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TRIBUTE TO IGOR PANIN (1965-2025)



The global Pentathlon family is in mourning after the passing of Igor Panin, Honorary President of the Ukrainian Modern Pentathlon Federation, who died on 16 August 2025 at the age of 59.

Born on 18 August 1965 in Luhansk, Igor devoted his life to Modern Pentathlon as an athlete, coach and leader. He began competing aged 14 and achieved international success, becoming world junior team champion with the former USSR national team in 1985, a four-time national champion, World Cup medallist and multiple Ukrainian champion.

After graduating from the Kyiv State Institute of Physical Culture in 1988 with a degree in coaching, and later from the Kyiv National University of Internal Affairs with a degree in law, Igor turned his energy to developing Pentathlon in Ukraine.

From 2016 to 2024, he served as President of the UMPF, guiding the sport through a period of profound difficulty during the Russian military occupation, supported by Belarus. His resilience and leadership ensured that the programme survived, offering hope and opportunity to athletes despite the national crisis.

UIPM President Rob Stull OLY said: "Igor was a legend of the Pentathlon community who dedicated his life to sport and the interests of young people, providing opportunities for Ukrainians

to access Olympic sport. His untimely passing leaves a deep sense of loss that will be felt for some time.

“Igor’s greatest challenge and triumph occurred late in his life, and that was to keep the programme operational and the sport alive during a time of a national crisis. He was a gregarious and friendly guy and an optimist. He will be greatly missed by the Pentathlon community and the Olympic family at large.”