

Fiona May – Champion athlete who advocates for young people through sport

Fiona May, born on 12 December 1969 in Slough, England, is a retired Italian champion long jumper who holds 11 international medals, including three world titles and two Olympic silver medals.

She discovered athletics at the age of 12 thanks to the encouragement of her physical education teacher and coach. Her talent quickly emerged, and she became one of the youngest athletes on the British team at the 1988 Seoul Olympic Games.

After completing her studies in economics and business management, Fiona moved to Italy, married Italian pole vaulter Gianni Iapichino and began competing for Italy. She still holds the Italian national long jump record.

From 2013 to 2017, Fiona served as an athlete representative on the Italian Olympic Committee. In 2014, she was appointed by the president of the Italian Football Federation to lead its integration commission, promoting diversity and inclusion in sport. She also serves as head of delegation for the Italian women's Under-19 football team, supporting young female athletes in their development.

Fiona has been a member of the UEFA Foundation for Children's board of trustees since 24 May 2017 and in 2025, she was appointed UEFA foundation ambassador. In this new role, she helps promote the foundation's mission to improve the lives of vulnerable children through sport, raise awareness of its projects and represent its values to the public and partners.

She undertook an Executive Master in Global Sport Governance to deepen her impact in sports leadership, graduating in 2018.

Her commitment to young people and sport is also reflected in her work with international organisations, including the Salesian Missions, with which she has engaged with street children in Ethiopia, teaching them the values of sport: respect, determination, teamwork and resilience.