (Yun/Shin) starting the Laser Run first with a 2sec advantage over Poland (Karbownik/Jablonski), there was no hint of the threat coming from behind but two exceptional Laser Runs reshuffled the podium.

Mexico (Garza/Hernandez) started 30sec off the pace but pulled off an amazing coup to win gold by 9sec from Poland (Karbownik/Jablonski) with a stunning time of 12:55.50. Turkey (Dede/Murat) were almost as fast, completing the course in 13:00.40 to defeat Italy (Sala/Bovenzi) in a sprint to the line.

**U19 WOMEN’S FINAL**

Having won the U17 title just three days earlier, Shin (KOR) came into the U19 showpiece on the back of a strong Fencing Ranking Round in which she topped the standings with 25V/10D. She added four Bonus Points for good measure. Not far behind were team-mates Malak Ismail and Jana Attia (EGY) with 24 and 23 victories respectively.

A sensational swim of 2min 14.90sec enabled Malgorzata Karbownik of Poland to make her way up the leaderboard, with Ismail (EGY) the only other athlete to break 2:20.

Ismail (EGY) thus started the Laser Run as overall leader, only for another slick performance by the new kid on the block to leave everyone else competing for silver and bronze.

Shin (KOR) timed a second-fastest 11:48.54 to take gold by a 10sec margin from Ismail (EGY), even though the standout Laser Run performance of 11:30.16 came from bronze medallist Blanka Bauer (HUN), who almost caught Ismail (EGY) on the line.

Fourth place went to Gabrielle Holland of Great Britain, with Jiho Shin (KOR) and Dorina Dobronyi (HUN) completing the top six. Team gold went to Korea, silver to Hungary and bronze to Egypt.

Gold medallist Shin (KOR) said: “I’m so happy. Laser Run was good, especially my running. I was good at Fencing, and Swimming was so-so. My favourite discipline is Laser Run.

“My dream is to win an Olympic medal. My favourite athlete is Woongtae Jun.”

**U19 MEN’S FINAL**

Action in the Ranking Round was incredibly tight, demonstrating a high standard of Fencing, and Hubert Skibiak (POL) was finally tied with Popov (UKR) on 23V/12D. Quinn Schultz of Canada added six points in the Bonus Round on the back of 22V/13D to stay in the frame, while Mohamed (EGY) and compatriot Mazen Shaban (EGY) also managed 22 wins.

To the delight of local spectators, Matteo Bovenzi of Italy dominated in Swimming with an exceptional time of 1min 56.83sec, with Mohamed (EGY) coming a distant second in 2:03.08 and Skibiak (POL) next-fastest.

It meant that only 1sec separated leader Skibiak (POL) and Mohamed (EGY) at the start of Laser Run, with Popov (UKR) and...
Ritage Ramadan (EGY) in a time of 2:20.64.

Gold medallist Shin (KOR) said: “I am happy to win this competition. My running was good today, I was excited during the Laser Run.”

Silver medallist Elgindy (EGY) said: “I felt so happy to win my first Youth World Championships medal. My running was the best today and I was thinking what I needed to do in shooting to get the medal, and thank God I shot well and ran well and I got the silver medal.

“Next year I will be in U17 again and after that, U19. My dream is a medal in the Olympics.”

U17 MEN’S FINAL

A slender margin of 3sec separated the three individual medallists after an epic race. In the end, new world champion Marwan Allam (EGY) was just too good as he held off the challenge of Adam Peter (HUN) and Krystian Trepczyk (POL).

By a tiny fraction Peter (HUN) had the best Laser Run time (8:39.90), with Allam (EGY) recording 8:40.00 and Mathis Idelarge (FRA) claiming 4th after an excellent 8:41.80. The top six was completed by Romulo Vasconcelos of Brazil and Karl Furderer (FRA).

Gold medallist Allam (EGY) said: “I’m so, so happy in this moment. I tried for this for four years and thank God, I was so tired from the Swimming but I slept after that.

“After the second 600m lap I was leading and I knew the gold medal was in reach. My dream is the Olympics in 2028, and I am inspired by Ahmed Elgendy and Joseph Choong.”

Silver medallist Peter (HUN) said: “I can’t put into words how I feel, but I’m very happy. Especially in the last 100m I had to work very hard, but my shooting was excellent and I’m proud of that.

“Next year I will be able to race in U17 again and I will try to repeat this performance. I’d say my favourite discipline is shooting.”

U17 WOMEN’S RELAY

Egypt continued to dominate with a fifth gold medal of the week in the Under 17 Women’s Relay.

Ritage Ramadan and Farida Khalil (EGY) won a thrilling sprint finish against their compatriots Sarah Mohamed & Ganah Elgendy (EGY).

With only one due from each nation allowed a medal, Amelie Treib and Nadia Farmand of Germany won silver in 3rd place as Zoe Spokes and Elizabeth Ryan of Great Britain picked up bronze in 4th. Ramadan & Khalil (EGY) were 2nd-fastest in Swimming, only a fraction of a second slower than Enya Fouin and Mireia Vazquez of Spain, giving them a strong platform for the Laser Run with their compatriots Mohamed & Elgendy (EGY) starting 17sec behind.

An exceptionally rapid Laser Run by Mohamed & Elgendy (8min 57.30) very
nearly earned them gold, also thanks to a 10sec penalty incurred by Ramadan & Khalil (EGY), but Khalil (EGY) prevailed in a sprint finish. Treb & Farmand (GER) comfortably picked up the silver medal 13sec ahead of Spokes & Ryan (GBR).

Ramadan (EGY) said: “It's amazing because in the individual final my shooting was really bad, even though I was 1st in Swimming. Today it's an amazing feeling for us to win even though my had a 10sec penalty. Near the end I felt like we wouldn't get it, but my partner did a great job. I couldn't stand at the end. to celebrate with her!”

Khalil (EGY) said: “I was really happy, the finish was amazing. We both want to be champions in the Youth Olympic Games and the Olympic Games. Our role models are Salma Abdelmaksoud, Haydy Mony and Ahmed Elgindy.”

U17 MENS RELAY
France won their first title of the Championships as Axel Fleurot and Karl Furderer earned an impressive gold medal in the Under 17 Men's Relay.

Osama Zaki and Yassin Elhady added a powerful Mixed Relay performance with France (Fleurot/Furderer) to build an unassailable lead.

It was Poland (Trepczyk/Szymytkie) who set the pace in the pool with a terrific swim of 1min 52.11sec, more than 5sec faster than 2nd-placed Egypt (Zaki/Elhady) with France (Fleurot/Furderer) timing also among six teams going under the 2min mark.

It meant that France (Fleurot/Furderer) and Egypt (Zaki/Elhady) started the Laser Run 12sec and 10sec respectively behind the leaders, but Poland (Trepczyk/Szymytkie) were unable to defend their position and a scorching Laser Run of 8:04.59 enabled France (Fleurot/Furderer) to build an unassailable lead.

Egypt (Zaki/Elhady) timed 8:21.26 to finish 16sec ahead of Poland (Trepczyk/Szymytkie), whose compatriots Igor Radomyński and Adam Machaj finished 4th ahead of 5th-placed Mexico (Gandhy Miranda & Axel Gomez), Oleksandr Melnyk and Oleksandr Klymenko of Ukraine completed the top six.

U17 MIXED RELAY
At the end of an exceptionally prolific week, it was no surprise to see Egypt on top of the podium once again, thanks to a powerful Mixed Relay performance by Ganah Elgindy and Marwan Allam. Poland (Hanna Jakubowska & Krystian Trepczyk) had the fastest Swimming performance of 2min 00.72sec, ahead of Turkey (Eda Ozrodopi & Ahmet Onker) and France (Auge Leonie & Matthais Iskaba), but there was a complete turnaround in the Laser Run and a whole new podium emerged.

With the day's fastest Laser Run of 8:24, Egypt (Elgindy/Allam) finished 8sec ahead of silver medalists Emma Meszaros and Adam Peter of Hungary, while Mexico earned their second medal of the competition as Gahndi Miranda and Daira Tavira took bronze.

Elgindy (EGY) said: “It was a really amazing race, and the shooting and running felt so easy. I told myself that I should give Manwen the first place to get me the first place, and thank God it came good today.”

Allam (EGY) added: “I was worried that the Hungarian girl was finishing well and I knew the Hungarian man finished before me yesterday, but the second shooting was good and then for the second 600m I had some space. I hope to reach the Olympic Games in 2028, God willing, and I know Ganah feels the same.”

PENTATHLETE REACTION
The next generation has spoken. Dozens of teenage pentathletes from around the world have endorsed the future direction of Modern Pentathlon after taking part in New Pentathlon Discipline Test Event III.

The event took place on a bespoke beach course where hundreds of spectators provided noisy support from a temporary tribune. The youth element added vibrancy to the overall spectacle compared to the previous, successful test events in Ankara (TUR) and Manila (PH-1).

All the athletes, who competed throughout the week in Under 19 and Under 17 categories in the Youth World Championships, will be in their twenties by the time of the Los Angeles 2028 Olympic Games – when a new-look Modern Pentathlon will be introduced to the Olympic Games, pending approval by the International Olympic Committee (IOC).

“Just tried the New 5th Discipline and I think it’s very intense and hard work but very fun, and it’ll be a great addition to
the Modern Pentathlon and straight into the Swimming or Laser Run, you need to get good with the arms” – Jack Murray (GBR).

“About the new discipline, I think it’s very good for young athletes. It will be a good new sport” – Moustafa Abouamer (EGY).

“I think obstacle is so fun, and it will be better in future and I think it’s a better option” – Tarek Sadek (EGY).

“It’s a little bit hard but it’s okay, we can train hard and we will make a good improvement and reach the highest place in this discipline, and we can do this in Egypt” – Osama Zaki (EGY).

“I think it’s a good change, and it was fun; obviously I’ll need to practise a bunch but once I get a bit of practice in, it will be really good and fun” – Emmet Gosche (CAN).

“It’s fun; it aches on the hands, I think overall it’s fun; it aches on the arms and it’s –”

“It’s an amazing game, it’s hard but exciting and super fun” – Ritage Ramadan (EGY).

“I really enjoyed it” – Elizabeth Ryan (GBR).

“I love it but it’s very, very difficult” – Coline Flavin (FRA).

“I think it’s fun, I love it!” – Farida Abohashim (EGY).

“It was a very great opportunity to try this discipline, it was fun and I will wait to try this one more time” – Teja Pakinskyte (LTU).

“It was really fun and I enjoyed it” – Vivienne Meyer (SUI).

“It’s challenging but I recommend it, it’s really good” – Eva Marsh (GBR).

“The competition was really exciting, it’s hard and it’s fun, I like it so much” – Damaris Garza (MEX).

“We just had a go at the New 5th Discipline and it’s amazing, I love it” – Poppy Clark (GBR).

“I like this sport because it’s wild and exciting” – Matteo Amadei (ITA).

“I like it, it was my first time and I think afterwards the shooting would be very difficult because now my arms and hands hurt” – Valentina Martinescu (ITA).

“I felt great doing the obstacles, because it was a thing I’d never done in my life. I enjoyed it a lot, it was really fun” – Lucia Cunha (POR).

“I liked it, it was funny and sometimes hard, but it was good” – Amaya El-Masri (GER).

“I liked it, because I always watch TV series about obstacle courses at home, so I always wanted to try them” – Milan Czak (HUN).

“I really liked the challenge today, I like that it was fast-paced and I think there are quite a few obstacles that are pretty hard” – Szombor Tarkanyi (HUN).

“It was very challenging but I still like it a lot; for the sport, it’s good” – Jose Molina (GUA).

“I thought it was pretty good, it was a good challenge and I had a lot of fun doing it, even if some of the obstacles were scary at first, I thoroughly enjoyed it” – Connor Chow (CAN).

ATHLETES COMMITTEE REACTION

Yasser Hefny OLY, Chair of the UIPM Athlete Committee, said: “We already saw a lot of excitement and enjoyment from athletes who tried Obstacle Discipline in Ankara and Manila but this Test Event took it to a new level.

“These U19 and U17 athletes are the future of our sport and will be a big part of the first generation to perform the new discipline at the LA28 Olympic Games. We can already see that they are enthusiastic and they want to learn and improve.

“We heard the voice of youth loud and clear, both at the competition venue and in a meeting afterwards. They are happy to have more information about Obstacle Discipline and they are happy to have tried it. I recommend that all generations of pentathletes listen carefully to the views of these athletes when forming their own opinions about the future direction of the sport.”

HOW IT WORKED

Test Event III was held on a beach in front of the Bella Italia complex in Lignano Sabbiadoro (ITA). A bespoke course was constructed in collaboration with World Obstacle (FISO) and Tokyo Broadcasting System Television (TBS), the rights holder of the globally popular SASUKE/Ninja Warrior TV show.

Twenty-one countries from five continents registered athletes to take part:

- Brazil
- Canada
- Egypt
- France
- Georgia
- Germany
- Great Britain
- Guatemala
- Hungary
- Ireland
- Italy
- Japan
- Korea
- Lithuania
- Mexico
- Poland
- Portugal
- Romania
- Spain
- Switzerland
- Ukraine

The event was attended by obstacle specialists Dimitri Houles of France and Ibtisam Gardabou of Belgium, who joined six other obstacle athletes from Italy and France.

Each day the specialists led a group
warm-up and provided a demonstration, which was followed by a free training session and then a competition.

All participants were invited to provide formal feedback on their experience along with coaches and observers, as per the previous two Test Events in Ankara (TUR) and Manila (PHI).

Earlier on both days, around 35 athletes of all ages from clubs across Italy were given a separate opportunity to test the obstacle course.

The course was comprised of the following 10 obstacles:

- Wing nuts
- 1.5m wall (over)
- 1.5m wall (over)
- Through bars
- Cycle road
- Balance beam
- Monkey bars
- Run and roll
- Sonic swing
- Warped wall

PODIUM SUMMARY

On day one, there was success for the host nation as Valentina Martinescu (ITA) took out the women’s gold medal, defeating Luisa Cunha (POR) in the showpiece race. Bronze went to Amaya El-Masri (GER).

Connor Chow (CAN) demonstrated his prowess by defeating Milan Csak (HUN) in the men’s gold-medal race, with Jose Molina (GUA) taking the bronze.

On day two, Chow (CAN) won gold again after a gripping battle with Nojus Chmieliauskas (LTU), winner of the U19 Men’s Relay in Modern Pentathlon a week ago. Molina (GUA) showed his consistency by adding a second bronze.

The women’s champion was Farida Abohashim (EGY), who triumphed over silver medallist Anna Dudka (UKR) as Damaris Garza (HUN) – another U19 World Championships medallist – took home the bronze.

UIPM / LOC REACTION

UIPM President Dr Klaus Schormann said: “What we saw from the athletes who took part in this third Test Event of the New Pentathlon Discipline was a high level of excitement – they were asking ‘can we repeat, can we repeat?’

“We have learned from these young athletes is that we are on the right track. As we all know, we already tested the concept with seniors in Ankara and then a mixed demographic in Manila, but here the young athletes are focusing on the future and we are focusing on the future.

‘It will be very important for us to receive their feedback and find out more about what they liked, what were their impressions. The voice of athletes is always important and has to stay in the centre of our preparations and later our discussions and the decision that will be made by Congress.

‘I’m grateful to all who have helped to prepare and arrange this Test Event, especially the Italian Modern Pentathlon Federation and all our people from the obstacle society who provided assistance so that our athletes can learn and adapt.

“We are looking forward to Test Event IV, which will be hosted in Zielona Gora during the UIPM 2022 Pentathlon Junior World Championships and I’m sure it will be another exciting opportunity for young athletes. After four Test Events we will have a good platform for future decisions.”

Fabrizio Bittner, President of the Italian Modern Pentathlon Federation (FIPM), said: “Alongside the UIPM Youth World Championships we witnessed the presentation and tests of the New Pentathlon Discipline that will replace Riding in our sport. The results and the enthusiasm it arouses seem good to me; personally, I see it as a challenge for the future as well as for the training of a new type of athlete.

“It is no secret that a pentathlete must be open to challenges and obstacles to overcome. This aspect has always been part of our tradition.”

BACKGROUND

Obstacle Discipline is undergoing an intensive pilot phase as a potential addition to Modern Pentathlon for the LA28 Olympic Games.

After the successful Test Event I in Ankara (TUR) and Test Event II in Manila (PHL), Test Event III will be followed by Test Event IV in Zielona Gora (POL) on October 7-8, with a special focus on junior (Under 22) participants.

Obstacle Discipline was selected in May 2022 for testing. At the end of the testing and evaluation phase, UIPM 2022 Congress will vote on proposals for the LA28 Modern Pentathlon format to be submitted to the IOC.

Participants in Test Event I gave the event a resounding seal of approval in their answers to an official survey. More than nine out of 10 participating pentathletes (92%) and observers (93%) said they were satisfied or very satisfied with the overall Test Event experience.

Participants in Test Event II also answered the survey with high enthusiasm, with 90% of pentathletes and 85% of observers saying they were satisfied or very satisfied with the overall Test Event experience.
Sophia Hernandez of Guatemala and Marco Rojas of Cuba rose to the top to be crowned champions of the 2022 NORCECA Championships in the Dominican Republic.

Hernandez (GUA) showed her class throughout the Women’s Final as she finished with the best score in both the Fencing and Riding disciplines before achieving the fastest time in the Laser Run. She was followed home by compatriot Gabriela Fernandez (GUA) with Karol Gonzalez of Mexico taking the bronze medal.

The Championships, held in the Dominican capital of Santo Domingo, also saw a gripping Men’s Final where Cuba completed a clean sweep of the senior podium, with Rojas (CUB) shining a light for team-mates Lester Ders (CUB) and Juan Velasquez (CUB) to follow.

In the NORCECA Junior categories there was more joy for Guatemala with Paula Valencia (GUA) claiming gold while in the men’s category, Lorenzo Macias (MEX) secured top spot.

NORCECA is the governing body of Modern Pentathlon in North & Central America as well as the Caribbean, but South American athletes were also invited to compete as part of an Open category.

The Open category saw Camila Fuenzalida of Argentina, a bronze medallist in the 2021 Junior Pan American Games in Cali (COL), take silver while team-mates Vicente Lima (ARG) and Franco Serrano (ARG) claimed silver and bronze respectively in the men’s category – where Andres Torres of Ecuador claimed the gold.

During the Championships, NORCECA Confederation President Rob Stull OLY (USA) chaired an athletes meeting to answer questions about the future direction of Modern Pentathlon.

President Stull was joined by gold medallist Sophia Hernandez (GUA), who sits on the UIPM Athletes Committee, UIPM Vice President Juan Manzo (MEX), UIPM Treasurer John Helmick (USA) and UIPM Coaches Committee Member Genadijus Sokolovas (USA). UIPM Technical Delegate Ana Ruth Orellana (GUA) served as translator when needed.

“I am delighted to have had the opportunity to sit down with our athletes and coaches to offer updates and answer any questions regarding the future of our sport, including the ongoing New Pentathlon Discipline Test Events and the process that has been followed to date. The meeting lasted one hour and was very well received and informative,” said Rob Stull.

“We had a successful regional championships with some superb performances across the women’s, men’s and relay competitions. I was very pleased that we could welcome South American athletes here to our championships, to offer them the opportunity for some elite competition in a great, collegial environment.”

Senior pentathletes from across the Americas will be reunited soon with the 2022 South & Pan-American Junior/Senior Championships taking place in mid-October.

The competition, which takes place in Resende (BRA) starting on October 17, will serve as a qualifier for the 2023 Pan American Games in Santiago (CHI), which will in turn be a qualifier for the Paris 2024 Olympic Games.

Misaki Uchida of Japan finished 4th, one place ahead of Alise Fakhrutdinova of Uzbekistan, while Elena Potapenko of Kazakhstan completed the top six.

China achieved three of the top four places in the Men’s Final thanks to champion Luo (CHN) – who won silver in 2019 – bronze medallist Shuhuan Li (CHN) and 4th-placed Chen Yan (CHN).

The only athlete to break up the sequence was silver medallist Jihun Lee (KOR), whose team-mate Changwan Seo (KOR) finished 5th with Pavel Ilyashenko (KAZ) one place further back.

Athletes from nine nations took part in the competition, which ran from September 14-25 at the Akbulak Olympic Centre and Almaty Horse and Polo Club,
and included Under 19 categories.

UIPM President Dr Klaus Schormann said: "We were delighted to see the 2022 Asian Championships taking place in Almaty, a very traditional city of Modern Pentathlon.

"Nine nations competed and we can say that Modern Pentathlon in Central Asia and Asia presents all the ingredients that we need for future development.

"In the Women’s Final, Korea dominated, as they do not only here in Asia but also in other international competitions. They are performing at a high level thanks to strong training.

"China dominated the Men’s Final, and it’s always good to have big countries in our sport on the podium, but the other nations also enjoyed this competition very much, and the host nation Kazakhstan won bronze medals in both the women’s and men’s team events.

"We are thankful to the Asian Modern Pentathlon Confederation that they organised this competition together with the Modern Pentathlon Federation of Kazakhstan, and thanks to the AMPC President, Mr Hyunjun Kim for taking care of the sport so that we can develop the sport across this big region."

AMPC Secretary General Sangkeong Yeo added: "We were happy to have the 2022 Asian Championships here in Almaty, held for the first time since COVID-19 broke out in 2019. We had nine countries with a big number of participants, and each day of the competition was very successful.

"I thank UIPM for their interest and for the development of the sport in Asian countries, especially Central Asian countries, and I thank the UIPM President for coming here.

"We are proud to be working on the development of Modern Pentathlon in Asia, and we are confident to promote our sport here in Asia with UIPM."

Two of Modern Pentathlon’s emerging talents defeated a high-quality field to become individual champions for the first time at the 2022 European Championships in Székesfehérvár (HUN).

Charlie Follett led an impressive team effort by Great Britain to win the Women’s Final on September 18, with team-mate Joanna Muir (GBR) claiming silver and Tokyo 2020 Olympic champion Kate French (GBR) finishing 5th.

World No.1 Michelle Gulyas of Hungary added to her burgeoning tally of major medals with the bronze, with Ieva Serapinaite of Lithuania coming 4th and Sarolta Simon (HUN) completing the top six.

Later in the day, Richard Bereczki (HUN) delivered a champagne moment for the host nation as he claimed Men’s Final gold and celebrated on the podium with team-mate Balázs Szep (HUN), who took silver ahead of bronze medalist Maksym Aharushev of Ukraine.

Lukasz Gutkowski of Poland was 4th and Christopher Patte of France and Bence Demeter (HUN) occupied the next two places.

With the format mirroring the new Pentathlon World Championships and Paris 2024 Olympic Games format, all individual athletes competed in Qualification and Semi-finals to reach the 18-strong Final line-up.

The Women’s Team medals went to Great Britain (gold), Hungary (silver) and Lithuania (bronze), while Hungary (gold), France (silver) and Czech Republic (bronze) claimed the Men’s Team medals.

The championships closed with the Mixed Relay on September 19, won by France (GBR) and Myles Pillage (GBR) ahead of Italy (Alessandra Frezza & Matteo Cicinelli) and France (Marie Oteiza & Ugo Fleurot).

Earlier in the week, Lithuania (Elžbieta Adomaitytė & Ieva Serapinaite) won the Women’s Relay ahead of Poland and Czech Republic, who won gold in the Men’s Relay thanks to Jan Kuf and Martin Vlach. Poland and France completed the Men’s Relay podium.

Martin Dawe, UIPM Executive Board Member for Marketing, who attended the championships, said: “We saw some exceptional competition throughout the 2022 European Championships and, as always, the Hungarian Modern Pentathlon Federation organised a high-quality event that was enjoyed by both athletes and spectators.

“Finals day was particularly memorable, with excellent performances in weather that felt like a mix of four seasons. Congratulations to all countries who enjoyed success at the 2022 European Championships.”
Nika (GRE) and Gutkowski (POL) lead gold rush in Lisbon (POR)

The UIPM 2022 Laser Run World Championships were acclaimed as a great success after three days of highly competitive racing in blissful weather. The 7th edition of the most popular gathering in the global UIPM Sports movement rewrote the record books, with more than 700 participants from 26 countries – including 16 para athletes from four countries – taking part across the 12 age categories.

Under-9 Youth athletes and Masters 70+ veterans mingled in a festival atmosphere at the riverside Parque das Nacoes, and the whole world was able to watch the action in the first-ever live stream of the championships at UIPM.TV.

First introduced as a standalone sport by the UIPM in 2015, Laser Run has been a runaway success story as its dynamic and ultra-accessible appeal has seen the sport adopted by athletes and fans across the world.

Laser Run, which is also the final discipline of Modern Pentathlon, combines running and shooting in fast-paced and dynamic races including four rounds of laser pistol shooting and four laps of a course measuring 200m-800m.

MEDALLISTS’ REACTION

Senior men’s champion Lukasz Gutkowski of Poland said: "I feel excited, great, fantastic. I just want to thank my mom, the best supporter from 6am until 12am, she is working day and night. I want to thank my coaches, they didn’t come out unfortunately but they said that I would do it on my own and I actually did that.

"I want to thank every team-mate that was with me, supporting me, doing their best and pushing me forward. It feels amazing and I don’t think that I won myself, it’s Egypt that won. Very fantastic.

"With the best of luck I will become an Olympian just like Ahmed Elgendy. I’m very proud that he’s an Egyptian and the second Olympian. My role model.'"
Assisting the UIPM team was Modern Pentathlon New Zealand President Kaewruethai Collings, who has run numerous Para Pentathlon events, and New Zealand Para Adviser Shannon Cleave, who advised and also competed in the visually-impaired category.

While the para movement in Modern Pentathlon is still in its infancy, the UIPM Para-Pentathlon Commission has strong plans to grow athlete numbers exponentially over the coming years, as the sport continues to promote accessibility and universality.

UIPM / LOC REACTION

UIPM President Dr Klaus Schormann said: “Once again our global sporting community has confirmed the huge appetite for opportunities to compete at international level in UIPM Sports.

“The UIPM 2022 Laser Run World Championships, with more than 700 athletes including 16 para athletes, will be remembered as one of the most inclusive competitions in the history of our movement, and I congratulate everyone who was involved in preparing the athletes and the venue for this special celebration.

“We are very grateful to the Portuguese Modern Pentathlon Federation (FPPM) for hosting its second Laser Run World Championships and we are looking forward now to the UIPM 2022 Biathle-Triathle World Championships in Machico in October.”

Joao Pereira, FPPM President, added: “It’s a great pleasure that the Portuguese federation was able to organise the UIPM 2022 Laser Run World Championships.

“It was a great challenge for us and an opportunity for us to demonstrate to the world that we can organise big competitions for people coming to this very peaceful place. We hope that all members of the community around the world see the pictures and see that Portugal is happy to organise competitions for the UIPM Sports family.”

Egyptian pentathlon community welcomes IOC President Bach to Cairo (EGY)

Dr Thomas Bach, President of the International Olympic Committee (IOC), met numerous members of the Egyptian Modern Pentathlon community during a visit to Cairo (EGY).

The IOC President had informal talks with UIPM Athletes Committee Chair Yasser Hefny OLY, as well as his predecessor Aya Medany OLY, Tokyo 2020 Olympic silver medallist Ahmed Eldengy OLY and two-time African champion Haydy Mory OLY.

Yasser Hefny said: “President Bach emphasised that the athletes are the very heart of sports and was very keen to have us always in the front lines. It was great to meet him and I was very happy that we were able to have a casual, positive discussion with him about the future of our sport.”

Officials such as UIPM Vice President Sharif Elenan, who is also President of the Egyptian Modern Pentathlon Federation and Secretary General of the Egyptian Olympic Committee, also had the chance to engage with the leader of the global Olympic sports movement.

President Dr Bach’s visit included talks with the Egyptian Sports Minister, Dr Ashraf Sobhy, who confirmed, according to reports, that Egypt is preparing a bid to host the Summer Olympic Games 2036.

Egypt, which has one of the strongest development programmes in Modern Pentathlon and topped the medal table at the UIPM 2022 Youth World Championships in Lignano Sabbiadoro (ITA), would become the first African nation to host the Olympics if successful Dakar (SEN) will host the Youth Olympic Games 2026.

UIPM Asia-Pacific Development Centre in Kunming (CHN) gets go-ahead

UIPM is delighted to announce that it has entered into agreement for the development of a ground-breaking new Modern Pentathlon facility in China.

The Kunming development is seen as a transformative base for the UIPM Sports movement in the world’s most populated country, the wider Asian continent and for the global athlete community.

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The venue will be qualified to host major UIPM international events such as Pentathlon World Championships, Pentathlon World Cups and other related competitions. The surrounding facilities include a rehabilitation and nutrition centre, athlete apartments, a hotel and other commercial services.

According to the facility’s construction timeline, in conjunction with Yunnan Wuxiang Sports Industry Development Co Ltd, the stadium will be completed by the middle of 2024 with the training base and development centre to follow in late 2024. The remainder of the facility will be completed by the end of 2025.

The development centre has received strong support from the Chinese Olympic Committee, Chinese General Administration of Sport and the Yunnan
John Pennell OAM
(1935-2022)

The Modern Pentathlon community in Australia, Oceania and around the world is mourning the recent passing of John Pennell, a lifelong supporter and advocate for the sport. John was a UIPM Executive Board Member, President of the Oceania Confederation and a Life Member of Modern Pentathlon Australia. He is remembered by the Australian pentathlon community for many decades. He was there at the very first competition he attended, and he was instrumental in encouraging me and many, many other young athletes to participate in the sport.

He was always willing to lend a hand at events and was equally at home standing in the middle of the warm-up ring as he was at the board table, where he contributed much to the administration of the sport. John will remain in the hearts and minds of many Australian modern pentathletes.

John brought a deep knowledge of financial management to our movement. In Australia, his development work paved the way for unforgettable moments such as Kitty Chiller becoming Australia’s first female Olympian in Sydney 2000 and Chloe Lakosie winning Olympic gold at Rio 2016.

“He was a great person who served our sport for more than 50 years and will be missed across our global community.’”

Oceania Confederation President, Kitty Chiller AM, also paid a personal tribute to an administrator who was pivotal to her becoming Australia’s first female Olympic pentathlete.

She said: “John was a larger-than-life figure in the Australian Modern Pentathlon community for many decades. He was there at the very first competition I did in 1982 and was instrumental in encouraging me and many, many other young athletes to participate in the sport.

“John was a UIPM President Dr Klaus Schorrman
led the tributes by saying: “As President of the Modern Pentathlon Union of Australia and the Oceania Confederation, John’s influence stretched right across the region and the wider world.

“He was a stable pillar of our global movement who made friends everywhere he went. We first met at the UIPM 1984 Congress, and I will never forget the UIPM 1985 World Championships in Melbourne, where he organised a super competition followed a week later by the Championship of Champions in Sydney.

“John brought a deep knowledge of financial management to our movement. In Australia, his development work paved the way for unforgettable moments such as Kitty Chiller becoming Australia’s first female Olympian in Sydney 2000 and Chloe Lakosie winning Olympic gold at Rio 2016.

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“The project is very ambitious and it will take years to be completed in its entirety. But this is a hugely positive step forward for our sport, and one we know will benefit our entire community for generations to come.”

Iran NF President elected to NOC Executive Board

Across all global societies, Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II was respected and loved, and our UIPM Sports movement no different. Few could fail to be impressed by Her Majesty’s dedication to her public service as Sovereign to the United Kingdom and Head of the Commonwealth, and we have lost a very special monarch who touched all of our lives in some way during her 70 years on the throne. She enjoyed the special distinction of being the only person to have opened two Olympic Games, Montreal 1976 and London 2012.

Modern Pentathlon has benefited from the support of the Royal Family for a long time. Her Majesty’s late husband, Prince Philip, was Patron of Pentathlon GB for 63 years, and her only daughter, HRH Princess Royal, plays an important role as a Member of the International Olympic Committee and Honorary President of the British Olympic Association. Her Royal Highness is a close friend to Modern Pentathlon.

I would like to thank all UIPM Sports community members and partners who attended our Technical Meeting in Lignano Sabbiadoro, Italy on the evening of Her Majesty’s passing, and shared in a minute’s silence.

On behalf of the global UIPM family, our thoughts are with the Royal Family at this sad time.
Inside UIPM
UIPM Secretary General Shiny Fang’s message

The most active UIPM Congress is coming soon

Having been Secretary General since the end of 2012 after the London Olympics, and involved in UIPM since 2008, I’ve never seen so many motions and proposals sent by so many National Federations ahead of a Congress.

While it means there will be a lot of discussions during the UIPM 2022 Congress on November 12-13, it is a vibrant sign that our stakeholders care about the sport and they are more and more active and engaged in the movement.

Clearly some motions are tough and assertive, but a productive debate will help all sides, increasing our mutual understanding, and it will strengthen the outcomes and implementations of this very important Congress.

I still remember well the discussions when UIPM changed from standalone shooting and running to a combined event in 2008 in Antigua (my first UIPM Congress), and from shooting lead pellets to laser beams in 2009 in Copenhagen – we had less than 40 NFs discussing the items, debating and defending, and in both 2010 and 2011 we had protests from athletes.

Today, we are talking about 129 NFs with two new NFs subjected to be approved in the forthcoming Congress to become a global sports family of 131 nations. Was that because of the introduction of Laser Run, with environmentally friendly shooting, easier transportation and higher accessibility? I would say that is a big part of the reason. And the hard fact is that UIPM Laser Run events have reached around 100 countries, while the Modern Pentathlon has only reached half of them.

Some might argue that laser shooting is still shooting, but Obstacle Discipline is not Riding. Well, very true, and once again, if keeping Riding with improved riding ability and horse and athlete welfare could solve our fundamental problem, we would never give up trying. But it can’t.

From a total of 205 National Olympic Committees, we have reached a saturation point by planting the sport in 131 countries, because it’s a non-starter for the other 74 countries when talking about MP with its current five disciplines; and their first point is always “we have no horses.” And within our 131 countries, half of them will tell you that they can conduct any of UIPM’s multi-discipline sports except a Pentathlon with Riding.

Shall we ignore these facts and let Modern Pentathlon belong only to rich countries with an established equestrian scene or belong only to continents that have a strong horse culture? I believe you would agree the answer is no.

Our mission as a global governing body is to develop our sport worldwide, and to bring the sport to all corners of the planet and to all social classes of people. Hard as it is to say goodbye to horses, this should not be an elite pastime – it needs to be an accessible, non-discriminatory sport or we will walk a narrow path until the sport disappears.

Back to the Congress happening in five weeks’ time, it is a forum for different opinions and a chance to reach final agreements. It is a place for democratic voice and a chance to hear from everyone, including the silent majority.

As long as we have the same goal of preserving Olympic status, I know this community can engage in a mature dialogue, debate the issues and own the final result together.

Can we channel all our strengths in the same direction after this Congress? I hope we can, and I believe we can, and it’s very important if we all want to keep the Olympic dream alive for future generations.

UIPM President Dr. Klaus Schormann's activities

04.09. - 10.09.2022: Lignano Sabbiadoro, ITA

UIPM President Dr. Klaus Schormann visited the UIPM 2022 Youth World Championships (U19/U17), where he had numerous meetings with Italian Modern Pentathlon Federation (FIPM) President Fabrizio Bittner and Secretary General Filippo de Liguori.

They discussed how peace can be fostered through sport with strong support for future generations, and how sport is one of the most important tools for education.

At a press conference to promote the Youth World Championships, President Dr. Giovanni Malago. They discussed how peace can be fostered through sport with strong support for future generations, and how sport is one of the most important tools for education.

UIPM President Dr. Schormann, Vice President Joel Bouzou OLY and FIPM President Bittner shared general ideas on the two main challenges of the UIPM - the Olympic project and the development of the new disciplines.

They discussed the development of all UIPM Sports and the FIPM officials briefed the UIPM President on future bids for the UIPM 2024 Pentathlon World Cup and Pentathlon World Cup Final in Rome (ITA). The Modern Pentathlon movement has welcomed the return of Italy as a host of high-level competitions based on a long tradition of competition organisation.

The FIPM President and Secretary General underlined their strong support for the new discipline of Obstacle Discipline as a new discipline for integration into Modern Pentathlon in place of Riding, underlined by their hosting New Pentathlon Discipline Test Event III on September 9/10.
Dr Schormann addressed the Technical Meeting before the New Pentathlon Discipline Test Event III. Afterwards, the UIPM President met with Hussain Al-Abdulwahab, Vice President of the Saudi Modern Pentathlon Federation.

UIPM President Dr Klaus Schormann addresses the Technical Meeting before New Pentathlon Discipline Test Event III; (left) the UIPM President meets Saudi Modern Pentathlon Federation Vice President Hussain Al-Abdulwahab.

UIPM President Dr Klaus Schormann joins officials and participants in the UIPM 2022 Youth World Championships for a Modern Pentathlon ‘high five’. Another high five for UIPM President Dr Klaus Schormann, this time with officials and participants in the Asian Modern Pentathlon Championships.

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others also with Kseniya Gulyamova,
Secretary General of the Modern
Pentathlon Federation of Uzbekistan,
who is also member of the UIPM
Women’s Commission. They shared
thoughts linked to a stronger inclusion
of women in leading positions.

On September 16 President Dr Klaus met
with Valerii Novikov and Viktor Maltscev,
respectively President and Secretary
General of the Modern Pentathlon &
Biathlon Federation Kyrgyzstan (also
Vice President and Technical Director
of the Asian Modern Pentathlon
Confederation). They had an intensive
discussion about Modern Pentathlon in
Central Asia and the Obstacle Discipline
testing process.

President Dr Schormann briefed them
and the other eight delegations about
future steps for the coming generations
with the clear priority of reducing costs
and complexity with the worldwide
accessibility of Modern Pentathlon
always in mind, together with harness for
all athletes to be able to take part in UIPM
competitions.

Dr Schormann also had a conversation

Representatives from the nine competing nations
in the Asian Championships. In the front row,
left to right: Leonid Zimarev (Kazakhstan NF SG),
Kseniya Gulyamova (Uzbekistan NF SG), Hyunjun
Kim (AMPC President), Dr Klaus Schormann
(UIPM President), Viktor Maltscev (Kyrgyzstan
NF SG), Bin Zhang (AMPC VP), Ping-Hung Lin
(Taiwan NF VP).

with UIPM Athletes Committee Member
for Asia, Shen-Hung Liu (TPE). For the
UIPM President it was useful to receive
insights from Asian countries and to
learn more about how athletes view the
New Pentathlon Discipline process.

Asia champion Mina Jeong (KOR) said
she supported the transformation of
Modern Pentathlon to retain the sport’s
place on the Olympic programme.

14.09.2022: IOC Constitutional Call

Along with other International
Federation (IF) leaders, the UIPM
President attended a call with the
President of the International Olympic
Committee (IOC), Dr Thomas Bach, who
talked a lot about the conflict in Ukraine
and the IOC’s efforts to find a solution
for all affected athletes.

President Dr Bach also updated the IFs on
the IOC Strategic Framework on Human
Rights and the work of the IOC Games
Optimisation Group, which examines
the constant evolution of the Olympic
and Paralympic Games in reflecting the
state of society at a given point in time.

27.09.2022: UIPM Executive Board

UIPM President Dr Klaus Schormann
brieﬁed the UIPM Executive Board

Top to bottom: UIPM
President Dr Klaus
Schormann with Bin Zhang
(AMPC VP), Hyunjun Kim
(UIPM President), Leonid
Zimarev (Kazakhstan NF SG)
and two ladies in traditional
Kazakh ceremonial dress;
with Chultem Otgonbaatar/
Sato (Mongolia NF President);
and a Mongolian athlete
and coach; joining a video
meeting with IOC President
Dr Thomas Bach and other IF
Presidents.
about the call he had with other IFs and IOC President Dr Bach. The EB also discussed the upcoming UIPM 2022 Congress, which will be held online to maximise attendance and facilitate democratic participation.

28.09.2022: Hanau, GER

UIPM President Dr Klaus Schormann and Executive Assistant Lena Nussbaumer attended the 25th anniversary of Prof Dr Hans-Michael Ockenfels, acting as leader of his renowned skin and allergy clinic.

Dr Ockenfels, UIPM Doping Review Panel Chair, gave a speech before the gala dinner about preventative medicine and Executive Assistant Lena Nussbaumer (UIPM Executive Assistant).

UIPM Executive Board meeting and (left to right) SE Jeanmot Letamba (Ambassador of Democratic Republic Congo), Dr Klaus Schormann (UIPM President), Prof Dr Hans-Michael Ockenfels (UIPM Doping Review Panel Chair), Simon Azovito (Representative of African States), Lena Nussbaumer (UIPM Executive Assistant).

9.09. - 30.09.2022: Vatican City

UIPM President Dr Klaus Schormann, UIPM Doping Review Panel Chair, gave a speech before the signing of a Declaration on Sport. It was very important to come together in solidarity at this difficult time for the world linked to business, war and other challenges.

President Dr Schormann said: “The Sport For All Summit in the Vatican City was based on the initiative of many stakeholders of world sport and linked to peace, education and better understanding of the possibilities of what we can do to make sport accessible to everyone, regardless of physical and mental disabilities and social challenges.

“It was a global gathering of stakeholders across sport, church, society and education. IOC President Dr Bach gave a clear message to all, and there were very interesting debates about what it means to respect all parts of society in ensuring that we make a better world through sport. It was very important to come together in solidarity at this difficult time for the world linked to business, war and other challenges.”
Pentathlon World Rankings

The PWR is updated live at www.pentathlon.org after each competition. PWR as at 2 October 2022:

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The latest UIPM World Rankings, World Cup Rankings and Olympic Games Rankings are all available at www.pentathlon.org

Baron Pierre de Coubertin

“The Modern Pentathlon event would test a man’s moral qualities as much as his physical resources and skills, producing thereby the ideal, complete athlete.”