

# Innovation Commission meeting

Online, 31 April 2025

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# UIPM

**Present:**     **Rob Stull**, UIPM President (RS)  
                  **Shiny Fang**, UIPM Secretary General (SF)  
                  **Ivar Sisniega**, Commission Chair (IS)  
                  **Aistis Baronas**, Commission Member (AB)  
                  **Horacio de la Vega**, Commission Member (HD)  
                  **Janusz Peciak**, Commission Member (JP)  
                  **Mike Möbus**, Commission Member (MM)  
                  **Nishanthe Piyasena**, Commission Member (NP)

**UIPM staff:**   **Florent Boas**, Commission Co-ordinator (FB)  
                      **Alexandre França**, UIPM Events Operations Director (AF)

**Excused:**     **Aya Medany**, Commission Advisor

## **AGENDA**

1. Message from the UIPM President and Secretary General
2. Presentation of the members
3. Introduction by the President of the Commission stating the objectives and topics to be covered.
4. Discussion of topics on the agenda
5. Possibilities for in person meeting in second semester of 2025
6. Conclusions and next steps

## **MINUTES**

### **1. Introduction and Objectives:**

- **RS** welcomed members and congratulated **IS** for chairing the commission in the previous cycle, which was crucial in replacing riding with obstacle.
- **RS** briefly discussed the election of the new IOC President and stressed the need for ongoing innovation towards Los Angeles, Brisbane, and beyond. He also noted the success of the first WC in Cairo.
- **SF** acknowledged the significance of the commission's members and emphasised the importance of their work. She encouraged them to think creatively while remaining practical.

- **IS** welcomed participants and emphasised the importance of innovation in modern pentathlon, particularly with changes in obstacle racing and competition format.

## 2. Los Angeles 2028 Olympics:

- **IS** stated the importance of producing a spectacle for TV audiences worldwide at the Los Angeles 2028 Games. He mentioned that it was good news that modern pentathlon would be scheduled at the beginning of the Games, rather than at the end, for viewership reasons.
- **IS** mentioned the need for fencing to be more exciting and discussed the possibility of going wireless and being creative with the shape of the fencing piste. **JP** and **SF** discussed the possibility of reducing each bout duration during the Fencing Direct Elimination to shorten its duration.
- Members discussed the sequence of disciplines and agreed that the current sequence (FEN, OBS, SWM, LSR) makes sense but requires more testing before a conclusion can be reached.
- **MM** mentioned the possibility of a continuous format. **IS** said that continuous was already discussed in the past but the idea was not pushed through because of the difficulty in covering it on TV.
- **IS** discussed the need to make swimming more exciting for TV purposes by introducing a handicap start or even obstacles as part of the swimming event. **AB** agreed to test handicap swimming in Lithuania.
- **RS** and **SF** noted the importance of making the obstacle race more challenging and engaging and mentioned speed as a key differentiation element compared to other obstacle formats. Members discussed the possibility of increasing the course distance, adding elevation, and making the obstacles themselves more difficult.
- Members highlighted the need to balance the duration of each discipline for better TV presentation.

## 3. Television Production and Media Strategy:

- **HD** emphasised the importance of highlights and short clips for social media engagement. He added that the sport needed to be seen on more outlets and offered help to boost exposure.
- **AB** and **RS** mentioned that the WCH finals would happen at night to create a spectacle on TV.
- **FB** presented new TV graphics and the plan for short content and highlights this season.

- **MM** proposed integrating immersive technology for better TV production and mentioned the importance of being disruptive.
- **IS** stressed the need for storytelling to make the sport more appealing.

#### 4. Development Pathway for Youth:

- **IS** asked about UIPM's pathway to development and mentioned that shooting and fencing are the two most difficult disciplines to introduce in schools.
- **AF** discussed UIPM's projects to distribute training kits and organise virtual competitions to improve accessibility.
- **AB** shared Lithuania's success in integrating laser run in schools and the importance of government support in providing schools with pistols.
- **NP** discussed Sri Lanka's plans to introduce obstacles in schools and the role of government funding. He also emphasised the need to bring innovation to the grassroots.
- **JP** suggested reforming age categories to better align with school sports programmes.

#### 5. Future Meetings:

- **SF** proposed the next meeting after the World Cup in Bulgaria to review new fencing formats and TV graphics.
- **IS** suggested an in-person meeting during the World Championships in Lithuania.

## ACTION PLAN

Action Item	Assignee	Deadline	Notes
Test handicap swimming	AB	TBD	
Consider shorter fencing bout	All members	Next commission meeting	
Produce more short video content	FB	Next commission meeting	Produce examples and metrics
Produce evidence of attractive and understandable TV graphics	FB	Next commission meeting	
Observe relevance of sequence	All members	Next commission meeting	Watch UIPMTV and take notes
Develop a strategy for growing pentathlon among the youth and in schools	Need to integrate separate team of experts	Next commission meeting	