

**JUNE  
2024**



UNION INTERNATIONALE  
DE PENTATHLON MODERNE

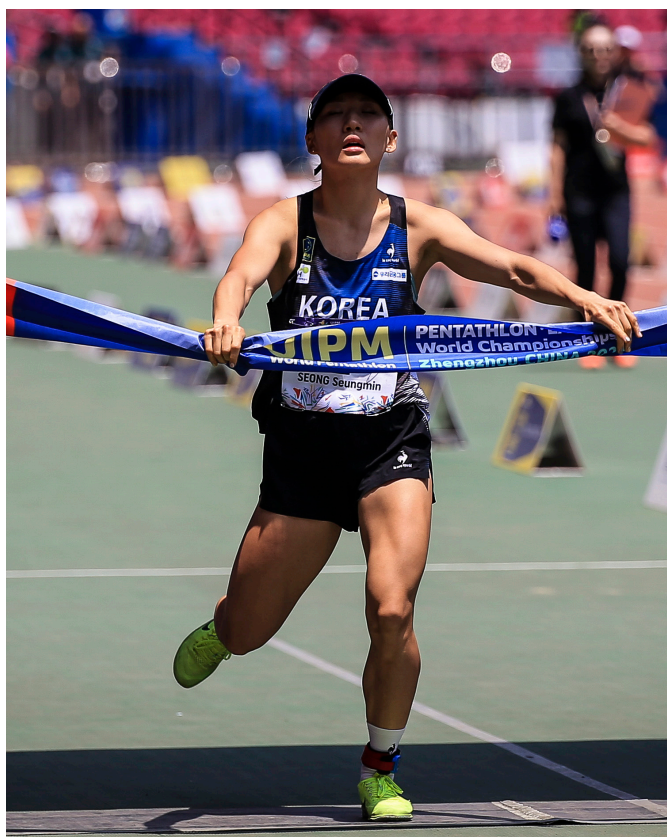


**World Pentathlon  
Newsletter**

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## UIPM 2024 PENTATHLON WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS



Relief and joy as Csaba Bohm of Hungary and Seungmin Seong of Korea become the 2024 individual world champions in Zhengzhou (CHN).



## UIPM 2024 Pentathlon World Championships



Woongtae Jun and Changwan Seo celebrate their Men's Relay victory for Korea after they matched their Women's team in Zhengzhou (CHN)

### Korea in unstoppable form as Zhengzhou (CHN) sees Asia's powerhouse rise to the top

Korea sent out a booming statement of Olympic intent as the Asian powerhouse dominated a spectacular UIPM 2024 Pentathlon World Championships by racking up four gold medals during a memorable week in Zhengzhou (CHN).

Seungmin Seong (KOR) and Csaba Bohm of Hungary savoured the joy of becoming individual world champions as Seong (KOR) secured her country's third gold - before they added a fourth in the Mixed Relay.

It was a clear sign of the emergence of a new generation of Modern Pentathlon superstars as 21-year-old Seong (KOR) and 23-year-old Bohm (HUN) stood on top of the world with less than

two months to go until the Paris 2024 Olympic Games. With precious Paris places on the line, Super Saturday had an added level of anticipation and tension. It was all in keeping with a captivating week in the Chinese city.

### Men's and Women's Relays: Korea savour a sweet double success

Korea lived up to its reputation as the dominant Modern Pentathlon force in Asia by opening the UIPM 2024 Pentathlon World Championships with a memorable golden double.

The Women's Relay kickstarted the competition with a huge win for Sunwoo Kim and Seungmin Seong, who prevailed by almost 40sec from silver medallists Haydy Morsy and Amira Kandil of Egypt, with Sophia Hernandez and Sofia Cabrera of Guatemala picking up bronze.

Team Korea opted to select their highest-ranked four athletes for the opening day of relays and a second gold was duly delivered in the Men's Relay by Tokyo 2020 Olympic bronze medallist Woongtae Jun and his team-mate Changwan Seo.

The European challenge was stronger in the Men's Relay and Maksym Aharushev and Oleksandr Tovkai of Ukraine came home 24sec behind the champions to seal silver, with Leo Bories and Ugo Fleurot of France coming from behind to snatch bronze.

Host nation China also competed strongly on the day but after winning all three senior gold medals in the UIPM 2024 Laser Run World Championships, had to settle for 4th place in the Pentathlon Women's Relay (Yewen Gu & Xiuting Zhong) and Men's Relay (Linbin Zhang & Bailiang Chen).

### Champions' reaction

Jun (KOR) said: "First I want to congratulate our Women's Relay team. In the Men's Relay we also managed to achieve a very good position for our team, so we are feeling good.

"Tomorrow we start the individual competition and we will continue to work hard. The weather is a little bit different to Korea, but we are excited to be here for the World Championships and preparing for the Olympic Games. As a pentathlete, I can say we have a great stadium here, and competing always makes me very happy."

Seo (KOR) added: "This was my first time competing with JW and very nice; he is a very good athlete and made it very easy so we could have a very good position."

### Men's and Women's Finals: Seong (KOR) and Bohm (HUN) celebrate first world titles

Bohm (HUN) is taking men's pentathlon to a whole new level having broken the overall world record for the second successive competition, extending his previous mark of 1,535 points to an incredible 1,551.

Seong (KOR), 21, confirmed her status as an emerging force after three silver medals in UIPM Pentathlon World Cups in 2023 and 2024. In becoming her country's first individual female world champion she enabled her team to continue their dominance of the competition after a double success in the Women's and Men's Relays earlier in the week.

Another leading pentathlon team did their very best to deny her the glory. The Hungarians seem to be peaking at just the right time and Blanka Guzi (HUN) pushed Seong (KOR) right to the line after catching her on the final lap of Laser Run, the 25-year-old denied gold by barely a second after an epic sprint finish.

The drama wasn't over there – another sprint finish settled the race for bronze



The Women's Final gets underway with a competitive Riding discipline.

as 21-year-old Rita Erdos (HUN) completed a remarkable advance from 13th to pass an exhausted Salma Abdelmaksoud of Egypt, who fell to the ground just a few steps from the finish line and had to pick herself up to claim 4th place.

In the context of Paris 2024, all three women's medallists won a direct qualification quota place for the Olympic Games. As Hungary already had earned one place through Michelle Gulyas (HUN), selectors will have to decide which two of their three places to accept.

Not far from the medal contest, 38-year-old Anastasiya Prokopenko (AIN) showed that experience can still compete with youthful energy as

she finished 5th, in a major boost to her hopes of Olympic qualification, followed by Ilke Ozyuksel of Türkiye in 6th.

Having enjoyed a career high of winning the UIPM 2024 Pentathlon World Cup Final just two weeks ago, the unflappable Bohm (HUN) completed the dream double with a performance that almost bordered on flawless.

With outstanding performances across all five disciplines, Bohm (HUN) crossed the finish line a staggering 27sec ahead of his team-mate Balazs Szep (HUN), who claimed a direct qualification quota place for this summer's Olympics.

There was a captivating battle for





Tamara Vega (MEX) takes a hit on the back during a fierce encounter in the Fencing Bonus Round of the Women's Final at the World Championships.

bronze that seemed to be heading in the direction of Africa thanks to the hard running of Moutaz Mohamed (EGY), but impeccable shooting from Woongtae Jun (KOR) enabled the Tokyo 2020 Olympic bronze medallist to claim a morale-boosting medal ahead of Paris 2024.

A solid performance enabled Kamil Kasperczyk of Poland to finish 5th, with Shuai Luo of China delighting the home crowd by completing the top six.

In a rare duopoly, both the Women's and Men's Team gold medals were won by Hungary with Korea collecting double silver. Mexico (women) and Czechia (men) claimed the bronze medals.

**Medallists' reaction**

Women's champion Seong (KOR) said: "This is my third time at the World Championships and my first time winning an individual gold medal, so I'm very happy and proud. Now I can

go back to Korea and prepare for the Olympic Games."

Silver medallist Guzi (HUN) said: "I'm not disappointed after the finish, because I think I had a lack of energy and power. But my heart told me 'go Blanka, you have to do it and you will do it'. I'm talking about the [Olympic] quota place – not the gold medal this time.

"I felt something special before the competition, in the morning. I could say that I had a strong belief in myself. It was my dream and it came true. The main thing of this day was to secure my [Olympic] place, and I could do it. It was the main task."

Erdos (HUN) said: "It was a great race... I decided just to focus on myself and I did my best, and I will see what will happen. I hope I will make it [to Paris 2024] with this achievement, but I don't know yet."

Men's champion Bohm (HUN) said: "It

feels amazing and, yes, finally I can say I am officially in the Olympics. I made it, so that was the main goal and I'm super happy.

"A lot of people helped me to achieve this, and in the last few laps they all came into my mind and I just wanted to thank them with this medal, because I'm so grateful to them.

"I am not thinking about Olympic medals or Olympic performances, I'm just happy that I qualified. It was a long journey. I need to sit down for a bit, get some days to rest and then start again to the Olympics."

Silver medallist Szep (HUN) added: "Before the competition I was a little bit ill, so I did not have good preparation. I was very tired, and today I was sleeping, so I didn't feel before the competition that I would get this good result.

"It's very good for me. In 2022 I was 3rd in the World Championships and now I am 2nd, I hope next year I will be the



world champ."

Bronze medallist Jun (KOR) said: "Today, the Laser Run was the most amazing race of my life. No misses in the shooting, and the weather was nice with very good conditions. I went step by step.

"The Korea team with women and men is now in a very good place, and this was the last competition before the Paris Olympic Games. The time remaining is short, but we can try to train well in Korea and prepare for more good performances in Paris."

**Women's Final – Riding**

A really high standard of Riding led to minimal drama on a morning of blistering heat in Zhengzhou (CHN), with only elimination and four scores under 280. Gulyas (HUN) was the unfortunate rider who failed to progress in the competition, opening the door for team-mate Guzi (HUN) to stride into contention with one of only two perfect rides.

The other 300 scorer was Mingyu Zhang (CHN), giving local spectators something to cheer, while Seong (KOR), Ozyuksek (TUR), Abdelmaksoud (EGY) and Prokopenko (AIN) were

Action from the Women's Final in Zhengzhou (CHN) in Swimming (above); Michelle Gulyas (HUN) embarks on another lap of her Laser Run (right)

among those who emerged relatively unscathed with only one knockdown.

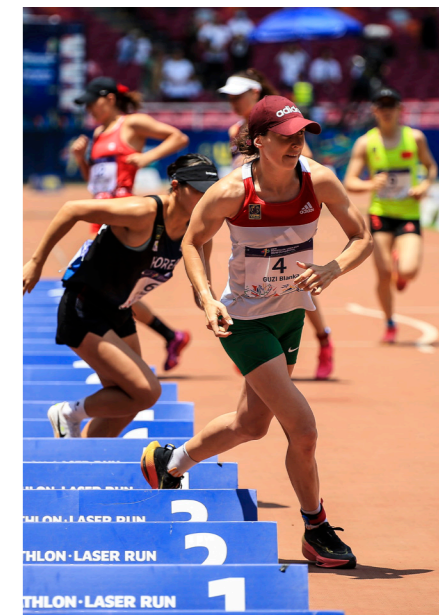
**Fencing**

The standout fencer was undoubtedly Marlina Jawaid of Sweden, who gave herself a cushion with an impressive 25 victories – two more than Seong (KOR) and Unju Kim (KOR). Importantly, Seong (KOR) was the last woman standing in the Bonus Round after three consecutive successes. The biggest mover was Prokopenko (AIN), a former world champion and Beijing 2008 Olympic bronze medallist who was clearly intent on grasping her opportunity to qualify for Paris 2024.

**Swimming**

She may have fallen out of contention in Riding but Gulyas (HUN) took the opportunity to swim full pelt and was rewarded with a standout time of 2:09.45, but once again Seong (KOR) showed her all-round ability by joining Abdelmaksoud (EGY) in going under 2:13, with Guzi (HUN) only 1sec slower than them.

It all meant that Seong (KOR) would



start the Laser Run with an 11sec advantage over Abdelmaksoud (EGY) and Jawaid (SWE), with Guzi (HUN) starting 32sec off the pace alongside Tokyo 2020 Olympic champion Kate French of Great Britain.

**Laser Run**

She may have started with an 18sec shoot, but Seong (KOR) refused to let that faze her and she kept her foot on the accelerator throughout an enthralling race.



The big movers were Guzi (HUN) and Erdos (HUN), as the only two who completed the course in less than 11min, and the time of 10:45 of Erdos (HUN) was truly extraordinary in the conditions.

Lap by lap, she slashed her way through the field until pacing her final 600m perfectly to rob a medal from the ever-consistent Abdelmaksoud (EGY).

Ahead of her, Guzi (HUN) took confidence from her recent victory in Pentathlon World Cup Sofia, knowing that she had the ability to prise the lead away from Seong (KOR). And she did so, briefly, having shot brilliantly to set up a classic final lap. But Seong (KOR) stubbornly fought back, giving herself space in the final 200-300m.

Somehow Guzi (HUN) was not yet done, and she gave everything in a final dash to the line, and an exhausted Seong (KOR) seemed to stop on the line as she touched the tape only an instant before Guzi (HUN) hurtled across the line.

**Men's Final – Riding**

In a sharp contrast to the Women's Final, numerous male athletes struggled to control their horses under the glare of a hot Zhengzhou sun. In fact, only the rider who went first – Myles Pillage (GBR) – had enjoyed a clear round when it came to the turn of the competition leaders.

First Kasperczak (POL) and Szep (HUN) kept their nerve with only one knockdown apiece, and then Bohm (HUN) showed his absolute champion quality with a perfect 300 – replicated by Martin Vlach (CZE) in the final ride.

A nasty fall resulted in elimination for Fabian Liebig of Germany, while France duo Valentin Belaud and Jean-Baptiste Mourcia lost control of their horses and incurred terminal damage to their medal hopes, as did Bence Demeter (HUN) and Changwan Seo (KOR) – while Marek Grycz (CZE) failed to start.

**Fencing**



Csaba Bohm (HUN) controls his horse during the Men's Final on Super Saturday in Zhengzhou (CHN)



Changwan Seo (KOR) strikes a touch during the Men's Fencing Bonus Round.

After the elimination of top-scoring fencer Maksim Maruk (AIN) in the Semi-finals, Bohm (HUN) carried the best score of 22V/12D from the Fencing Ranking Round, but Szep (HUN) gave his compatriot no reason to get carried away with his own excellent score of 21V/13D. When the pair met in the last bout of the Bonus Round, it was telling that Bohm (HUN) won the two available points to move a little further ahead.

Others who performed strongly in the Ranking Round were Soengjin Kim (KOR), Kasperczak (POL) and Grycz

(CZE), each scoring 20 victories. Mohamed (EGY) took the most out of a tight Bonus Round, adding six points with three touches.

**Swimming**

Pillage (GBR) typically set the standard in the pool with an impressive 1min 57.38sec, but Mohamed (EGY) conceded only one point to the top swimmer by also going under 1:58.

Jun (KOR) and Bohm (HUN) also made the top five, while Szep (HUN) lost 8sec to Bohm (HUN), enabling him to start Laser Run with a 9sec advantage, with



Myles Pillage (GBR) makes smooth progress through the water in the Swimming discipline during the Men's Final.

Kasperczak (POL) going out 3rd.

**Laser Run**

A winner of two Pentathlon World Cup silver medals earlier in the season, Mohamed (EGY) burst out of the blocks and moved up from 5th to 3rd in each of the first three running laps, pegged back only by his own erratic shooting.

Apart from the nerveless Hungarians who protected their gold and silver positions with no significant alarm, the star of the shooting range was the legendary Jun (KOR), who made up crucial ground at every visit to the range with his unerring 7sec delivery.

Seeing a chance to seize his first individual medal of the season, the multiple World Cup winner raced out of the fourth shoot ahead of a misfiring Mohamed (EGY) and kicked for home impressively in the last 600m, serving a reminder of his class ahead of the Olympics.

Indeed, his Laser Run time of 9:53.44 was bettered only by Mourcia (FRA), who timed 9:48.26 to finish 11th. The imperious Bohm (HUN) continued to perform at an elevated level as he and Vlach (CZE) also broke the 10min mark.

**Mixed Relay: Korea (Kim/Seo) claim fourth gold in impressive style**

Korea confirmed its status as the dominant nation of the UIPM 2024 Pentathlon World Championships as Sunwoo Kim and Changwan Seo teamed up to win a thrilling Mixed



A packed range during the Laser Run as the Men's Final gets close to its climax.

**Relay.**

After a week of relentless hot weather, the arrival of very heavy rain disrupted the schedule on the final day, forcing the cancellation of Riding and outdoor Fencing. This resulted in a very close Mixed Relay that became a gripping spectacle in the decisive Laser Run.

Malak Ismail and Mohamed Elgendy of Egypt moved all the way up from 6th and Elgendy (EGY) left the final shoot in the lead, but Seo (KOR) overtook him to reclaim the lead and win the world title with a dynamic final run.

Lithuania earned the bronze medal

thanks to Elzbieta Adomaityte and Titas Puronas, while Kazakhstan, Poland and host nation China completed the top six.

Korea ended top of the medal table with seven medals including four golds, narrowly ahead of Hungary, who took home six medals including three golds. The two nations were so much in control that only one other country managed more than one medal - Egypt with two silvers.

Host nation China managed numerous top-six and top-10 finishes in Modern Pentathlon, as well as several medals in the Laser Run World Championships



– but the sheer professionalism of the staff and volunteers throughout the competition also merited a collective medal.

**Medallists' reaction**

Gold medallist Kim (KOR) said: "On the first day of this competition we had the Women's and Men's Relays and we won both gold medals, so it was a great start. And now on the last day we end the competition with another gold medal, so we are very happy."

Her team-mate Seo (KOR) added: "This season there have been so many competitions and I'm feeling really good. It has been a very important season ahead of the Olympic Games. At the start of the season I didn't have an Olympic place, but I finished in some good positions and now I can take the Olympic ticket."

Silver medallist Ismail (EGY) said: "I'm feeling very happy, but this race was very different. There was no Riding and even the Fencing bouts were only worth three points, but we were all very close to each other at the start of the Laser Run.

"2024 was a really strong year, the Olympic qualification year is very difficult across the whole season. I did it very well, and now I have the Olympics in less than two months. The whole year was really surprising for me – I didn't know that I could do this but I did it in the end."

Her team-mate Elgendy (EGY) added: "It was a very fast race on the last lap [with Seo]; he went very fast at the beginning of the lap and it was a little bit hard for me, but I'm super happy with this medal. We just came out of the shooting range and in the first 50 metres he just went at a very fast pace, so I was in shock and I wasn't able to be with him to the end.

"It was a long and hard year with many competitions, as it is Olympic year, but I was so happy with my two [Pentathlon World Cup] medals and with this medal. I was aiming for more,



The Italian team celebrates a victory in the Mixed Relay Fencing discipline.

but in the end it's good for me."

Bronze medallist Adomaityte (LTU), asked about the adapted format of this Mixed Relay, said: "I think it helped, I think it brought our mind into the moment and helped us to focus on where we were at.

"It's really nice because this is the last World Championships with horses, and no matter that we didn't have to ride today, it's still the last World Championships with Riding so it's pretty phenomenal."

Team-mate Purnas (LTU) added: "My shooting wasn't so good, and that's why I had to do a very fast finish, which was hard. I'm not a very good finisher so I'm happy that I was able to stay and bring the bronze home."

**Fencing**  
The Fencing Ranking Round and Bonus Round both took place indoors due to the weather conditions, and Lithuania (Adomaityte/Purnas) dominated with

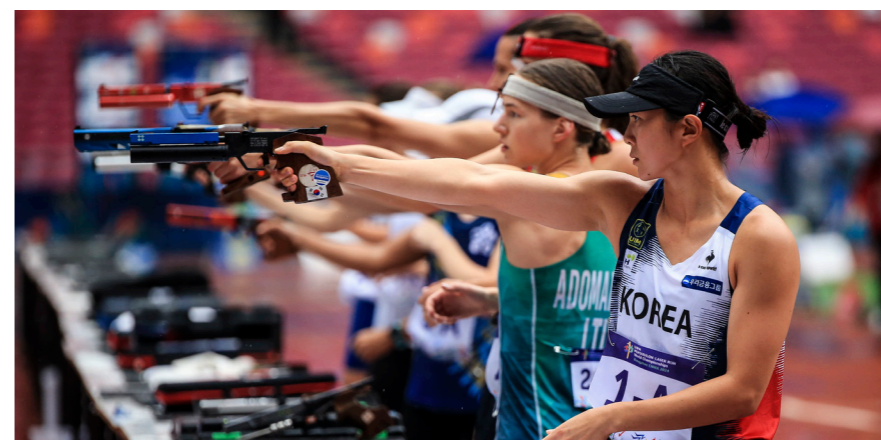
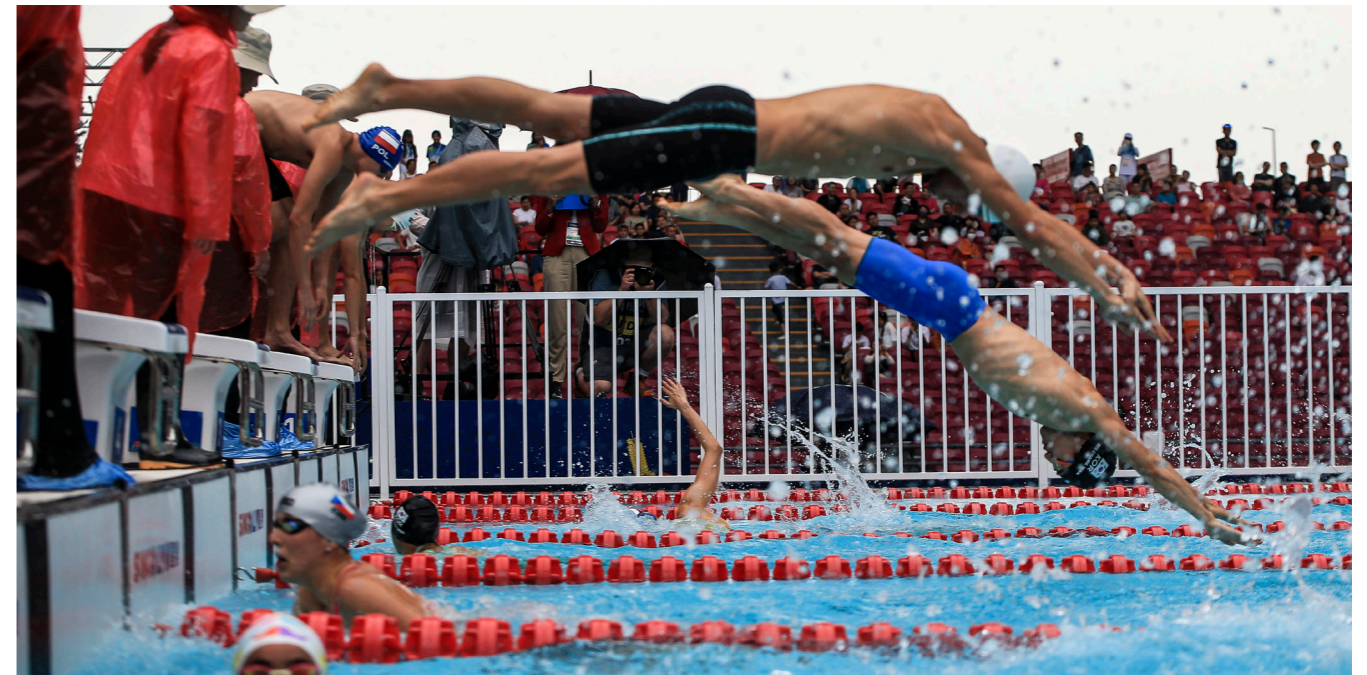
32 victories and four additional points in the Bonus Round.

Korea (Kim/Seo) also performed well with 28 touches as Czechia (Veronika Novotna & Jan Kuf) scored 27.

Poland (Oktawia Nowacka & Daniel Lawrynowicz) were the stars of the Bonus Round with five victories.

**Swimming**  
There was little to separate the top teams in Swimming, with six nations going under 2min. With their time of 1min 58.88sec, Korea (Kim/Seo) made an overall gain on their rivals and conceded only one point to the fastest swimmers, Elena Potapenko and Giorgiy Boroda-Dudochkin of Kazakhstan.

**Laser Run**  
Starting with a 2sec advantage over Adomaityte (LTU) and with four other rivals including Ismail (EGY) within 10sec, it was never going to be easy for Kim (KOR) but she handled the



Mixed Relay Swimming action is intense (top) before Sunwoo Kim (KOR) takes aim in the Laser Run

pressure of leadership well, especially on the second circuit where a 9sec shoot enabled her to pull away.

By that stage, Nowacka (POL) had faded and when Novotna (CZE) got stuck on the range, Ismail (EGY) caught up with Adomaityte (LTU) to create a new battle for silver – and they kept each other company on the third 600m.

After the handover, Purnas (LTU) initially edged ahead of Elgendy (EGY) but an 8sec shoot enabled the latter to not only strengthen his pursuit of silver but slip ahead of Seo (KOR) in the race for gold.

The stage was set for a titanic battle

between two men who won individual gold on the UIPM 2024 Pentathlon World Cup circuit.

On the penultimate run, Seo (KOR)



Athletes celebrate on the podium after the Mixed Relay at UIPM Pentathlon World Championships

muscled back in front of Elgendy (EGY), but the response at the range was impressive as the younger athlete went under 9sec again.

Just when it looked as if Egypt could end a luckless World Championships campaign on a high, Elgendy (EGY) realised that Seo (KOR) had kept more in the tank – and the Korean ruthlessly powered away from his rival on the final 600m to win by 6sec.

In the final analysis, Egypt (Ismail/Elgendy) recorded the day's best Laser Run time of 12:05.49, but it had to be 10sec better than Korea (Kim/Seo) for them to steal gold and the winners' time of 12:09.69 was impressively decisive.



# UIPM 2024 Laser Run World Championships



China grasped its opportunity with an unprecedented entry of youth athletes that underlined the potential of UIPM Sports in a nation of 1.4 billion people.

## Over 550 athletes from 24 countries savour festival of Laser Run with China's heroes shining on home soil

A three-day festival of Laser Run – the development beacon of the UIPM Sports movement – has lit the spark for an unforgettable UIPM 2024 Pentathlon and Laser Run World Championships.

The combination of UIPM's most popular pathway sport and its Olympic pillar of Modern Pentathlon was again encapsulated in three days of competition imbued with the pentathlon hallmarks of heroic individual dedication, team spirit and respect.

In all, there were more than 550 athletes representing 24 countries, all generations coming together at the spectacular Zhengzhou Olympic Sports Centre to provide a Laser Run showcase in the ninth instalment of

this World Championships.

As host nation, China grasped the opportunity with an unprecedented entry of mostly youth athletes that underlined the development potential of UIPM Sports in a nation of 1.4 billion people.

The home team was rewarded with an array of world titles including the three most prized gold medals, as Xiyao Wu teamed up with Zhenfeng Liu to win a thrilling three-way sprint for senior Mixed Relay gold in the final race of the competition, following the individual success of Wu (CHN) and Olympic pentathlete Shuai Luo (CHN).

Philippines was another Asian nation that prospered with medals across the three days, providing tough competition for athletes from Egypt, habitually dominant in the youth categories, and South Africa. There were also notable successes for

Individual Neutral Athletes (AIN) among the European challenge, while numerous athletes from emerging nations such as India and Kuwait enjoyed a beneficial experience.

### Women's Finals

Xiyao Wu led a remarkable 1-2-3 as China kickstarted their hosting of the UIPM 2024 Pentathlon and Laser Run World Championships in style.

Wu (CHN) won the senior women's Laser Run gold medal ahead of compatriots Yujuan Ma (CHN) and Wanting Sun (CHN), all three managing to conquer the overseas challenge led by Mariana Arceo of Mexico, as well as Asian rivals from Philippines and India.

The Chinese did not have it their own way in the other Women's Individual categories on day one, however.

Mastering temperatures of 30C+, there were eye-catching victories for



The joy of victory is written all over the face of one of Egypt's youth champions at the UIPM Laser Run World Championships in Zhengzhou (CHN).

two Individual Neutral Athletes (AIN), Mira Buraya (Junior) and Aliaksandra Liashenka (U19).

Alia Enayet of Egypt held off the challenge of Mika-Leigh Strydom of South Africa in the U17 final, reversing the earlier U15 success of Meghan Kleynhans (RSA) over the 2023 U17 pentathlon world champion, Farida Khalil (EGY).

In the youngest age categories there was a clean sweep for Egypt with gold going to Jody Ramadan (U13), Roaa Abd Elmaksod (U11) and Joudy Massoud (EGY), with China and South Africa also enjoying medal success.

And in the Masters categories, Andra Novicka of Latvia dominated at 40+ level for her third consecutive crown, 50+ gold went to Jene Banfield (RSA) and Jillian Wallace of Great Britain scooped the 60+ title.

Senior champion Wu (CHN) said: "First of all, I want to say thank you for



The Philippines celebrates a sweet Mixed Relay victory in a glorious week for Asian nations.

the good opportunity for this World Championships to be held in China for the first time.

"As pentathletes, we always adapt to racing in different conditions, and the most difficult thing here is crossing the Riding course."

Junior champion Buraya (AIN) said: "I'm happy because we couldn't compete with other countries for two years, and

that was too hard. But now we come again, and I'm very happy because when I feel competitive like this, it's unreal emotion."

Her team-mate, U19 champion Liashenka (AIN), added: "It was an interesting race. Quite a good experience for me because I haven't competed in World Championships for two years. It was a little bit nervous for me, so Shooting wasn't good at all. I



The UIPM Laser Run World Championships was a festival of the sport for all ages. always shoot well but not today.

"But I was still able to win, so I'm very, very happy. The weather was difficult, very hot for me, but it's still great. I've been working very hard, running every day for the past month, and it feels good. I'm really happy, I have no words."

U17 champion Enayet (EGY) said: "I had trouble in the Shooting initially, but the fourth series was very good. It was amazing, I'm very happy – it's my first time winning a gold medal in Laser Run. I didn't even win in my country until now."

**Men's Finals**

A masterclass from local icon Shuai Luo of China was one of many highlights on day two of the UIPM 2024 Pentathlon and Laser Run World Championships.

As a top-25 pentathlete, former Asian champion and Tokyo 2020 Olympian, Luo (CHN) is a Laser Run specialist and he proved he could meet the expectations of a home crowd as he dominated the Senior Men's Final in Zhengzhou (CHN), converting last year's bronze medal to gold with a ruthless performance.

In 9min 57.91sec, Luo (CHN) won by 21sec from silver medallist Lorenzo Macias of Mexico, who held off the challenge of bronze medallist Zhenfeng Liu (CHN) with Tokyo 2020 Olympian Manuel Padilla (MEX) finishing 5th.

Another dominant performer for the home team was Quan Ding (CHN), who came from behind in the Junior Men's Final to stretch away from Melvin Sacay of Philippines, with Giorgi Tskhadadze taking bronze for Georgia after a late burst. The host nation also celebrated success at U15 level thanks to Zhuoxi Sun (CHN).

The African challenge was more prominent in the youth categories, with Egypt claiming gold medals thanks to Aly Aboelfetouh (U17), Mark Habib (U13), Aly and Hamza Sobhy (U11) and Sohail Abo Auf (U9).

But it was South Africa who reigned at U19 level, thanks to Laser Run newcomer Jaun-Pierre Van der Berg holding off the challenge of Akim Gnedtchik (AIN), with Hanru Krause (RSA) picking up bronze.

The European challenge was more

prominent in the Masters categories, where Julien Bartoli of France dominated a competitive 40+ category, while Denis Delusier of Monaco took home the 50+ gold and the 60+ title went to Tamas Gajdos of Hungary.

Senior champion Luo (CHN) said: "I feel terrific to have my first World Championships gold medal. I feel supported by all the fans who came to support me, and it's terrific to get my first gold medal at home.

"Competing at home also creates pressure, but it was more about the support from my family and fans. I successfully transferred all the pressure to my courage, to get this gold medal." Junior champion Ding (CHN) said: "It's my first time in a World Championships and I'm really excited to be among this team with my parents and teammates and coaches. We worked hard and we treated every day as a training opportunity ahead of the competition, and that's why I could get the world title."

U19 winner Van der Berg (RSA) said: "I took the first lap fast and then the rest of the laps I paced with the other kid [Gnedtchik]. On the last shoot, I didn't



Local hero Shuai Luo (CHN) celebrates a particularly satisfying victory on home soil at the UIPM 2024 Laser Run World Championships.

expect that. It was a very unexpected shoot, fast, and that helped me."

U17 gold medallist Aboelfetouh (EGY) said: "It's great to be back on the podium and great to participate in another World Championships. I'm looking to the future and this year I have the U17 Pentathlon World Championships and I hope to do well. My big goal and big aim is Dakar 2026 – to participate in the Youth Olympics.

"If you do something that you really love, you have to be passionate about it and you have to make your own sacrifices. That's life.

"I'm actually very happy but also sad because my Mom isn't next to me at this World Championships – but she is watching me on TV with a big smile on her face. Thank you Mom for your sacrifices – love you."

U15 winner Sun (CHN) said: "I'm very excited and happy. I'm tired but I really enjoy this sport."

U13 champion Habib (EGY) said: "This is my entire season in Pentathlon, and I love this medal – I am so happy. My shooting was five out of five – all of them. And I ran so good – the first, second and third laps were all good.

"In the first two laps there were a lot of people behind me, but in the third lap I got in front of them all. I want to thank my parents for taking me to training, especially Swimming training in the mornings."

**Mixed Relay**

Xiyao Wu teamed up with Zhenfeng Liu to help China complete their dominance of the senior categories at the UIPM 2024 Laser Run World Championships.

Men's Individual bronze medallist Liu (CHN) fought to the end of a captivating Mixed Relay to deliver the host nation a third senior gold medal in successive days, following the individual victories of Wu (CHN) and Shuai Luo (CHN).

The Mixed Relay was the hardest of the three to secure, with less than 2sec combining the gold, silver and bronze medallists. Lorenzo Macias and Mariana Arceo of Mexico came within 1sec of the title after a late surge, with Shyra Mae Aranzado and Samuel German of Philippines also involved in an incredible three-way sprint finish.

There was a notable success at Junior level for Juliana Shane Sevilla and Melvin Sacay (PHI), while China and Egypt each won three of the Youth categories and there were two Masters gold medals for South Africa.



# UIPM 2024 Pentathlon Junior World Championships

## Five world records broken as leading Under 22 athletes show prowess in the new Modern Pentathlon format in Alexandria (EGY)

Alexandria (EGY) got a vision of the future of Modern Pentathlon and it all looked very exciting as the next generation of stars emerged at the UIPM 2024 Pentathlon Junior World Championships.

The medals were spread liberally around the competing nations with the host nation Egypt inevitably proving its depth of talent. Individual Neutral Athlete Viktoriia Sazonova and Moutaz Mohamed (EGY) took the Women's and Men's titles. But the excitement was constant with world records tumbling all week.

Across a highly entertaining six days of action, the world's best Under 22 pentathlon athletes combined to set five new junior world records:

- Women's Fencing – 279 points (30V) – Viktoriia Sazonova (AIN)
- Women's Obstacle – 316 points (0:32.41) – Farida Khalil (EGY)
- Men's Overall – 1,544 points – Moutaz Mohamed (EGY)
- Men's Obstacle – 335 points (0:22.52) – Moustafa Abouamer (EGY)
- Men's Swimming (25m pool) – 1:49.13 – Matteo Bovenzi (Italy)

UIPM President Dr. Klaus Schromann said: "Despite the high temperatures, our junior athletes performed with so much energy. They are clearly enjoying racing the Obstacle course and this shows we are on the right track with the future of our sport on the way to Los Angeles 2028."

"Thank you to the Minister of Sport and Education and other supporters in the Egyptian government, as well as



Moutaz Mohamed (EGY) celebrates after smashing the Junior world record in the Men's Final.

the National Olympic Committee and the National Federation and all of their wonderful volunteers."

### Women's and Men's Relays: Germany and Egypt get off on the right note

Egypt and Germany won gold medals on a competitive and hot opening day of the UIPM 2024 Pentathlon Junior World Championships in Alexandria (EGY) that included a big turnout of 66 athletes.

It was business as usual for Egypt's Women's Relay team of 13-year-old Farida Khalil and 19-year-old Zeina Amer, as they won another gold

on the international circuit. Khalil (EGY) topped the same podium and Amer (EGY) won the Mixed Relay in last year's Pentathlon Junior World Championships in Druskininai (LIT).

Louison Cazaly and Mathilde Derval of France almost threatened to spoil the party as they gave Egypt (Amer/Khalil) a run for their money, winning silver 9sec behind the champions while the new China team of Xiyao Zhu and Xiyao Wu won bronze.

Egypt started the day on the back foot in Fencing, finishing 2nd to Korea (Sumin Shin & Inroi Choi) as they scored



A France-on-France Fencing battle as the Women's Final gets underway in Alexandria (EGY).

32V/13D and added four bonus points. But like last year, Egypt (Khalil/Amer) dominated the Obstacle discipline, storming into the overall lead with an excellent 1min 19.17sec.

China (Zhu/Wu), Korea (Shin/Choi), France (Cazaly/Derval) and Poland (Malgorzata Karbownik & Maja Biernacka) all swam faster than Egypt (Khalil/Amer), while France (Cazaly/Derval) outperformed them in the Laser Run to strongly secure silver.

The French time of 13:53.85 was nearly 20sec quicker than that of the overall champions, but not quite fast enough with a brilliant Obstacle performance proving finally decisive for Egypt (Khalil/Amer) to kickstart the competition with gold in front of their home crowd.

Moriz Klinkert and Tim Leh of Germany won their first Junior World Championships gold medal in a highly competitive Men's Relay that attracted 20 nations.

Cedric Chatellier and Diego Lavillat of France couldn't repeat their nation's gold medal success from the same competition last year, settling for silver as Dmytro Khudenko and Roman Popov sealed bronze for Ukraine.



The Obstacle discipline saw some rapid times put up by competitors all week in Alexandria (EGY).

Neither Chatellier or Lavillat had participated at this level previously, but they began the day as leaders winning the Fencing by two bonus points after they and China (Zhenfeng Liu & Ziyou Zhang) each scored 26V/20D in the Ranking Round. But they struggled in Obstacle, which proved to be a turning point for Germany (Klinkert/Leh) as they completed the course in less than a minute, 57.76sec.

### Champions' reaction

Women's Relay gold medallist Amer

(EGY) said: "It's great winning gold on our home soil and it's great that we had all the people cheering for us and it was a great, great support and push to win for a medal."

"Of course, it's really hard to calm and relieve from all the pressure and focus on the performance itself. It's something really difficult but we try to do our best and just focus. We had the lead and wanted to maintain it and just be confident that we're just pushing forward, we're a strong team and we knew we could get a medal."





"Obstacle gave us a head start for the rest, the Swimming and the Laser Run and it was good to have that."

"Farida is strong, she's the best at Obstacle. We try to focus a lot on it since we started last year, trying to improve. We've just been our best today to make the team proud."

"We're doing the Individuals tomorrow and will focus on this. Hopefully we'll make it to the Finals and make the best result."

Team-mate Khalil (EGY) added: "It was very hot today. It was a tough competition. The Obstacle gave us confidence."

Men's Relay gold medallist Leh (GER) said: "We're quite happy the way it worked out. It was a hard competition in long, hot weather and a hard running course but, we're super happy that it's now over and we're first."

"We had some delay as well but every sport is difficult. I think we managed everything good and we won in the end."

"We want to qualify for the final with a good position and then give everything we have for the Final."

Partner Klinkert (GER) added: "As my teammate said, we're super happy because the last year in Men's Relay



Elation in the pool as the Swimming discipline brought the drama during the Women's Final.

was not really good because we never got a medal. I am looking forward to the Final and fighting for each position."

Germany (Klinkert/Leh) then lost ground again, finishing 10th in Swimming with an 11sec deficit to dominant Italy duo Matteo Bovenzi and Denis Agavriloaei (1:43.76). It didn't matter however as Leh and Klinkert's 3rd-fastest time in the Laser Run of 12:20.07 was enough to win their first Junior World Championship gold after a topsy-turvy day in Egypt.

**Women's and Men's Finals: Sazonova (AIN) and Mohamed (EGY) win first junior golds**

Individual Neutral Athlete Viktoriia Sazonova and Moutaz Mohamed of Egypt made lifetime memories in Alexandria, winning career first junior individual gold medals in the Junior World Championships.

Super Saturday had got off to a spectacular start as both Sazonova (AIN) and 13-year-old Farida Khalil of Egypt smashed a pair of world records on their way to a duel at the top of the leaderboard of the Women's Final.



All eyes are focused on the prize and on the targets during a packed visit to the range as the Laser Run served up a fitting finale to the Women's Final where Viktoriia Sazonova (AIN) came out on top (right).



Hanging tough in the Obstacle discipline, two contenders try to keep their grip during the Men's Final at the UIPM Pentathlon Junior World Championships.



Rivals from Korea and Egypt duel on the piste during the Fencing Bonus Round.

The Junior Fencing record fell when Athlete Elizaveta Skudnyakova held her nerves to secure silver behind her teammate. France took home the Women's Team gold medal with three of their athletes finishing in the top 20 ahead of silver

medallists Switzerland and bronze medallists Poland.

Like Sazonova, Moutaz Mohamed (EGY) had to break a world record to land the Men's gold medal - with a new overall mark of 1,544 points. The Egyptian won six bonus points in his second placed Fencing performance and reached the same position in the Swimming with Obstacle being his only discipline outside the top five. His teammates however Mazen Shaban and Moustafa Abouamer of Egypt both broke the obstacle world record on Saturday that was set in the week by Kian O'Boyle of United States.

Mohamed's consistency in the other two disciplines however gave him a platform to succeed in the Laser Run and he took it, overtaking the Swimming leader Matteo Bovenzi of Italy and Abouamer (EGY) early in the race to win his first individual junior gold in his home country of Egypt. Roman Popov of Ukraine delivered a remarkable Laser Run to snatch bronze.

medallists Switzerland and bronze medallists Poland.

Like Sazonova, Moutaz Mohamed (EGY) had to break a world record to land the Men's gold medal - with a new overall mark of 1,544 points. The Egyptian won six bonus points in his second placed Fencing performance and reached the same position in the Swimming with Obstacle being his only discipline outside the top five. His teammates however Mazen Shaban and Moustafa Abouamer of Egypt both broke the obstacle world record on Saturday that was set in the week by Kian O'Boyle of United States.





Perfect timing as six more finalists make their entry to the pool during the Swimming discipline.

Egypt's high performance in all events throughout the day gave them a comfortable Men's Team gold with silver medallists Ukraine and bronze medallists Germany behind.

**Medallists' reaction**

Men's champion Moutaz Mohamed (EGY) said: "It feels amazing that it's in my hometown, with my family here, with my coaches, friends, my dad, after China, everybody knows the story, he is here. It was a surprise to see him so, it's a great feeling. I'm emotional again after the first time at World Cup 1 in Egypt when I got my silver medal. It feels great, I can't even describe it.

"When I lost the Olympic place by two points, it was very sad, very heartbreaking. I had to pick myself up, that's what champions do. I had just one week to train for the Obstacle. Last year at the Junior World Championships I

took an elimination so, I had to make sure this time I don't take elimination. I've taken it step-by-step, day-by-day. Before the competition, I was about to withdraw because I couldn't continue the Obstacle course but with my family behind me, supporting me, my friends, my coaches, I made it."

"I've been bad in this situation before in the World Championships in China. I was about to make the Olympics, but I struggled with my second shoot. I was in the same situation, and I was like 'What are you going to do? Are you going to learn from missing out in the Olympics or are you going to pick yourself up and shoot well?'

Silver medallist Moustafa Abouamer (EGY) said: "In the qualifiers, I just wanted to complete the Obstacle course because I never had a time officially so, I was like 'What can I do?

What's the best I can do?'. It turns out I did a new world record so; it was like a weird flex, but it was quickly broken in two hours. In the Finals, I just focused on doing the same again and I broke it again."

"I saved up a bit in the third and fourth lap because my shooting isn't the best. I was saving up so I could finish. I knew that someone would be on my tail eventually so, I gave it all my best at the end."

Bronze medallist Roman Popov (UKR) said: "This was very difficult competition. We had a training camp before but still it was difficult to compete. I did well today in the Swimming and Fencing but, the best discipline I did today was the shooting, and this helped me to win a bronze medal. This is my first individual medal in a Junior World Championships so

I'm very happy."

"I was just focused on the shooting, the sight and not seeing everyone around. Just focusing and concentration."

Women's bronze medallist Farida Khalil (EGY) said: "I'm very happy with my performance. I wish to have gotten the gold medal, but it was a fantastic effort. I'm happy with this medal and hopefully, I'll get the gold in the future."

"I was trying to focus on my own performance, and not think too much about my opponent. The pressure got to me a bit. I'm still happy with this medal. After this medal, I know I'm confident in the fact that I can get a gold medal in the U17 and U19 World Championships."

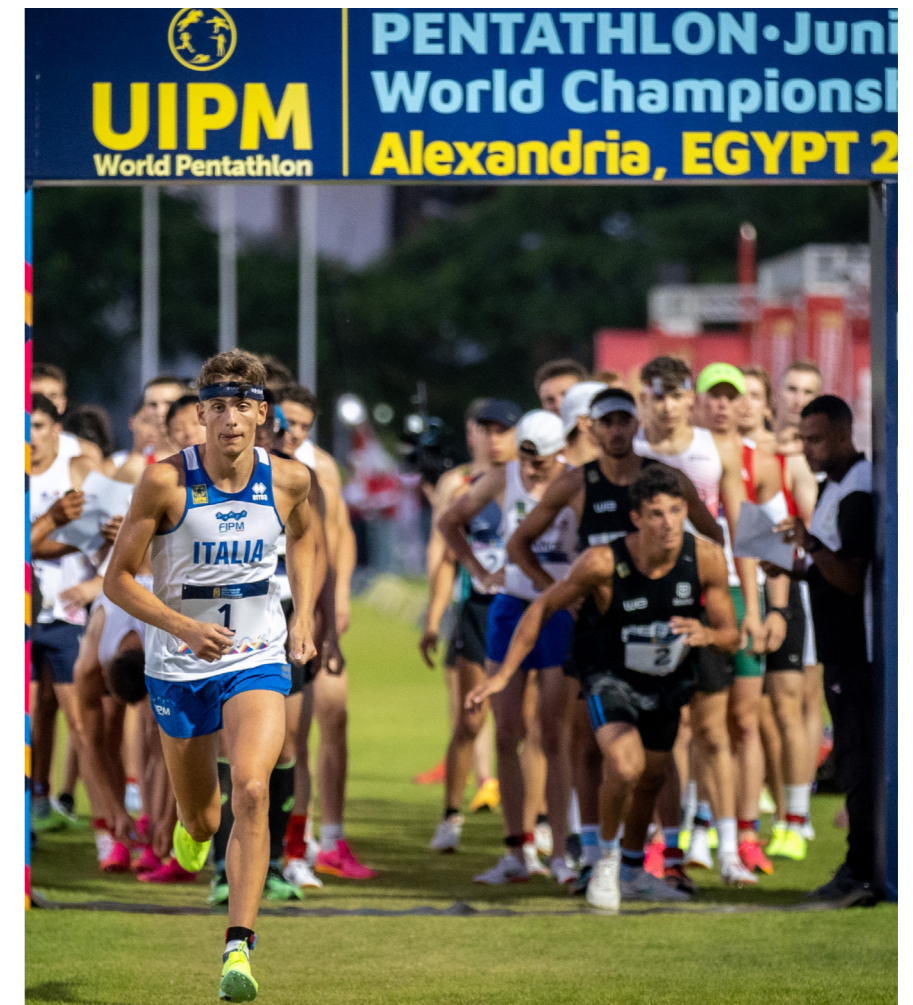
**Women's Final – Fencing**

In a week when three men's world records fell, the women were not going to be outdone. Sazonova (AIN) took piste prowess to a new level in the Fencing Ranking Round, racking up a whopping 30 Victories which reaped 275 points and immediately put her in front of the field setting a new Junior world record in the process.

The only rival to come close was a fellow AIN athlete Yana Soloveva with 28 Victories while home hopeful Amira Kandil of Egypt was third with 23 wins. As Saturday's action got underway with the Fencing Bonus Round, it was Zeina Amer of Egypt who made up the most ground picking up 10 extra points while Coline Flavin of France and Jiayi Liu of China both added four bonus victories. At the head of the field, Sazonova (AIN) added four more points to her already huge tally.

**Obstacle**

Having led all qualifiers with a blistering 00:34.80 on Wednesday, Khalil (EGY) somehow stepped up the pace again with medals on the line. Her time of 00:32:41 earned her 316 points and was fastest of all finalists by over four seconds. It also meant another new record in the books. Behind



Setting off to chase down the leaders as the Laser Run decides the prizes in the Men's Final.

her Malgorzata Karbownik of Poland was in flying form too, traversing the challenging course in 00:36.92 with four others breaking the 40-second barrier.

Leader Sazonova (AIN) was among that cohort, clocking 00:37:61 which was third-fastest overall and cemented her commanding lead at the head of the field. The challenge of Kandil (EGY) came to an unfortunate end as she was one of three eliminated in the discipline.

**Swimming**

Skudnyakova (AIN) made her jump in the pool as she set a new personal best to lead all 36 competitors with a rapid time of 2:11:16. Behind her Khalil (EGY) was refusing to wilt and also touched the wall in a speedy 02:11:41.

Valentina Martinescu of Italy turned in

a stellar swim of 02:12:94 to jump up nine places and threaten the top 10.

But all eyes were still on Sazonova (AIN) who showed no nerves as she finished fifth-fastest in the pool in 02:16:83 ensuring she would head off with a huge lead in the Laser Run, gold and glory now very much in view.

**Laser Run**

With a 25-second lead on the entire field Sazonova (AIN) had the comfort of easing into her routine in the combined run-shoot with Khalil (EGY) the second athlete out, setting off to chase down the runaway leader. Skudnyakova (AIN) was a further 22 seconds back herself retaining a 15-second lead on those behind her.

But with plenty of pedigree such as Louison Cazaly of France and Sumin Shin of Korea back in seventh the battle





Moutaz Mohamed (EGY) still has enough energy to celebrate in spite of giving every last drop in a record-breaking victory in the Men's Final.

for the extended podium would be fascinating. With such a commanding lead, it would take some serious struggles at the range for Sazonova (AIN) to lose the initiative, but she was mostly nerveless, shaking off a slightly slower first shoot to go sub 12-seconds on her second, Khalil (EGY) firing a rapid 9-second shoot to leave just the tiniest sliver of doubt. Behind them Shin (KOR) was proving her pedigree with some hard running, moving up a couple of places with Cazaly (FRA) also prominent.

Once Sazonova (AIN) made her final shoot it was a slow trot towards her coronation, a flapping bib proving no issue as she took gold. On the final visit to the range, the efforts of the week finally caught up with Khalil (EGY) as she turned in her slowest shoot, taking 23 seconds to find five green lights. With Skudnyakova (AIN) lighting it up in nine seconds, the silver swung her way with Khalil (EGY), the youngest ever World Junior Championship podium finisher, settling for bronze.

**Men's Final — Fencing**  
Fencing was one of the disciplines with

no world records broken this week in the Men's but Tim Leh of Germany wasn't bothered. Leh (GER) collected 23 victories and 240 points along with four bonus points. He defeated Moutaz Mohamed (EGY) to dampen the home crowd's spirits in Alexandria. Mohamed picked up 21 victories and 230 points, plus six bonus points in the Fencing Bonus Round to get second place ahead of third placed Moustafa Abouamer (EGY).

Great Britain's James Hulme and Individual Neutral Athlete Uladzislau Zhartun shot up the Fencing leaderboard the most though, both collecting 12 bonus points. Attila Marschall of Hungary too put in a good shift, getting 10 bonus points.

**Obstacle**  
Farida Khalil (EGY) broke the Women's Obstacle world record earlier on Saturday and two of her compatriots did the same in the Men's. Kian O'Boyle's (USA) newly set World Record from qualification this week was broken first by Mazen Shaban (EGY) with a time of 23.79 in front of an animated home crowd in Alexandria.

Shaban's record lasted only a matter of minutes however as his teammate Moustafa Abouamer (EGY) skipped the first spinning wheel and two handles to better it by over a second, setting the new Junior world record at 22.51. In a discipline that has only been in play for a year, the improving quality was on show as 16 athletes got a sub 30 second time including France's Diego Lavillat in third who got 25.27.

**Swimming**  
Matteo Bovenzi (ITA) broke the Junior Swimming world record in the Men's Qualifications earlier this week but could not do the same in the Finals. The Italian's time was still far superior however than his fellow athletes on Saturday with a time of 1:50.45 shooting his way up the leaderboard to first.

Bovenzi's dominance in the pool was expected and it showed. Moutaz Mohamed (EGY) was closest in second, finishing in 1:58.86, nearly an eight second gap, with Poland's Maciej Klimek the only other athlete to swim



below two minutes in 1:59.44.

**Laser Run**  
The Laser Run was always going to be a race decided by small margins. Matteo Bovenzi's (ITA) startling performance in Swimming put him in pole position but only by a second ahead of Moustafa Abouamer (EGY) who far exceeded the Italian in Fencing and Obstacle. The two other Egyptian athletes competing, Moutaz Mohamed (EGY) and former Obstacle world record holder Mazen Shaban (EGY), weren't too far behind either with Abouamer (EGY) only having a six second head start. With four Egyptians in the top five for Laser Run, medals for the host nation were always high in probability.

The deciding moment that determined the gold medallist happened early in the first lap. Mohamed (EGY), unable to qualify for the Paris 2024 Olympics after the World Championships, overtook Bovenzi (ITA) and Abouamer (EGY) and gradually pulled away from the pair, helped by completing his first shoot in six seconds. Despite being much slower in the second and third shoots, Mohamed (EGY) kept up his pace to finish first in 10:17.57 with 1544 points overall and win his maiden Men's individual Junior World Championship gold in front of the loud and proud Egyptian crowd.

The exciting action happened in the racing pack behind Mohamed (EGY) though. Abouamer (EGY) ran most of the race in second after being slower than his teammate in the first shoot but was nearly pipped to the silver by Roman Popov (UKR). The Ukrainian began the Laser Run 16 seconds behind Abouamer but made up ground drastically in the running department.

After powering past Bovenzi (ITA) in the third lap, Popov (UKR) went into the final shoot just seconds by Abouamer (EGY). Fortunately for the Egyptian, he made his fifth successful laser hit just in time before Popov (UKR) and strode away to complete the Egypt one-two in 10:27.99 with 1530 points altogether. The wait for bronze winner Popov's



To the victors go the spoils as France celebrate glory in the Mixed Relay in Alexandria (EGY).



It's a close battle on the piste during the Fencing Bonus Round.

(UKR) first individual gold medal at Junior level goes on.

**Mixed Relay: France finish impressive week with stunning gold**  
France spoiled the Egyptian farewell party as Louison Cazaly and Diego Lavillat won gold in the Mixed Relay on the final day of the UIPM 2024 Pentathlon Junior World Championships.

France (Cazaly/Lavillat) were inferior to Farida Khalil and Mazen Shaban of Egypt in the first three disciplines but when it mattered most, they pulled out

a huge Laser Run to take the world title.

Pedestrian shooting from the Egyptians cost them in the final lap as Esther Fernandez Donda and Tim Leh of Germany also punished Khalil & Shaban to win the silver and force the host nation to settle for bronze.

Like in last year's competition, Korea (Sumin Shin & Hanseong Kim) missed out on a Mixed Relay medal in 4th place as Hungary (Zora Zeman & Zsombor Tarkanyi) came 5th and Italy (Teresa Gioia & Edoardo Ventricini) filled out the top six.





The team from the Philippines traverse some of the challenges of the Obstacle course at the UIPM Pentathlon Junior World Championships.

Egypt did have the consolation of finishing on top of the competition medal table, thanks to three gold medals, a silver and two bronze.

Mixed Relay success completed a fine week for Cazaly (FRA) as she secured her second gold, having been part of the Women's Team champions 24 hours earlier. Leh and Fernandez Donda won Germany's third medal.

**Medallists' Reaction**

Gold medallist Cazaly (FRA) said: "We are on top of the world. I am very glad to do this with Diego because it's my last Junior year and I wanted to finish my Juniors well.

"I was very sad about my result yesterday, the Laser Run was very hard,

so today I wanted to take revenge. I won the gold, which is even better, so I am very happy.

"It's very good to have the Olympics in France because we'll be in our home country. It's crazy to have the Olympics at home and we hope that our seniors will be very good. We'll be there for them."

Team-mate Lavillat (FRA) added: "I felt very good in the running. There were a lot of stakes in the Laser Run. I saw Egypt in front of me. I shot very well so, it's good."

Silver medallist Leh (GER) said: "I had quite a good last shooting and then I came out, saw I was second with the French guy in front of me. My legs

surprisingly felt good so I just started to sprint, but shout out to the French guy because he was even faster than me.

"We're super satisfied with getting silver here. Esther's done so many Laser Runs she was just a professional. She did a really good job and even when I was shooting, I could hear her say 'focus, do the job'.

"I tried to stay in my lane, focus on my shooting and then work it in the running."

Bronze medallist Shaban (EGY) added: "Farida gave all that she had. The Fencing and Shooting were good. In the Running, we were very tired because it was a very hard race yesterday."



Action from the Swimming discipline during the Mixed Relay which brought the curtain down on an action-packed week in Alexandria (EGY)



The medalists celebrate with their prizes and dignitaries after the ceremony in Alexandria.

**Fencing**

Leh (GER) had been the best fencer in the Men's Final and continued his fine form along with the 2021 Women's Relay gold medallist Fernandez Donda (GER). The duo came up with 32 victories and 244 points with the addition of four bonus points.

Familiar faces Egypt (Khalil/Shaban) and France (Cazaly/Lavillat), however, did not concede much ground to the Germans as they collected 31 and 30 wins respectively.

**Obstacle**

The course had been dominated

by Egyptians all week with two new world records set, therefore it was unsurprising to see Egypt (Khalil/Shaban) top the discipline again.

They took away 300 points from Obstacle in another lightning-fast time of 1:00.19, with Hungary (Zeman/Tarkanyi) next-best in 1:05.03 and Italy (Gioia/Ventricini) also standing out with 1:06.25.

**Swimming**

Swimming was a much tighter affair, as Malgorzata Karbownik and Maciej Klimek of Poland tied with Egypt (Khalil/Shaban) with 313 points accrued. The

Poles touched first by less than half a second, 1:58.65 to 1:58.99. It was even closer for third as Anastasija Kancyte and Lukas Gaudiesius of Lithuania finished in the top three with a time of 2:00.88, 0.07sec ahead of Italy (Gioia/Ventricini).

**Laser Run**

After their form all week, in front of a vociferous home crowd, Egypt (Khalil/Shaban) may have expected to win another gold medal but France (Cazaly/Lavillat) had other ideas.

The pair had been quietly consistent all day, never finishing outside the top ten before the Laser Run. Still, they had their work cut out with them starting 36sec behind Egypt and Cazaly (FRA) was overtaken in the first lap by Zeman (HUN) Hungary and Fernandez Donda (GER).

But it was the shooting that stood France apart from the rest of the crowd, with Cazaly (FRA) setting the standard so high that she cut the lead of Khalil (EGY) 11sec at the handover.

It gave the perfect platform for Lavillat (FRA) who had the superior engine and shooting to Shaban (EGY) to wrap up gold. Leh (GER) also shot more accurately to take his chance, racing away to win silver.



# VOYAGE TO PARIS 2024

## Olympic Games Countdown: Part XV

### Leading off...

**Final warm-up brings all of the heat and plenty of promising signs**

Every voyage must reach an end. Whether long and arduous or short and sweet, even the journeys of a lifetime can't last forever. For 72 women and men, their personal voyage to Paris is now tantalisingly close to the finish.

On July 8, UIPM will confirm the identities of the 36 competitors in the Women's and Men's Individual competitions at this summer's Olympic Games, two and a half weeks before a spectacular Opening Ceremony along the river Seine and exactly one month before Modern Pentathlon kicks off on August 8.

This is the point where you hear one thing most frequently from those in the middle of it all: "It's beginning to feel real now." Yet last month in the Chinese city of Zhengzhou, things felt real in another way — real hot, real humid and as close to the real thing as it gets.

The UIPM 2024 Pentathlon World Championships offered the last chance to grab precious qualification quota places for Paris but, for many, it was also a final tune-up for that shot at Olympic gold which only comes around once every four years. In the faces of the athletes, in the images of exhausted bodies crossing the finish line, it was clear just how much had been put into it all.

So what can we take out of it? Well, among many intriguing developments, it is perhaps most strikingly clear that both Korea and Hungary have their athletes primed for a summer peak. Seungmin Seong's dramatic victory in



Csaba Bohm (HUN) is a man on a mission during the UIPM 2024 Pentathlon World Championships.

the Women's Final was in keeping with a dominant week for Korea's elite with medals flowing early and often.

But behind her the resiliency and determination of Blanka Guzi (HUN) ensured it was a gripping battle to the end. Guzi's compatriot Rita Erdos (HUN) stormed from 13th to 3rd to also snare a direct qualification quota place, creating one hell of a dilemma for Hungary's selectors given that the prolific Michelle Gulyas had already secured another place and only two of the three could go to Paris.

While Hungary remains the most

prolific country in Modern Pentathlon's Olympic history, winning nine golds and 23 medals overall, the past 20 years has only produced two bronze. Perhaps the history-maker Csaba Bohm can be the one who changes the colours. His own dominant victory in Zhengzhou mere hours after the heroics of Guzi and Erdos was a serious statement of intent. For good measure Balazs Szep grabbed a qualification place too.

The race for places is now over. The final sprint finish towards them reminded us how much this all matters. Once the 72 names are confirmed, Paris is in for one hell of a show.



Fittingly located along the most stylish avenue in Paris, the official Olympics megastore recently opened its doors on the Champs-Élysées.

### > Paris Pointer

**Last-minute gift ideas and last-minute preparations as Olympic organisers prepare for launch**

Once the gift shop opens its doors you know it's go time!

Last week, the flagship Paris 2024 megastore opened its doors to the public on the city's iconic Champs-Élysées.

Right next to both the Grand Palais and Parc Urbain La Concorde, two competition venues, the sprawling space will be an Olympic venue of its own. The Paris 2024 megastore contains around 1,000m<sup>2</sup> of sales space and around 1,000 official products. The numbers are Olympian across the

board, with the shop's 250 employees ready to welcome over 10,000 visitors 7 days a week and the mementoes for visitors and athletes alike ranging from €5 to €800 (for a giant Paris 2024 plushie!).

The city is in the absolute final stages of its preparations with 2024 decorations and flags being hung across the city and underground on its Metro system. Simply put: Paris is ready to party.

Managing so many pressing concerns on the security, transport and environmental fronts, organisers are confident that the final pieces are all falling into place. With the Olympic flame currently touring the north of France, international footballer Raphaël Varane having helped light a cauldron in Lille, there are now only last-minute issues to resolve.

The spectacular Opening Ceremony planned to run along the River Seine will have an updated capacity of 320,000 spectators, with fully 220,000 seats free of charge.

So, as the calendar flips ever closer to July 26, get ready to party too. And don't forget to exit through the gift shop.

### Numbers game

**10,000** tickets sold for the Paris 2024 Paralympics, which will follow the Olympic Games and begin on August 28. Nearly 550,000 tickets, priced at €25 or less, are still available for all of the competitions, which will run at venues across the city until September 8.



**In the latest in our 'Pentathlon Personalities' series, Australia's Paris 2024 Olympian opens up on her rapid growth, the influence of a gold medal hero and how baking helps her rise...**

**G**enevieve Janse van Rensburg can remember it so clearly. That's probably because, in the grand winding journey of an athlete's life, it wasn't that long ago.

Van Rensburg is 20 years old now and heading towards her Olympic Games debut. In 2017, which doesn't feel that long ago for most of us, she wasn't long into in her early teens, still dreaming. Then came the fateful meeting.

"It was sports assembly at school. It was just the way she talked," Van Rensburg tells UIPM News. "She spoke about all the fun things she did when she was training with the Italians and other teams - and everything she spoke about sounded so fun.

"I was sitting there thinking 'I already do the swimming, I already do the riding. I do running at school. So, come on, fencing and shooting can't be that hard!"

'She' was Chloe Esposito of Australia, the Rio 2016 Olympic Games champion, and she had brought her gold medal to Van Rensburg's school in the Hunter Valley, a verdant rural region two hours northwest of Sydney renowned for wine. Some bottles, like some dreams, take time to mature. But others don't.

"It definitely came around fast, you know?" Van Rensburg smiles. "You might sit here and think six years is a long time but it really goes very quickly. My first comp was 2018, I only started then but we basically went straight into international competitions.

"Australia doesn't or didn't really have many at the time, so you got to experience a little bit of that cool part of the journey that Chloe had been talking about.

"You got to go overseas and compete right away. You had a target and you knew what she was talking about and

## A next-Gen starlet: meet Genevieve van Rensburg



Genevieve Janse van Rensburg (AUS) was inspired by Rio 2016 Olympic champion Chloe Esposito

it was like 'wow, it is so cool, I love it, I want to keep going'. It was all in sight."

And so here she is with new dreams in sight. Van Rensburg, known as Gen for short, has spent long weeks and months already on the road in 2024. But one journey which can't come soon enough is a trip to Paris in August.

Van Rensburg punched her ticket for an Olympic debut at the 2023 African Oceania Championships in Cairo last August. She did so in some style, finishing an impressive 2nd overall, narrowly behind Malak Ismail of Egypt. It was a day when everything came together for her and even though the distances may have been great, she immediately wanted to share it with

family.

"I called mum right away!" she recalls. "I think it was 2 o'clock or 1 o'clock in the morning. I felt so bad but it had to be done. They were super excited. Very happy. Both of them had been up and watching."

While not from the sportiest family, it was Van Rensburg's mother who unknowingly got her daughter started in Pentathlon, even if a first discipline was precautionary.

"Well, mum made us swim because we lived in the country and there were lots of dams and quite a high risk of drowning. We always did swimming. My family isn't really that sporty but I just did



Genevieve Janse van Rensburg qualified for the 2024 Olympic Games in Paris after a stellar performance at last year's Africa and Oceania Championships.

things in school myself.

"I just loved sports and did a little bit of everything: I did netball, cricket, I did sailing, surfing. I picked up riding super young and loved it so I was basically just doing swimming, riding and netball until Pentathlon came along."

Fencing would be a new discipline, then, but Van Rensburg adapted to the piste in preternatural fashion. It's no exaggeration to say just a few years after picking up an epee, she is one of her country's best: she won an Australian national fencing title this year.

"I think it was mostly luck that I got good at it," she laughs. "I only started fencing in 2017 and I dunno, it just clicked really easily. Even though I didn't train very often. Fencing isn't a big sport in Australia. So we only had a local club of like 10 or 11 people. So I think I was just lucky in a way."

Going in against some of the biggest names in the sport knowing she has the ability to dominate a Fencing Ranking Round must give great confidence. But Van Rensburg doesn't take anything for granted on the piste.

She is studying psychology in university, so the mental aspects of the sport are functional and fascinating. In a hectic year of Olympic preparation there have been some stellar performances which began with a springboard in fencing.

"I think definitely Budapest was the highlight for me over the last couple of years," she says of the UIPM Pentathlon World Cup leg where she was imperious in Fencing, leading a qualification group which included the likes of Michelle Gulyas, Elodie Clouvel and Elena Micheli. It was me showing that I can put it all together. It's so tough when you do these competitions regularly with such tough, elite girls, it's so tough to get through that and remain confident, to trust your progress. So when you do a comp like Budapest and it all just works, it is so nice."

Van Rensburg admits that Laser Run is the focus of much of her work. She came to running late in life but has put in hard yards training with the Great Britain team in Bath during the European season. Being with an active and welcoming British crew has also allowed Van Rensburg to work on another passion: her sweet treat game.

"I do a lot of baking, to be honest, a lot of baking. I absolutely love it," she responds when asked how she switches off. "It's a great one, especially in the UK because there's a whole team of pentathletes who will eat whatever so I get to bake as much as I want. I watch a lot of Netflix and read books. Aw, Great British Bake Off, I absolutely love it. It's so good!"

Very soon she will switch back on in a big way. Paris is rapidly approaching. Van Rensburg will return to Great Britain to limber up alongside the British junior pentathletes before making her way to the French capital. Her parents will be there along with her best friend. She is focused on doing them all proud — but herself proud too.

"I haven't been to the Palace of Versailles but we did a training camp with the British team near there and it was really beautiful where we were. I'm looking forward to it," she says.

"While yes, I do want to soak up everything and it will be very cool, I want to do well and do the best of my abilities. I want to give it, really, my all."





A Passion For Paris takes viewers behind the scenes of the UIPM season as elite pentathletes gear up for this summer's Olympic Games in Paris.

**A Passion For Paris: Episodes 3 & 4 now available to watch on UIPM YouTube channel**

UIPM has released two more episodes of its TV special entitled A Passion For Paris, charting the dramatic ups and downs experienced by elite pentathletes as they prepare for the Paris 2024 Olympic Games.

Merging profile interviews with competition coverage, the latest episodes follow some of the world's leading athletes through the extreme highs and lows of their experience in UIPM 2024 Pentathlon World Cups Budapest and Sofia.

One of the stars of the double-header is Rio 2016 silver medallist Elodie Clouvel of France, whose psychological struggle with shooting has been a dominant narrative of the 2024 season.

Preparing for a potentially career-defining home Games, we see Clouvel (FRA) full of relief after an improved performance at the range in Budapest (HUN), but then she experiences a new level of woe in Sofia (BUL) as the chance of a gold medal slips dramatically from

her grasp, leading to a highly emotional and moving interview.

Episodes 3 and 4 also introduce three-time Pentathlon World Cup Final winner Valentin Prades (FRA) and first-time Olympian Sophia Hernandez of Guatemala, while catching up with Elena Micheli of Italy, Mohanad Shaban of Egypt, Ilke Ozyuksel of Türkiye and Emiliano Hernandez of Mexico.

Highlights of the third and fourth parts of the six-part series include:

- Prades (FRA) discussing the "dream" of preparing for a home Games, before failing to qualify for the Men's Final in Budapest (HUN) and reflecting: "This sport is incredibly hard. I'll fight to get this Olympic medal that I want more than anything."
- Two-time world champion Micheli (ITA) coming back after injury to secure bronze in Budapest (HUN) before declaring: "I can feel right now that I'm in the place that I belong to, and where I want to stay."
- Shaban (EGY) recovering from his bad experience in Ankara (TUR) to secure a bronze medal in Budapest (HUN), before admitting his obsession with a different colour of medal: "I see the

gold and it's like in every competition I need to take the gold."

- Clouvel (FRA) finally succumbing to the emotional pressure of preparing for Paris 2024, after her shooting sank to a new low in Sofia (BUL): "I was happy to compete and I don't know what happened, I lost it, I lost it. I went far away."
- Sophia Hernandez (GUA) confronting the unique challenge of mental preparation for a debut Olympics, after her elimination in the qualification round in Sofia (BUL): "It could be the pressure, the nerves. It could be that I wasn't able to concentrate during competition time. But we have to analyse it all."
- Shaban (EGY) going one better in Sofia (BUL) to capture silver .... but he's still not happy. "Like we say, I won silver but I lost the gold. Not happy with my performance in shooting."

A Passion For Paris: Episodes 3-4 have been released to TV networks worldwide and are available to watch free on UIPM's YouTube channel. Episodes 5 and 6, filmed during the UIPM 2024 Pentathlon World Cup Final in Ankara (TUR) and the UIPM 2024 Pentathlon World Championships in Zhengzhou (CHN), will be available soon.

# DEVELOPMENT TOURS SPOTLIGHT

## Obstacle Laser Run: the third element



A male competitor gets to grips with Obstacle Laser Run in Varadero (CUB) as female Laser Run medallists earn recognition, below, in Kuwait City (KUW)

**All the Biathle, Triathle, Laser Run and Obstacle Laser Run action from March-June**

With Obstacle Laser Run now offering a third option to complement the established Global Laser Run City Tour (GLRCT) and Biathle-Triathle National Tour (BTNT), the UIPM Sports world is revolving with even more momentum in 2024.

In this round-up we bring you details of development tours that took place across Africa, Europe and Asia between March and June 2024.

**GLRCT Alexandria (EGY) March 1**

The year's first Laser Run Tour in Egypt was organised at Alexandria City in the Fleet Sporting Club, a well-known club within the Egyptian Armed Forces. Swimming was organised in addition to the Laser Run competitions.



The club's mission is community participation and giving all young people the opportunity to practise sports.

Over 15 clubs from across the country gathered, with more than 400 male and female athletes aged 9-60+ showing off their Laser Run prowess in competition.

Para athletes joined in, underlining Egypt's commitment to supporting disability sport within the Modern Pentathlon community.

**GLRCT Kuwait City (KUW) March 2; June 1**

The Kuwait Modern Pentathlon Federation, headed by Naser Al-Waleed, held two Laser Run City Tours



at the headquarters of the Kuwait Olympic Committee, with more than 100 male and female players participating at all age levels.

The Saudi national team also participated in this tournament with 23 male and female players, and the competitions between Kuwaiti and Saudi counterparts at all age levels create great interest and fun with all the benefits of international competition.

President Al-Waleed commented: "We also have an upcoming Laser Run tournament that will be in Kuwait. All procedures will be facilitated for friendly countries to come to Kuwait and enjoy the Laser Run experience in our country."

**GLRCT Siauliai (LTU)  
March 9**

The Lithuanian city of Siauliai welcomed participants from Latvia alongside local and national athletes of all ages, who showcased their skills in Laser Run events.

A spokesperson for the local organising committee (LOC) said: "The event was lively with DJ music that kept everyone in high spirits. Athletes of all levels enjoyed the energetic atmosphere and friendly vibe."

"An awards ceremony provided a highlight, with winners recognised with excellent prizes. Overall, the event was a resounding success, promoting



Laser Run proves popular in Gori (GEO)

fitness, camaraderie and healthy competition in Siauliai and beyond."

**GLRCT Gori (GEO)  
April 7**

Up to 100 young athletes participated in this event, coming from cities Sachkhere, Tchiatura, Gori, Rustavi and Tbilisi.

LOC spokesperson Marika Kakhiashvili said: "I'm glad that the city of Gori keeps hosting GLRCT every year since 2022. It's an honour to hold the Laser Run event in Gori. It gets more popular, more competitive and more fun for young athletes. I'm glad that Gori is

part of these memorable events."

Young participant Ilia Tchavtchavadze added: "It is the third year that this event has been held in Gori. I am very happy and glad to see so many kids competing together at the Laser Run event. It gives me great motivation."

**GLRCT Banha (EGY)  
April 26**

The GLRCT circuit returned to Egypt with an event in Banha City Club Stadium. City Clubs is a network of smart sports, social and entertainment clubs across 15 Egyptian cities that seeks to develop the talents of children



Female athletes line up on the start line of the indoor Laser Run in Telsiai (LTU); a Para Laser Run competitor in Banha (EGY)



Laser Run competition is fierce in Banha (EGY) as medals are handed out, below, in Rustavi (GEO)



in Modern Pentathlon, with the goal of supplying professionals to the national team and achieving championships and medals.

More than 27 clubs from across the country were represented by 320 male and female athletes aged 9-60+.

The competition was filmed and broadcasted live on the National Federation Facebook page, with more than four cameras placed around the stadium and a drone, which led to positive feedback from sponsors and followers who could watch and record

every moment.

**GLRCT Telsiai (LTU)  
April 27**

Back in Lithuania, it was Telsiai's turn to bring together participants from all over the country and beyond (Latvia and Ukraine) to enjoy the unique charm of Laser Run.

A spokesperson for the LOC said: "Children not only had the opportunity to compete but also to enjoy a taste of authentic pilaf, free of charge. The atmosphere was filled with excitement and joy as participants smiled and cheered throughout the event."

"Congratulations to the winners who walked away with impressive prizes. It was a day filled with sportsmanship, fun, and new experiences for all involved."

**GLRCT Rustavi (GEO)  
April 28**

This time it was the turn of the Georgian city of Rustavi to host around 100 young athletes from Sachkhere, Tchiatura, Gori, Rustavi and Tbilisi.

LOC spokesperson Nino Goginashvili said: "I'm glad that the city of Rustavi hosted GLRCT again this year. It's an honor to hold the Laser Run event in Rustavi, people from Rustavi are always excited for this event. It gets more popular, more competitive and more fun for young athletes. I'm glad that Rustavi is part of these memorable events."

Young participant Nika Shamanauri added: "I really love this competition. I always participate with my teammates. Laser Run is a very competitive event, it gives us a lot of courage."

**GLRCT Amaravati, India  
April 28**

India returned to the GLRCT hosting circuit in Amravati, the ninth-largest city in Maharashtra and second-largest in the Vidarbha region in terms of population.

The event was organised by the Modern Pentathlon Association of





Maharashtra under the aegis of the Modern Pentathlon Federation of India (MPFI) and UIPM. More than 280 athletes participated.

Organising the event in Amaravati gave an opportunity to promote the Modern Pentathlon in a region where most of the population lives in villages, while UIPM had the opportunity to introduce developing athletes to the sub-sports of Modern Pentathlon.

The event was flagged off by Vijay Santan (Deputy Director, Department of Sports Maharashtra) along with Vitthal Shirgaonkar (Secretary General, MPFI) and Sunil Purnapatre (a former President of MPFI).

Mr Santan thanked the MPFI and UIPM for enabling such a big event to take place in the City of Amaravati, helping people from the region to become associated with Modern Pentathlon and Olympic Sports. Mr Shirgaonkar also thanked to UIPM for sanctioning the event.



Obstacle Laser Run action from Varadero (CUB) and Laser Run in Amravati (IND)

**OLR Varadero (CUB)  
May 5-13**

A Pan American Open for U19, U17 and U15 athletes took place in Varadero Beach with participants coming from nine countries (USA, Canada, Mexico, Panama, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Peru and host country Cuba). A spokesperson for the LOC said: "They were very intense and colourful days, we participated in individual events and also in the Mixed Relay.

"This event not only served to evaluate the performance of the athletes in a new competition format for everyone, taking into account that Obstacle Laser Run racing was held for the first time, it also allowed 25 National Level 1 judges to be evaluated and certified."

**GLRCT Gijon (ESP)  
May 12**

This event featured 150 participating athletes, in the city centre of Gijon and the beach promenade with a good sports atmosphere and competitive results. Representatives of local



authorities noticed that the event was very attractive for the community.

**GLRCT Tbilisi (GEO)  
May 12**

Drawn this time to the capital city of Georgia, 100 young athletes came from Sachkhere, Tchiatura, Gori, Rustavi and the capital itself.

LOC spokesperson Natia Matchvariani said: "Every year we hold a Laser Run in Tbilisi. It is already a tradition for the athletes and also for the spectators, they always look forward to this sports event. I am glad that this year the competition was held as usual and like always the athletes showed us their strong performance."

Young participant Aleksandre Tsiklauri said: "The competition was great, today I won my first gold medal and it was amazing. I love Laser Run and can't wait for the next competition."

**GLRCT Oviedo (ESP)  
May 19**

The City Tour in Oviedo attracted around 200 athletes with the event taking place in a significant and historical location - the Plaza de la Losa in the center of Oviedo. It was a colorful event which gathered not only strong youth athletes but also a lot of



Laser Run action from Tbilisi (GEO, top) and Oviedo (ESP, above)

Masters participants, as seen a week previously in Gijon.

**BTNT Tbilisi, Georgia  
June 23**

One of the world's leading Biathle-Triathle venues is Georgia, which held a BTNT on the Lisi Lake on International Olympic Day. It has been a tradition to organised events at the venue since 2015 – when Georgia hosted the UIPM Biathle-Triathle World Championships in Batumi and these Pentathlon disciplines became loved by Georgian athletes.

Young athletes from cities of Sachkhere, Tchiatura, Poti and Tbilisi, as well as one female youth from

Greece, participated. UIPM Education and Project Manager Anfisa Kasyanova attended the event and underlined the high level of organisation. The youngest athlete was Ilida Antonopoulou, 7, from Greece,



Greece athlete Ilida Antonopoulou, 7, wins her first-ever Triathle competition in Tbilisi (GEO)

competing in Triathle for the first time. The oldest participant was 74-year-old Zurab Japaridze from Georgia.

Ilida said of her first impressions of a UIPM development tour: "I came to watch competitions and decided to take part. I started with older girls.

"During the race one part of me was afraid and another part was saying 'Ilida, these girls are in front of you, go Ilida go! This is how I managed to pass some of the older girls.

"I also made new friends. Now I will focus on Swimming training to go to the Biathle-Triathle World Championships in Egypt on October."



# PARA SPORTS SPOTLIGHT

Oviedo (ESP) offers chances to train and compete



The inaugural European Invitational Para Laser Run involved a training and time trial event in Oviedo (ESP).

## Oviedo (ESP) hosts historic first European Invitational Para Laser Run event

The northern Spanish city of Oviedo was the scene of a historic first when a ground-breaking new initiative for European para-athletes proved a huge success.

The inaugural European Invitational Para Laser Run, a training and time-trial event, offered para athletes from Spain and across the continent the opportunity to explore Para Pentathlon and in particular the fast-paced sport of Para Laser Run.

Twenty-two athletes, with a wide range of abilities and ages, engaged with the training day which focused on drills, skills practice and team building on and off the range in the exciting two-discipline sport of Para Laser Run.

The time trial involved 60 athletes and was run as an integrated approach with both para and age-group athletes in attendance taking part in a Laser Run competition. There was also an opportunity for para athletes to go through the newly launched UIPM Classification, which offers seven distinct classes.

Guest speaker Paul Montiel, aka the Titanium Man, opened the weekend's events and feedback from athletes taking part was hugely positive with many toasting a weekend of "sunshine, new friendships and discovering a new passion" and the opening of "a new door to a new world".

The initiative was driven by the Para Pent Project, funded by Liverpool's John Moores University in Great Britain with support from the UIPM

Para Pentathlon Commission and Pentathlon GB.

There was also invaluable support from Spanish pentathlon coach Ruth Gomez and the local Oviedo Council. The shooting range and equipment was provided by Pentashot.

Project Director Dr Nicola Robinson of Liverpool John Moores University (GBR) said: "This has been a really important part of the movement to stimulate athlete, coaches and non-para athlete awareness of this exciting emerging sport.

"This is now the start of a new era for Para Pentathlon, not just in Spain but also around building a European Para Pentathlon Community."

For further information about the UIPM Para Pentathlon movement

please contact Radka Zapletalova on Para@pentathlon.org or Dr Nic Robinson UKParaPent@ljmu.ac.uk.

## First edition of new UIPM Classifier Education Training Course takes place in Oviedo (ESP)

The first delivery of the new UIPM Classifier Education Training Course was recently held over three days in Spain, coinciding with the staging of the inaugural European Invitational Para Laser Run event.

The course, designed with an aim to foster a vibrant classifier community, connecting potential classifiers and enabling them to learn more about Para Pentathlon, add to their skill set with the opportunity to classify athletes onsite, ran from May 31 to June 2 in Oviedo (ESP).

This training involved new classifiers from Spain, Italy and Great Britain and was facilitated by UIPM Head of Classification Dr Roberto Nahon with co-support from Dr Nic Robinson from the Para Pent Project, provided by Liverpool John Moores University (GBR).

The course offered essential upskilling opportunities and allow classifiers to work with national federations to support the Para Pentathlon movement and provide classification opportunities at international UIPM para sport events.

The framework of the immersive education programme started with opening-day lectures on Modern Pentathlon as a sport, the para movement, and an integration workshop of athlete case studies exploring both the physical assessments and the classification process.

On the second day the trainee team of classifiers, under the observation of Dr Nahon, assessed 10 new para athletes with the third day allowing classifiers to view these athletes under a formal competition environment. History was made by the confirmation of the first two classified Spanish Para Pentathlon



The training involved new classifiers from Spain, Italy and Great Britain.

athletes.

The year 2024 is shaping up to be hugely significant in the Para Pentathlon movement. With a more inclusive pathway into the exciting sport fuelling global growth, this summer's European Para Laser Run Championships will precede a three-sport UIPM Para World Championships, a special highlight of the UIPM 2024 Biathlon-Triathlon World Championships in Port Said (EGY) from October 10-13.

Future in-person UIPM Classifier Educational courses are in the works as well as an additional free resource around Para Pentathlon available through the UIPM Educational platform.

UIPM Head of Classification Dr Roberto Nahon said: "What an inspiring and educational three days we have had in Oviedo.

"Within the UIPM Para Pentathlon Commission we have worked hard on groundwork foundations to develop the content and deliver this course, which is essential in the growth of our

movement. Teaching and learning with all the participants during the workshop was a real highlight.

"I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude for the opportunity to co-deliver the event alongside Dr Nic Robinson at Liverpool John Moores University."

Dr Robinson said: "This is an important milestone in the launch of the new classification system within Para Pentathlon to grow the workforce across Europe and beyond.

"We feel confident in the process of justification of classes and making sure we care for the athletes during every step of the process. I look forward to continued growth and progress across all areas of Para Pentathlon."

For further information around becoming a potential Technical or Medical Classifier for your national federation, or to talk about the movement of Para Pentathlon, please contact Radka Zapletalova on email para@pentathlon.org.



## News from around the world

### UIPM EB extends mandate of Secretary General Shiny Fang and awards 2025-26 competitions

The Executive Board (EB) of the Union Internationale de Pentathlon Moderne (UIPM) has voted to extend the mandate of Shiny Fang as UIPM Secretary General until the end of 2028.

The EB made the unanimous decision during a two-day meeting in Zhengzhou (CHN) during the UIPM 2024 Pentathlon and Laser Run World Championships.

Shiny Fang has managed UIPM Headquarters and led the administrative team as Secretary General since the end of 2012. Her extended mandate encompasses the Los Angeles 2028 (LA28) Olympic cycle, in which a transformed Modern Pentathlon with a new Obstacle discipline will be introduced to the world.



Samuel Curry of Great Britain has been elected to the UIPM Athletes Committee.

UIPM President Dr Klaus Schormann stated: "The UIPM Executive Board, during its meeting at the World Championships in Zhengzhou, extended the contract for Secretary General Shiny Fang to the end of the 2028 cycle, based on her professional work since 2012. It is important to secure good governance for the future of UIPM, to have a consistent structure."

The EB awarded a series competitions for the 2025 and 2026 seasons during its meeting, with one new host – Johannesburg (South Africa). The full list of awarded competitions is as follows:

- UIPM 2025 Pentathlon and Laser Run World Championships: Antalya (Türkiye)
- UIPM 2025 Pentathlon World Cup Final: Alexandria (Egypt)
- UIPM 2025 Pentathlon World Cup + UIPM 2026 Pentathlon World Cup: Cairo (Egypt); Antalya

- (Türkiye); Budapest (Hungary); Sofia (Bulgaria)
- UIPM 2025 Pentathlon Junior World Championships: Székesfehérvár (Hungary)
- UIPM 2025 Pentathlon U19 World Championships: Druskininkai (Lithuania)
- UIPM 2025 Pentathlon U17 World Championships: Johannesburg (South Africa)
- UIPM 2025 Tetrathlon U15 World Championships: Alexandria (Egypt)

The EB covered a wide range of topics during its meeting, including:

- Discussion on motions to be presented to UIPM 2024 Congress
- Preparations for UIPM 2024 Congress in Riyadh (KSA)
- Report about the participation of Individual Neutral Athletes (AIN) during the 2024 season

- Updates on Obstacle integration
- Report about final details for the Paris 2024 Olympic Games
- Preliminary plans for the LA28 Olympic Games.

### Samuel Curry (GBR) elected to UIPM Athletes Committee

Athletes taking part in the UIPM 2024 Pentathlon and Laser Run World Championships had the opportunity to vote on candidates for the global position on the UIPM Athletes Committee for the next Olympic cycle. There were seven eligible candidates for the position and the winner was Samuel Curry of Great Britain.

Curry (GBR) will find out the identify of his fellow AC Members for the 2025-2028 cycle when continental elections take place later this year.



### UIPM unveils groundbreaking new course focusing on essentials and standardisation of future Obstacle-related events

UIPM is delighted to unveil a groundbreaking educational course which consolidates the essentials of the Obstacle world in one place for the first time.

Sounds pretty useful, right?

Available now on the UIPM Educational Platform, Navigating OCR, Ninja and UIPM Obstacle Like a Pro: Sport and Rules Overview pulls all the rules and technical knowledge of the primary Obstacle disciplines into a single package.

It will be an instantly indispensable resource for those already embedded in the Obstacle community – from athletes and coaches to judges and fans too. But it will also serve as a great starting point for the Modern Pentathlon community, who are eager

to embrace the exciting new discipline and looking for a comprehensive overview to get their Obstacle journey rolling.

Incorporating dynamic video explainers which help unlock the finer details of Obstacle, with picture tutorials and fun mini games, the e-learning course will take approximately 5-6 hours to finish. The certificate of completion obtained at the end will be a requirement for candidates seeking international certification as Obstacle Judges for future events.

UIPM's determination and excitement at integrating Obstacle into the Pentathlon family has seen the launch of resources such as Obstacle catalogues and modules last year as well as the hugely productive first meetings of an ad-hoc Working Group charged with formalising the integration of the Obstacle community.

Navigating OCR, Ninja, and UIPM Obstacle Like a Pro: Sport and Rules

Overview is the next step in this process. The course will be structured into five modules, as follows:

- Intro and history of Obstacle industry
- OCR Cross Country
- OCR Track
- Ninja
- UIPM Obstacle

Speaking about the launch of the course, UIPM Secretary General Shiny Fang said: "This is another huge step forward for our to grow in a sustainable and methodical way while we just started embracing new discipline/sport. I know that the course will be a great resource for everyone across our communities as we grow closer.

"Bringing all of these key pieces of information and education into one central location is a big breakthrough and we're delighted to offer it. We encourage everyone interested to take a look.

"The presentation of the course, especially the accompanying explainer





One of the participating Masters athletes shows his Obstacle prowess during the 2024 France Masters Open in Argeles-sur-Mer (FRA)

videos, is at a really high level and we are sure will be really well received. We look forward to everyone getting involved!"

UIPM's new Obstacle discipline, introduced in all under-age World Championships since 2023, will become a full part of Modern Pentathlon immediately after the Paris 2024 Olympic Games, and is a key part of the format accepted for inclusion in the Los Angeles 2028 Olympic Games.

**Masters show how it's done by merging formats at competitions in France and Germany**

The month of June 2024 witnessed thrilling Masters events in Modern Pentathlon, showcasing the skills and endurance of athletes across various disciplines in two prominent competitions: the 2024 France Masters Open and the International German Masters Modern Pentathlon Championships.

**2024 France Masters Open: Argeles-sur-Mer**

From June 1-2, the coastal town of Argeles-sur-Mer hosted the 2024 France Masters Open, drawing 41 athletes from France and seven other countries (Czechia, Germany, Great Britain, Greece, Ukraine, Italy and Spain). This competition featured Tetrathlon and two versions of Modern Pentathlon, one with Obstacle discipline.

The event kicked off with Fencing on Saturday afternoon, where Nelly Gaucher (FRA) and Sylvain Louis (FRA) led the rankings. Sunday saw participants splitting into groups for the Riding course and Obstacle race. Thomas Morillon (FRA) set a stunning record for Masters in the Obstacle event with only 30sec.

Alexander Ermakov (ESP) excelled in Riding, scoring 300 points, while Karen Thomas (FRA) was the best female rider.

In Swimming, Pavlos Dakoutros (GRE) and Marketa Honova (CZE), both Masters 30+, dominated, with impressive performances by Jimmy Canot (FRA) in the M60+ category.

The day concluded with a Laser Run, where a remarkable 6min 39sec Laser Run from William Atger (FRA) was not enough to win in his category. Francesco Lo Monaco (ITA) delivered an impressive 5:29 in the Men's M60+ category. Honova (CZE) also excelled with an 8:15 Laser Run, leading the women's category.

Julien Maratier (FRA) and Jocelyn Laporte (FRA) emerged victorious in the Pentathlon with Obstacles, winning the M40+ and M50+ categories respectively.

**International German Masters: Halle an der Saale**

From June 20-22, Halle an der Saale was the stage for the International German Masters Modern Pentathlon Championships. Twenty-seven athletes from Germany and seven other nations including Austria, Switzerland and Hungary competed under excellent conditions.

Honova (CZE) shone once again in the Women's Pentathlon with Riding, securing overall victory in the 30+ to 59 age group with a total of 1669



points. In the men's category, Rudiger Tesar (AUT) led with 1714 points. The 60-70 age group saw Philip Budden (GBR) win a tight competition with 1672 points.

The event also previewed the new Obstacle course format, where Masters from Germany showed great performance. Dr Vera Oettinger (GER) won the Women's Obstacle Pentathlon with 1419 points, and Dr Barbara Oettinger (GER) clinched gold in the 60+ category. The Mixed Relay events saw the team of Gesche Reimers (GER) and Tesar (AUT) triumph in the Pentathlon with Riding, while Dr Vera Oettinger (GER) and Daniel Curth (GER) led in the Pentathlon with Obstacles.

Both competitions not only highlighted the athletes' prowess but also set the stage for future innovations in Modern Pentathlon, promising an exciting blend of tradition and new challenges for the sport.

**World Academy of Sport scholarships support pentathletes with educational and career opportunities**

UIPM is proud to announce the eighth round of scholarships for pentathletes, enabling them to pursue an online qualification in Sport Management from the prestigious University of London (UoL). This initiative is part of a Memorandum of Understanding between UIPM and the World Academy of Sport (WAOs), which began in 2020.

Applications are now open for the September 2024 intake of the Postgraduate Certificate in International Sports Management. The scholarships available are:

- One Full Scholarship valued at £4,291
- Five 25% Postgraduate Certificate Scholarships valued at £1,073 each

The deadline for scholarship applications is 26 July 2024, and interested applicants can apply by downloading the application form.



Fencers pose for a group photograph during the International German Masters

A PG Cert in International Sports Management offers numerous advantages:

- Develop world-class expertise: Gain cutting-edge knowledge in International Sports Management.
- Career advancement: Enhance your career within sports organizations or transition from an athlete to a business professional.
- Flexible learning: Study at your own pace alongside your professional or athletic commitments.
- Industry insights: Stay ahead with insights from the dynamic sports industry.
- Network building: Connect with peers and professionals across the sports sector.

Athlete student Mohamed Ibrahim of Egypt, who finished 4th in the UIPM 2023 Pentathlon Junior World Championships, said: "The course has been an enriching experience. It provides a deep dive into key areas such as sports governance, marketing and event management, blending theoretical knowledge with practical insights."

"The interactive lectures and real-world case studies have been particularly valuable, allowing us to apply what we learn in a practical context. I highly recommend this course to anyone looking to advance their career in

sports management. The expert faculty and networking opportunities make it an excellent choice for aspiring sports professionals."

The PG Cert Programme is fully online and self-paced, with six modules that can be completed in one to five years. Modular learning enables students to take individual modules to complement existing skills or fulfil specific roles. And as this is a globally recognised qualification, credits from the certificate can be applied toward a Masters degree.

To enrol, applicants must meet one of the following criteria:

- An undergraduate degree from an acceptable institution.
- At least 5 years of relevant work experience in sports management.
- Other qualifications, such as professional awards, may be considered.

Additionally, applicants must have access to a computer and the internet, and be able to demonstrate a certain level of English language ability. All scholarship applications will be evaluated by WAOs, the University of London, and the UIPM. For application forms and any further enquiries, please contact Anfisa.Kayanova@pentathlon.org



## Inside UIPM Secretary General Shiny Fang's message

### A new era begins!

For two and a half years now, our community has been struggling with an emotional conflict – confronted with the reality of saying farewell to horses after 11 decades of equestrian association in Modern Pentathlon.

This transitional chapter is now coming to a close, with Zhengzhou having recently hosted the last major UIPM competition to feature Riding. And the emotional attachment to Riding is still powerful, as I could see when watching a feature about pentathletes on China's main TV channel, CCTV.

But I used the word 'conflict' deliberately, because there is a conflict between the emotion that has made people long for something even before it's gone, and the opposite feeling – savouring the joy of something new even when it is only in the early stages of development.

Look through the pages of this newsletter; they are packed with joy. Scan the photographs taken across all competitions and can see the pleasure it gives athletes to compete in Modern Pentathlon, Laser Run and other UIPM Sports, not only on the glamorous international stage but inside their own local communities too.

So as we enter the new era, the smiles on these pages are in the forefront of my mind. And there is a lot to be positive about.

- The UIPM 2024 Pentathlon Junior World Championships in Alexandria (EGY) demonstrated the magnetism of the new Pentathlon format with Obstacle, with an increase in athletes compared with the previous one, and it all started on day one when 20 nations competed in the Men's Relay.



- During the UIPM Executive Board meeting in Zhengzhou, it was really pleasing to see that there were new bidding National Federations. Within this positive trend we witness step by step the way our new-look sport opens the door for a lot of counties to host events that they previously could not, although it is still a learning process for all of us about how we can maximum the new Modern Pentathlon's impact through its upgraded accessibility.

- Yes, on one side we have been dealing with the hard truth that only a handful of organisers were able to host full Pentathlon events with horses, but on another side, excitingly, the new Pentathlon is attracting a lot of new cities and countries.

- Somehow, the Pentathlon Stadium in Zhengzhou felt like the beginning of the end – but it also gave a glimpse of the future. The competition was set to Games standard with incredible investment, but more importantly, it demonstrated the faith that the organisers and city government have in our sport, that they absolutely see value in investing for the future!

- So, a higher standard of competition is what we are aiming for. Meanwhile, strengthening the sport's value and the impact of our events are the key to achieve in the coming years, and we believe the result will come piece by piece...

- It's true that in terms of audience numbers and events conditions, in some areas like competition structure, we still have a lot of room for improvement having started to reform later than other sports... but the base of everything is highly dependent on the number of participants. And we totally recognise that our sport has to "compete" not only with other sports, but also with all the shorter attentions of new audiences to attract them to our digital platforms.

- Innovation is key, and a lot of new initiatives related to the new Obstacle discipline have been launched in the past two years; more will come, and we want to be solid to realise them one by one.

- Now that the focus of so many has turned to Paris 2024, we are not forgetting that our second competition year for under-age groups implementing the new Pentathlon is still ongoing, and afterwards, we will have an upgraded clearer picture to evaluate next steps...

- So yes, to be continued... meanwhile let's first accomplish a successful and historically significant Olympic Games, with a packed stadium set to enjoy a Modern Pentathlon competition that has already been beautifully streamlined for audience appeal, as we say an appropriate emotional farewell to our beloved horses.

See you in Paris!



## Inside UIPM President Dr Klaus Schormann's activities



UIPM President Dr Klaus Schormann speaks at the formal opening of the UIPM 2024 Pentathlon and Laser Run World Championships in Zhengzhou (CHN)

### 07.06. – 16.06.2024: Zhengzhou, CHN

During the UIPM 2024 Pentathlon and Laser Run World Championships, the UIPM Executive Board held a pivotal meeting where President Dr Schormann and colleagues made crucial decisions for the future.

New milestones were set and hosts for the UIPM 2025 and 2026 Pentathlon World Cup seasons were appointed. Additionally, all World Championships for the U15, U17, U19, Juniors, Senior, and Laser Run categories in 2025 were allocated.

Dr Klaus Schormann (UIPM President) is joined by Zhang Bin (Vice President & Secretary General of the Chinese Modern Pentathlon Association) during the Men's Relay ceremony during the UIPM 2024 Laser Run World Championships





A selection of images from the spectacular opening ceremony of the UIPM 2024 Pentathlon and Laser Run World Championships in Zhengzhou (CHN)



Members of the UIPM Executive Board pose for a group photograph at the start/finish line of the UIPM 2024 Pentathlon and Laser Run World Championships



UIPM President Dr Klaus Schormann speaks at the opening ceremony (left) and then address the UIPM Executive Board during their two-day meeting, where he was joined by UIPM Secretary General Shiny Fang (below)



UIPM is excited to welcome South Africa as another African host, organising the UIPM 2025 Pentathlon U17 World Championships. President Dr Schormann looks forward to having South Africa back as a strong partner in the Union's future endeavours.

Beyond the selection of future hosts, important processes concerning the Los Angeles 2028 Olympic Games were also discussed. These will be finalized at the 73rd UIPM Congress in Riyadh (KSA) later this year and implemented at the beginning of 2025. During the opening ceremony of the combined World Championships in Zhengzhou (CHN), President Dr Klaus Schormann delivered a poignant speech highlighting the strong ties between Modern Pentathlon and China. He expressed his delight in returning to China for its first World Championship hosting experience since 2010.

Dr Schormann reflected on the rich history of Modern Pentathlon, shared insights into its promising future, and emphasised present opportunities within the sport. He praised China as a formidable host nation, capable of organising World Cups and World Championships.

He noted their dedication, exemplified by the construction of a dedicated Modern Pentathlon Stadium named after Baron Pierre de Coubertin, the founder of Modern Pentathlon and the modern Olympic Games, in Chengdu in 2010.

This commitment to excellence was once again evident in Zhengzhou, where a flawless World Championship served as the final qualifier for the 2024 Paris Olympics.

The UIPM President officially presented the certificate for 'Best Contribution to the Sport 2023' to the Chinese Modern Pentathlon President, Ji Daoming. This prestigious recognition honours his exceptional efforts and achievements in promoting and developing the





Above, left to right: Xiong He (Mayor of Zhengzhou Municipal People's Government), Dr Klaus Schormann (UIPM President), Yingqiang Geng (Chairman of the Local Organising Committee). Below: Ji Daoming (Chinese Modern Pentathlon President) receives a special award from UIPM President Dr Schormann



UIPM President Dr Klaus Schormann congratulates the victorious Korea team on their gold medal in the Modern Pentathlon Women's Relay in Zhengzhou (CHN)

sport, as demonstrated during the Asian Games. The award highlights the dedication and impact of the Chinese Modern Pentathlon community.

In a ceremony rich in tradition and forward-thinking, President Dr Schormann initiated a symbolic tree-planting event during his stay in China, reinforcing the global importance of sustainability and environmental governance.

Continuing a long-standing tradition, Dr Schormann planted ginkgo trees to honour the Coubertin legacy and to remember the establishment of the Modern Pentathlon in 1911. The ginkgo tree, known for its resilience and longevity, symbolises not only historical continuity but also a commitment to preserving nature for future generations. This initiative highlights the UIPM's dedication to fostering sustainable practices within the sporting community



and beyond. By planting trees, Dr Schormann emphasises the importance of taking proactive steps today to ensure a healthier and more resilient planet tomorrow.

As President Dr Schormann remarked:

"By planting these trees, we honour our heritage and remind ourselves of our responsibility to the environment. It is our collective duty to ensure that future generations inherit a world where nature thrives and sustainability is a guiding principle."



Left to right: Yingqiang Geng (LOC Chairman), Shiny Fang (UIPM Secretary General), Joel Bouzou (UIPM Vice President), Wei An (Party Secretary of Zhengzhou Municipal Committee), Dr Klaus Schormann (UIPM President), Karin Schormann, Sharif Elerian (UIPM Vice President), Hongmin Chen (Vice Mayor of Zhengzhou)





Continuing a long-standing tradition, UIPM President Dr Klaus Schormann is joined by Yingqiang Geng (LOC Chairman) in planting ginkgo trees in Zhengzhou (CHN) to honour the Coubertin legacy

As these trees grow, they will serve as a lasting testament to the UIPM's dedication to safeguarding our planet, demonstrating that the spirit of sportsmanship extends to fostering the natural world.

In a symbolic ceremony, President Dr Schormann presented one of the final historical Modern Pentathlon Oak Tree Awards to China. This award celebrates China's outstanding role in hosting the combined UIPM 2024 World Championships.

The occasion was particularly significant as it marked the last senior World Championships with horses in the competition, highlighting a pivotal moment in the sport's evolution. The Oak Tree Award stands as a tribute to China's exceptional contribution to Modern Pentathlon and its commitment to advancing the sport on the global stage.



Dr Klaus Schormann (UIPM President) presents Ji Daoming (Chinese Modern Pentathlon President) with the special commemorative oak tree

**18.06. – 19.06.2024: Monaco, MON**

UIPM President Dr Klaus Schormann had the distinct honour of being invited by HSH Prince Albert II of Monaco, the UIPM Honorary President, to participate in the prestigious torch relay in Monaco together with IOC Member Anant Singh and UIPM Vice President and World Olympians President Joel Bouzou OLY.

His Serene Highness, along with his wife, Princess Charlene, carried the Olympic torch through Monaco, embodying the strength and spirit of the Olympic Movement.

Both HSH Prince Albert II of Monaco and Princess Charlene, who are Olympians themselves, showcased the enduring



HSH Prince Albert II of Monaco (UIPM Honorary President) and Princess Charlene are joined by family members on a podium with the Paris 2024 Olympic Torch during their relay leg







UIPM President Dr Klaus Schormann is joined by Vice President Joel Bouzou in Monaco (MON) during the Paris 2024 Olympic Torch Relay leg

Coubertin, a family descendant who is President of the Pierre de Coubertin Family Association (AFPC), has sat on the UIPM Pierre de Coubertin Commission since it was created in 1993.

The Baron is also credited with being the driving force behind the modern resurrection of the Olympic movement.

The revival of the Games was announced during the first Olympic Congress in 1894, which took place in the Sorbonne University in Paris (FRA). This is where guests assembled on Sunday to mark the 130th anniversary of this historic moment, and where IOC President Dr Bach paid a lavish tribute to the visionary Coubertin and urged his critics to judge him in the context of his time.

Earlier, the IOC President inaugurated a new exhibition, entitled 'Coubertin, Genius of Sport', curated by renowned Coubertin historian George Hirthler, with President Dr Schormann also in attendance.

UIPM President Dr Schormann commented: "I was delighted to accept an invitation from Alexandra de Navacelle de Coubertin and her whole family to represent UIPM at all ceremonies celebrating the vision and legacy of Baron Pierre de Coubertin last weekend.

"The highlight was the 130th anniversary celebration of the 1st Olympic Congress in the Sorbonne, and the special role played by Coubertin in this historic moment.

"We know that Coubertin cared passionately about the heritage of the ancient Pentathlon, which was born in 708 BC in Olympia, and

power and spirit of the Games, leading up to the upcoming Olympic Games in Paris. Their participation highlighted the unity and excitement surrounding the global celebration of sports and the Olympic legacy.

**21.06. – 23.06.2024: Paris, FRA**

UIPM President Dr Klaus Schormann was one of many distinguished guests in Paris (FRA) at a series of commemorative events celebrating the legacy of Baron Pierre de Coubertin on Olympic Day, 23 June 2024.

President Dr Schormann was invited by the Coubertin family, along with

fellow global sporting leaders such as IOC President Dr Thomas Bach, French Olympic Committee President David Lappartient and fellow IOC Members, and Paris 2024 Olympic Games Organising Committee President Tony Estanguet.

Coubertin created Modern Pentathlon and introduced it to the world during the Olympic Games Stockholm 1912 – to this day it remains the only sport conceived especially for the Olympic Games. UIPM plays an important role in the preservation of the Coubertin legacy, upholding his founding values as guardian of the Pentathlon movement. Alexandra de Navacelle de



UIPM President Dr Klaus Schormann pictured with Alexandra de Navacelle de Coubertin, President of the Pierre de Coubertin Family Association



he therefore created the Modern Pentathlon as a multi-sport for the Olympic programme starting in 1912 in Stockholm.

"He is the only IOC President who created a sport for the Olympic Movement. I was delighted in my role as President of our Union to join all ceremonies, which provided opportunities to underline the philosophy of UIPM in taking care of the legacy and heritage of Baron Pierre de Coubertin."

**27.06. – 30.06.2024: Alexandria, EGY**

During the Junior World Championships in Alexandria, the Executive Board of the African Confederation met for an extraordinary

UIPM President Dr Klaus Schormann pictured with French Olympic Committee President David Lappartient during the Coubertin celebrations on Olympic Day in Paris (FRA)





*UIPM President Dr Klaus Schormann joins members of the Executive Board of the African Confederation on the day of their extraordinary hybrid Congress in Alexandria (EGY)*

hybrid Congress, including on-site representatives from present National Federations and others who joined online.

Discussions centred around new frameworks for the future of Modern Pentathlon in Africa. While the development of programs for the future and upcoming competitions in Africa were voted on, a consensus on Statutes was reached. Legal parameters must be reviewed before any final decisions can be made before UIPM Congress in November.

The prevailing goal is to advance African participation and see more African federations represented

*UIPM President Dr Klaus Schormann meets with Dr Abdulaziz Konsoua, President of the Arab Academy for Science, Technology and Maritime Transport in Alexandria (EGY)*



*Left to right: Sharif Elerian (EMPF President, UIPM Vice President); Dr Klaus Schormann (UIPM President); Dr Ashraf Sobhy (Egypt Minister of Youth & Sport) and Dr Abdulaziz Konsoua (President of the Arab Academy for Science, Technology and Maritime Transport)*

in competitions. The introduction of Obstacle discipline presents a promising avenue, as it makes the sport more accessible, affordable and appealing.

In addition to the Congress, UIPM President Dr Schormann held several meetings with the Dr Abdulaziz Konsoua, President of the Arab Academy for Science, Technology and Maritime Transport hosting the World Championships.

Their discussions focused on the sport's future and the continued development of the Egyptian Federation. As a distinguished guest, the Egyptian Minister of Youth & Sports, Dr Ashraf Sobhy, attended the Men's Final. He engaged with Dr Schormann on topics including the future of UIPM, the upcoming elections in November and the forthcoming Olympic Games in Paris.

*UIPM President Dr Klaus Schormann with Peter Vizkeleti, new Secretary General of the Hungarian Modern Pentathlon Association*

In addition to the official meetings with the University President and Minister Sobhy, Dr Schormann held several other discussions with National Federations. These meetings provided a valuable opportunity for those who wished to speak with him personally, especially given the typically tight schedule.

Peter Vizkeleti, the newly appointed Secretary General of the Hungarian Modern Pentathlon Association, met

with President Dr Schormann, as did Frans van Niekerk, President of the South African Modern Pentathlon Association, which will host a UIPM competition in South Africa next year after a long absence.

Their discussions included Vice President of the African Modern Pentathlon Confederation, Jenny O'Hanlon, reflecting the collaborative spirit and forward-looking agenda for UIPM Sports development.



## Pentathlon World Rankings

The PWR is updated live at [www.pentathlon.org](http://www.pentathlon.org) after each competition. PWR as at July 1, 2024

### MEN

RANK	NATION	NAME	POINTS
1	HUN	Csaba BOHM	211
2	KOR	Woongtae JUN	193
3	HUN	Balasz SZEP	188
4	EGY	Ahmed ELGENDY	181
5	EGY	Moutaz MOHAMED	181
6	MEX	Emiliano HERNANDEZ	168
7	FRA	Valentin PRADES	161
8	KOR	Changwan SEO	160
9	EGY	Mohamed ELGENDY	157
10	POL	Kamil KASPERCZAK	153
11	FRA	Jean-Baptiste MOURCIA	152
12	ITA	Giorgio MALAN	150
13	CHN	Shuai LUO	144
14	EGY	Mohanad SHABAN	142
15	JPN	Taishu SATO	142
16	GBR	Myles PILLAGE	140
17	GER	Marvin DOGUE	140
18	POL	Lukasz GUTKOWSKI	131
19	CZE	Martin VLACH	130
20	ITA	Matteo CICINELLI	128

### WOMEN

RANK	NATION	NAME	POINTS
1	KOR	Seungmin SEONG	201
2	HUN	Blanka GUZI	193
3	AIN	Mariya GNEDTCHIK	181
4	TUR	Ilke OZYUKSEL	176
5	EGY	Salma ABDELMAKSOU	170
6	LTU	Gintare VENCKAUSKAITE	169
7	ITA	Alice SOTERO	169
8	GBR	Kerenza BRYSON	163
9	HUN	Rita ERDOS	152
10	KOR	Sunwoo KIM	150
11	EGY	Malak ISMAIL	150
12	HUN	Michelle GULYAS	146
13	FRA	Marie OTEIZA	140
14	FRA	Elodie CLOUVEL	140
15	HUN	Blanka BAUER	133
16	GBR	Kate FRENCH	131
17	ESP	Laura HEREDIA	129
18	MEX	Mariana ARCEO	126
19	SWE	Marlena JAWAID	126
20	LTU	Laura ASADAUSKAITE	125

The latest UIPM World Rankings, World Cup Rankings and Olympic Games Rankings are all available at [www.pentathlon.org](http://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."*

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