

## National Federations guidelines regarding obstacle sport integration

12 January 2026

Further to the ongoing integration process between UIPM and FISO, these guidelines provide a framework for UIPM and FISO National Federations during the transition period. We recognise that circumstances will differ in each country. Where both an obstacle sports federation and a pentathlon federation operate within the same nation, it is essential that there is mutual respect between the two organisations. Each organisation is encouraged to work collaboratively to determine the most appropriate approach to integration and to achieve the best possible outcome for the sport.

### **Scenario 1: Both UIPM & FISO have a NOC-recognised NF in the country**

Both NFs shall merge, which will be the only national governing body for modern pentathlon and obstacle sports recognised by UIPM and the local NOC. UIPM will assist with collaboration and integration to facilitate an equitable outcome for all parties.

### **Scenario 2: One recognised National Federation and one non-recognised National Federation in good standing**

In this scenario, either UIPM or FISO has a National Federation that is formally recognised by the relevant NSA or NOC, while the other NF is in good standing with UIPM or FISO respectively but does not hold NSA or NOC recognition. In such circumstances, it is often the case that the most practical and sustainable outcome is for the non-recognised organisation to integrate into the recognised NF, in order to ensure continuity of recognition, governance stability, and alignment with international structures.

Any such integration should be founded on mutual respect and recognition of each organisation's experience, community, and area of expertise. This process should not be approached as a takeover, but as a collaborative bringing together of organisations, with due regard for the identity, culture, and contribution of both parties. While integration into the recognised entity may be the most logical pathway in many cases, the appropriate structure and approach will vary from country to country and should be determined jointly by the organisations involved, with the support and guidance of UIPM when relevant.

UIPM will assist with collaboration and integration to facilitate an equitable outcome for all parties.

#### **Scenario 3: Only UIPM has a NF in the country**

The national federation is strongly encouraged to start activities related to obstacle sports (Ninja, Obstacle Racing, Adventure Racing disciplines and events), involving members of the obstacle community such as teams, and clubs, while maintaining UIPM and NOC recognitions.

#### **Scenario 4: Only FISO has a NF in the country**

The national federation should build a UIPM sports program with the assistance and support of the UIPM.

As the national governing body of an Olympic sport, the national federation shall submit its application to be officially recognised by the UIPM, including the following:

- Application form (substantially in the form provided by UIPM)
- Composition of the Executive Board
- Updated statutes and name of the federation (substantially in the form provided by UIPM)
- Letter of recognition from the NOC

#### **Scenario 5: There is neither a UIPM or FISO NF in the country**

Active pentathlon and/or obstacle sports persons can contact UIPM and its NOC to start building the program and the national federation with the assistance of UIPM according to its procedures.

UIPM will guide and assist you all case by case to facilitate a smooth transition!

Please contact UIPM at [shinyfang@pentathlon.org](mailto:shinyfang@pentathlon.org) to clarify any doubts you may have.

## UIPM embraces the Obstacle Sports Community

12 January 2026

The Union Internationale de Pentathlon Moderne (UIPM) , in full collaboration with the Federation Internationale de Sports d'Obstacles (FISO), has reaffirmed its commitment to recognising and respecting the identity of obstacle sports as independent sports within the UIPM family.

UIPM fully acknowledges that obstacle sports, including OCR and ninja -style disciplines, are established sports in their own right, each with distinct cultures, communities, competition formats and development pathways. As with Laser Run, Biathle and Triathle, UIPM views obstacle sports as standalone sports that can exist and grow independently while sitting within a wider multisport framework , each playing its role in creating pathways to the Olympic sport of Pentathlon at the top of the UIPM pyramid.

UIPM's engagement with obstacle sports is driven by a strong belief in their global growth, accessibility and appeal. Collaboration is intended to support opportunity and long-term development, while respecting the unique characteristics that define each obstacle sport community.

UIPM acknowledges that obstacle sports extend beyond the Pentathlon Obstacle discipline , encompassing a wide range of disciplines, formats and categories. Integration will prioritise understanding and preserving these identities, ensuring obstacle sports continue to develop in their own right alongside other UIPM sports.

We look forward to building a positive and respectful relationship with the global obstacle sports communities. The passion, creativity and commitment of athletes, organisers, volunteers , followers and officials are what make obstacle sports special, and UIPM is excited to work alongside these communities to support participation, innovation and long-term growth. Together, UIPM and the obstacle sports communities share an ambition to see obstacle sports continue to thrive, reach new audiences and take their place confidently within the wider international sporting landscape.

**UIPM New Year's update to National Federations**

*12 January 2026*

Dear Presidents, dear General Secretaries, dear friends,

As we start to settle into the new year, we would like to wish you, your athletes, coaches, officials and wider Pentathlon communities a happy, healthy and successful year ahead.

2025 was a year of **significant growth, creating unprecedented momentum** for our movement. Together, we continued to fine-tune our new Pentathlon post-Paris, strengthen our global footprint and **reinforce our position within the Olympic movement**. None of this progress would be possible without the commitment, professionalism and passion shown every day by our National Federations, and we **thank you sincerely for your contribution**. You can [read more reflections in the last President's View article of 2025](#).

Looking forward, one of the reasons for writing this letter is to provide you with a list of our key priorities for 2026, including the all-important task of maintaining Pentathlon's constant presence in the Olympic Games, so that together we can see the direction of travel at a global level. But first, it feels essential to give you an update on the process of **integration between UIPM and FISO (World Obstacle), which is a task we identified at the beginning of this Olympic cycle**.

The **12th FISO Congress and World Obstacle General Assembly** will take place in Nice, France on 15 March 2026. A meeting of the UIPM Obstacle Task Force (OTF) will precede the Congress on 14 March. The agenda for both meetings has not yet been published but, as [indicated by the OTF in October 2025](#), **members of FISO will vote during the General Assembly on the dissolution of FISO**, which would then host one final edition of its World Championships in 2026, should the dissolution be voted through. This would be a significant milestone in the unification of the sport under UIPM, the **sole governing body of Obstacle sport within the Olympic movement**.

Further to the international integration, we continue to recommend **integration discussions at a national level**. Where both Obstacle and Pentathlon federations operate within the same nation, it is essential they exercise mutual respect. Organisations are strongly encouraged to collaborate to achieve a friendly integration and mutual benefit for their sporting communities. Many nations have already achieved this, the latest example being [Portugal in December 2025](#).

Recognising the unique scenarios in each country and your collaborative efforts, an updated version of the **National Federation Integration Guidelines** and a statement entitled '**UIPM Embraces the Obstacle Sports Communities**' are attached with this letter. These underscore the commitment of UIPM to preserving the identity of each individual Obstacle sport under the umbrella of an IOC-recognised International Federation (IF).

Dear friends, we find ourselves at a fortunate crossroads, charged with the responsibility of making decisions of historic importance that can **secure the future of our sports and communities**, and leave a legacy of good for many generations.

We are excited for the opportunities presented by a unified IF embracing all our sports in the Olympic movement and remain available for feedback and to answer questions or concerns. Today we published a joint UIPM / World Obstacle [statement](#) to inform the international sports communities and public about the proposed integration.

Beyond the Obstacle integration, here are some of our **top priorities for the year ahead**:

- To secure Pentathlon's place on the programme for Brisbane 2032, stretching the sport's continuous Olympic Games association to 120 years since its debut at Stockholm 1912
- To continue the remarkable progress made in 2025 in developing the presentation of Pentathlon into a highly entertaining show, whether performed indoors, outdoors or in iconic venues
- To expedite the growth of UIPM's global participant base, online follower community and commercial partnership portfolio, to strengthen our sport as a viable commercial entity while providing additional value to the Olympic Games
- In line with the full integration of Obstacle sports into the UIPM movement, to build a market-ready sanctioning structure, leveraging the unified governance model to drive new revenue and growth across our broadcast, digital media and commercial platforms.

Finally, we are very aware that a host for the UIPM 2026 Pentathlon World Championships has not yet been announced and we regret any inconvenience this situation is causing. Please be assured that **an exciting host agreement will be announced by the end of January** and, to support your planning, we can confirm that the dates will be **24-30 August**.

With all the growth we are experiencing, it should come as no surprise that throughout the coming year we expect **thrilling opportunities and intriguing challenges** to appear in front of us, some already anticipated and others more unexpected. As an **athlete-first, business-oriented IF**, we remain laser-focused on the growth opportunities in front of us, without ever forgetting the unique heritage and legacy established by our founder, Baron Pierre de Coubertin.

We ask you, dear friends, in 2026 to continue pulling hard together because “in union there is strength”.

With our best personal greetings, we wish you a happy new year and a successful 12 months ahead.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rob Stull'.

Rob Stull OLY  
UIPM President

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Shiny Fang'.

Shiny Fang  
UIPM Secretary General