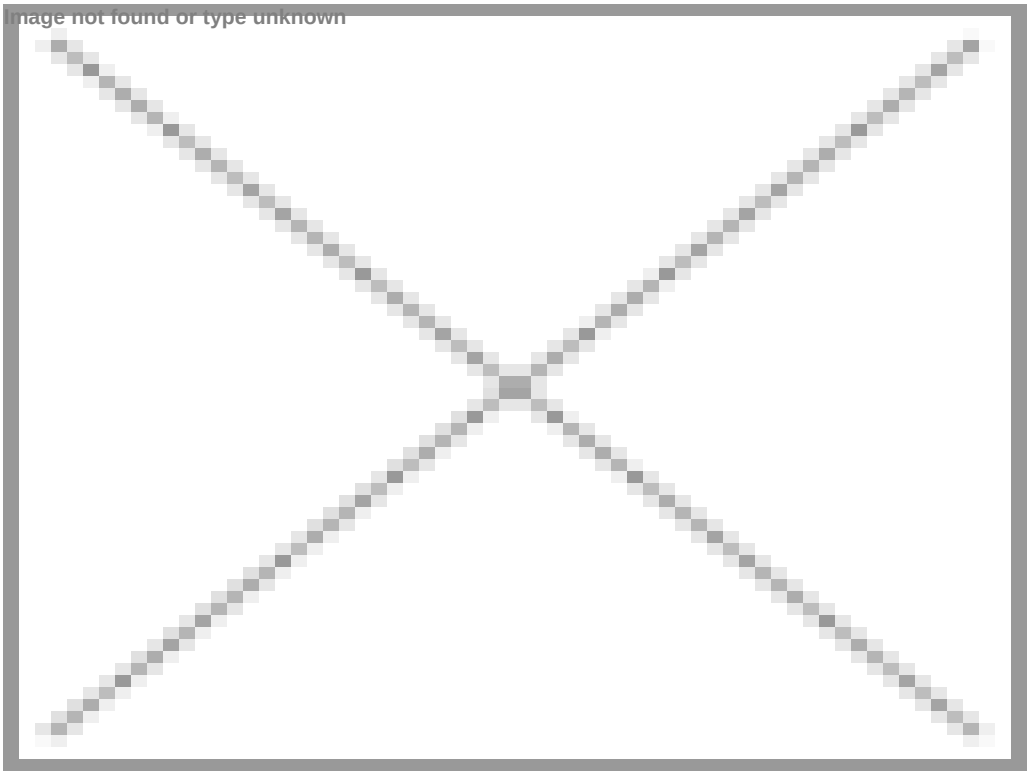
22 MAY 2025

UIPM JUDGES CERTIFICATION PROGRAMME: NEW GENERATION STEPS UP IN JOHANNESBURG (RSA)



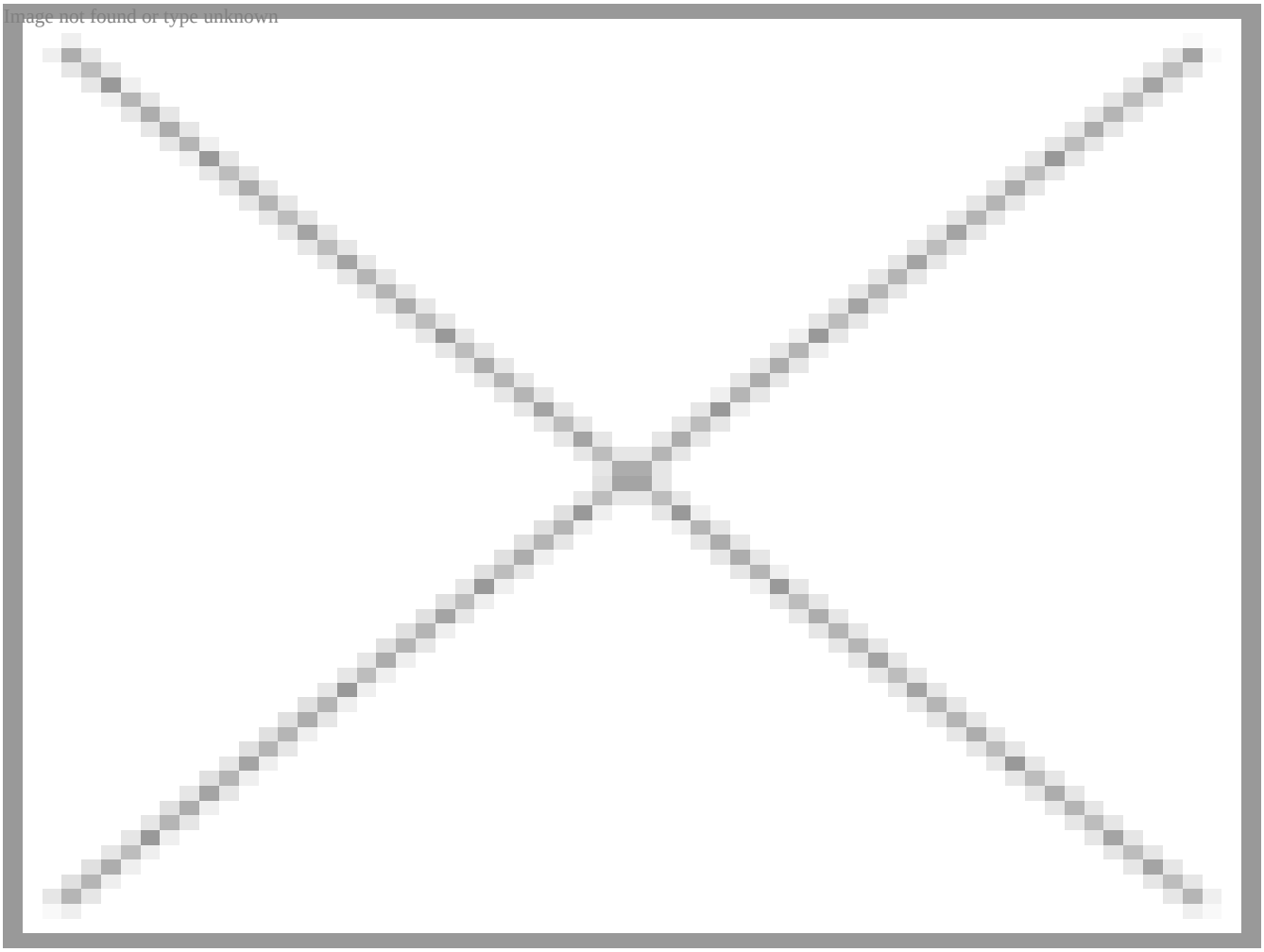
In a year of landmark events for South African Pentathlon, the groundwork for sporting excellence is being laid not only by athletes and coaches, but also by a new generation of officials.

As Johannesburg (RSA) prepares to welcome the world for the UIPM 2025 U17 Pentathlon World Championships, 27 aspiring judges have completed an intensive multi-level UIPM Judges Certification Programme (JCP) course designed to ensure world-class officiating on home soil.

Led by experienced UIPM Educator Rui Lucena (POR), the course covered Levels 1, 2 and 3 and was delivered in three stages: an online theory module from April 4-25, on-site training from April 28 to May 1, and concluding with assessments during live competition from May 2-3.

The result was a cohort of 14 male and 13 female newly-certified judges, equipped and ready to play a key role at two major UIPM events this year: the aforementioned U17 Worlds and the UIPM 2025 Laser Run and Biathle/Triathle World Championships in Mossel Bay.

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Rui Lucena (POR) praised the commitment and enthusiasm of the participants, noting the value of hands-on training in a live event setting.

“This was a very enthusiastic and engaged group of students, and it was a pleasure to see the development of their skills over the course,” he said. “The timing is ideal, as these newly certified judges are now well prepared to contribute to two major UIPM competitions in South Africa later this year. I thank the organisers and all participants for their commitment to excellence.”

Frans van Niekerk, President of the South African Modern Pentathlon Association, described the course as an important milestone for the national federation.

“It is an exciting time for us as hosts, and this course was a vital part of our preparations,” he said. “We are proud to see such strong interest and participation from across the country, and grateful to UIPM for the support.

“We’re confident that the judges who earned their certification here will play an important role in ensuring fair and smooth competition for all athletes in the exciting competitions coming soon to Johannesburg and Mossel Bay.”