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World Pentathlon  
Newsletter

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## UIPM 2024 U15 TETRATHLON WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS



The inaugural edition of the UIPM U15 Tetrathlon World Championships in Guatemala City (GUA) proved to be an action-packed competition for all.





# UIPM 2024 U15 Tetrathlon World Championships



The curtain came down on a historic 2024 season for UIPM with great energy and excitement at the UIPM 2024 Tetrathlon U15 World Championships.

## Historic firsts, friendships and African prowess light up the action in Guatemala City (GUA)

The curtain came down on an unforgettable 2024 UIPM season in fitting fashion as the future of the sport shone bright and history was made at the UIPM 2024 Tetrathlon U15 World Championships in Guatemala City (GUA).

The global gathering of teenage athletes, coaches and member of the UIPM community marked many firsts as the age group celebrated their first dedicated global competition in Tetrathlon, while the new format of

Obstacle, Swimming and Laser Run proved to be a huge hit too.

With friendships and family also to the fore at the Austrian-Guatemalan Institute throughout the three days of competition, Saturday's individual finals were marked by African excellence. Tatiana Thomatos of South Africa claimed gold in the Women's Final while Mohamed Mohamed ensured there would be one last gold rush for Egypt before the year ended as he prevailed in a nail-biting finish in the Men's Final before teaming up with Mariam Abdelnaser for Mixed Relay honours on Sunday.

But in keeping with the truly global appeal of the new format among the youth of Pentathlon, the medal table featured nations from four continental federations with Germany, Japan, Mexico and host nation Guatemala also securing hardware for their hard work. As the hype and momentum continues to grow around the integration of Obstacle in the UIPM Sports movement ahead of the LA 2028 Olympics, the performance of Mexico and athletes from the rest of the big three nations of North America – Canada and the United States – bode very well for the region.

Newly-elected UIPM President Rob



Individual glory belonged to Mohamed Mohamed (EGY) who won gold in a sprint finish in the Men's Final (above) while Tatiana Thomatos (RSA) was more emphatic in winning Women's gold (right).

Stull OLY, who is also the current President of the North America, Central America & Caribbean (NORCECA) Confederation, was on hand throughout the week in the capital as the hard work of the Guatemalan Modern Pentathlon Association organizers came to fruition.

It proved particularly fruitful for Thomatos (RSA) as she powered to gold with a stellar all-around display, finishing clear of Elisabeth Arri of Germany and Karma Aly (EGY) in a gripping Women's Individual Final.

Savanna Allyson Rose Salinas of the USA kicked things off with a blistering



run across the Obstacle course as she finished a full three seconds clear of the next-best time in the 34-strong field. However Thomatos moved up the leaderboard with a strong swim and

then served up a nerveless exhibition of running and shooting as she roared home eight seconds clear of her rivals.

Women's champion Thomatos (RSA)







Action from the pool as the Swimming discipline heats shake up the leaderboard at the Men's Final in Guatemala City (GUA).

said: "It was a really nice experience and I'm really honoured to be part of the first Tetrathlon ever, making history! It was a really nice format. In the beginning I was a bit disappointed that there was no Fencing but now that I have tried it, it was really nice. I really enjoyed it. I enjoy doing the rings during the Obstacle, that feeling of skipping and flying through the air. It's definitely one of my dreams to become a pentathlete. I definitely want to go to the Olympics one day, that experience would be really great."

As attentions turned to the Men's competition, the Obstacle course provided a particularly accurate guide as to where the medals may go as the five fastest finishers in the opening discipline would go on to finish in the top six overall. It was Mohamed (EGY) who was fastest of

all but some powerful swimming from Eduardo Sanchez (MEX) ensured the leaderboard was tight ahead of the decisive combined discipline.

Just as in the Women's Final, Germany's strength at U15 level was clear as Luis Thieke and Valentin Rovinolo (GER) pushed hard in the Laser Run, however Mohamed (EGY) dug deepest to pip Thieke (GER) on the finishing line with Rovinolo (GER) just three seconds behind to take bronze.

Men's champion Mohamed (EGY) said: "I like the Swimming and the Obstacle disciplines very much. I really like the monkey bars because I think I am very good at this. I have a dream to be in the Olympics. That is my hope, to win the Olympics."

The German duo could take plenty of

consolation in the gold medal they had secured in the Men's Relay earlier in the week while Nour Ramadan teamed up with Aly to secure Women's Relay gold for Egypt. Sunday's Mixed Relay featured a bumper field of 23 teams but Egyptian prowess, which has been a familiar 2024 storyline, was again clear as the powerhouse nation took gold and silver with Abdelnaser & Mohamed holding off Aly & Yassen Elsherbini.

Egypt also took the Women's Team gold with silver for Germany and bronze to Japan while on the Men's side, Mexico toasted a Team gold as Japan took silver and host nation Guatemala savoured a podium place of their own with bronze.

Newly elected UIPM president Rob Stull said: "This historic event, the first U15 World Championships was perfectly



The UIPM 2024 U15 Tetrathlon World Championships saw the new format of Obstacle (above), Swimming and Laser Run (left) prove to be a huge hit with participants.

organized by Guatemala. These young athletes from five continents will forever cherish being part of our sports rich history and the friendships

they developed during this week of competition.

"It was a pleasure to see the final World

Championships of 2024 being held and so well organized in the Americas as the world turns a page to the road to Los Angeles 2028."

The UIPM 2024 Tetrathlon U15 World Championships was the final competition of this year's UIPM calendar. The 2025 campaign will begin with the opening instalment of the UIPM 2025 Pentathlon World Cup in Cairo (EGY) from February 25 to March 1, where senior Pentathletes will compete in Obstacle for the first time as the format for the LA 2028 Olympic cycle becomes fully adopted across the sport.





## Pentathlon Personalities: Rob Stull OLY

### The capstone of my career' — new UIPM President discusses priorities and the power of the Olympic Games

In a dramatic vote last month, Rob Stull OLY (USA) was elected as new UIPM President, kicking off a four-year term which will run all the way to the 2028 Olympic Games in his home country. As he begins on the whirlwind road to Los Angeles, President Stull found a rare quiet moment during the UIPM 2024 U15 Tetrathlon World Championships in Guatemala City to catch up with UIPM News. In a wide-ranging discussion on his priorities, hopes and concerns for Pentathlon, the 62-year-old President also looked back on his own remarkable journey from being a Maryland farm boy to becoming a two-sport Olympian and how the Games changed his life...

### Now that it's all sunk in a little, how do you reflect on becoming UIPM President?

I can tell you that it's the capstone of my career. I started this journey 44, I guess 45, years ago now, as a young pentathlete, like all of these young athletes here at the U15 World Championships. I wasn't actually U15. I started at 18 but it's been a long road and I've done just about everything you can do and I've had a lot of fun. Pentathlon has given me opportunities I never would have had outside of it and I want to give back. What does it mean to me? It's interesting because the outgoing President did such a fine job and fought for Pentathlon. It wouldn't be what it is without Dr Klaus Schormann, that's for sure. He deserves all of the kudos and credit for the job that he did. We have now turned a page, there are big changes for the sport in terms of the new discipline. But as I said in my remarks to Congress, I work for the national federations. They don't work for me. They're my employers if you like. This is a volunteer job, I know, but they're my bosses. So what I'm trying to do is lead



the sport and support our Secretary General Shiny Fang and her wonderful team, which I have so much respect for, and provide the support they need as we move towards Los Angeles and 2028. Paris was a dramatic success. I'm sure for all sports but certainly for Pentathlon. The French really came through at a time when I think the world needed a successful Olympic Games. I think it was so important to the planet. The bar has been raised and we must rise now to meet that bar, that new standard. We're going to try to build on that towards a third summer Games in the United States.

### Being elected with the next Olympic Games approaching on US soil must feel special?

I think that was maybe one of the biggest reasons that put me over the top. It was a very close election, three highly qualified candidates. Joel and

Sharif are both very qualified and I don't think the electorate could have gone wrong selecting anyone. But the reason I think I may have got across the goal line is the LA Games being in the States and me being an American has something to do with it. I hope to meet those expectations. I know they're very high but I will be doing my darnedest to see that we have an iconic venue and build on the success of Paris.

### What excites you most and what do you see as your priorities?

First off, I'm a former pentathlete myself, I managed to participate in a number of Games in both Pentathlon and Fencing. So I come from the athletes' side of things. But all sports, not just Pentathlon, were faced with a dilemma: in order to attract the youth of today, we had to innovate and need to be relevant to them. When we were faced with that, some hard



New UIPM President Rob Stull OLY says his duties as MC at UIPM competitions allowed him to engage with so many people in the Pentathlon community.

decisions had to be made. A decision was made to not proceed with the equestrian discipline, it was hurting our accessibility significantly among many reasons, fairness amongst them. There were then 62 sports that applied and we looked hard at but when the needle landed on Obstacle racing, that has given us an incredible chance in terms of accessibility. The opportunity to grow the sport is huge. I had already had a foot in that community. So priorities: number one is to see that there is Obstacle accessibility in every one of our national federations across the world during my term. We are already more than halfway there, much more than halfway, perhaps two-thirds of the way. So I have no doubt we will meet that goal. Also we're going to have 72 athletes at the LA Games and those 72 athletes, those are the Olympians, but there are far, far more, many thousands of athletes who have the ability to take the journey, the Olympic journey. I wake up every morning feeling grateful that I had the opportunity to experience the Olympic dream. So a priority in that sense is being able to fund those dreams by being able to provide additional support to national federations, creating a commercial model that is sustainable.

Right now many federations are at the mercy of their governments and their sports ministries when it comes to funding. That's certainly valuable and appreciated. However, we need to be able to feed ourselves. Developing a commercial model that will allow for revenue streams that can be either passed down to the national federations or indeed created by them themselves is a key priority.

### On the flipside, what concerns you the most?

Not having enough seats in the stadium in LA! That's my biggest concern. I know how popular this is going to be. I say it only half-jokingly. I have had meetings with most Olympic Games organisers since Atlanta 1996, and I tell people, you know, Pentathlon is one of the first sports that is sold out at every Games. People who want to go to the Games and see as many things as possible, that's very common. Here's a sport that has five very different disciplines and skillsets for just one ticket. That's why I try to tell the Games organisers that we're not going to have any trouble filling stadiums.

### Your own sporting journey may not be as well known. Where does it all begin

### for you?

I grew up on a working farm on the east coast of the United States. It's a family farm, my father was a gentleman farmer, we still have it in the family and I consider that my home base. That gave me a really strong family orientation. I wasn't the best athlete of the family by any means. I have two brothers, one of whom is very much involved in Pentathlon too. He's now Chair of the UIPM Medical Committee, he's an orthopaedic surgeon and was a very talented athlete. But our older brother was the best athlete and wasn't interested in competitive sports at all. I got into sports but didn't know what Pentathlon was. I ran track and swam as a schoolboy, played American football and baseball. I was a good all-round athlete but not a great one. I was middle of the pack but started at university and my team-mate was Duncan Goodhew, who went on to be an Olympic champion in the 100m breaststroke in Moscow, a British guy. He had been at the Montreal Games and the British had done very well in Pentathlon in 1976. Duncan knew about Pentathlon and so he told me 'here's a sport that combines running and swimming and you'd probably be pretty good at it'. Here I am 45 years





A young Rob Stull with USA teammates during the Barcelona 1992 Olympic Games. He competed in Olympic events across Pentathlon and Fencing.

later. That was Duncan. I'm still in touch with him, we communicate from time to time. That was the beginning of the road. Pentathlon has a military background of course, everyone knows that and those days the American team was training in Fort Sam Houston in Texas. I made a phone call and talked to Colonel Jim Moore, who was an Olympic silver medalist and he said 'hey, you ought to come out to San Antonio and give it a shot'. I did — and here I am.

**Was it a quick transition from there?**

I fell in love with the sport, fell in love with the diversity of it. I ended up making the Olympic team in Fencing, as well, because you had to fence, but I really didn't know what Fencing was. I knew what sword-fighting was. I was a Maryland farm boy. I used to watch the old Errol Flynn black-and-white movies, the Pirates of the Caribbean of its day. I watched them sword fight and thought it was really cool. Now I finally had the opportunity to do it and I took to it. I firmly believe that everybody is good at something. It might take night-vision goggles and a pickaxe for you to find it but everyone is good at something, you just gotta find it. The

other thing I would say is that I fell in love with the Olympic movement as a very young kid. In 1968, watching the opening ceremonies of the Mexico City Games. The pomp and circumstance, the grandeur, I had never seen anything like that and I wanted to be involved. I wanted to do it. I've done 16 Games in one capacity or another over the years and I still love all of that and believe in it.

**The first of those 16 was the LA Games in 1984?**

It's a little bit of a sore point for me actually because the team at that time was four guys and the alternate was actually the fifth guy. We used to call the fourth guy the reserve. I was third in selection, third in trials and just before the Games, in LA, they were choosing the starters. I was the youngest guy in the team and had made it as a bit of a dark horse so I was pushed into the reserve position. I was disappointed of course but the team went on to win a silver medal and they had voted for me as a team captain, probably as a consolation prize but I got to go on and do everything with the team. I still count that, I'm in the books as part of that Olympic team. But that got me

hungry. I wanted to prove myself so the next year, I was 9th or 10th in my first Senior World Championships in Australia in 1985. Back in those days, in my days in Pentathlon, if we were to guess who will get sixth, at World Championships or World Cups or whatever, who's going to get sixth? It was me. I was that guy. I was Mr 6th. I probably won 6th place more than any other athlete. That's why I consider myself a good athlete but not a great. But I know the greats, I competed with the greats.

**But you hold a very special place in Olympic history. You went to the 1988 Olympic Games and competed in two sports, Fencing and Pentathlon?**

Oh yeah and I wouldn't do that again! That was 11 days of serious competition over the 16-day program. It was brutal. It was a great experience. On the Fencing side, I was one touch in overtime from advancing into the final rounds. I loved Fencing. I still do. I still fence with the guys. I like to go out there with the current team and mix it up, to see if the old dog can still hunt.

**Can he?**

He can, on occasion! I don't know if



While his first loves were running and swimming, UIPM President Rob Stull OLY says that he took to Modern Pentathlon right away when he took it up at the age of 18.

they figure 'hey, maybe I shouldn't beat this guy because he's writing the cheques and I don't want to offend him'. Maybe they're being kind to me. But that's okay. I enjoy it, I still enjoy that athlete experience.

**Do you get much time for a life outside of sport today?**

I'm based in Colorado Springs and I'm single, so I'm able to spend a lot of time with sports. My kids, my family, they are the athletes. If you're an athlete, I don't care if you're 35 years old, I'm like 'yeah, you're one of my kids'. Sports keeps you young, being surrounded by these young and energetic people keeps you young.

**What would you say to some senior**

**stars of Pentathlon beginning pre-season after Paris but still carrying doubts about adapting to Obstacle?**

It's real simple. We've had changes, like all sports have. In my career we've gone from shooting .22 calibre pistols at turning targets, then biathlon targets before we got to Laser targets and the run-shoot part of it. There are so many adaptations over the years, going from 4000m to 3000m now 5x600m is a whole other kind of race. So things change. Some people adapt and some people don't. I'm aware of maybe two athletes retiring. There may be more. But there are just two who I am aware of from the 72 athletes who competed at Paris. But most of them want to go on, they're game. And some of them will transition and do it very well because

we already know that these people are brilliant athletes. There are some for whom size, strength, strength-to-weight ratios, might be a challenge for them at first. That doesn't mean they're not going to be very good. They may drop from the top five to the top 10. They may decide that they gave it their best and move on to something else but I will be encouraging all of them to try. Ultimately that is also a normal transition in sport. You pick the sport and there's a good chance that I can tell you where the transition points are. We have developed the sport now where we have so many talented athletes. There are other sports where one or two countries dominate a sport but in Pentathlon it's rare that a single country dominates. It's very much on the day.

**Will you get a break or some down time over the holidays?**

The family farm back in Maryland — that's where I will be for Christmas. Recharging and getting ready for hitting the ground running in 2025. I'm really looking forward to it. We have such a great team with the National Federations and the UIPM staff. We're trying to fill some very big shoes after Dr Klaus Schormann, our most recent President and now Honorary President. But you can feel how exciting this is, with a Games in the United States coming. I'll end on this but I always remember in 1984, I had never been part of a Games yet and I didn't know what I didn't know. But here we are for the Opening Ceremony at the LA Coliseum and the home team is always the last team to enter. We were all in the tunnel and you can see that iconic image of the Coliseum and you can hear the announcer shouting 'Zaire, Zimbabwe' because it's alphabetical. We knew we were next and it was 'ladies and gentlemen, the United...' and you couldn't hear anything else. It was deafening. The stadium just erupted. That's where I really understood the power of sport and the power of the Olympic Games. I want our 72 athletes in 2028 to experience all of that, to feel it. But I also want to ensure that that power is felt across our sport at every level. It's a life-changing feeling.

*Interview by Joe Callaghan*





# DEVELOPMENT TOURS SPOTLIGHT



Action from the UIPM Biathlon-Triathlon National Tour in Villaviciosa (ESP)

## Vitality and strength on display at Biathlon, Triathlon and Laser Run events around the world

During an action-packed summer and autumn busy with competitions there were around 30 Biathlon-Triathlon and Laser Run events including GLRCT, BTNT, as well as continental biathlon, triathlon and laser-run competitions, all of which showcased the dynamic spirit and robust strength of Modern Pentathlon across the globe.

### Biathlon Triathlon National Tours

#### Chisinau (MDA) — June 29-30

For the third year in a row the capital of Moldova hosted a BTNT with over 150 participants in this event held over two days. The event has become a good summertime tradition, where most of the participants are kids enjoying

school vacation. Winners were awarded diplomas, medals and cash prizes. The President of the National Federation Alexei Vasilianov expressed his gratitude to Chisinau Municipality for supporting the event and promoting Modern Pentathlon.

Participant and 2023 Open European Masters Champion Nicolai Omelianov said: "These competitions have been a source of many positive emotions and inspiration for me. I am sincerely glad that the spirit of sportsmanship and the pursuit of excellence unite us all, regardless of age and experience."

#### Villaviciosa (ESP) — August 31-Sept 1

The picturesque town of Villaviciosa, nestled in the autonomous community of Asturias in northern Spain, recently hosted a vibrant tour that brought together 150 participants. Known as

the birthplace of renowned musician José Ángel Hevia Velasco, Villaviciosa is celebrated for its rich cultural heritage and natural beauty. The town provided an ideal setting for athletes to enjoy nature while engaging in their activities.

#### Marsa Matrouh (EGY) — Sept 6-7

Bringing together around 500 participants from all age groups, ranging from Under-9 children to Masters 60+ athletes, this vibrant event took place in the picturesque resort town of Marsa Matruh on Egypt's Mediterranean coast.

Renowned for its stunning lagoons, pristine white-sand beaches, the Porto Marina Resort venue offered a seamless blend of comfort for athletes and efficient logistics for organisers. Once again, the Egyptian Modern Pentathlon



Podium joy for youth athletes who competed in the UIPM Global Laser Run City Tour in Tashkent (UZB)

Federation (EMPF) showcased its unwavering commitment to fostering UIPM development sports across the nation.

#### Gijón (ESP) — Sept 7-8

For the second consecutive year, the coastal city of Gijón in northern Spain hosted a BTNT, attracting 170 athletes to compete amidst its rich maritime heritage and the historic charm of the Cimadevilla fisherman's quarter. Earlier in the year, Gijón successfully hosted the UIPM Global Laser Run City Tour (GLRCT), further cementing its reputation as a hub for UIPM sports. The event highlighted the city's seamless blend of sports, history, and coastal beauty, offering athletes an unforgettable competitive experience.

### Global Laser Run City Tours

#### Tashkent (UZB) — July 14

This event brought together 550 participants, including 300 adults and 250 children, in a celebration of

athleticism and community. Laser Run competitions not only showcased exceptional individual talent but also underscored Uzbekistan's rapidly growing passion for Modern Pentathlon. The event's flawless execution, adhering to stringent UIPM standards, demonstrated Tashkent's readiness and capability to host world-class sporting spectacles. "By setting a new benchmark for innovative sports competitions in Central Asia, GLRCT in Tashkent solidified Uzbekistan's reputation as a key player in the global Modern Pentathlon landscape," a local organiser said.

#### Tbilisi (GEO) — July 20

Tbilisi, the vibrant capital of Georgia, proudly hosted the GLRCT once again, continuing a tradition that began in 2017. This year's event brought together nearly 100 athletes, showcasing the growing enthusiasm for Laser Run in the region.

Event organizer Natia Matchavariani said: "We are thrilled to see so many

young athletes embracing the Laser Run. This highlights the sport's growth and its ability to inspire the next generation."

The Georgian Modern Pentathlon and Triathlon National Federation (GMPTF) expressed heartfelt thanks to all athletes, families, and supporters whose energy and enthusiasm made the event a resounding success.

#### Kokshetau (KAZ) — Aug 21-24

Kokshetau, the picturesque lakeside city in northern Kazakhstan and the capital of the Akmola Region, hosted an exhilarating Laser Run competition that attracted around 200 athletes. The event underscored the city's rich tradition of nurturing Modern Pentathlon sub-sports. Kokshetau has earned a reputation as a "forge of champions," with local athletes consistently achieving international success, earning 20-25 medals annually in Biathlon and Triathlon.

Leonid Zimarev, Acting President of the Kazakhstan Modern Pentathlon







A female competitor in the UIPM Global Laser Run City Tour in Kokshetau (KAZ) and, below, a group photo from Chisinau (MDA)

Federation, said: "Kokshetau has long been a center for Biathlon, Triathlon, and Laser Run in Kazakhstan. It's inspiring to see athletes of all ages and skill levels competing with such passion. Events like this are essential for growing our sport and engaging the next generation of athletes."

**Chirchik (UZB) — Sept 21**

From Tashkent to Chirchik, the triumph of Laser Run continues to shine in Uzbekistan. This groundbreaking competition brought together over 550 participants, showcasing the growing enthusiasm for this dynamic sport. Chirchik's Eco Park provided an ideal setting, blending athleticism with camaraderie in a picturesque and welcoming environment.

Flawless organisation and a strict adherence to UIPM standards highlighted the Federation of Modern Pentathlon of Uzbekistan's dedication to delivering world-class sporting experiences. Beyond the competition, the Laser Run in Chirchik celebrated the values of physical fitness, strategic thinking and community spirit.

**Ungheni (MDA) —Sept 22**



The town of Ungheni, situated on the eastern bank of the Prut River across from its namesake village in Romania, shares a rich historical connection as the two once formed a single township. This annual event has become a cherished autumn tradition, attracting a growing number of participants, particularly young athletes.

This year, over 300 participants took part in the competition, reflecting its rising popularity and importance in the region. The event was organized as part of a larger Sports Festival, which added to its festive atmosphere and prominence. The occasion was further highlighted by the attendance of

the Prime Minister of the Republic of Moldova, underscoring the significance of sports in fostering community and national pride.

**Chisinau (MDA) — Sept 28**

Following the successful Laser Run event in Ungheni, another remarkable competition took place in Chişinău, the capital of Moldova, bringing together around 200 athletes of various ages. The event showcased the growing popularity of Laser Run in the country, providing an excellent platform for athletes to demonstrate their skills and passion for the sport. With participants ranging from young enthusiasts to seasoned competitors,



and Laser Run World Championships after a decision at UIPM Congress in November.

**Open Biathlon/Triathlon Asian Championships, Būrabay (KAZ) — June 27-30**

For the past six years, the Asian Biathlon and Triathlon Championships have been held on Kazakhstani soil, establishing a tradition of high-level competition and sportsmanship. This year the event took place in one of Kazakhstan's most picturesque locations, the resort area of Būrabay in the Akmola region. The championships spanned four days, each dedicated to different segments of the competitions. This year, about 250 athletes of all ages, ranging from 9 years to the Seniors category, participated in the championships. These young athletes hailed from several Asian countries, including Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, the United Arab Emirates, and the host nation, Kazakhstan.

Yuriy Solovyev, the main organizer and head of Biathlon and Triathlon in Kazakhstan, emphasized: "The events were meticulously organized in accordance with all UIPM rules and regulations, ensuring safety and fairness throughout the competitions. Representatives from various delegations praised the high level of organization and the flawless execution by the judging team."

As the competition season concluded, the spirit of competition, respect, and international friendship shone brightly. These competitions were more than just a series of races; they were a celebration of athleticism, camaraderie, and international friendship.

Both events not only provided a platform for athletes to showcase their talents but also fostered a sense of unity and mutual respect among participants from different nations. Looking forward to more development competitions in 2025.

If you would like to host GLRCT or BTNT in 2025 please contact UIPM Development Director Maxime Papillon — maxime.papillon@pentathlon.org.

the tour reflected the inclusive and dynamic spirit of UIPM sports.

**Continental Biathlon, Triathlon and Laser Run**

**European Biathlon, Triathlon and Laser Run, Funchal (POR) — July 1-7**

Over 700 athletes from 20 nations descended upon the picturesque island, known as the Pearl of the Atlantic, to compete in these thrilling events. The President of the Portuguese Modern Pentathlon Federation, Dr. João Paulo

Almeida, emphasized the success of the event, stating, "These 2024 Biathlon & Triathlon & Laser-Run European Championships held in Funchal have shown that our sport Modern Pentathlon has a remarkable vitality and overall strength. Athletes from 7 to 70 years old won and achieved true happiness in Madeira. Portugal has confirmed once more its leadership hosting on a high organizational level major international competitions." Funchal (POR) was duly rewarded with hosting the UIPM 2026 Biathlon-Triathlon





## News from around the world

### UIPM extends partnership with Absolute Fencing Gear and signs new deal with Xiangxing Group

The Union Internationale de Pentathlon Moderne (UIPM) is pleased to announce the renewal of its partnership with Absolute Fencing Gear, a long-term collaboration that continues to strengthen the foundation of Modern Pentathlon worldwide.



This renewal, covering the Los Angeles 2028 Olympic Games cycle, marks a significant milestone, with Absolute Fencing doubling its investment and expanding its provision of high-quality fencing equipment to UIPM events and programs. The enhanced support will bolster UIPM's development initiatives, benefiting athletes and coaches in all member nations.



UIPM President Rob Stull OLY said: "Absolute Fencing Gear has been a steadfast partner for UIPM over many years. Their commitment to innovation and technical expertise has been instrumental in elevating Fencing within our sport and supporting the growth of Modern Pentathlon globally.

*UIPM has extended its partnership with Absolute Fencing and agreed a new deal with Xiangxing Group*

and congratulate them on their new leadership as they guide UIPM towards a successful future in Olympic sports."

Los Angeles 2028 Olympic cycle, will bolster UIPM's ability to enhance visibility and grow Modern Pentathlon globally, with a focus on the shared values of innovation and sustainability.

"We thank Absolute Fencing Gear and its President, Gary Lu, for their unwavering dedication to our shared mission of advancing Modern Pentathlon and looks forward to achieving new heights together."

In addition to financial and equipment contributions, Absolute Fencing Gear remains a critical ally in technical studies and innovations, ensuring UIPM remains at the forefront of fencing disciplines.

It will ensure access to world-class resources and support, strengthening UIPM's commitment to athlete development and community engagement.

Absolute Fencing Gear President Gary Lu said: "Absolute Fencing is proud to continue its global partnership with UIPM. We have enjoyed an excellent relationship with UIPM since 2014, helping support and develop Modern Pentathlon with our world-class fencing gear.

Meanwhile UIPM has also signed a multi-year global sponsorship agreement with the luggage division of Xiangxing Group, a global leader in the luggage industry. Xiangxing Group produces 100 million bags annually, exporting to 80+ countries across North and South America, Europe and Asia.

The collaboration highlights the role of quality products in empowering youth and encouraging active lifestyles. Xiangxing Group's products will feature prominently at UIPM events, enhancing brand visibility and creating unique engagement opportunities. There will also be joint efforts to promote eco-friendly practices in sporting events and product use.

"We appreciate the tremendous work and achievements they have accomplished in the last decade

The sponsorship, encompassing the



The UIPM visit to Tencent in Shenzhen (CHN) follows the launch of the Laser Run game and signals the start of future engagement.

UIPM President Rob Stull OLY said: "The UIPM and Modern Pentathlon are entering a new era of growth and a key part of that is commercial development. Today's announcement of a new sponsorship deal with Xiangxing Group is indicative of the exciting commercial potential of the sport."

Xue Xingyuan, Xiangxing Group Chairman, said: "It is a great honour for Xiangxing Group to be involved in the global community of UIPM, a widely influential International Federation. We are very excited and proud of our sponsorship.

"As a leader in the suitcase industry, Xiangxing has become a professional brand in this field for many years. As International Federation for the Olympic sport of Modern Pentathlon, UIPM is forging ahead in the development of Olympic spirit."

UIPM Secretary General Shiny Fang added: "It is a huge privilege for UIPM to be entering a partnership with Xiangxing Group, whose Chairman Mr Xue is one of China's biggest charitable donors. He is a person with remarkable vision.

"In terms of market value, our sport is still operating at a relatively modest level, but with a high level of opportunity in the near and distant future. We appreciate that the Chairman of Xiangxing Group has seen the commercial potential and is supporting what we are trying to do to make our sport more accessible and inclusive for all global societies."

### UIPM explores sports collaboration with leading Esports firm Tencent in Shenzhen (CHN)

A UIPM delegation led by Secretary General Shiny Fang, alongside

Commercial & Esports Manager Yaw Amponsah Debrah and TV & Media Operations Manager Florent Boas, visited Tencent Headquarters in Shenzhen (CHN) immediately after the conclusion of the 73rd UIPM Congress.

The meeting marked the beginning of promising discussions about potential collaborations in Esports. This visit signals the start of future engagements aimed at fostering innovation and growth in the Esports landscape, and it follows the launch of the new Obstacle Laser Run game from UIPM.

Commercial & Esports Manager Yaw Amponsah Debrah said: "This initial engagement with Tencent, a leader in Esports with impressive capacity and worldwide reach, presents an exciting opportunity for UIPM to explore innovative ways to enhance our Esports strategy and connect with diverse audiences."







UIPM Secretary General Shiny Fang speaks about the importance of diversity, equity and inclusion at Host City 2024 Panel in Glasgow (GBR).

**DEI is crucial and creating smooth pathways is the key, says UIPM Secretary General**

UIPM Secretary General, Shiny Fang, spoke about the importance of diversity, equity and inclusion in international sport during a recent panel appearance at a global events conference.

The governing body of Modern Pentathlon is undergoing a governance transformation with a new UIPM President in Rob Stull OLY, four new Vice Presidents and many newcomers to the Executive Board as 13 mostly long-serving Members finish their tenure.

UIPM's flagship sport has been entirely

gender-equal on the field of play since Sydney 2000, when a Women's Modern Pentathlon was first included in the Olympic Games programme.

Secretary General Fang admitted that work remained to be done to embed this equity across the UIPM Sports movement, but she said that signs of progress in coaching and judging were welcome while the 73rd UIPM Congress had voted for change with an improved female proportion of 25% on the Executive Board, with some vacancies still to be filled.

Speaking during the Host City 2024 conference in Glasgow (GBR), Shiny Fang said: "Like many International Federations, change takes time to implement, but at UIPM we now see

a lot more diversity in our governance structure and we hope to become more and more representative as the years go by. The key is to have smooth pathways.

"Our movement made a big decision to replace Riding with Obstacle, which is now part of Modern Pentathlon and the new format will be an exciting feature of the Olympic Games programme in Los Angeles in 2028. The change is designed to make our sport more accessible to people from all parts of the world, regardless of their social background.

"We are committed to creating a fully inclusive multisport movement where everybody has a chance to be involved."



The 13 outgoing members of the UIPM Executive Board were thanked for their dedicated service after recent elections at the 73rd UIPM Congress.

**UIPM Executive Board and Technical Committee updates**

In November during the 73rd UIPM Congress, several newcomers were elected to the UIPM Executive Board under the Presidency of Rob Stull.

A total of 13 former members of the EB were thanked for their service as they made way for a new generation of leadership.

In the four weeks since Congress, three more members have been confirmed to serve at Modern Pentathlon's highest tier of governance:

- **Dr Doug Stull of USA** was elected as Chair of the UIPM Medical Committee, having been part of the Commission since 2016.
- **Magdalena Quintanilla of Guatemala** will serve on the UIPM Executive Board as President of

the NORCECA Confederation, succeeding UIPM President Rob Stull.

- **Andrew Collings of New Zealand** will serve on the UIPM Executive Board as President of the Oceania Confederation, succeeding UIPM Vice President Kitty Chiller.

With the addition of these three members, the new EB is only two seats from completion, with the UIPM Athletes Committee and Coaches Committee having not yet elected their Chair. EB profiles can be read at [uipmworld.org/executiveboard](http://uipmworld.org/executiveboard)

Outside of the Executive Board, UIPM Committees and Commissions are in the process of being finalised and the final place on the UIPM Medical Commission has now been taken by **Stephanie Cook OLY of Great Britain**, the first-ever female Olympic champion in Modern Pentathlon.

The UIPM Technical Committee is also now at full capacity, after the final six members were appointed to serve alongside the six elected by UIPM Congress. The six new members are:

- **Zhenhua Qian of China**
- **Michele Di Berardino of Italy**
- **Edyta Malosyc of Poland**
- **Corine Bouzou of France**
- **Rafael Acosta of Argentina**
- **Sergio Salazar of Mexico**

**Calling all elite pentathletes: transition to your next chapter with exclusive online IOC workshops**

As the Paris 2024 Olympic season draws to a close, many athletes are focusing on their next steps and UIPM is here to support their pathway, whether they are continuing in Modern Pentathlon or not.

In collaboration with IOC Athlete365, UIPM has issued an open invitation to two transformative online







workshops tailored specifically for elite pentathletes navigating their career transitions.

Both workshops are scheduled to take place in February 2025 and one will focus on self-discovery, while the other will offer practical support on CV and resumé writing. IOC certificates will be provided to all successful participants.

'Self-Discovery – Uncover Your Strengths and Passion' will enable athletes to explore their unique skills, values and interests and build clarity on how their athletic journey translates into new opportunities. This workshop will consist of three 1.5-hour sessions and participants can hope to gain actionable insights into their future goals and personal strengths.

'CV/Resume Writing – Stand Out in the Job Market' will teach athletes to craft a professional, impactful CV that highlights their transferable skills and Olympic-level dedication. This workshop will consist of two 1.5-hour sessions.

The workshops will be delivered by Anfisa Kasyanova, certified Athlete365 Educator, former pentathlete and UIPM Education and Project Manager. Distinguished retired pentathletes will also be invited to the sessions to share their personal experiences of career transition. All interested athletes should apply by January 30, 2025 by visiting



UIPM Vice President Sharif El Erian (right) met with IPC President Andrew Parsons (centre) to discuss the future integration of Modern Pentathlon.

the UIPM website. For any questions please email [anfisa.kasyanova@pentathlon.org](mailto:anfisa.kasyanova@pentathlon.org).

In the meantime, visit the Athlete365 Athlete Career Portal to enhance your professional profile and explore exciting career opportunities.

Applications for the portal are open until 31 December 2024. Sign up today to enjoy one year of free access to career development resources, online

courses, and job opportunities

Also, ensure you are registered on the UIPM Educational Platform and following UIPM's social media channels.

**UIPM Vice President discusses future of UIPM Para Sports with IPC President**

UIPM Vice President Sharif El Erian met with the President of the International Paralympic Committee



Ekaterina Khuraskina (RUS) and Mattia Parisi (ITA) have experienced the PGCert in International Sport Management at the World Academy of Sport

(IPC), Andrew Parsons, to discuss the future integration of Modern Pentathlon as a Paralympic sport.

There has been exciting progress in UIPM Para Sports development in recent years, led by the UIPM Para Pentathlon Commission, which is working towards a strategic goal of inclusion in the Brisbane 2032 Paralympics eight years from now.

Egypt has been one of the most progressive nations in terms of Para Pentathlon athlete development and UIPM Vice President El Erian, also President of the Egyptian Modern Pentathlon Federation and Secretary General of the Egyptian National Olympic Committee, took the opportunity to speak with President Parsons during his recent visit to Egypt.

**'New Horizons': WAoS welcoming applications for Sport Management course at the University of London**

For the fifth consecutive year, UIPM invites its pentathletes to apply for full scholarships to study the prestigious online Postgraduate Certificate (PGCert) in International Sport Management at the University of London.

This exceptional opportunity is made possible through a longstanding partnership with the World Academy of Sport and already 10 athletes and entourage members have benefited from studying.

Pentathletes, especially those who have retired or who plan to retire now that the Paris 2024 Olympic cycle is over, are encouraged to

submit their applications by 9 January 2025. The application form and required documents are available at <https://waos.wufoo.com/forms/m1oiq25r0ttda9g/>.

Why apply?

- Develop world-class sport management skills
- Advance your career to the next level
- Balance studies with your athletic or professional commitments
- Gain fresh insights and stay updated on trends in the sports industry.

Speaking about the benefits of the programme, Ekaterina Khuraskina (RUS), 35, 2010 women's world champion (team) and London 2012 Olympian, who has just completed the course, said: "I would like to thank







A group of nine women and 15 men recently completed a successful Judges Certification Programme course in the Brazilian city of Resende.

UIPM once again for the opportunity to learn and develop in such an exciting field of sport.

“The training opened new horizons for me, allowed me to meet professionals in my field, and exchange experiences with colleagues from different countries. I am confident that this knowledge will provide a solid foundation for my career.”

“Every aspect learned on the course was related to current challenges and opportunities in the sports industry.”

Mattia Parisi (ITA), 29, a silver medallist place at UIPM 2022 Pentathlon World Cup Budapest, added: “I am very pleased and satisfied with the opportunity I have received.

“The studies are very convenient because they include recorded lessons that I can access anytime, with each lesson also supported by a presentation and transcript. I greatly improved my knowledge and managerial skills related to sports organizations.”

For any questions, please email

anfisa.kasyanova@pentathlon.org.

**UIPM Judges Certification Programme: Energy and education in Resende (BRA)**

Another productive year of coaching development inside the UIPM movement found room for further work before year’s end as Resende (BRA) hosted a successful UIPM Judges Certification Programme.

Running ahead of the 2024 South & Pan American Junior Championships which also took place in the city in the southwest of Rio de Janeiro state, the week-long course was helmed by UIPM educator Andrea Dell’Amore (ITA) just weeks after he was elected to the UIPM Executive Board as Member for Sport.

In keeping with Dell’Amore’s trademark energetic approach, the course was particularly well attended with as many as 24 South American students taking part. The group featured participants from Brazil and Uruguay with nine women and 15 men gathering from December 3-7 to further their judging

development. The sessions offered participants the chance to earn certification in Levels 1, 2 and 3 of the JCP and all 24 successfully completed their certifications as development in South America continues.

UIPM JCP educator and Member for Sport Andrea Dell’Amore (ITA) said: “After a really positive year for our JCP worldwide, it was very rewarding to be able to squeeze in another cohort and particularly in a region where we have seen positive growth.

“A key part of the preparations ahead of an important championships is to ensure judging is ready to play its part. It was a real pleasure to help this engaged group deepen their knowledge and improve their judging skills. My thanks to the national federation for their help in hosting this course.”

President of the South American Confederation and UIPM EB Member Jorge Salas OLY (ARG) said: “This course will benefit not just the upcoming events but the continued growth of UIPM Sports in Brazil and across our confederation too.”

**A time of transition: reflections and aspirations for Modern Pentathlon by UIPM Honorary President Dr Klaus Schormann**

Dear Members of the Modern Pentathlon Family,

The recent UIPM Congress in Riyadh marked a historic turning point for our multisport organisation. It was a profound honour to witness this moment of renewal, where new leadership stepped forward to guide us into an exciting new era.

Having served as UIPM President for 31 years, and as Vice President for Marketing & Public Relations of UIPMB before that, this transition is both a personal milestone and an opportunity for reflection.

**A legacy built together**

Over the past three decades, Modern Pentathlon has undergone tremendous transformation. Guided by the principle of embracing change to safeguard our future, we introduced groundbreaking innovations that have redefined the sport.

From the adoption of the one-day competition format in 1993, to combined shooting and running from 2009, to the introduction of laser shooting in 2010, and the more recent inclusion of Obstacle discipline, we have demonstrated our collective commitment to progress and relevance.

Our shared journey has not only modernised Modern Pentathlon but also preserved its Olympic legacy.

The historic decision of the IOC in 1998 to integrate women into Olympic Modern Pentathlon at Sydney 2000 Olympic Games reflected our commitment to gender equality, a value that remains a cornerstone of our sport.

Witnessing gender parity at the Paris 2024 Games was a proud moment, symbolising decades of dedication to inclusion and opportunity.



**Gratitude and personal reflections**

As I step into the role of Honorary President, I am deeply grateful for the privilege of serving UIPM and our global community. Leading this organisation has been the

honour of my lifetime, and I owe immense thanks to the athletes, officials, National Federations, employees and supporters who have made our successes possible.

Having grown the community from 63 NFs in 1993 to 137 in 2024, I am proud that we faced challenges together and celebrated triumphs, all while upholding the values of excellence, respect and camaraderie.

This transition is both emotional and

exciting. The past 31 years have been a journey filled with incredible moments — moments that will forever be etched in my memory.

These years have been marked by unforgettable moments, including the five critical discussions I had with the IOC to secure Modern Pentathlon’s place on the Olympic Programme. Successfully achieving this ensured a solid financial foundation for UIPM and its NFs, supported by sponsorship contracts I signed through 2028.

Yet, I look ahead with optimism, knowing that UIPM’s future is in capable hands. Our sport’s evolution is a testament to the shared vision and dedication of our community, and I am proud to remain part of this story.





**Looking ahead**

The Congress was not only a celebration of our past achievements but also a platform to chart a course for the future. The new Executive Board is poised to bring fresh perspectives and ideas, and I have full confidence in their ability to steer UIPM into a new chapter of growth and innovation.

As Honorary President, I will continue to support our sport and share my experience to strengthen the foundations we have built together.

With Los Angeles 2028 and Brisbane 2032 on the horizon, the future of Modern Pentathlon is brighter than ever. These Games promise to showcase the dynamic and accessible nature of our evolving sport.

The inclusion of Obstacle is already capturing the imagination of athletes and fans alike, and I look forward to seeing it inspire the next generation of competitors, as it is now accessible for all our NFs.

**A final word of thanks**

To all of you – our Modern Pentathlon family – thank you for your trust, passion and support and for your unwavering belief in the power of sport



Left to right: UIPM President Rob Stull OLY, Guatemala NOC President Gerardo Rene Aguirre Oestmann, UIPM Honorary President Dr Klaus Schormann.

to change lives. The past 31 years have been a privilege beyond words, and I am excited to see what the future holds for UIPM and our remarkable athletes to take care of the heritage of our

founder, Baron Pierre de Coubertin.

**With warm regards and deep gratitude,  
Dr Klaus Schormann  
Honorary President, UIPM**



Left to right: Willi Kaltschmitt (IOC Honorary Member), Dr Klaus Schormann (UIPM Honorary President); Rob Stull OLY (UIPM President); Gerardo Rene Aguirre Oestmann (NOC President Guatemala) and Magdalena Quintanilla (NORCECA Modern Pentathlon Confederation President) during a tree-planting at the venue of the UIPM 2024 Tetrathlon U15 World Championships.

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

**My understanding of DEI – Diversity, Equity and Inclusion**

When we talk about diversity, it can always be interpreted in different ways and with multiple dimensions. As a multisport world governing body, including both Olympic and non-Olympic sports, I believe our level of diversity could be defined by:

- Where our athletes come from – it is indeed diverse, and also changed a lot following the rule changes and sport innovation trends.
- How the leadership is composed.
- Is there enough variety among the management team?
- Does the sport have diverse events and organisers? And so on....

In addition, it is certainly worth mentioning that after the historical 73rd UIPM Congress, the new Executive Board comprises multiple strands of varied experience, knowledge and individual talents. It raises the angles and views when discussing matters.

At the same time, it would need more coordination and balance to be fully effective; frankly, these are new challenges for an International Federation that has been subject to the same leadership for the past three decades.

Equity of course goes far beyond gender – it should also include rights, treatments and standards, such as:

- If there are equal rights among National Federations and stakeholders
- If the same treatments and attitudes apply to all people working for the IF whether they are elected, appointed or



Equity goes beyond gender. It should also include rights, treatments and standards.

- employed, with no one respected less than others
- If the evaluation standards are the same, between event organisers and different groups
- If the same type of stakeholders have the same or at least similar opportunities.
- participation base as well as welcoming new communities.
- However, anything started from scratch is never easy, not for those who favour the original concept, nor those who favour the new one. It is also natural that such a process could produce unexpected situations, and leave some people unhappy.
- Therefore, a lot of work lies in front of us to implement, improve and to justify this fundamental reimagining of our sporting movement.
- It is up to us to better serve and service the existing community as well as new community members.
- The difference will be seen at the end, but it will inevitably take time, and constant efforts, unity and solidarity are the base...

Bringing the focus back to gender equity, within the Executive Board, we currently have a ratio of 6:13 (more than 30%) in terms of women versus men. It is substantially improved, but those elected are not on the EB because they are female, but more based on their professional knowledge, expertise and capacity. Meanwhile, we do recognise that more female coaches and technical officials need to be identified and supported.

At the end of the day, we are in a professional world, and rather than absolute equity, the key is that an equal provision of opportunities is made more available to more people.

- Inclusion, yes, by embracing the new discipline/sport of Obstacle, our sport is definitely becoming more inclusive, reaching a bigger

In a word, achieving DEI in any organisation or company depends on the original reality and status quo, and how change can be reached via smooth pathways. It is not something that can be rushed out.

Aiming big and achieving stability with every step taken will be the key!







# SEASON'S GREETINGS & HAPPY NEW YEAR 2025

Our global family has come so far, and now,  
with unlimited possibilities in front of us,  
we wish you happy holidays and a joyful New Year !

*Rob Stull*  
Rob Stull OLY  
UIPM President







*Shiny Fang*  
Shiny Fang  
Secretary General

**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](mailto:uipm@pentathlon.org)

**WEB**  
[www.pentathlon.org](http://www.pentathlon.org)

**SOCIAL MEDIA**

-  /WorldPentathlon
-  /theuipm
-  @WorldPentathlon
-  /uipmtv
-  /vivamodernpentathlon
-  @国际现代五项联盟

