



**PANATHLON INTERNATIONAL**

LUDIS IUNGIT



## *75th Anniversary*

*Panathlon Club Venezia and Panathlon International*

## *Flambeau d'Or*

*in memory of Antonio Spallino*

**Venice, 19 September 2026**

**10:00 a.m.**

*Scuola Grande San Giovanni Evangelista*



## Program

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- 10.00 am Guest registration
- 10.30 am Welcome addresses by Panathlon officials
- 10.40 am Addresses by the Authorities
- 10.50 am *"Panathlon Venice 1951–2026. Sport that educates, culture that unites"*  
Introduced by *Dr Roberto Papetti, Editor-in-Chief of "Il Gazzettino"*
- 11.00 am Lectio Magistralis:  
- Prof. Andrea Rinaldo  
- Prof. Mattia Losi
- 11.50 am *"Flambeau d'Or – Award in memory of A. Spallino"*:  
Introduced by *Luca Ginetto, President of Panathlon Club Perugia*  
*former President of Panathlon Club Venezia*
- 12.00 pm *Award ceremony for:*  
- *Francesca Porcellato*  
- *Bashir Abdi*
- 12.50 pm Closing of the ceremony
- 1.00 pm Cocktail reception in the Sala delle Colonne
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## Scuola Grande San Giovanni Evangelista - Venice

*Founded in 1261, it is one of the oldest and most prestigious Scuole Grandi of Venice. The complex, renowned for its extraordinary Renaissance architecture, is graced by the monumental staircase designed by Mauro Codussi and the magnificent marble partition by Pietro Lombardo. To this day, it remains one of the most significant sites in Venetian history, art, and culture.*

*The Scuola houses the precious relic of the Holy Cross, at the heart of a centuries-old tradition of faith, art, and Venetian history.*

*A setting of extraordinary prestige to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the Panathlon Club Venezia and Panathlon International.*

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# "75th Anniversary Celebration"



## *"Panathlon Venice 1951–2026: Sport that Educates, culture that unites"*

edited by Roberto Papetti, Editorial Director of "Il Gazzettino"

**ROBERTO PAPETTI**, (BERGAMO, 1960) IS A JOURNALIST.

*He began his career at the daily news paper BergamoOggi, later specializing in economic and financial news.*

*He worked on the editorial teams of Gente-Money and Capital, eventually becoming their central editor-in-chief.*

*In 1994, he was appointed deputy editor-in-chief of the weekly Il Mondo (RCS Group), later moving to Corriere della Sera as economics editor-in-chief. From 2001 to 2006, he served as deputy editor-in-chief of Il Giornale.*

*Since July 2006, he has been editor-in-chief of Il Gazzettino, a historic daily news paper in northeastern Italy, leading its editorial and digital innovation efforts.*

*In September 2026, he took up the role of Editorial Director.*

*In 2011, he received the "City of Mestre Sport Award" from the Panathlon Club Mestre.*

*Throughout his career, he has closely covered economic issues, institutions, and regional development, establishing himself as one of the most authoritative voices in Italian journalism.*



## *"Flambeau d'Or – Award in Memory of A. Spallino"*

presented by Luca Ginetto, former President of the Panathlon Club Venezia, and President of the Panathlon Club Perugia since 2024

**LUCA GINETTO** was born in Venice on August 27, 1963.

*As early as 1984, he began his journalistic career with the daily newspaper La Nuova Venezia.*

*In 1988, he moved to the radio and television sector, working for private broadcasters; then, in 1999, he joined the Venice regional office of RAI.*

*From the very beginning, he began collaborating with Raisport, providing commentary on nearly all sports disciplines as well as live coverage of the Freccie Tricolori on Rai Uno.*



*His career progressed steadily, and in 2017 he became Deputy Editor-in-Chief and, in 2021, he assumed the role of Editor-in-Chief of Rai Tgr Umbria after relocating to Solomeo (Perugia).*

### **PANATHLON**

*He joined the **Panathlon Club Venezia** in 2006. Within just two years, he was elected to the Board of Directors. From 2010 to 2013, he served as Vice President, and from 2014 to 2019 as President. During these six years, he was an ex officio member of the Board of Directors of the **P.I. Domenico Chiesa Cultural Foundation**.*

*Upon his move to Umbria, he immediately joined the **Panathlon Club Perugia** and assumed the presidency in January 2024, launching an intensive revitalization program based on the experience he had gained in Venice.*

*For Panathlon International, he oversaw the production of the video celebrating the organization's 75th anniversary, which aired during the Milan-Cortina 2026 Olympic Games*

## ***"Preserving Venice: Water, the Territory, and Teamwork"***

Lectio Magistralis by Prof. Andrea Rinaldo

**ANDREA RINALDO** (Venice, 1954) graduated with honors in Hydraulic Engineering from the University of Padua and earned his PhD from Purdue University (USA).

He is Professor Emeritus at the École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne (EPFL) and the University of Padua, where he taught for over forty years. He is President of the Istituto Veneto di Scienze, Lettere ed Arti of Venice.

He is a member of prestigious international scientific academies, including the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences, the U.S. National Academy of Sciences, and the Accademia Nazionale dei Lincei. In 2023, he received the Stockholm Water Prize—the world's most prestigious award in the field of water sciences—from His Majesty the King of Sweden. Alongside his scientific work, he has had a distinguished career in rugby. As Italy's national team player No. 326 (4 appearances), he captained the Under-20 national team and was a three-time Italian champion with Petrarca Rugby, where he also served as president for seven years. For over twenty years, he served on the Board of Directors of the organization responsible for European club competitions (now European Professional Club Rugby), representing the Italian Rugby Federation and, subsequently, the Irish, Scottish, and Welsh federations.

In 2026, the Italian Rugby Federation awarded him the **"Ovale d'Oro con Fronda"** in recognition of over forty years of service to Italian rugby



## ***"Knowledge for Decision-Making: Culture, Responsibility, and the Future of the Next Generations"***

Lectio Magistralis by Prof. Mattia Losi

**MATTIA LOSI** (Milan, 1961) is a journalist and editorial manager.

After interrupting his medical studies, he joined the **Gruppo 24 ORE** in 1990, where he spent his entire career until 2023, holding numerous leadership positions.

He served as editor-in-chief of the IT and New Economy sections, Chief Content Officer overseeing the Group's Internet portals, editorial director of **Il Sole 24 Ore Business Media**, editor-in-chief of over 60 periodicals, columnist, and head of special projects. He also spearheaded the launch of the Management Section at **Il Sole 24 Ore.com**, served as Editorial Secretary for the daily newspaper, and subsequently worked on the Group's strategic development, designing new editorial formats and new business lines. From 2020 to 2023, he was **Head of Research at 24 Ore Ricerche e Studi**, a division he conceived and launched. He has taught in master's programs and university courses at the IED in Milan, the University of Milan, the University of Pavia, and, in 2024, Ca' Foscari University of Venice, where he taught in the Advanced Course **"Communicating complexity."**

Among the awards he has received are the **SMAU Prize for Journalism on Information Technology** (1990) and the **Saint-Vincent Prize for Economics** (2000). In 2020, he published the essay **"The Next Pandemic,"** dedicated to analyzing the causes and prospects of major public health emergencies.

He has always nurtured a deep passion for art and sports. He has practiced judo, soccer, swimming, tennis, basketball, and mountaineering, and has also worked as a coach and athletic trainer. He has also performed in concerts as a soloist in sacred and operatic music and is passionate about painting. He paints instinctively, as if the 16th century had never passed.



## 75th Anniversary and Flambeau d'Or Panathlon celebrates, in Venice, its history and the values of sport

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On Saturday, September 19, 2026, in the prestigious setting of the **Scuola Grande di San Giovanni Evangelista**, **Panathlon International** and the **Panathlon Club Venezia** will celebrate the 75th anniversary of their founding.

Founded right here in Venice in 1951, Panathlon has, over the past seventy-five years, built an international presence dedicated to spreading the ethical values of sports and promoting fair play, friendship, sports culture, and respect for the individual.

The celebration will be highlighted by the presentation of the Movement's highest honor: the **"Flambeau d'Or Award – in memory of A. Spallino"**.

This Prize was established to honor individuals who, through their example and actions, have made a significant contribution to the advancement of the ethical and cultural principles of sports worldwide.

The recognition is typically presented every four years.

Today, Panathlon is present in **32 Countries** and continues to work through its Clubs and members to ensure that sport increasingly serves as a tool for education, personal growth, inclusion, respect, and solidarity.

The event in Venice is a particularly significant occasion: a chance to pay tribute to Panathlon's roots, recall its history, and renew its mission, reaffirming the relevance of the principles that inspired its founding and that continue to guide its actions around the world today.

## Flambeau d'Or Laureates

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### Francesca Porcellato

*Full of enthusiasm, the "flying redhead" is one of the greatest champions in the history of world sports, capable of transitioning from track and field to Nordic skiing and then to cycling, excelling in every discipline.*

*"Cycling came into my life during the years I was cross-country skiing, as a form of training during the summer months.*

*With Paris 2024, she celebrated her 12th appearance at the Paralympic Games (a total of 9 Summer Games, from Seoul 1988 to Tokyo2020 and 3 Winter Games, from Turin 2006, through Vancouver 2010 and Sochi 2014).*

*In 2021, she received the "Antonio Serena Award - a life for Sport" from the Panathlon Club Mestre.*

*Her family and her partner, who is also her coach, are the pillars of her life, ever since she was struck by a truck at 18 months old while playing near her home, leaving her paraplegic.*



### Bashir Abdi

*A Belgian long-distance runner born in Mogadishu, Somalia, he lived for a year and a half as refugee in Ethiopia before reuniting with his mother in Belgium at the age of 13.*

*Throughout his career, he has achieved remarkable results, including a silver medal in the 10,000 meters at the 2018 European Championships, a bronze medal in the marathon at the 2020 Tokyo Olympics, a bronze medal at the 2022 World Championships in Eugene and a silver medal at the 2024 Paris Olympics, becoming the first Belgian male athlete to win individual medals at both the Olympic Games and the World Athletics Championships.*

*Alongside his athletic career, he stands out for his social commitment: he is the founder of Sportaround, a Ghent-based nonprofit that promotes social inclusion and youth development through sports, with a particular focus on children from vulnerable backgrounds.*

*It is precisely because of this extraordinary combination of athletic excellence and social commitment that the University of Ghent awarded him an Institutional Doctorate Honoris Causa.*



# Palmares Flambeau d'Or – Panathlon International

**1972**

*Avery Brundage*  
for culture

*Willi Daume*  
for organization

*Giulio Onesti*  
for promotion

**1984**

*Franco Carraro*  
for culture

*Mario Vazquez Raña*  
for organization

*João Havelange*  
for promotion

**1996**

*Hans Erni*  
for culture

*Gerhard Heiberg*  
for organization

*Edson Arantes do  
Nascimento Pelè*  
for promotion

**2008**

*Gudrun Doll-Tepper*  
for culture

*Hein Verbruggen*  
for organization

*Oscar Pistorius*  
for promotion

**1976**

*Lord Killanin*  
for culture

*Juan Antonio Samaranch*  
for organization

*Marc Hodler*  
for promotion

**1988**

*Giulio Andreotti*  
for culture

*Aselmo Lopez*  
for organization

*Un Yuong Kim*  
for promotion

**2000**

*Zhenliang He*  
for culture

*Michael Knight*  
for organization

*S.A.S. Principe  
Alberto di Monaco*  
for promotion

**2014**

*Norbert Müller*  
for culture

*Sir Philip Craven*  
for organization

*Susan Lynn Bissel*  
for promotion

**1980**

*Nikolaos Nissiotis*  
for culture

*Beppe Croce*  
for the organization

*Mohamed Mzali*  
for promotion

**1992**

*Raymond Gafner*  
for culture

*Pasqual Maragall y Mira*  
for the organization

*Jacques Rogge*  
for promotion  
*Sisto Favre*  
Flambeau d'honneur

**2004**

*Bruno Grandi*  
for culture

*Gianna Angelopoulos*  
for the organization

*Sergei Bubka*  
for promotion

**2018**

*Jean-Claude Killy*

**2022**

*Thomas Bach*

**2026**

*Francesca Porcellato  
Bashir Abdi*

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