



SOUTH AFRICAN MODERN PENTATHLON ASSOCIATION

Contact: Secretary General  secretarygeneral@sapentathlon.org.za  +27 82 457 5208

To: All Open Athletes

Date: 29 July 2026

Subject: Open Athlete Information

2026 UIPM Laser Run World Championships - Funchal, Madeira, Portugal

Dear Athletes, Parents, and Guardians

This letter covers the processes to be followed by open athletes entering to participate at the UIPM 2026 Biathle-Triathle-Laser Run World Championships in Funchal, Madeira Island, Portugal, from 26 October to 1 November 2026.

All South African athletes wishing to enter the Open event at the UIPM 2026 Biathle-Triathle-Laser Run World Championships are required to be affiliated to the South African Modern Pentathlon Association (SAMP). All entries for South African open athletes will be facilitated by SAMP. No South African athlete may enter directly with the UIPM.

1. General Matters

- A WhatsApp group will be created for this event to keep all athletes and parents informed. Once you have registered for the event via the SAMP online portal you will receive an email with the link to join the group.
- Should any additional information be provided by the UIPM and/or LOC, we will post this information on the WhatsApp group and via your email address provided when you registered on the SAMP online portal.
- If you have any questions, please contact worldchampionships@sapentathlon.org.za.

2. General timelines

- In order to ensure your entry into the world championships, please take note of the following dates:
 - **3 August 2026** - Entries must be completed via the SAMP online portal and finalised in time for SAMP to submit the entries through the UIPM online registration system. All SA athletes must enter on or before 3 August 2026.



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3. Competition

- The event is scheduled to take place at Centro Náutico São Lázaro in Funchal, Madeira Island, Portugal, from 26 October to 1 November 2026. Delegations are expected to arrive from 24 October 2026 and depart on 2 November 2026.
- It is the athlete's responsibility to ensure that they are familiar with the programme, competition format and UIPM Rules and Regulations contained in the UIPM 2026 invitation letter.
- The provisional programme includes Biathle individual semi-finals and mixed relay on 26 October, Biathle finals and Para Biathle on 27 October, Triathle semi-finals and mixed relay on 28 October, Triathle finals and Para Triathle on 29 October, Laser Run women's events on 30 October, Laser Run men's events on 31 October, and Laser Run mixed relay on 1 November. Detailed times remain subject to confirmation by the LOC.

4. Entries – Individual and mixed relays

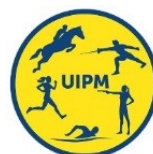
- SAMP is entitled to enter an unlimited number of individual entries across the relevant events, whether the athletes are entered as national team athletes or as open athletes.
- Open athletes will not be included in mixed relay teams.

5. Costing

- A SAMP administration fee will be levied at R2 200 per athlete, regardless of the number of events entered. No administration fee will be levied on accompanying parents and/or supporters.
- The administration fee is levied primarily to contribute towards the costs of accompanying team managers, coaches, courier costs and other sundry costs.
- The administration fee is non-refundable, i.e. the fee will not be paid back to you should you subsequently withdraw from the championships, except at the discretion of the SA Modern Pentathlon Association's executive committee.
- UIPM entry fees per athlete are as follows:
 - 1 event: EUR 90 per person
 - 2 events: EUR 120 per person
 - 3 events: EUR 140 per person
 - 4 events: EUR 160 per person
 - 5 events: EUR 180 per person
 - 6 events: EUR 200 per person
- The tiered system above will apply across all events entered as an athlete, regardless of whether you enter as a national team athlete or as an open athlete. For example, you could enter Biathle and Triathle as a national team member, participate in the Triathle



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mixed relay, and enter Laser Run as an open athlete. In this example, you would pay EUR 160, i.e. 4 events.

- SAMPA will charge athletes a Rand-denominated cost that will include all foreign exchange costs.

6. Accommodation, flights and transfers

- All athletes and accompanying parents or supporters are responsible for arranging their own accommodation, flights and transfers. The competition venue is in Funchal and the nearest airport is Cristiano Ronaldo International Airport in Madeira, approximately 18 km from Funchal.
- Athletes are responsible for making their own travel arrangements and for ensuring compliance with airline requirements when travelling with laser pistols or simulators. The UIPM invitation notes that firearms licences are not required for Modern Pentathlon laser pistols brought into Madeira Island, Portugal for competition purposes, as these are not considered firearms under Portuguese law.
- Should athletes wish to make use of the services of a travel agent for the booking of flights and accommodation, Maggie du Toit from Travel Counsellors can be contacted on maggie.dutoit@travelcounsellors.co.za.
- The LOC has indicated that BRAVATOUR is the travel agency partner assisting with accommodation packages and touristic programmes. Athletes booking independently are encouraged to book accommodation well in advance, as Madeira is a high-demand tourism destination and prices may increase closer to the competition.

7. Visa and entry requirements

- Athletes and supporters must confirm visa requirements for entry into Portugal and Madeira before travelling.
- SAMPA and the LOC cannot accept responsibility for arranging visas; however, SAMPA will send a formal visa letter indicating your inclusion in the national team for application purposes.
- For visa or entry-related queries, athletes should contact the nearest Portuguese Embassy or Consulate.

8. Clothing

SAMPA affiliated athletes entering an open category at a UIPM event, may not wear the SAMPA colours being green, white, and gold (yellow), any combination of these colours which could be associated with SAMPA, or the SAMPA logo or any competition clothing.



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Athletes entering an open category at a UIPM event by individual entry shall wear a neutral or provincial uniform. Similar neutral clothing must be worn on the podium, if an open athlete achieves a podium placing.

Note that this rule applies where an athlete has been selected for the national team in another discipline and compete as an open athlete in a discipline for which they were not selected for the national team.

Open athletes are required to comply with all other relevant clothing rules as set out by the UIPM.

9. Team managers

Team manager details will be communicated separately once confirmed for the 2026 World Championships. Team managers will be responsible for both the national team and South African open athletes.

Yours in sport,



Frans van Niekerk

President

South African Modern Pentathlon Association



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