

## MINUTES

### 11<sup>th</sup> FISO Congress and World Obstacle General Assembly

18h00 CET, Friday 12 September 2025

**Location:** [Friidrottens hus](#), Gothenburg, Sweden and Zoom and Zoom

#### 1) Call to Order by the President

The regular meeting of the FISO Congress and World Obstacle General Assembly was called to order at 18h06 Central European Time (Sweden) by the President Mr. Ian Adamson.

#### 2) Roll Call

The countries in attendance in-person and by video were:

- |                |                   |                                      |
|----------------|-------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1. Argentina   | 18. Germany       | 35. Peru                             |
| 2. Australia   | 19. Great Britain | 36. Philippines                      |
| 3. Bahrain     | 20. Greece        | 37. Portugal                         |
| 4. Bahamas     | 21. Hungary       | 38. Puerto Rico                      |
| 5. Belgium     | 22. India         | 39. Russia                           |
| 6. Brazil      | 23. Iran          | 40. Spain                            |
| 7. Canada      | 24. Ireland       | 41. Sweden                           |
| 8. Chile       | 25. Israel        | 42. Switzerland                      |
| 9. Columbia    | 26. Italy         | 43. United States of America         |
| 10. Costa Rica | 27. Japan         | 44. Venezuela                        |
| 11. Croatia    | 28. Lithuania     |                                      |
| 12. Denmark    | 29. Malaysia      |                                      |
| 13. Ecuador    | 30. Mexico        | • Mr. Rob Stull, UIPM President      |
| 14. Estonia    | 31. Netherlands   | • Shiny Fang, UIPM Secretary General |
| 15. Finland    | 32. New Zealand   | • Mr. Alex Franca, UIPM COO          |
| 16. France     | 33. Nigeria       |                                      |
| 17. Georgia    | 34. Norway        |                                      |

#### 3) Welcome

Mr. Jari Foresman gave a brief welcome on behalf of Swedish Athletics.

#### 4) Approval of the following:

##### a) Minutes of the 10<sup>th</sup> Congress

The minutes of the 10<sup>th</sup> Congress were approved by the Congress. The World Calisthenics and Street Workout Federation was recognized under section 4.1 of the General Statutes and functions as the Calisthenics Standing Committee. Mr. James Burton observed that calisthenics had been integrated into World Obstacle without a formal process, despite such a process been required and agreed at the 10th Congress. He noted that while the minutes of the previous Congress were accurate, this remained an important observation for the record.

##### b) 2024 Annual Accounts

The 2024 Annual Accounts were not approved by the Congress. The General Statutes section 3.2.1.4 k) require examination and approval of the annual audited financial statements, and 5.1.6 requires FISO's accounts to be audited by an independent external auditor, registered in Switzerland. With no income and no bank account, there are no financial statements in Switzerland and no budget to approve. Mr. James Burton asked about the deferred income shown on the Profit and Loss statement. Mr. Adamson stated that his accountant required this to avoid problems with the Internal Revenue Service of the United States. He reaffirmed that since there is no way for FISO to pay back the debt he does not expect reimbursement, and it will go away on dissolution of FISO.

c) **Ratification of the 2025 Statutes**

The Congress agreed to delay ratification of the General Statutes until a future Congress, whether regular or extraordinary, once all voting members have submitted their comments.

**5) Reports from the Continental Confederation Presidents**

- a) Mr. Claude Eksteen, Africa sent apologies for missing the Congress and reported no updates.
- b) Mr. Panna Utpaul, Americas sent apologies for missing the Congress and Mr. Abraham Laines (OCR LatAm) presented progress and events for Latin America (attached)
- c) Mr. Ian Adamson presented for the Asia-Pacific region progress and events for the three subcontinental regions (attached)
- d) Mr. Stefano Zappa, Europe presented the state of the federations, and progress, including past and upcoming European Championships for OCR, 400m, and Ninja through 2026.

**6) Confirmation of new member federations**

The new member associations were confirmed by the Congress. New members, including those admitted in 2024 were Argentina, Australia (AMF), Chile, Ecuador, Hong Kong, Israel, Korea (Republic of), Latvia, Macedonia, Paraguay, Peru, Puerto Rico, Romania (ACSNS), Syria, and Taiwan.

**7) Expulsion of Obstacle Australia**

Obstacle Australia has been expelled for failure to address ethics and statutory violations in the required timeframe, and for joining the rival association World OCR Federation.

**8) Ninja Update**

Ms. Chloe Henry, Ninja Standing Committee Chair gave an update on the status of the sport and vision for World Cup circuit and technical standards.

**9) OCR Update**

Mr. Stefano Zappa, OCR Standing Committee Chair focused on opportunities for children and youth, including accessibility, Safeguarding and development. He recapped the numbers at the 2025 OCRWCH, 5,000 athletes with 1,500 elite representing 55 countries. He also addressed OCR rules and safety, and standardizing processes, not obstacles.

**10) Adventure Racing Update**

Ms. Helene Mattison, Adventure Racing Standing Committee Co-Chair shared updates on the World Cup Final in France last month with the closing ceremony at a concert with 5,000 spectators, on-going events and increased media coverage and community support.

**11) Integration Benefits**

UIPM President Mr. Rob Stull explained the advantages of being part of the Olympic movement and opportunities presented for national governing bodies and athletes. He said the integration unlocks the door for obstacle sports to become part of the Olympic movement. Also, that UIPM wished the integration process had proceeded faster but reiterated that UIPM is not requiring any organization to join, but that UIPM is required, as the recognized international Olympic federation for obstacle sports, to continue developing the sport within the Olympic movement.

**12) Integration progress**

Mr. James Burton, Chair of the FISO Integration Work Group (IWG), explained the IWG includes representatives from OCR, ninja, adventure racing, and different regions, and is tasked with ensuring that obstacle sports benefit from any form of integration with UIPM. Two core principles guide its work:

1. Independence for obstacle sports within UIPM.
2. Representation on the UIPM Executive Board.

A “vote text” outlining these principles was circulated as the basis for negotiations (appended). While there was no guarantee that UIPM would agree to these requests, it was noted that approval by Congress would send a strong message that World Obstacle National Federations were in favour of integration under defined conditions.

Mr. Burton emphasised the importance of protecting the essence of the sport while securing the benefits of integration. He observed that UIPM offers a professional, structured international federation model with resources, staff, and established systems, something World Obstacle, as a volunteer-led body, cannot currently match. A united approach with UIPM could help avoid fragmentation and potential conflict within the sport, enabling athletes and federations to progress together. However, he stressed that careful communication and collaboration are essential. For example, the announcement of the Obstacle World Championships in China had caused confusion and concern, underlining the need for better joint planning.

#### **Member Comments:**

- Italy pushed for written proposals and binding commitments.
- Denmark/Estonia expressed concerns about calendar clashes and championships being undermined.
- Malaysia: highlighted confusion around SEA Games representation.
- Multiple federations stressed the need for autonomy, independence, and protection of identity.
- General concern around poor communication and lack of timelines.

Mr. James Burton committed to:

- Maintaining transparency with national federations.
- Developing a clear timeline and plan before any vote to dissolve World Obstacle.
- Continuing Integration Working Group meetings and reporting back to members before the end of 2025

#### **13) Integration Process and FISO dissolution**

Mr. Ian Adamson explained the process for integration and national and international level, including the requirements for disbandment of FISO (General Statutes section 7.12) upon successful integration.

#### **14) Vote to confirm proposed integration model into UIPM**

The Congress approved the proposal by 37 for, 2 abstention and 5 against. This was amended to 39 for, 2 abstention and 3 against after discussions with members immediately following the Congress. Additional countries on the video call confirmed their votes after the meeting.

#### **Yes (37)**

1. Argentina	10. Costa Rica	19. India
2. Australia	11. Croatia	20. Iran
3. Bahamas	12. Ecuador	21. Ireland
4. Bahrain	13. Estonia	22. Israel
5. Belgium	14. Finland	23. Italy
6. Brazil	15. France	24. Japan
7. Canada	16. Georgia	25. Malaysia
8. Chile	17. Great Britain	26. Mexico
9. Columbia	18. Greece	27. Netherlands

- |                 |                      |               |
|-----------------|----------------------|---------------|
| 28. New Zealand | 36. Sweden           | 2. Hungary    |
| 29. Nigeria     | 37. Switzerland      |               |
| 30. Norway      | 38. United States of | <b>No (3)</b> |
| 31. Peru        | America              | 1. Denmark    |
| 32. Philippines | 39. Venezuela        | 2. Russia     |
| 33. Portugal    |                      | 3. Lithuania  |
| 34. Puerto Rico | <b>Abstain (2)</b>   |               |
| 35. Spain       | 1. Germany           |               |

**15) Other Matters**

Mr. Rob Stull explained the Obstacle World Championships in Beijing is not a competitor to the OCR World Championships and is an open competition this year. UIPM must continue with their responsibilities as an Olympic international federation, including producing world championships in obstacle sports.

**16) End of official proceedings of the Congress**

Mr. Ian Adamson thanked everyone for their presence, ratified all the deliberations and approvals of the items on the agenda, and declared the Congress session closed.

**17) Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 20h30. The next Congress will be scheduled on a date to be confirmed, according to the statutory rules.

**Minutes**

Approved by the Presidents of the International and Continental Federations.



Panna Utpaul  
President Americas



Alberto Agra  
President Asia-Pacific



Stefano Zappa  
President Europe



Claude Eksteen  
President Africa



Ian Adamson  
President

All Congress documents:

[https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1ix5g2Scb-A-R6yBZD9BBhjzfsSLSP2Vu?usp=drive\\_link](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1ix5g2Scb-A-R6yBZD9BBhjzfsSLSP2Vu?usp=drive_link)

Video recording of the Congress <https://youtu.be/XTCp4YR8I3c>

**World Obstacle 11th Congress: UIPM Integration Vote**

The World Obstacle Congress recognises the importance of a transparent and collaborative integration process between UIPM and World Obstacle. As part of this effort, World Obstacle proposes the establishment of standing committees within UIPM (Figure 1 illustrates the organisational structure) to represent and manage the various sports under its governance, ensuring that each sport retains its autonomy while working within the UIPM structure.

The standing committees would include, but not be limited to:

1. Obstacle Course Racing (OCR) Standing Committee
2. Ninja Standing Committee
3. Additional Standing Committees for other sports that meet established criteria for global representation. For example, inclusion on all sports continents and at least 50 national associations governing and running the sport.

Each standing committee will be governed by terms of reference formally embedded in the UIPM statutes. There may also be other emerging sports (e.g. adventuring racing and calisthenics), these will be represented by Committees, rather than Standing Committees until they meet the established criteria for global representation.

World Obstacle further proposes that this structure be directly linked to Executive Board representation, implemented in two stages:

- Stage 1: Immediate inclusion of one person to represent obstacle sports on the UIPM Executive Board, ensuring direct input from non-pentathlon disciplines from the outset of integration.
- Stage 2: Once the agreed statutes for global representation and governance are met, each sporting discipline will have the right to nominate a representative to the appropriate body within UIPM. This will ensure that the interests and needs of each sport are effectively communicated at the highest level of governance within UIPM, with decisions shaped by input from their respective standing committees.

The World Obstacle Congress therefore proposes to vote on the phased approach to establish this standing committee structure, alongside Executive Board and independent sport representation, as the foundational step in the integration process. This vote will not confirm the full integration of World Obstacle into UIPM, but rather, if UIPM moves towards this model, it will represent a significant step toward integration.

National Federations will support integration if an agreed structure is implemented alongside other requirements, with a final vote on dissolution to be taken by World Obstacle once these conditions are met.

Figure 1:

