

MAY
2024



UNION INTERNATIONALE
DE PENTATHLON MODERNE



World Pentathlon
Newsletter

CONTENTS

- UIPM 2024 Pentathlon World Cup Final - p.2
- UIPM 2024 Pentathlon World Cup Sofia - p.10
- Voyage to Paris 2024: Part XIV - p.18
- Pentathlon Personalities: Shuai Luo - p.20
- News from around the world - p.23
- Inside UIPM: Secretary General's Message - p.27
- Inside UIPM: President's Activities - p.28
- Pentathlon World Rankings - p.32

UIPM 2024 PENTATHLON WORLD CUP FINAL



Gintare Venckauskaite (LTU) and Csaba Bohm (HUN) celebrate individual victories in the UIPM 2024 Pentathlon World Cup Final in Ankara (TUR)



UIPM 2024 Pentathlon World Cup Final



Michelle Gulyas awaits Hungary teammate Balazs Szep at the finish line of the Mixed Relay during the UIPM 2024 Pentathlon World Cup Final in Ankara (TUR)

Record-breaking Bohm (HUN) and veteran Venckauskaite (LTU) rise to the top in Ankara (TUR)

World record-breaker Csaba Bohm of Hungary and Gintare Venckauskaite of Lithuania demonstrated their big-match quality in Olympic year by winning individual gold at the UIPM 2024 Pentathlon World Cup Final.

Hungary would duly add a second gold the following day when Michelle Gulyas and Balazs Szep took Mixed Relay gold to send the country to the top of the seasonal medal table.

Bohm (HUN) followed in the wake of Valentin Prades of France for much of the Men's Final, but moved into the lead in Swimming and then ran such a decisive Laser Run to win that he also

broke the overall world record by a single point, scoring 1,535.

It was the first major gold medal of the 23-year-old's career, underscoring his Olympic podium potential after a series of medals including silver in the UIPM 2022 Pentathlon World Cup Final. And erasing a world record of 1,534 held jointly by three athletes competing here – Woongtae Jun of Korea, Giorgio Malan of Italy and Emiliano Hernandez of Mexico – was an unexpected bonus.

Some distance behind him, three-time gold medallist Prades (FRA) showed exceptional tenacity to win a three-way battle for silver and bronze with Tokyo 2020 Olympic silver medallist Ahmed Elgendy of Egypt and Hernandez (MEX), who finally finished 4th with Jun (KOR) and Moutaz Mohamed (EGY) also featuring on the extended

podium.

Venckauskaite (LTU) is a Laser Run specialist who normally has to come from a distant place on the leaderboard to be a podium contender, but a strong Fencing performance and a Riding masterclass enabled her to start the Women's Final Laser Run in 3rd, and she moved decisively around the course to win by an impressive 17 seconds.

The gold medal was the highlight of a long career for 31-year-old Venckauskaite (LTU), a two-time Olympian who previously won bronze in the UIPM 2021 Pentathlon World Cup Final in Astana (KAZ).

Behind her at the end of a gripping Women's Final, there was a hard-earned silver for 2024 breakthrough

athlete Mariya Gnedtchik (AIN), while Ilke Ozyuksel of Türkiye sent the home crowd into ecstasy with a late sprint for bronze. Seungmin Seong (KOR), Alice Sotero of Italy and Salma Abdelmaksoud (EGY) completed the top six.

This competition provided a penultimate chance for athletes to add points to their Olympic Pentathlon World Ranking in the race to qualify for Paris 2024, with numerous athletes gaining points and internal positioning against national rivals.

UIPM President Dr Klaus Schormann said: "The UIPM Pentathlon World Cup Final here in Ankara is like a rehearsal for the Paris 2024 Olympic Games Modern Pentathlon. And you could see in the high standard of performances what we can expect in Paris later in the summer."

"It was clear that the athletes in the best form qualified for both the Women's and Men's Finals, and we see how they have prepared in a high level for this Olympic format."

The last chance to reach Paris 2024 will come at the UIPM 2024 Pentathlon World Championships in Zhengzhou (CHN) from June 9-16, where up to six direct qualification quota places are also on offer.

ATHLETE REACTION

Women's gold medallist Venckauskaite (LTU) said: "I feel very good, I feel on cloud nine. I'm really proud of myself that I was able to fulfil my plan."

"I felt the pressure from the very beginning, because I knew that athletes from Belarus and Hungary were very good runners, so I did all the rounds in 100% and the last round was very hard because I knew that the Belarusian athlete was right behind me, and I was afraid that she would sprint. But I'm very happy that I managed it."

Women's bronze medallist Ozyuksel (TUR) added: "I'm very happy because it was preparation for Olympic Games,



Eventual winner Gintare Venckauskaite (LTU) during the Riding discipline of the Women's Final

and I did it – very good! I'm very successful and very happy to be on the podium in front of my family, my people.

"Through my season I try to be perfect, and now all the results prove that I can trust myself more. I know myself more now, and I'd like to thank all supporters who believe in me – thank you [kiss]."

Men's gold medallist Bohm (HUN) said: "It's incredible, and I don't know what to say because it was a rollercoaster this week. I really had to change my mentality because I was full of fears, I was full of emotions, and I had to close them out."

"I think it was the key to beating not just myself, but beating others, and finding

the trust I lost. It's amazing.

"It means a lot, but I know its value, because the main goal is for sure the Olympics – and it was just a step. It was a huge step for me, but a lot of pressure comes in the World Champs, so I'm staying on the ground."

Men's silver medallist Prades (FRA) added: "I'm very happy, because step by step I have a better place in each competition. Today it was a big fight, we had a very high level."

"The top five athletes were very close and it was a nice race for the spectators, and now it's raining after the race – perfect. I'm very happy to come back with the silver medal."



The competition was fast and fierce on the piste in the Fencing Bonus Round of the Women's Final at the UIPM Pentathlon World Cup Final

Men's bronze medallist Elgendy (EGY) said: "I'm very happy with this medal, I'm satisfied with the bronze. Actually I was expecting more, but as I said, I'm satisfied."

"My shooting didn't go as well as it should have been, because the gap was 14 seconds between me and the gold medallist, Csaba Bohm, and he's a very good Laser Runner so I had to shoot very well. In this competition, actually, the hardest thing was that the good Laser Runners were in the top of the Fencing. The Laser Run was so hard in this competition, but as I said, I'm satisfied."

"And now all eyes on the senior World Championships in China in two weeks. I hope we can correct the mistakes that we have done in this competition and we can do better in World Championships."

Women's Final - Riding

On a bright and calm morning, conditions were perfect for Riding and

the athletes rose to the occasion with a superb standard of horse management.

Eight athletes scored a perfect 300, with Venckauskaite (LTU) moving dangerously into the top three. So high was the standard that Rebecca Langrehr of Germany dropped six places by conceding just 12 penalty points, and the top two from France, Marie Oteiza and Elodie Clouvel, saw their leads shrink with scores of 289 and 293 respectively.

Among the clean rounds, big movers in the top half were Ozyuksel (TUR), Gnedtchik (AIN) and Sotero (ITA), while Michelle Gulyas (HUN), Lucie Hlavackova of Czechia and Malak Ismail (EGY) made progress further back. Only one athlete was unable to control their horse, and it was two-time Olympic medallist Laura Asadauskaite (LTU) who suffered the agony of elimination.

Fencing

For the second year in succession,

Oteiza (FRA) ensured she would start the Women's Final in pole position with an outstanding Fencing Ranking Round, this time scoring 25V/10D to create a 15-point cushion.

Clouvel (FRA) was the next-best Final qualifier with 22V/13D, while Langrehr (GER), Abdelmaksoud (EGY) and Venckauskaite (LTU) each scored 20 touches.

A special mention goes to Unju Kim (KOR), who scored a remarkable 27V/8D, only to suffer Semi-final elimination in Riding.

Asadauskaite (LTU), 40, may have seen her last chance to become a World Cup Final winner fade away in the Riding arena but she did not let it affect her professionalism in the Fencing Bonus Round, as she won four bouts to deny her rivals extra points.

In the context of the podium, however, the big star of the Bonus Round was Seong (KOR), who fenced her way



elegantly to six victories, defeating all the top fencers except Oteiza (FRA) to move from 14th to 10th overall.

The final bout was a big moment for Oteiza (FRA) as she stopped the run of the youngster and secured two points to set an overall lead of 13.

Swimming

Sotero (ITA) typically advanced up the overall standings with the finest performance in the pool, a time of 2min 12.07sec and 286 points enabling her to interrupt the top four.

Four points adrift on 2:14 were Gulyas (HUN) and Clouvel (FRA), whose aquatic superiority over her teammate Oteiza (FRA) enabled her to cut the overall gap to just a single second.

Behind the top two, a good swim from Abdelmaksoud (EGY) kept her in the podium mix in 3rd overall, while Ozyuksel (TUR) and Venckauskaite (LTU) remained in the top six, both less than 20sec off the lead and looking ominous.

Laser Run

As expected, Clouvel (FRA) attacked team-mate Oteiza (FRA) on the opening lap, but after improving her

The Women's Final was an energy-sapping affair in Ankara (TUR) as the Swimming (above) and Laser Run (right) provided crowds with an exciting spectacle

shooting in the Semi-final, the 2022 champion came unstuck again at the first shoot, where a 32sec delivery dropped her to 7th.

Venckauskaite (LTU) immediately took her chance, getting her shots in 10sec to move up to 2nd and then ritually overtaking Oteiza (FRA) on the second lap. There were nine women in contention but it was clear which one had the best prospects of gold.

The next shoot for Venckauskaite (LTU) was slower at 14sec, but then she nailed an 8sec third series to discourage the pack. By the time she returned for the final shoot, she could afford to take 14sec before dashing around the track one more time to seal her career-high gold medal.

The progress of Gnedtchik (AIN) was equally impressive, given that she had started in 11th place with a 15sec deficit to Venckauskaite (LTU) and 33sec behind Oteiza (FRA). After her victory in Budapest (HUN), the Pentathlon elite had been forewarned, and she duly passed nine athletes to clinch silver.



The battle for bronze was full of intrigue, a seesaw affair between Seong (KOR) and Abdelmaksoud (EGY) with Sotero (ITA) never out of it.

When Ozyuksel (TUR) took an unusually long 20sec in the final shooting series, her chance of repeating last year's silver medal was gone but bronze was still up for grabs – and she took that chance with glee, using all her leftover stamina to attack the pack in the woods and



burst clear, crossing the line in 3rd to a din of glee from her supporters.

The best Laser Run time of the day was owned by Blanka Guzi (HUN), 11:09.10 reinforcing her reputation as she finished 7th overall.

Men's Final – Riding

With the sky darkening, there was an ominous feel about the weather and the tension was reflected in the Arena, where the men found the going harder than the women earlier in the day.

Enter two Tokyo 2020 Olympic medallists to raise the bar.

First Jun (KOR) went clear with only three time penalties, and then Ahmed Elgendy (EGY) scored a perfect 300 to set the standard. His brother Mohamed (EGY) had a lot more problems on a tearaway horse, scoring 271 as the leaderboard took a shuffle.

With moderate scoring, the top three knew they had a chance to cement their podium claims and Hernandez (MEX) responded with a 293, Bohm (HUN) went one better with a superb 300 and then Prades (FRA) repeated the trick, to whoops of delight from his coaching team.

Fencing

Two athletes stood clear from the pack in the Fencing Ranking Round, with Prades (FRA) scoring 23 victories from the 34 available bouts and Bohm (HUN) only one touch behind him. Hernandez (MEX) and Seo (KOR) stayed in contention with 20V/14D with all of the Egyptians and Jun (KOR) winning more than they lost.

A modest 15 victories in the Ranking Round did not promote Jean-Baptiste Mourcia (FRA) as one of the leading fencers in the field, but the 2019 junior world champion summoned all of his skills and his spirit to completely dominate the Bonus Round.

Starting in 17th place overall, Mourcia (FRA) won a remarkable 11 consecutive bouts to move all the way up to 7th



Action from the opening Riding discipline during the Men's Final on Super Saturday in Ankara (TUR)



Athletes from France and Germany do battle on the piste during the Men's Fencing Bonus Round

with an additional 22 points.

Finally Mohamed Elgendy (EGY) stopped him, and then defeated Changwan Seo (KOR), before Hernandez (MEX) took over and claimed four points until Prades (FRA) prevailed in the final bout, adding four points of his own.

Swimming

There was a change at the top of the leaderboard during Swimming, as Bohm (HUN) edged in front of Prades (FRA) with the 6th-fastest time of the day. But the big movers were Egypt

and Italy, with four athletes going under 2min 03sec.

Ahmed Elgendy (EGY) top-scored with 308 points as he went two-tenths of a second faster than Mohamed (EGY), but there was little to split them from Matteo Cicinelli (ITA), Giorgio Malan (ITA), Jun (KOR) and Bohm (HUN).

It all meant that Bohm (HUN) would start the Laser Run 2sec ahead of Prades (FRA), with Ahmed Elgendy (EGY), Hernandez (MEX) and Jun (KOR) leading the pack – all within 21sec of the leader.



There was a change atop the leaderboard during the Swimming discipline as Csaba Bohm (HUN) edged ahead of the field in the Men's Final

Laser Run

Bohm (HUN) is not used to starting in pole position but, on this evidence, it suits him well.

He was not quite metronomic on the range, but consistent, with shoots of 12sec, 14sec and 12sec. Meanwhile he ran with such effortless class that only a major freeze would have stopped him. In the final series he scored five green lights in 10sec, which enabled him to run without fear on the final lap, although he kept enough forward motion to break the overall world record by a single second.

All the intrigue surrounded the race for silver and bronze, with an epic struggle between three athletes who all have exciting Olympic podium credentials. Hernandez (MEX) was the early mover, reining in Prades (FRA) and then bursting into the silver position at the second shoot.

Prades (FRA) did not like that, and responded superbly, using his long stride to pass Hernandez (MEX) in the woods on the third lap as Elgendy (EGY) kept him company.

It was tight on the fourth lap but again Prades (FRA) attached under the cover of trees, and this time Hernandez (MEX) lost some ground that would prove decisive.

A final 10sec shoot by Prades (FRA) confirmed his determination to seize the day, even if gold was long



Action from the Laser Run during the Men's Final on Super Saturday in Ankara (TUR)

gone, and he gave every last joule to prevent Elgendy (EGY) from catching him on the line. In terms of timings, Ahmed Elgendy (EGY) may have been disappointed with his shooting but he was quickest among the field on the day with 10:04.80 ahead of Bohm (HUN) completing the course in 10:07.30.

Mixed Relay: Hungary (Gulyas/Szep) complete golden double as rivalry with Egypt on show yet again

Michelle Gulyas and Balazs Szep of Hungary finished on a high with a Mixed Relay gold medal at the UIPM 2024 Pentathlon World Cup Final – enough to take them to the top of the seasonal medal table.

Hungary's second gold in consecutive days and fourth of the season enabled the Hungarians to climb above Egypt in the overall medal table after five competitions.

In fairness to Egypt, their total medal haul of 14 far exceeds Hungary's six – and they added another silver to the remarkable collection thanks to Salma Abdelmaksoud and Ahmed Hamed in the Mixed Relay in Ankara (TUR).

Three different nations were in contention for bronze, and finally it was the class of Korea that told, with Tokyo 2020 Olympic bronze medallist Woongtae Jun picking up the baton from one of the sport's most exciting talents, Seungmin Seong.

China finished 4th with a fine Laser Run split from Shuai Luo, in partnership with Mingyu Zhang, leaving Mayan Oliver and Duilio Carrillo of Mexico in 5th and Ukraine duo Valeriya Permykina and Yuriy Kovalchuk completing the top six.

MEDALLISTS' REACTION

Gold medallist Gulyas (HUN) said: "I think we are a great match and when we compete together we pull each other up and bring out the best in each other."

"I think this gold medal represents our friendship, and we train together at home in the same club and team, so it's nice to get the gold together."

Team-mate Szep (HUN) added: "My shooting was so bad, so it was good that Michelle did a good combined, it was very good for me."

Silver medallist Hamed (EGY) said: "We had a 20sec gap between ourselves and Hungary, and we knew that they were very strong in Laser Run, so we decided to do our best to try to close the gap and we did already."

"We didn't have enough time, but we are happy. It was amazing to compete with Salma for a second time, as we took a gold together in youths. Now we took silver in the World Cup Final, and I think we are successful together."

Bronze medallist Jun (KOR) said: "This was my first time racing with Seong in the Mixed Relay, and Fencing was a little bit bad, which was stupid of me. But we tried together, step by step."

"Now I will take steps to prepare for the World Championships, and then the Paris Olympic Games. But today the bronze medal made us happy, and thank you so much to my partner."

Team-mate Seong (KOR) added: "I want to go to the Paris Olympic Games, but the team has to decide. In World Cups this season I got some very good results. I'm very happy and will keep trying to reach the Olympic Games."



Duilio Carrillo (MEX) clears a barrier in Riding during the Mixed Relay in Ankara (TUR)

Riding

There was a high standard of Riding on the day the discipline made its last appearance in a UIPM competition in Ankara (TUR). Egypt (Abdelmaksoud/Hamed) and Hungary (Gulyas/Szep) both managed to go clear, incurring only three and seven time penalties respectively, while Korea (Seong/Jun) also recorded a satisfying 293.

Fencing

Mexico (Oliver/Carrillo) topped the standings in the Fencing Ranking Round after winning an impressive two-thirds of their bouts – 28 victories and 14 defeats.

However, Hungary (Gulyas/Szep) were only touch behind them in the Bonus Round and claimed the maximum four points in the Bonus Round by defeating Mexico (Oliver/Carrillo) and Egypt (Abdelmaksoud/Hamed), who had scored 23V/19D in the Ranking Round.

Ukraine (Permykina/Kovalchuk) were the top beneficiaries of the Bonus

Round, winning three bouts for an additional six points.

Swimming

Hungary (Gulyas/Szep) were consistent across all disciplines but only in Swimming did they separate themselves from the competition, and only by a fine margin. A time of 1min 57.94sec was less than a second faster than China (Zhang/Luo) and Korea (Seong/Jun), but it did allow them to gain on Egypt (Abdelmaksoud/Hamed) and especially Mexico (Oliver/Carrillo).

As a result, Hungary (Gulyas/Szep) started Laser Run with a 21sec lead over Egypt (Abdelmaksoud/Hamed), with Mexico (Oliver/Carrillo) a further 15sec back and with the Asian challenge looming close.

Laser Run

Seong (KOR) was immediately on the shoulder of Oliver (MEX) in the first lap, and Zhang (CHN) came into the battle for bronze with a rapid first shoot.



Korea compete in the Fencing Bonus Round (top) before things get hectic in the pool (above)

On the second 600m, Seong (KOR) overtook Oliver (MEX) only for the more experienced athlete to hit back in the woods. However, the second shoot was potentially decisive as Seong (KOR) – like Gulyas (HUN) and Abdelmaksoud (EGY) – was out in less than 10sec, while Oliver (MEX) took 23sec to get her five green lights, leaving her with an uphill struggle.

Gulyas (HUN) showed typical precision to keep the gap from Abdelmaksoud (EGY) above 20sec, and it was tempting to ask at the handover whether Jun (KOR) could expand on the great work of Seong (KOR) and put pressure on 2nd-placed Hamed (EGY).

However, the fresh legs of Hamed (EGY) made a nonsense of that theory as attention shifted to the battle for gold. The first visit of Szep (HUN) to the range was not productive, with a 23sec shoot giving 10sec away to Hamed

(EGY) and cutting the gap to around 15sec.

With little to separate them in running, it all came down to the final shoot and when Szep (HUN) struggled again – 18sec giving a further 9sec away – there was momentarily only 5sec between the two rivals. Could there be a final twist putting Egypt back on top of that seasonal medal table?

In the end, the answer was no, as Szep (HUN) used his longer stride to good effect on the final lap, stretching away in the woods to secure a hard-earned gold.

As a minor consolation to Egypt (Abdelmaksoud/Hamed), they owned the best Laser Run time of the day – 12min 41.20sec.



Athletes celebrate on the extended podium after the UIPM Pentathlon World Cup Final Mixed Relay

UIPM 2024 Pentathlon World Cup Sofia



Blanka Guzi of Hungary and Pierre Dejardin of France power to the finish line to claim the Women's and Men's titles in Sofia (BUL)

Golden glory as Guzi (HUN) and Dejardin (FRA) come from behind to triumph in Sofia (BUL)

Blanka Guzi of Hungary and Pierre Dejardin of France came from behind to enjoy eye-catching victories on Super Sunday UIPM 2024 Pentathlon World Cup Sofia.

In the Women's Final, Laser Run specialist Guzi (HUN) overcame a significant deficit from a Laser Run starting position of 7th to win her second Pentathlon World Cup gold, coming from behind as she did last year in Budapest (HUN).

Unable to resist the late charge, Jessica Varley of Great Britain was nonetheless overjoyed with a redemptive silver medal, and teenage prospect Malak Ismail of Egypt underlined her prowess with a second bronze of the season.

In reaching the podium, all three

medallists overtook the ailing Elodie Clouvel (FRA), who enjoyed an almost flawless competition but was let down badly by her shooting, which caused to her lose a big lead in Laser Run and swap places with Guzi (HUN) for a final placing of 7th.

There was considerable consolation for a disappointed French team in the Men's Final, as they earned three top-eight places including the highest prize of all, a career-first gold for Dejardin (FRA).

The 30-year-old showed great perseverance to claim his first medal since collecting a bronze, also in Sofia (BUL), six years ago. And there was more success for the prolific Egyptian team as they continued their run of two medallists in every Men's Final this season.

This time it was Mohanad Shaban (EGY) who claimed the internal bragging

rights after holding off a late charge from Mohamed Elgendy (EGY), whose run/shoot pace had threatened to turn bronze into silver. Egypt have now won a remarkable 11 medals in four Pentathlon World Cups this season, eight of them in the Men's Individual Finals.

Medallists' reaction

Women's gold medallist Guzi (HUN) said: "I don't know what to say because I didn't expect this result. There were really tough weeks behind me, and due to my Fencing in Pentathlon World Cup Cairo, I was really disappointed. But in this competition, my hard work really came out.

"I'm extremely happy because God always helps me, and I think my whole life is a wonder.

"I just thought, 'OK Blanka', let's do a correct Laser Run', but I didn't expect 1-3 position. I hope I could stand in the



The Women's Final got underway in the Bulgarian capital with some stellar performances on horseback

podium as one of the top six athletes, but 1st position? It's a wonder."

Silver medallist Varley (GBR) added: "I don't think I've ever started a Laser Run so high up, so I knew I was absolutely capable of getting a medal today, and I'm so happy that I could come out and do it.

"I've had a rocky couple of years so I'm back on the podium, yay!

"I fell off a horse in training just before World Cup Final last year, and had a fracture in my spine, which meant I wasn't at full fitness for World Championships and the second half of last year, and it's so competitive with all the British athletes having two World Cups this year.

"At the first World Cup I did this year, I had a migraine in the Laser Run of the Qualifications and didn't qualify, had an absolute disaster, and so this was my last shot. I had to come here and get a medal and I can't believe I've done it.



Action from the Swimming discipline during the Women's Final at UIPM Pentathlon World Cup Sofia

"Good emotions at the minute and I'm just keeping everything crossed, and hopefully I've done enough to qualify for World Cup Final, that's the next thing I'll be checking. I couldn't have done any more today and very happy."

Bronze medallist Ismail (EGY) said: "It wasn't easy at all. I started with a not very good Fencing, just 16 victories, and I didn't think I could qualify to the Final and here I am now. A bronze

medallist in the Final.

"In Swimming I did my personal best for this year, and in the Laser Run it was really hard but in the shooting I was in a totally good position mentally. I was able to shoot very well. In the last lap I went out with Rita Erdos from Hungary, I know she is a strong runner and it would be a strong battle with her, but I did it in the end.



Marlena Jawaid (SWE) takes on Elodie Clouvel (FRA) during the Fencing Bonus Round of the Women's Final

"It feels really different to every previous year, and especially because this is Olympic year, I'm very proud that I've won a second medal."

Men's champion Dejardin (FRA) said: "I just had to focus on my work and my performance. Just shoot well, run well, and do my best. I didn't think about the result."

"It's a good thing. We have a strong team and it's a good step, but it's not the end. I want to go in the Olympics so I have to continue my work, and in the World Cup Final I have to get a good result again, and afterwards in the World Championships. We have a strong team, it's a fight, and I will fight."

"I am very proud of myself and my team. Last year in the World Cup Final I broke my hand, so that was a difficult year and I'm very happy to come back at this level. But it's just a step, I have to continue, it's not the end."

Silver medallist Shaban (EGY) added: "It's a second medal, but like I say, I won silver but lost the gold. Not happy with my performance in Shooting. Maybe I had more confidence from the Semi-final, where I shot 21 from 20, and maybe today I thought it would be easy

in my head. In the next Final I will be better.

"The Egyptian team is very good and this year in every competition we have had two men in the podium. We have so many medals. I'm not happy, but at least I'm in the podium."

"I had this battle before, in Bath last year, the same situation and the same race and the same finish. I love racing with the Elgendys, we are so good this year."

"After the last shooting, I went again with Elgendy and I thought in my brain 'finish or no, finish or no', but I told myself 'there is 200 metres, let's go, let's go'. And I did it."

Bronze medallist Elgendy (EGY) said: "It was so hard for me. At the beginning of the race, I was just aiming for 3rd place but during the race, even after the third shoot, I was getting closer and closer."

"At the finish, I created a gap but I was unable to give any more."

Women's Final: Riding

Ismail (EGY) became the first athlete to go clear, incurring only four time penalties, and among the early climbers

were Laura Heredia of Spain and Emma Whitaker (GBR).

On a challenging course, there was a lot of damage limitation and several athletes showed true grit to avoid elimination, with only three failing to score. Even the highly experienced Annika Zillekens of Germany and Kate French (GBR) had numerous issues in negotiating the 10 obstacles.

Into the final five, there were some excellent rides that put athletes firmly in contention. Varley (GBR) broke the tension with a 297, before Elzbieta Adomaityte of Lithuania enjoyed the first perfect score and Marlena Jawaid of Sweden made only one error.

Those rides heaped pressure on Clouvel (FRA), but she handled it superbly and ended an immaculate ride with a whoop of delight and raised arm.

Fencing

While form is temporary, class is permanent in Modern Pentathlon and Clouvel (FRA) is an athlete who exemplifies this.

Having come into the competition knowing that she probably needed one more good result to secure a place in



Blanka Guzi (HUN) sprints away from the shooting range and from the rest of the field as she goes on to claim the gold medal in Sofia (BUL)

her home Olympics, after an eventful season so far, everything clicked in the Fencing Ranking Round as she secured 26 victories from her 35 bouts.

Two others fencers stood out, as Jawaid (SWE) scored 25V/10D and Adomaityte (LTU) managed 24V/11D.

At the end of a Bonus Round that saw Seungmin Seong of Korea add eight points to her score, Clouvel (FRA) extended her overall lead to 12 points by winning the final bout against Jawaid (SWE).

Swimming

As the standout athlete in Riding and Fencing, Clouvel (FRA) repeated the trick in Swimming with the quickest time of the final (2min 15.73sec), enabling her to extend her overall lead and take a 33sec lead into Laser Run.

Team-mates Ismail (EGY) and Salma Abdelmaksoud (EGY) also improved their podium prospects, joining Guzi (HUN) in going under 2:18.

Laser Run

Varley (GBR) started in 4th, 4sec behind Adomaityte (LTU) and 15sec behind Jawaid (SWE), and it took only one run/shoot circuit for her to move into the silver-medal position. She overtook Adomaityte (LTU) and then seized her chance on the shooting range with an 11sec shoot.

Could she pose a threat to Clouvel (FRA)? Two opening shoots averaging 25sec from the leader certainly gave her hope, and Varley (GBR) was even faster second time round. Guzi (HUN) also came into the medal equation as she moved past Jawaid (SWE) into 3rd.

At the third shoot, it all fell apart for Clouvel (FRA). Having scored three green lights in quick succession, she then froze completely and ended up timing out, with Varley (GBR) and Guzi (HUN) taking full advantage to move into the gold and silver positions.

Both leaders then held their nerve at the final shoot, each timing 13sec, setting up a thrilling duel on the last

600m lap. Around the 400m mark, Guzi (HUN) turned on the afterburners to pass Varley (GBR) and seal her second gold at the highest level with the day's fastest Laser Run time of 11:08.70.

With Clouvel (FRA) misfiring again, Ismail (EGY) made a typically decisive move into 3rd and held on to secure bronze under pressure from Whitaker (GBR) and Rita Erdos (HUN), who timed an eye-catching 11:10.10.

Men's Final: Riding

The technicalities of the Riding course again tested equestrian skills to the limit, but if the competition leaders were feeling any nerves, they did not show it. Shaban (EGY) recorded the first perfect score of 300 in the penultimate ride, and Dejardin (FRA) followed suit with another immaculate performance.

In fact, the Riding coach of Team France could be very happy with their day's work as Valentin Prades (FRA, 293) and Jean-Baptiste Mourcia (FRA, 299) also mastered the discipline. Team-mates Patrick Dogue (GER) and Fabian Liebig





Pierre Dejardin (FRA) enjoys a clear Riding round during the Men's Final in Sofia (BUL)

(GER) also kept their chances intact, as did Elgendy (EGY) after overcoming an early refusal.

After their success in the Women's Final, Hungary had a damaging Men's Final experience as medal contenders Bence Demeter (HUN) incurred 42 penalty points and Balazs Szep (HUN) became the first of two athletes to suffer elimination, the other being Alexandre Dallenbach of Switzerland.

Fencing

With a congested leaderboard, two athletes enjoyed a marginal advantage in the Fencing Ranking Round as Shaban (EGY) and Dejardin (FRA) each managed 23 victories from their 35 bouts, with Dallenbach (SUI), Dogue (GER) and Christian Zillekens (GER) staying in touch with 22V/13D.

With the top two athletes neck and neck on the scoreboard, Dejardin (FRA) and Shaban (EGY) met in the final bout of the Bonus Round and it was Shaban (EGY) who won the critical final bout to

move four points clear overall.

The other big movers in the Bonus Round were Changwan Seo (KOR, five victories), Marek Grycz of Czechia (four) and Demeter (HUN, three).

Swimming

Dallenbach (SUI) set the standard in Swimming with an excellent time of 2:01.64, with Myles Pillage (GBR) timing 2:02.95 and Moutaz Mohamed (EGY)

2:03.58. Shaban (EGY) was 4th-fastest, enabling him to extend his overall lead to 18 points with Dejardin (FRA) quite far down the list.

Laser Run

Elgendy (EGY) was the early mover, edging ahead of Liebig (GER). Dejardin (FRA) cut the lead of Shaban (EGY) by 8sec at the first visit to the range, while Elgendy (EGY) moved decisively into 3rd with a 10sec shoot.

Shaban (EGY) responded well at the second shoot as Elgendy (EGY) faltered, and Seo (KOR) moved up to 5th. But Dejardin (FRA) attacked on the third run, moving into the race lead, and then delivered an exceptional 7sec shoot.

The final shoot intensified the drama, with Dejardin (FRA) taking much longer to get back out, but it was enough for gold as neither Egyptian was able to rein him in and they became locked in an internal duel for silver.

With narrow lanes limiting opportunities to overtake, Elgendy (EGY) attacked early in the final 600m but then Shaban (EGY) countered, showing extraordinary tenacity to kick for home and give the Olympic selectors more to think about.

While Dejardin (FRA) was the star of the day, his team-mate Mourcia (FRA) typically recorded the best Laser Run time (10:10.20) to finish 7th overall.



Athletes from Egypt and France compete in the Fencing Bonus Round



Perfect reflections as the swimmers get ready to enter the water during the Men's Final at UIPM 2024 World Cup Sofia (BUL)

Mixed Relay: Egypt clinch yet another gold medal of the season in stunning Laser Run finish

An exhilarating week of action at UIPM 2024 Pentathlon World Cup Sofia finished on the most fitting note possible as Haydy Morsy and Mohanad Shaban clinched Mixed Relay gold for Egypt in one of the most dramatic Laser Run finishes in recent memory.

Remarkably, less than a second separated the winners and the other two medalists as a photo finish was required to eventually decide that Yewen Gu and Bailiang Chen of China had pipped Catherine Mayran Oliver and Duilio Carrillo of Mexico to silver by the tightest possible margin, the teams having crossed the line at the exact same time.

Pentathlon's truly global appeal was on show as four separate nations from four different continents had held the lead during the captivating Laser Run. But it was Shaban (EGY) who dug deep in the closing stages to claw back Chen (CHN) and claim team gold to go with his individual silver from Super Sunday, the World No.2 competing for a fifth-straight day. Egypt rounded off the week with a gold, silver and two bronze



All eyes on the prizes at the range during a gripping Laser Run in the Men's Final

medals in all.

Silver was a fitting reward for China (Gu/Chen) who showed superb consistency throughout Monday's competition to claim the country's first medal of the World Cup season while Mexico (Carrillo/Oliver) added another podium finish to go with Relay golds already claimed in Cairo and Budapest.

Medallists' Reaction

Gold medallist Morsy (EGY) said: "I am so happy with this gold medal today. To be going home finally after a long time

with no podium, thanks to Shaban for the great finish. But I'm very, very happy for this medal especially after a tough time with the individual competition. Team Egypt again on the podium – another one!"

Her teammate Shaban (EGY) added: "It's not easy! Now it's been five days [in a row], more and more, it's tough. Today was the last day and now it's rest, see you in China after one month of recovery. That's enough! A great finish like yesterday. I am so happy."



Silver medallist Gu (CHN) said: "We had felt so nervous but he [Chen] is a really good runner. I'm bad at shooting so congratulations to Chen! It's the first time we have got a silver medal in all of the World Cups so it's really exciting to get it."

Bronze medallist Carillo (MEX) said: "Yes, it was a very hard run. I think it's maybe not my best discipline but I improved a lot. I have time for the Olympics. But it was an amazing race today. I hoped that I had taken silver but I didn't have a lot of time to get it but it was a good competition."

Riding

Super Sunday in the Bulgarian capital had witnessed a very high standard of skill on horseback and Monday afternoon saw plenty of the same as the Riding round began with three-straight perfect scores from Italy (Alice Rinaudo & Matteo Bovenzi), Kazakhstan (Elena Potapenko & Giorgiy Boroda-Dudochkin) and France (Louison Cazaly & Leo Bories).



Horse and rider in perfect harmony as the Mixed Relay got underway in Bulgaria's capital city

tight, one point the difference between the first four.

Fencing

In keeping with a season of relentlessly impressive performances, Egypt (Morsy/Shaban) jumped out to an ominous early lead, picking up 26 victories in the Fencing Ranking Round.

However Mexico (Carillo/Oliver) were toe to toe with the Africans with 26 victories of their own, two more than the rest of the field with Hungary (Kamilla Reti & Gergely Regos) and China (Gu/Chen) racking up with 24.

With just a solitary point separating the

top quartet of teams, the Bonus Round took on even greater importance. However it was Italy (Rinaudo/Bovenzi) who made the most of the opportunity, almost running the table by reeling off five victories to bring themselves back into medal contention. At the head of proceedings, Mexico (Carillo/Oliver) grabbed the all-important final win over Egypt (Morsy/Shaban) to edge just ahead of the rest.

Swimming

Feeding off their momentum from the Bonus Round, Italy (Rinaudo/Bovenzi) put in a blistering performance in the pool, fastest of all in 1:55.12 with France (Cazaly/Bories) the only other team to go under the 2-minute mark, tightening up the leaderboard even more.

China (Gu/Chen) were third-fastest in 2:00.77 to jump to the front and give themselves an 8-second cushion on the field ahead of the Laser Run but, much like we had seen during the pulsating individual Finals the previous day, the destination of the medals was far clear in a high-quality contest

Laser Run

While Gu (CHN) set off in front with the hard-earned 8-second cushion,



Teamwork makes the dream work as Italy celebrate a victory during the Fencing Bonus Round of the Mixed Relay in Sofia (BUL)



Egypt taste yet another gold medal of the 2024 season as Mohanad Shaban runs towards teammate Haydy Morsy during a sprint finish in the Laser Run



The changeover is hectic during the Mixed Relay's Swimming discipline in Sofia (BUL)

just 20 seconds separated the leaders and Kazakhstan (Potapenko/Boroda-Dudochkin) in seventh place with so many prolific Relay performers among the contending pack.

The tension was palpable and nerves clearly evident on the first visit to the shooting range as rivals at the front of the race took time to find rhythm. It was a stunning 8-second shoot from Potapenko (KAZ) that stood out but Cazaly (FRA) would go even lower,

reeling off five green lights in her second visit to the range to put the French in contention for a second gold of the week after Pierre Dejardin (FRA) had triumphed in the Men's Final 24 hours earlier.

The lead transitioned between China (Gu/Chen), Egypt (Morsy/Shaban) and Mexico (Carillo/Oliver) and at the changeover Shaban (EGY) set out in front but there was precious little to separate them all. Carillo (MEX) was

quickest to lock in at the range and wrestled the lead after the first shoot only for the running of Shaban (EGY) to bring the African powerhouse back in front. The front three arrived at the range for the final shoot in unison with Regos (HUN) having edged closer too.

It was Chen (CHN) who reeled off a 10-second shoot to set off in front with Carillo (MEX) behind and Shaban (EGY) with a lot of work to do. However last year's World Cup Final individual gold medalist is also the reigning UIPM World Champion in Mixed Relay and found the last of reserves to sprint to the front inside the last 100 metres.

Even then there was still time for more drama as Chen (CHN) and the hard-charging Carillo (MEX) almost caught Shaban (EGY), giving us a truly memorable finish line photograph of the trio neck and neck to the last. Behind them France (Cazaly/Bories) claimed fourth with Hungary (Reti/Regos) fifth and Italy sixth (Rinaudo/Bovenzi).

VOYAGE TO PARIS 2024

Olympic Games Countdown: Part XIV



Seungmin Seong and Woongtae Jun represented Korea in the Mixed Relay in Ankara (TUR) recently. Team Korea boasts numerous supreme talents

Leading off...

Koreans make the short hop knowing that Olympic places are at a premium

True, 1236km is hardly a walk in the park or a leisurely stroll. It's still a vast distance between any two points on the map. But for Korea's current crop of elite pentathletes, the distance between their capital of Seoul and the eastern Chinese city of Zhengzhou will likely feel short — and sweet.

As the UIPM 2024 Pentathlon and Laser Run World Championships visit China, much of the focus has been on how China's new generation of pentathletes can cope with the pageantry and pressure of performing on home soil.

But for the four Koreans who currently sit comfortably inside the top 20 in the world — two men and two women —

this year's World Championships is as close as they have been to competing on home turf for some time.

In the last elite-level competition before the Olympic Games in Paris and with qualification places still up for grabs in Zhengzhou (CHN), the potential performances of Korea's finest — and the knock-on effects — could be very significant indeed.

Let's recap, shall we? Korea currently has two men inside the world top 20: Woongtae Jun (4th) and Changwan Seo (9th). On the women's side, Seungmin Seong (4th) and Sunwoo Kim (16th) sit inside the upper echelon too. But the wrinkle lies in the fact that Korea has thus far only secured one quota qualification place per gender.

So if the powers-that-be in the Korean federation want to avoid some very challenging selection calls or

qualification showdowns between teammates, they would certainly like to see Korean athletes make the most of the opportunity in Zhengzhou.

Jun, of course, is defending an Olympic medal, his Tokyo bronze, and his enduring class suggests he could even better it. Seo, meanwhile, has a Pentathlon World Cup gold medal to his name in 2024. One look at Seong's results this year will tell you that she is someone who has a wonderful habit of finding her way inside the top three or four, a great skill to have. Yet it was Kim who secured the women's quota spot in 2023, picking up silver at the Asian Games in Hangzhou (CHN) after Seong was eliminated in the Riding.

There is plenty of work to be done before Paris places are decided for Korea. And their short hop across to China next week could go a long way to making things clearer.



The Paris 2024 Summer Olympics podium was unveiled during a special ceremony in the French capital in May. Picture: Paris 2024/Twitter

> Paris Pointer

Making it to the podium will give an athlete a view from the top of the world — and a Parisian view too.

An Olympic medal can be the highlight of a lifetime and the culmination of work that goes back to the earliest years of an athlete's life.

But to get the medal placed over your head and hung around your neck, you have to first make it to somewhere just as special: the Olympic Podium.

The unique podiums for Paris 2024 were unveiled in recent weeks and like so many aspects of this summer's Games in the French capital, thought has been put into every aspect.

The podiums will be coloured grey in homage to the rooftops of Paris and inspired by the design of the Eiffel Tower and will be used for all 329 medal ceremonies at the Olympic Games, including the two for Modern Pentathlon competitions in Versailles.

The podium's modular, built-in design enables it to adapt to different

configurations (individual or team Olympic/Paralympic events).

"When you win a medal at the Games, you'll feel a bit like you're climbing on top of the world, so at least the athletes will be on the top of Paris with this grey, which recalls the strong colour of the roofs of Paris," said Paris 2024 President Tony Estanguet.

"With these podiums made in France from French wood and 100% recycled plastic, we offer athletes a real stage where they will be proud to stand and wear the colours of their country, watched by the whole world."

Numbers game

10,000 The number of Paris 2024 tickets that will go on sale every Thursday between now and the start of the Games, less than two months from now. Tickets for some events start as low as €24 and can be accessed at tickets.paris2024.org.

Qualification latest

With the UIPM 2024 Pentathlon World Cup season now in the record books,

the jostling for the final 28 qualification spots for Paris 2024 has reached crunch time. Within the next month the final slots will be decided. While we still know that 44 of the 72 quota places at this summer's Games have been claimed, the plot is thickening.

Here's a reminder of who has qualified for the Games already: **Women:** Italy (2), Great Britain (2), China, Japan, Korea, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Spain, Lithuania, France, Hungary, Germany, Egypt, Australia, Czechia, Mexico, USA, Brazil, Ecuador and the International Athletes Team (EAI). **Men:** Egypt (2), Mexico (2), Italy, China, Japan, Korea, Thailand, Kazakhstan, Great Britain, Hungary, France, Germany, Poland, Ukraine, Switzerland, Australia, Ecuador, Cuba, Argentina and EAI.

Up to six places are on offer at the 2024 UIPM Pentathlon World Championships, leaving 22-28 to come through the UIPM Olympic World Rankings, which makes the competition in Zhengzhou (CHN) so key for those chasing a place. Full details of the final places at Paris 2024 and the qualification process can be found at uipmworld.org/olympic-games.



China's star on the rise: Meet Shuai Luo

In the latest in our 'Pentathlon Personalities' series, one of Asia's top athletes opens up on his Paris dreams, sporting origins and his country's passion for Pentathlon...

Shuai Luo has spent most of the first half of 2024 on a culinary journey through Europe, embracing the cuisines of Hungary, Turkey, Bulgaria and France. So while a return to home cooking this month is welcome, he hasn't exactly been craving it. Instead he's longing for the sweetest taste of all: fulfilling an Olympic dream.

The 27-year-old from China has risen to a UIPM World Ranking of 24 on the back of some hard-fought but very satisfying consistency on the World Cup circuit. At stops in Budapest (HUN) and Sofia (BUL) he finished inside the top 16 of the Men's Final. At the World Cup Final in Ankara (TUR) he again progressed to Super Saturday and finished an impressive 13th.

Luo himself is not yet fully impressed however. He knows that a place at this summer's Paris Olympic Games is far from assured. China currently has just one Men's quota slot locked in, courtesy of Shuhuan Li's bronze medal at the 19th Asian Games last year. Meanwhile compatriot Zhang Linbin is just four places behind Luo in the world rankings.

With the UIPM World Championships coming fast around the corner on home soil, taking place in Zhengzhou (CHN) from June 9-16, these are tense times for a team on the rise.

"I will return to China and actively prepare for the World Championships. Because I haven't confirmed my qualification to the Olympics Games in Paris I have to try best to obtain it first through the world ranking," Luo told UIPM News. "I have to perform better in the World Championships. I am not very satisfied with my Fencing in the World Cup Final, so I hope to improve my fencing level to improve my ranking."



Shuai Luo (CHN) finds distraction in music and is an avid piano and guitar player

The piste has consistently been a point of pain for Luo but he has shown signs of turning the corner.

"My performance in the Asian Games last year was not ideal, and my performance in the first two World Cup stations was not good too. So I feel my self-confidence was affected a little," he explained. "Then our team helped me to find a solution after understanding my advantages and disadvantages [better]. They also invited a professional Chinese fencing coach to help me, so my performance in the subsequent games was greatly improved, which meant a lot to me. [Also] my physical

condition is maintained well due to the continuous competitions."

Luo's consistency has been in line with impressive performances across the Chinese team. A first medal of the World Cup season arrived in the Mixed Relay in Sofia (BUL), a fitting reward for recent growth.

"I think the Chinese team has done better than last season. And this is the result of efforts from our entire team. Whenever we find problems, we will actively find ways to solve it and improve it," added Luo, who has seen a growing fandom in his home nation of



In keeping with the wider trend for his national team, Shuai Luo (CHN) has enjoyed consistently good performances in 2024 and is now dreaming big

1.4 billion people. A sports-mad nation, Pentathlon is competing against a host of other pursuits for attention. But Luo has seen things move in the right direction.

"Chinese people are very receptive to new things. Many people start to get in touch with it for curiosity, and then they become interested in watching the competition. In recent years, Modern Pentathlon has been developing better and better in China. When I first started on this sport, my family hadn't even heard of it, but now when they talk with other friends, more and more people already know about it. One reason is that the domestic athletes helped to promote this sport. In addition, the Asian Games was also a great help on the promotion. Also Laser Run city tour take place in many cities in China. In Shanghai, our team go to different schools every month to develop Modern Pentathlon too."

Now an all-important UIPM World Championships just weeks out from an

Olympic Games will bring huge drama with important consequences to the country. Luo expects "many friends and families who support me in the competition — and there will be some pressure too".

Luo's journey to the sport wasn't straightforward. Coming from a sporting background he was first attracted to the water, but not Swimming.

"I used to practice rowing, and my rowing coach happened to know a Modern Pentathlon coach, so he recommended me to try it. Then I switched to Modern Pentathlon. My father used to be a basketball player, so I also like sports since I was a child," said Luo, for whom free time has been a rarity in this Olympic year. While he does sometimes find his way back inside a boat, he has other distractions to help ease some of the pressure in a hectic year.

"I still row occasionally, and I like music more. I also play guitar and piano in my

free time. Besides Modern Pentathlon, my favorite sport is tennis, so I play tennis with my friends a lot."

Luo's desperation to get his Paris place locked in is understandable. He looks to be approaching something of a career peak at 27. And while he has already experienced an Olympic Games, finishing in 21st place in Tokyo, that pandemic-affected event has made him ravenous for the return of crowds in the French capital this summer.

"If I can enter the Olympics, I will be very happy and excited. Because there were no spectators at the last Tokyo Olympics due to the pandemic, and it feels more like a training," said Luo, who has spent time in Paris this year at training camps.

"I am more eager to perform in front of more spectators who will be watching the Games. It will make me more excited and in a better competitive form. There should be many spectators at Paris Olympics, which will be attractive to me. I am looking forward to it."



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: Episode 2 now available to watch on UIPM YouTube channel

UIPM has released the second episode of a new TV show 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 athlete profile interviews with competition coverage, Episode 2 reveals the polar highs and lows that became dominant narratives during UIPM 2024 Pentathlon World Cup Ankara.

The show features Rio 2016 silver medallist Elodie Clouvel of France, 2023 Pentathlon World Cup Final winner Mohanad Shaban of Egypt and hometown favourite Ilke Ozyuksel of Türkiye, as well as the athletes who won gold in Ankara (TUR), Kerenza Bryson of Great Britain and Changwan Seo of Korea.

Highlights of the second instalment of this special six-part series include:

- Clouvel (FRA) soaring into the lead in her Semi-final, then dropping from first to last place in Laser Run due to a misfiring pistol, and reflecting: "I'm fed up. Honestly, it's a disaster."
- Shaban (EGY) admitting "I love Ankara" having won two gold medals in the Turkish capital last year, only to find himself eliminated after falling from his horse during the Men's Final. "This competition is bad luck for me."
- Bryson (GBR) stating that her only goal is gold at Paris 2024, and following up with a second World Cup title that left her reflecting: "I'm on a bit of a run at the moment. It's just positive vibes all round."
- Seo (KOR) fulfilling his obvious potential with a career-first gold medal as he fights for the right to compete alongside the legendary Woongtae Jun (KOR) in Paris.

"Woongtae inspires me a lot. We have gained many fans since winning a medal at the Tokyo Olympics."

- Ozyuksel (TUR) on the mixed blessing of competing in front of a home crowd. "I can hear all the Turkish words and many people cheer for me – sometimes good, sometimes bad, of course. You have to be mentally very strong."
- Ozyuksel (TUR) crashing out in her Semi-final after a rare blip in her Laser Run, leading her to acknowledge: "Normally my shooting was OK but I couldn't handle the stress, pressure, everything."

A Passion For Paris: Episode 2 has been released to TV networks worldwide and is available to watch free on UIPM's YouTube channel. Episode 3 and 4 were filmed during the recent UIPM 2024 Pentathlon World Cups in Budapest (HUN) and Sofia (BUL) and will be available in upcoming weeks.



News from around the world

Seven athletes named as eligible candidates for UIPM Athletes Committee global election

Seven athletes from different countries across three continents have been named as eligible candidates for the global position on the UIPM Athletes Committee (AC).

The next AC will serve from 2025-2028, encompassing the historic Los Angeles 2028 Olympic Games where Obstacle will make its debut in the Olympic Modern Pentathlon.

The single global place on the Committee is traditionally elected first, before each continent chooses its representative, and it will be subject to an in-person athlete vote during the UIPM 2024 Pentathlon World Championships in Zhengzhou (CHN) in June.

In accordance with UIPM Election Rules Article 5.1, a comprehensive review was conducted for the nominations submitted by National Federations for the Athletes Committee election and the list of candidates deemed eligible contains three female and four male athletes.

From Africa, Haydy Morsy of Egypt is one of the candidates, along with Tyler Evans from United States and five Europeans. They are Alessandra Frezza of Italy, Anna Maliszewska of Poland, Samuel Curry of Great Britain, Todor Mihalev of Bulgaria and Valentin Prades of France.

All candidates were checked against a strict criteria to ensure their eligibility, among which was the requirement that they had been internationally ranked in the last two seasons before the elections.



The seven athletes who have been named as eligible candidates for election to UIPM AC.

UIPM 2024 Pentathlon and Laser Run World Championships: 16 athletes approved to compete as neutrals

Fifteen pentathletes who hold Belarus passports, and one who holds a Russia passport, have been approved to participate in a neutral capacity in the UIPM 2024 Pentathlon and Laser Run World Championships in Zhengzhou (CHN) from 9-16 June.

Approval for the flagship competition of the UIPM 2024 season was also granted to seven coaches who hold Belarus passports.

Rather than representing their country of origin, any of the 16 athletes who take part in the two competitions (only in individual categories) will be designated as independent neutral athletes (AIN).

The approval was granted by UIPM's

Independent Panel, which was set up in May 2023 after UIPM created a pathway for individual athletes with Belarus or Russia passports to return to UIPM Sports competitions on a neutral basis.

The members of the Panel researched and discussed the credentials of each individual application based on eligibility criteria set by UIPM, in cooperation with the International Olympic Committee (IOC) and in line with the United Nations in terms of the protection of individuals' rights.

All successful applicants have received approval of their neutral status and are eligible to compete in the combined UIPM 2024 World Championships. Any applications for future competitions will be considered in the same way.

In making this announcement, UIPM also reiterates its absolute support for





Five members from five nations will be elected to the new Committee during the UIPM 2024 Masters World Championships in September in Hungary

athletes and other members of the Modern Pentathlon community in Ukraine who have suffered so much since the invasion of their country by Russia, supported by Belarus.

Calling all candidates for UIPM Masters Committee election as resurgence continues apace

The resurgence of the UIPM Masters movement has continued with a call for National Federations to nominate candidates to the UIPM Masters Committee.

Five members from five nations will be elected to the new Committee during the UIPM 2024 Masters World Championships in Gyomro (HUN) from September 13-16, and nominations must be sent to UIPM by 15 June.

The confirmation that Masters pentathletes will have the right to vote for a new representative body follows a successful revival in the past six

months, beginning with the 2023 Open European Championships in Chisinau (MDA) and followed by competitions in Davos (SUI) and Bompas (FRA).

The latter competition was the first UIPM-recognised Masters event to include the new Obstacle discipline that will be fully integrated to Modern Pentathlon from 2025.

Only the Masters athletes competing in Gyomro (HUN) in September will be able to vote in the Masters Committee election, which will be held according to the UIPM Rules on Internal Organization, UIPM Election Rules and UIPM Masters Rules. This includes the provision that there must be at least two female and two male athletes on the UIPM Masters Committee.

Interested candidates and NFs can visit <https://www.uipmworld.org/elections?page=masters-committee> for more information on the process and to proceed with a nomination.

UIPM 2024 Pentathlon Junior World Championships: 19 athletes approved to compete as neutrals

Twelve pentathletes who hold Belarus passports, and seven who hold Russia passports, have been approved to participate in a neutral capacity in the UIPM 2024 Pentathlon Junior World Championships in Alexandria (EGY) from 24-30 June.

Approval for the competition was also granted to six coaches who hold Belarus passports and seven individuals (five coaches, one physio, one team official) who hold Russia passports.

Rather than representing their country of origin, any of the 19 athletes who take part in the UIPM 2024 Pentathlon Junior World Championships (only in individual categories) will be designated as independent neutral athletes (AIN).

The approval was granted by UIPM's Independent Panel, which was set up in May 2023 after UIPM created a



pathway for individual athletes with Belarus or Russia passports to return to UIPM Sports competitions on a neutral basis.

The members of the Panel researched and discussed the credentials of each individual application based on eligibility criteria set by UIPM, in cooperation with the International Olympic Committee (IOC) and in line with the United Nations in terms of the protection of individuals' rights.

All successful applicants have received approval of their neutral status and are eligible to compete in UIPM's flagship 2024 competition for athletes aged 22 and under. Any applications for future competitions will be considered in the same way.

In making this announcement, UIPM also reiterates its absolute support for athletes and other members of the Modern Pentathlon community in Ukraine who have suffered so much since the invasion of their country by Russia, supported by Belarus.

UIPM Educational Platform is revived and relaunched with a dynamic new design

UIPM has revamped its online Educational Platform with a



UIPM has created a clear but colourful design for its revived UIPM Educational Platform

dynamic new design. The goal was to create a clear but colourful design and an easy-to-use interface, making the platform intuitive and fun to use.

New banners clearly classify content for athletes, coaches, and judges, making navigation easier. Additionally, new sliders present the vast content in a compressed way, and testimonials showcase more experiences.

Previously redeveloped in 2022, the

UIPM Educational Platform has been offering a wide range of content for athletes, coaches, judges and the whole Pentathlon community since its launch in 2018.

The platform hosts online courses and webinars and enables the sharing of official UIPM documents and guidelines, along with special content for all stakeholders.

Visit: <https://edu.uipmworld.org/>

Jean-Pierre Giudicelli OLY (1943-2024)

One of France's most revered Modern Pentathlon icons, two-time Olympian Jean-Pierre Giudicelli, has passed away at the age of 81.

A team bronze medallist from the Mexico 1968 Olympic Games who finished 7th at the following Games in Munich in 1972, and competed in both individual events, Giudicelli was even more respected for his work as a coach.

Having spent time serving in the



military and working as a PE teacher near Paris, he embarked on what would prove to be his vocation: coaching several generations of

French pentathlete to reach the heights of the sport.

Initially he was based at the CREPS sports centre in Talence and later in Fontainebleau, educating and inspiring dozens of athletes – who paid fond tributes to Giudicelli in the wake of his passing.

In the words of the French Modern Pentathlon Federation (FFPM) President Joel Bouzou OLY, he was "eternally passionate and curious", and "gave his time without restraint and made his athletes think that everything was possible through work, whatever their starting level".



UIPM Judges Certification Programme: Surf's up for eager students in Varadero (CUB)

The blissful Cuban resort town of Varadero Beach may be a place of rest and relaxation for most visitors but it was a hive of activity and education in recent weeks when a key UIPM Judges Certification course took place.

The three-day course, which ran from May 5-7, was another sign of investment and growth in UIPM sports in the Caribbean region after a similar course in the Dominican Republic last year proved to be equally successful with all participants passing.

The recent opportunity in Varadero (CUB) was grasped by 25 participants who took the all-important first step on

the UIPM judging ladder as 7 women and 18 men pursued their Level 1 JCP certification.

The course was run under the expert tutelage of UIPM JCP educator and Technical Committee member Agnes Kulcsar (HUN) and was held in advance of the Pan American Open Championships which took place amid the sun, sea and sands of Varadero Beach from May 8-12. The week-long event saw U15, U17 and U19 athletes compete in an Obstacle Triathlon format with the new cohort of judges keeping a watchful eye.

President of the NORCECA Confederation Robert Stull OLY said: "Our focus on ensuring UIPM sports have the support and structure to grow throughout the NORCECA region

remains steadfast and I am particularly pleased to host another JCP course in the Caribbean, where almost 50 new judges have been certified in less than a year.

"I would like to express my sincere thanks to UIPM and particularly to Agnes Kulcsar for her enthusiasm and sharing her expertise in helping this new batch of judges."

UIPM JCP educator Agnes Kulcsar said: "We were particularly lucky to welcome a diligent group of new students in Varadero. All involved were eager to begin their journey as UIPM judges, working on their skills and all aspects of Obstacle Triathlon. I thank them for their focus and dedication and hope this is just the beginning for all of them."

**UIPM
PENTATHLON · LASER RUN
World Championships
Zhengzhou, CHINA 2024**

JUNE 07-16



**Inside UIPM
Secretary General Shiny Fang's message**

You don't need a crystal ball to see the future – just get around a table

Halfway through Super Saturday at the UIPM Pentathlon World Cup Final in Ankara, we broke from the competition to gather round a table. And it had to be a big one.

Around 25 members of our community – comprising UIPM Executive Board (EB), National Federation (NF) representatives, athletes and coaches – joined staff members in the room for an open discussion related to the future structure of our events. It was a pragmatic, honest conversation about our direction of travel.

The round-table format as a direct means of conversation is hardly new or groundbreaking, but sometimes we forget how effective it can be when gathering multiple stakeholders.

So why did this meeting need to happen?

- The discussion was centred around various proposals, such as an increase in the number of competitions at more levels, shorter competition days and more athletes per NF being allowed to compete.
- While the EB will meet for formal discussions in Zhengzhou (CHN) during the UIPM 2024 Pentathlon and Laser Run World Championships, the opportunity on May 25 to engage with so many community representatives was perfectly timed.
- Opinions and views from different angles and perspectives were raised, which opened up some new aspects to build into longer-term planning beyond the 2024 EB Meeting and Congress.
- Personally, I felt it was inspiring, frank and constructive – a much-



needed catch-up at a time when so many of us are travelling with the sport.

What were the main takeaways from the meeting?

- There is strong desire for an increase in the NF athlete quota for pentathlon competitions, and a future with Obstacle replacing Riding might facilitate this.
- We need to create more possibilities for athletes to access more competition levels, especially new athletes.
- A Junior World Cup was debated – it could also be a direct upgrade from youth competitions as already happened in some countries, or aligned to the Pentathlon Challenger that has been introduced at senior level with UIPM guidelines and standards.
- Modern Pentathlon competition accreditation fees could be adjusted to be payable by day or by event, rather than the current block of four days,

and the approach of our Biathlon-Triathlon and Laser Run World Championships was recommended.

- Individual entry to some competitions was also discussed as a possibility that could reduce the cost burden on NFs.
- There was consideration of competition locations that could have a cost-saving impact, alongside the need to have World Cups in all continents.
- A new competition structure for the future was discussed, along with a proposal for shorter competition days.

Finally, there was debate about the pros and cons of A and B Finals replacing the current Semi-finals and Finals format in some competitions.

- The media team highlighted the importance of broadcasting and showcasing the Semi-finals, as this brings a lot of added value through diversity of nations and athletes.
- They also highlighted that Semi-finals help to build the narrative of the competition around the excitement of qualification.

All the aforementioned points need to be further studied and justified, but it was great to see so many open minds. Nobody was afraid to express their opinions, and there were no real rights and wrongs, it was more about different angles and trying to stand in others' shoes...

As the world governing body of a sports movement, we respect all cultures and procedural transparency in the interests of the best possible democracy. The right to speak constructively should be encouraged in the future, not least because it helps all of us to see more clearly...



Inside UIPM

President Dr Klaus Schormann's activities



Left to right: Andrey Kuzmanov (BMPF President), Dr Klaus Schormann (UIPM President); Georgi Glushkov (Bulgarian Minister for Youth and Sports)

08.05. – 13.05.2024: Sofia, BUL

UIPM 2024 Pentathlon World Cup Sofia featured a remarkable display of talent and determination. Athletes from around the globe competed fiercely, showcasing their skills and passion for the sport. The competition was intense and the performances

were nothing short of inspiring.

During the event, UIPM President Dr Klaus Schormann had the opportunity to exchange topical ideas and innovations within the sport movement and the development of various UIPM disciplines and sports, like the new Obstacle discipline, with the Bulgarian

Minister of Youth and Sports, Georgi Glushkov.

They also discussed the development of Modern Pentathlon, especially in light of the 70th anniversary of the Bulgarian Modern Pentathlon Federation (BMPF) this year.



Dr Klaus Schormann congratulates the medalists after the Men's Final at UIPM 2024 Pentathlon World Cup Sofia

In honour of this anniversary, BMPF President Andrey Kuzmanov organised a special gathering that included former top athletes and current Bulgarian pentathletes, as well as past officials and coaches.

UIPM President Dr Schormann commended the long-standing efforts of the Federation and their consistent hosting of annual UIPM World Cups at the highest level, as well as being hosts of former World Championships and UIPM Congresses. Dr Schormann included in his speech the historic changes of the BMPF from a military sport society to a civilian sports community.

UIPM President Dr Klaus Schormann and Secretary General Shiny Fang, along with representatives of the UIPM Executive Board, presented President



UIPM President Dr Klaus Schormann and Secretary General Shiny Fang present Andrey Kuzmanov with a special award, in the presence of EB Members (l to r) Yasser Hefny OLY (Chair of Athletes Committee), Sharif Elerian OLY (Vice President) and Christian Roudaut (Chair of Coaches Committee)





Members of the UIPM Executive Board together with counterparts from the TMPF Board at the UIPM Pentathlon World Cup Final in Ankara (TUR)

Kuzmanov with a special recognition for his dedicated work and long-standing support of UIPM.

22.05. – 27.05.2024: Ankara, TUR

The UIPM 2024 Pentathlon World Cup Final in Ankara was the pinnacle of the season so far, with the top 36 women and 36 men vying for places in the Paris 2024 Olympic Games.

This event was crucial for those who had not yet secured their spot,

adding an extra layer of excitement and urgency to the competition. The athletes delivered outstanding performances, demonstrating why they are among the best in the world.

As we anticipate the Paris Games, the World Cup Final set the stage for what promises to be an unforgettable summer.

It was important that the Turkish Modern Pentathlon Federation was able to provide a Pentathlon Arena with all five disciplines in one facility, setting

high standards for the most important competition of the year to date.

With a format mirroring the Olympic Games, the UIPM Pentathlon World Cup Final also served as a final rehearsal for the Technical Delegates in preparation for the UIPM 2024 Pentathlon and Laser Run World Championships in Zhengzhou (CHN) and Paris 2024.

The upcoming Pentathlon World Championship in China will be a crucial event, concluding the qualification cycle and providing athletes with a



UIPM President Dr Klaus Schormann with (l to r) Murat Kocakaya (Assistant General Director of Sport Services); Prof Dr Veli Ozan Cakir (General Director of Sport Services Turkey, Honorary President of the Turkish Modern Pentathlon Federation); Mustafa Kalender (Vice President of the Turkish Fencing Federation); Ercan Taciroglu (Acting President, Turkish Modern Pentathlon Federation)

final opportunity to secure their place for the Paris Olympic Games.

This championship is expected to be

a thrilling and decisive competition, highlighting the athletes' determination and skill as they strive for Olympic glory. The World Championship will

not only be a key milestone on the road to Paris but also a celebration of the sport's global community and its unwavering spirit in Zhengzhou, China.



UIPM President Dr Klaus Schormann enjoys a break from the action at the UIPM Pentathlon World Cup Final with UIPM Technical Delegates

Pentathlon World Rankings

The PWR is updated live at www.pentathlon.org after each competition. PWR as at June 2, 2024

MEN

RANK	NATION	NAME	POINTS
1	MEX	Emiliano HERNANDEZ	201
2	EGY	Ahmed ELGENDY	196
3	HUN	Csaba BOHM	189
4	KOR	Woongtae JUN	183
5	EGY	Mohanad SHABAN	176
6	EGY	Mohamed ELGENDY	174
7	EGY	Moutaz MOHAMED	170
8	FRA	Valentin PRADES	161
9	KOR	Changwan SEO	160
10	ITA	Giorgio MALAN	160
11	HUN	Balazs SZEP	155
12	GER	Marvin DOGUE	150
13	FRA	Jean-Baptiste MOURCIA	144
14	GBR	Joseph CHOONG	143
15	FRA	Valentin BELAUD	138
16	GBR	Myles PILLAGE	134
17	ITA	Matteo CICINELLI	128
18	FRA	Pierre DEJARDIN	124
19	GER	Fabian LIEBIG	122
20	POL	Kamil KASPERCZAK	121

WOMEN

RANK	NATION	NAME	POINTS
1	ITA	Alice SOTERO	198
2	GBR	Kerenza BRYSON	182
3	AIN	Mariya GNEDTCHIK	181
4	KOR	Seungmin SEONG	176
5	TUR	Ilke OZYUKSEL	174
6	ITA	Elena MICHELI	168
7	LTU	Gintare VENCKAUSKAITE	158
8	GBR	Jessica VARLEY	155
9	LTU	Laura ASADAUSKAITE	153
10	HUN	Blanka GUZI	152
11	EGY	Malak ISMAIL	150
12	ESP	Laura HEREDIA	142
13	HUN	Michelle GULYAS	149
14	EGY	Salma ABDELMAKSOU	144
15	GBR	Olivia GREEN	143
16	KOR	Sunwoo KIM	142
17	MEX	Mariana ARCEO	140
18	FRA	Marie OTEIZA	140
19	GER	Rebecca LANGREHR	140
20	FRA	Elodie CLOUVEL	140

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



Baron Pierre de Coubertin

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

UIPM HEADQUARTERS

Stade Louis II – Entrée C
19 avenue des Castelans, MC-98000 Monaco
Tel. +377 97 77 85 55 | Fax +377 97 77 85 50
E-mail: uipm@pentathlon.org

WEB

www.pentathlon.org

SOCIAL MEDIA

 /WorldPentathlon

 @WorldPentathlon

 /vivamodernpentathlon

 /theuipm

 /uipmtv

 @国际现代五项联盟

