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UNIVERSAL STUDIOS UNVEILED AS HOST OF UIPM 2026 OBSTACLE WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS



- New era begins thanks to unique sport-tourism partnership in Beijing (CHN)
- Ninja and Obstacle Racing stars to thrill spectators at iconic Theme Park location
- Pentathlon world record-holders ready to complete 'Race Across China' in capital city

BEIJING, CHINA: July 22, 2026 – A new era of possibilities begins for Obstacle Sports with the news that Universal Studios Beijing will host the UIPM 2026 Obstacle World Championships (September 2-6) as part of the 'Race Across China' combining UIPM's Pentathlon and Obstacle World Championships for the first time.

The planet's fastest Ninja and Obstacle Racing specialists will compete for medals against the backdrop of The Universal Globe at Universal CityWalk Beijing (part of Universal Beijing Resort), giving spectators a chance to see stars of the sport up close.

The choice of a major Theme Park to host the second edition of UIPM's Obstacle Racing showpiece marks the International Federation's entry into an exciting realm of sport-tourism

alliances. The idea came to life through an innovative partnership between UIPM, Beijing Capital Tourism Group (BTG), Beijing Sports Bureau and the Chinese Modern Pentathlon Association (CMPA).

The UIPM 2026 Obstacle World Championships will be the second of four editions of the competition to be held in the Chinese capital, following last year's successful opening instalment at Beijing's National Olympic Sports Centre. The action in Beijing (CHN) starts immediately after the Finals of the UIPM 2026 Pentathlon World Championships in Guiyang (CHN).

Star athletes such as **Luke** and **Kai Beckstrand** of **United States** and **Katarzyna Jonaczyk** of **Poland** will return looking to back up their success alongside pentathletes who have excelled in Obstacle Racing such as world record-holders **Mohamed El Ashqar** of **Egypt** and **Florina Jurt** of **Switzerland**, who will be coming fresh from the Pentathlon World Championships.

Across five days of elite competition, international obstacle specialists will race for glory in the **100m**, **400m** and **3km Individual** events, a new **4x100m Relay** and the refreshed **3km Team** format, while thousands of age-group competitors will get the chance to test their Obstacle Racing prowess in open categories.

Universal Beijing Resort is one of multiple global Universal theme parks owned by NBCUniversal, with the original Universal Studios in the United States on the list of venues for the Los Angeles 2028 Olympic Games – where Obstacle Racing will make its Olympic debut as part of a reimagined Modern Pentathlon in the Valley Zone.

UIPM President Rob Stull said: "This is a momentous announcement for UIPM, for the global Obstacle Sports community that our Federation now governs, and for the Chinese tourism authorities who have bought into our exciting vision. On behalf of the UIPM Executive Board I would like to thank BTG Group, led by Chairman Mr Bai Fan, our colleagues and friends at the Beijing Sports Bureau, and everyone at the CMPA, led by President Bin Zhang. Thank you for once again opening your arms to our global community.



“Universal Studios Beijing is going to be the most extraordinary venue for our 2nd UIPM Obstacle World Championships. Even after one year of this pioneering competition, we are charting a path from the past to the future, as we move from a traditional Olympic Stadium venue to a completely new hosting concept in a major Theme Park resort. I can promise the people of China and international visitors to Universal Studios that what they will see in Beijing in September will be unlike anything they’ve seen before.

“Coming on the back of our strategic partnership with Tokyo Broadcasting System, our announcement of movie icon Dolph Lundgren as Modern Pentathlon ambassador for the LA28 Olympics, and the IOC President's visit to our spectacular Pentathlon World Cup in Budapest, this news continues a summer of exciting developments. It all underlines that we are converting the bright and brilliant potential of UIPM Sports into fantastic, life-changing realities for athletes and fans worldwide.”

About UIPM

The Union Internationale de Pentathlon Moderne (UIPM) is the world governing body of Olympic sport Modern Pentathlon, which has been on the programme of every Olympic Summer Games for more than a century, and all Obstacle Sport communities worldwide. Formed in 1948, UIPM today oversees a range of multisports (Tetrathlon, Triathlon, Biathlon, Laser Run, Obstacle Laser Run and various other Obstacle disciplines), with a comprehensive sports pyramid that has Pentathlon at the top. In 2025, Obstacle Racing was introduced at all levels of UIPM events, continuing decades of evolution and innovation designed to make the sport more dynamic and exciting for athletes and fans, and less costly and complex for organisers.

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