

5 March 2026

URGENT: Formal Exclusion of Adventure Racing from UIPM-FISO Integration

Dear World Obstacle Members,

We are writing to update you on the current situation regarding our sport of Adventure Racing and your upcoming vote to dissolve World Obstacle (FISO) to facilitate the integration of FISO with World Pentathlon (UIPM).

The history of the adventure racing community attempting to get FISO to drop its claim on our sport goes back to early 2023 when the global adventure racing community united to explicitly reject World Obstacle's advances. We, national associations and active communities, voted against FISO's offer to be part of their organisation. FISO President Ian Adamson said that he would respect our community's wishes, yet he has failed to do so.

For the next 18 months, we focused on our work of building our International Adventure Racing Association (IARA), an organisation created and supported by adventure racing countries.

In October 2024, we learned of the 2024 UIPM Congress and a Motion to revise the definition of UIPM Sports. This definition specified adventure racing as an obstacle discipline, as provided to UIPM by FISO. At the annual Congress in November 2024, and with support from many UIPM members, the proposed definition was edited to exclude 'adventure racing'. We greatly appreciated their support.

Sadly, this was not the end of it for us. FISO continued to claim adventure racing as an Obstacle Sport despite having no support from the international adventure racing community - national organisations and participants.

On 15 March 2026, you, members of FISO, are set to vote on dissolving FISO. There is an immediate risk that adventure racing will be carried into UIPM by default because of World Obstacle's claim of adventure racing as an Obstacle sport. Adventure Racing continues to appear in current merger documents as a discipline that would fall under the "sole international governing body" of the newly integrated UIPM. This is unacceptable.

Dragging adventure racing into UIPM must be prevented for the following reasons:

- **Separate Governance:** The International Adventure Racing Association (IARA) is the sole international body formed by the global community to represent this sport. In the two years since the official formation of IARA, we have united adventure racing countries, increased national membership, and are on the pathway to international recognition.
- **A Mandate of Rejection:** In early 2023, the global adventure racing community explicitly rejected World Obstacle's advances and voted against their offer to be part of their organisation. FISO President said that he would respect the community's wishes yet he has failed to do so.

- **Acknowledged Misinformation:** UIPM Secretary General Shiny Fang has admitted on record, in the UIPM 2024 Congress Minutes, that UIPM was "misled" by World Obstacle regarding Adventure Racing's status within that organisation.
- **No Alignment:** Adventure Racing is a unique, independent sport with no interest in involvement with Pentathlon or Obstacle Sports.

On learning of the upcoming vote and continued presence of adventure racing in FISO-UIPM documents, we again wrote to UIPM. UIPM Secretary Shiny Fang responded promptly and wrote, *"A review of the sporting disciplines within the newly integrated structure, including their governance and development pathways, will be an internal matter addressed following the completion of the organizational merger"*. This too is unacceptable. The future of our sport should not be discussed as an "internal matter" where the adventure racing community is not part of that discussion.

Adventure racing was never part of World Obstacle and UIPM knows this.

Investigations should be done and resolved before mergers, not after.

FISO Members, we need your assistance and support.

As a voting member of FISO, we ask that you specify the exclusion of adventure racing from FISO and its merger with UIPM as a condition of your voting to dissolve FISO on 15 March 2026.

We have included background information and various references below. You are welcome to reach out to us should you have any questions.

We welcome all adventure racing communities. Should any Obstacle national association have adventure racing members, please reach out to us about recognition within the International Adventure Racing Association.

We thank you in advance and wish you well with the progression of your sport within the new UIPM structure.

Regards,



Ross Phillips

Chairperson, IARA 2026

Additional Information : Adventure Racing's history with World Obstacle and UIPM:

- **29 August 2020, 6th FISO Congress** - No mention in the Minutes of Congress voting adventure racing into FISO, yet Adventure Racing is mentioned for the first time in FISO Minutes as a sub-sport.
- **Sept 2020** – Adventure Racing appears for the first time on the FISO website as a listed discipline. The international adventure racing community and national associations were not consulted. This goes unnoticed by the adventure racing community which had no link to obstacle sports.
- **7th FISO Congress** (6 September 2021) and **8th FISO Congress** (17 October 2022): No mention of adventure racing.
- **18 October 2021**: Ian Adamson registers Adventure1 LLC in Colorado, an adventure racing event series coordinating company. Two months later, FISO announced Adventure Racing World Cup and World Championship events, presented by Adventure1 (A1), on World Obstacle's Instagram account. A1 and FISO remained closely connected.
- **18 February 2023**: Ian Adamson, President of FISO, calls a meeting to discuss options for the establishment of an international federation for adventure racing. The meeting minutes record that Adamson "informed the meeting that FISO has agreed to bring the sport of adventure racing under its umbrella as a recognised international federation, but it is up to the adventure racing community internationally to agree and come on board with this".

At this meeting Adamson says, "90% of the members of FISO really don't know what adventure racing is".

- **March 2023** – Adventure Racing community mobilises and unites at a global level to vote that they do not wish to be part of FISO. FISO refuses to remove adventure racing from their website despite saying that they would respect the community's wishes.
- **January 2024** – Interim Steering Committee, following from the 2023 Working Group, forms to establish the International Adventure Racing Association (IARA).
- **November 2024** IARA requests UIPM and UIPM members to remove 'adventure racing' from the revised definition of UIPM Sports, as proposed in Motion EB3 at UIPM 2024 Congress. With support from UIPM members, the Motion was not passed. In the amended definition 'adventure racing' was removed, but the wording "and standalone disciplines of Obstacle sport" remained.

In the [UIPM 2024 Congress Minutes \(Page 16\)](#), UIPM Secretary Shiny Fang is noted as saying, "On the other hand, SF said Adventure was a different story, as UIPM was misled at the beginning about its status inside WO". Questions from countries on pages 15 and 16 are worth reading.

- **January 2025** – First AGM of IARA is held, ratifying the constitution prepared by the Interim Steering Committee and formally constituting IARA.

- **Q3 2025** – in the document '[World Obstacle Reaffirm Commitment to Collaborative Integration Process with UIPM](#)', adventure racing is included with the other disciplines listed as part of World Obstacle... *"If integration is approved, World Obstacle will be dissolved and UIPM, as the integrated body, will become the sole international governing body for Ninja, OCR, Adventure Racing, Calisthenics, and related disciplines"*.
- **September 2025:** In the document '[World Obstacle 11th Congress: UIPM Integration Vote](#)', adventure racing is still shown as a sport under UIPM in Figure 1
- **January 2026:** IARA learns of FISO dissolution vote on 15 March 2026. The two documents above were discovered at this time. IARA writes to UIPM asking them to officially exclude adventure racing from this merger. UIPM responds saying they will review disciplines after the merger.

UIPM knew of the situation with adventure racing. Investigations should be done and resolved before mergers, not after.

Additional References

- International Adventure Racing Association (IARA) is the recognised international body for the sport of Adventure Racing, created by and supported by national Adventure Racing organisations. See [all IARA Meeting Minutes](#) from founding to present, and [Member list](#).
- [What is the relationship between IARA and World Obstacle?](#)
- 19 January 2026: [Pentathlon responds to our letter](#)
- 16 January 2026: [IARA reaches out to Pentathlon to exclude AR from Obstacle integration](#)
- 11 September 2025: [IARA's position regarding World Obstacle remains clear](#)
- 19 November 2024: [Thank you to UIPM Members](#)
- 16 November 2024: [The words 'adventure racing' are excluded from UIPM Sports definition](#)
- 4 November 2024: [IARA contacts World Pentathlon members](#)
- 28 October 2024: [Adventure Racing's position on World Obstacle + World Pentathlon merger](#)
- 18 February 2023 - Video clip from public meeting between FISO and the adventure racing community where the FISO President stated that he would respect the decision of the consultation process that eventually established IARA, whatever the result <https://youtu.be/EpYABxQQk-M>
- UIPM-FISO Integration Page <https://worldobstacle.org/integration>
- #ARsaysNo campaign and petition results - <https://internationaladventureracing.org/arsaysno-petition-results/>