

PAHF REPORT TO THE CONGRESS (Bi-Annual)

Committee/Panel: Athletes committee

Date: 09/27/2025

Submitted by: Cesar Paul Garcia Gomez.

**Pan American Hockey Federation Athletes Committee:**

- **Katie Bam**
- **Teresa Lezama**
- **Justin Catlin**
- **Camila Caram**
- **Manuela Vilar del Valle**
- **Miguel de Solminihac**
- **Marco Cabezudo**
- **Cesar Garcia**

I would like to place on record my heartfelt thanks to all the members who contributed to the achievements of this committee during the reporting period. The Athletes' Committee members dedicate their time whenever possible — despite everyone's personal and professional commitments — and when we cannot meet virtually, we take advantage of international events to connect, share ideas, and discuss our initiatives in person.

We were pleased to have strong participation in the **FIH Athletes Committee**, and we continue to be proudly represented by **Camila Caram**, who serves as a member of the FIH Committee — a great honor for PAHF.

During this period, we also decided to establish a **direct connection with team captains**. We sought in-person feedback from athletes, especially captains, at various continental tournaments.

Below is the list of captains (names and countries) who generously shared their time and insights with us — to all of them, I am deeply grateful.

Patricia Mujica, Venezuela

Maria Pianetti, Puerto Rico

Kersthy Montenegro, Panama

Maria Hernandez, Guatemala

Jennifer Chisnall, Bermuda

Raudin Simanca, Venezuela

Eduardo Gordon, Panama

Rasheed Johnston, Jamaica

Jordache Rawson, Bermuda

Carlos Villatoro, Guatemala

Gabriella Xavier, Guyana

Paula Pistilli, Paraguay

Maria Granatto, Argentina

Manuela Urroz, Chile

Fernanda Oviedo Mexico

Patrick Harris, USA

Matias Rey, Argentina

Juan Sosa, Mexico

We encouraged the establishment of Athletes' Committees within the National Associations (NAs). However, we understand that many athletes are currently focused on their playing careers and may not have the time to take on additional responsibilities. Therefore, we believe it would be helpful to engage directly with the NAs and ask them to recommend players who have the energy and availability to help develop these committees in their respective countries so we can work together.

If we can involve more players in this movement, we could create a large forum to discuss topics such as athlete health, career preparation and management, and other important matters.

This committee did not receive any previous information or records of work from past terms, so we started with fresh ideas, building from the basics and meeting players personally.

Fortunately, I was able to attend several tournaments with my National Association, which allowed me to connect directly with players during these events.

I participated in:

Pan American Challenge W 20,24 Bermuda

CAC Callegne W & M 2025 Mexico

Jr Pan American Challenge W & M 2025, Barbados

Pan American Cup W & M 2025, Uruguay

Jr Pan American Games W & M 2025, Paraguay

**How did you get here? / What was your journey like to reach this level?**

**Are you familiar with the new rules? Do you have any questions about them?**

**How do you find the organization of this event — food, transportation, logistics?**

**What would you like to know or learn about PAHF?**

**How do you feel about this tournament? Are the number of games and the schedule appropriate?**

**Is there anything you would like to share with us — suggestions, concerns, or ideas?**

It is difficult to ensure that all players are interested in participating, especially when many are not yet aware that this Athletes' Committee (ATH) exists. The reactions we receive vary greatly depending on the country, which has been very interesting to observe.

For now, I can say that players from countries with less visibility or support are often the most eager to engage — they have a lot to say, and it's inspiring to see how much they want to express themselves. Junior players, on the other hand, usually respond with enthusiasm and positivity; everything feels new and exciting for them.

We clearly need the National Associations (NAs) to be more involved with their players and to help establish their own Athletes' Committees at the national level.

### **Our Challenges for the Coming Years**

- Maintain ongoing communication with team captains.
- Encourage NAs to nominate and promote a player who can initiate their own Athletes' Committee.
- Create a forum that connects all National Athletes' Committees.
- Develop a 2026–2027 activity calendar.
- Ensure our presence and hold meetings prior to each continental tournament.

### **Our Future Priorities**

- Increase participation in all forums and discussions.
- Strengthen our presence within every National Association.
- Engage as many players as possible in our activities.
- Make the Athletes' Committee (ATH) more visible at all PAHF events.
- Continue our active involvement in FIH committees.



Cesar Garcia

Chair PAHF ATH