

PAN AMERICAN HOCKEY FEDERATION CONGRESS 2023

Sheraton Hotel & Convention Center, Santiago, Chile

31st October 2023- 8am

Minutes

Delegates

ARG	Carlos Rafael Pirlo (Secretary)	Sergio Daniel Marcellini
BAR	Kofi Hinds (Secretary)	Justin Taitt
BER	Juliette Ferrari-McComb	Emma Simmons
BRA	Bruno Silva (President)	
CAN	Mary Cicinelli	
CHI	Andrés León De Witt Hepp (president)	Lawrence Robert Sargent Blair
CHI	Andrés de Witt (president)	Larry Sargent
CUB	Alex Hernandez (President)	
CRC	Rosibel Quesada Quesada (President)	
DOM	Miguel Angel Hernandez (President)	
ECU	Paolo Guerrero (President)	
ESA	Gerson Ezequiel Hernández Suárez (President)	
GUA	Paolo Camposeco (President)	Brenda Caceres Mendia
GUY	Brian Asregado	
HAI	Aubens Henker FERMINE (president)	
JAM	Fabian L Stewart (President)	
MEX	Daina Fuentes Castelo	
NCA	Huete Lopez Jose Luis	
PAN	Ademir Montenegro Cortes (President)	
PAR	Stella Arrom (Secretary)	Norma Fernandez
PER	Carlos Manuel Lazarte President)	José Antonio Aguirre
PUR	Eleuterio Lastra Serrano (President)	Hector Motta Rios
TTO	Roger St. Rose (President)	Reyah Richardson
URU	Juan L. Espasandín (President)	Danae Andrada

USA	Simon Hoskins (CEO)	Cathy Bessant
VEN	Omar Bastardo (President)	

Welcome and Introductory remarks from the President

The President welcomed the participants to the Forum and Congress of the Pan American Hockey Federation, extending special thanks to the President of the International Hockey Federation Mr. Tayyab Ikram for his presence, to the Chilean Hockey Federation for the outstanding work carried out—initiated under the presidency of Walter Kramer and concluded during the term of Andrés de Witt—, to the Santiago 2023 Corporation, Panam Sports, and the national authorities. Mr. Budeisky also recognized Alfredo Mella, Claudio Serrano, and their collaborators.

The President further welcomed the Delegates to the Congress, the Board of Directors, President Emeritus Antonio von Ondarza, Honorary Board Member Sue Neill, Members of Committees and Panels in attendance and the special guests.

Forum

The Forum was formally declared open, after which the floor was given to the FIH President, Mr. Tayyab Ikram.

Presentation: Hockey ID

The representatives of Hockey ID from Chile — Daniela Caram, Rodrigo Hernández, and Florencia Villaseca — and from Paraguay — Vicky Pazos and Fabián Romero, who represented their Federations in Berlin, were introduced.

In line with PAHF's commitment to supporting hockey in all its expressions, the incorporation of Mr. Miguel de Solminihaç, Captain of the Chilean Hockey ID team, into the PAHF Athletes Committee was announced.

The President's Award was presented to:

- Ms. Camila Caram and Mr. Rodrigo Hernández (Chile) for their outstanding work with Hockey ID athletes.
- Ms. Vicky Pazos and Mr. Fabián Romero (Paraguay) for their dedication and success in leading the Hockey ID program in their country.

Following this, Mr. Tayyab Ikram presented opportunities related to Olympic Solidarity.

Development Session: National Development Plans

As part of PAHF's ongoing support for the development of hockey, work has been undertaken jointly with National Associations to prepare a series of documents aimed at the creation of National Development Plans. Comments on this initiative were provided by Mr. Pablo Mendoza.

Sustainability

PAHF reaffirmed its commitment to join FIH's efforts to raise awareness within the hockey community about the importance of living in a more sustainable environment.

Ms. Gissele Toro, a member of both the Chilean and Pan American hockey families and recipient of the International FIFA–CIES Award for the Postgraduate Diploma in Sports Management, presented her project on sustainability.

PAHF President Report (Circulated previously)

After a challenging post-COVID period, in-person activities gradually resumed, and we were even able to hold our long-delayed Congress in 2022 during the Pan American Cup in Chile.

It became clear that many countries, for different reasons, either lost continuity in hockey development activities, lost participants interested in the sport due to the long lockdown or saw their sports facilities repurposed to address needs arising from the pandemic.

We considered it important to support countries with smaller or less numerous hockey communities by granting them the opportunity to host our events, thereby allowing them to showcase the sport once again. In this way, the Junior World Cup Qualifier was held in Barbados and the Hockey5s Qualifier in Jamaica. Both Caribbean countries, with great effort, rose to the occasion.

We enthusiastically supported the development and new initiatives of the International Federation, which, with the introduction of the Hockey5s World Cup, gave a different group of countries the opportunity to compete at the highest world level.

We continued to foster development in Central America, the youngest group in the Pan American family. After financially supporting a tournament in the region for more than 10 years, progress has been made with some of these countries competing in the Hockey5s World Cup Qualifier, umpires from the region obtaining international accreditation, and judges officiating at the most recent edition of the Central American and Caribbean Games.

In 2022, we also collaborated to ensure that this group of countries held their first regional 11-a-side tournament in Panama.

In El Salvador, the country selected for the FIH "Start Hockey" special project, we have collaborated in the growth and development of a program that is not only about hockey but also social inclusion, where more than 250 boys and girls of all ages are now benefiting from the activity.

We have worked to support countries that are slowly recovering from domestic challenges that delay hockey development. This is the case of Bolivia, where Santa Cruz de la Sierra is making progress and has secured a hockey

venue, and Nicaragua, which has restarted its activities, to which we have sent equipment and will soon send a coach to train local trainers.

We also welcome the reaffiliation of countries such as Curaçao (formerly the Netherlands Antilles, which was previously a PAHF member), which will be officially announced during the Congress. Bermuda has also received support for its return to international competition, hosting a tournament in 2022.

We have promoted hockey's presence in more multi-sport Games, including participation in the ODESUR South American Games in Rosario with the Hockey5s format.

We signed an agreement with ODESUR for hockey's inclusion at all levels of the South American Games. This opens the door to international participation for all ODESUR member countries without any financial burden for the National Federation, as it is covered by their National Olympic Committee. Moreover, the host country receives legacy facilities that, as in Paraguay, will surely transform the history of local hockey.

Regarding the Central American and Caribbean Games, this event faced several setbacks, beginning with Panama's withdrawal as host, followed by the pandemic, and later El Salvador's limited resources as substitute host. Ultimately, the Games were held for hockey and other sports using existing facilities in the Dominican Republic. Once again, I promoted that the turf, awarded as a prize by FIH to a country in this continent, be sent to the Dominican Republic so that the participating teams could play on a quality surface. With significant effort, this was achieved.

We continued training coaches, umpires, umpires managers, and technical officials throughout the year, both online and with in-person courses tailored to each country's needs. As an innovation, we organized a hybrid (in-person and online) Event Management course in Jamaica with great success, involving more than 60 participants from various countries.

We have set a milestone in inclusive sport, not only by supporting Hockey ID but also by signing an agreement with Special Olympics to continue working on the inclusion of this group of athletes in the Pan American hockey family. With great success, Chile and Paraguay participated in Berlin this year, and surely more National Federations will join the movement.

In terms of inclusion, we also created space for the "Masters" by establishing the Masters Hockey Committee.

And, as I promised back in 2013 in Mendoza, I have continued to work on strengthening PAHF administration. Today we have Panels for Event Bidding, Finance and Risk, and Governance.

None of this would have been possible without the valuable contribution of the Board Members, Committees, and Panels, who selflessly collaborate every day to carry out the work and support the small staff responsible for PAHF's operations.

Committees and Panels Reports were circulated in advance and Committee Chairs were available for questions

Honorary Treasurer's Report

The Honorary Treasurer, Mary Cicinelli, presented the financial accounts to the Congress. The same had been circulated prior to the congress.

Auditor's report 2021-2022

The Honorary Treasurer presented the Auditor's report for the period 2021-2022, which had also been circulated in advance.

Approval of the Accounts .

The accounts were approved.

Approval of the Auditor for next period

USA Field Hockey was appointed as auditor for the next period.

Subscriptions for 2024-2025

No proposal for changes to the subscriptions were presented.

Ratifications for Membership and for Striking of Members

Curaçao was accepted as provisional Member until FIH Congress 2024

Individual Awards – Order of Merit and President's Award

The president presented the **Order of Merit**, a recognition awarded to those who have served 10 years or more on the PAHF Board of Directors or Committees and who have made a significant contribution to PAHF.

1. Mary Cicinelli
2. Gianni Delucchi – in his absence, received by Carlos Manuel Lazarte
3. Yan Huckendubler
4. Soledad Iparraguirre
5. Walter Kramer
6. Victor Tomlinson
7. Nigel Traverso

8. Roque Viegas – in his absence, received by René Zelkin

President's Awards

- Yan Huckendubler – PAHF
- Paolo Camposeco – President, Hockey Guatemala

Honorary Member for life

MaureenCraig-Rousseau

Approval of Statutes amendments and changes

The Congress unanimously approved the changes to the Statutes.

Election of Honorary Treasurer

Mary Cicinelli (CAN) was elected by acclamation until 2027

Election for Ordinary Members of the Board

Election Procedure

ELIGIBILITY OF CANDIDATES

1. Must be Nominated by the National Association for the country of which they are a citizen.
2. Must not be 70 years old on the day of Congress at which they stand for election OR will reach that age within 180 days after.
3. Must accept PAHF Conflict of Interest Policy

COMPOSITION OF THE Board of Directors & VACANCIES

There are 12 Members of the Board, these include as follows:

1. The *President* (elected position)

Mr. Alberto "Coco" Budeisky (ARG) – Not up for election

2. *Treasurer* (elected position)

Ms. Mary Cicinelli (CAN) – Term expires Oct 2023 – up for election.

3. *Eight (8) Ordinary Members* (elected position)

Positions Up for election

In this category only *Ms. Maureen Craig- Rousseau (TTO)* is not eligible for position of Ordinary Board Member

Ms. Maureen Craig- Rousseau (TTO) – Caribbean - Female –Maximum Tenure of 12 years served.

Ms. Bree Gillespie (USA) – North America –Female

Mr. Gianni Delucchi (PER) – South America –Male

Fabian Stewart (JAM)- Caribbean- Male

Not up for elections

Ms. Ann Doggett (CAN) – North America - Female

Mr. Walter Kramer (CHI) – South America –Male

Mr. Ademir Montenegro Cortes – Central America –Male

Ms. Tricia Fiedtkou (GUY) – Caribbean– Female

NB. The Athlete's Representative and Managing Director are appointed positions.

Voting procedures at the PAHF Congress follow the *PAHF Statutes and General Regulations*. All elections for an elected position to the *Board of Directors* require an *Absolute Majority*, which is more than half (1/2) of those present in the room and entitled to vote (**including any abstentions or blank or spoiled votes**).

from among the Eight (8) Ordinary Members, there must be four (4) female members and four (4) male members, and as per Article 6.1 (a) (iii) PAHF Statutes states with... "at least one (1) shall be from North America, at least one (1) shall be from South America, at least one (1) from Central America, and at least one (1) from the Caribbean."

For the 2023 Congress:

The First election is for the position of **Treasurer**:

- a. Delegates must vote for one (1) candidate. If one person receives an **Absolute majority (including any abstentions or blank or spoiled votes)** that is more than half (1/2) of those present in the room and entitled to vote. Then that person is elected.
- or
- b. If neither candidate is supported by an **Absolute Majority (including any abstentions or blank or spoiled votes)** on the first ballot, there shall be a second ballot held and on the second ballot, the candidate who

receives an absolute majority that is more than half (1/2) of those present in the room and entitled to vote. Then that person is elected.

or

- c. If neither candidate is supported by an **Absolute Majority (including any abstentions or blank or spoiled votes)** on the second ballot, then a third ballot will be held and on the third ballot, the candidate with the larger number of votes shall be declared the winner.

or

- d. If there is a tied vote on the third ballot, then following completion of all other elections the members of the Board of Directors present at Congress, with no conflict of interest shall select the winner by **Simple Majority**. (Disregarding any abstentions or blanked or spoiled votes).

The next position for the election is the **ordinary members of the Board of Directors**, there are **two (2) females** and **two (2) male Ordinary members** whose positions are vacant.

To comply with Article 6.1 (a) (iii) of the PAHF Statutes, the following is proposed:

- a. Delegates must vote for two (2) Female candidate and then Two (2) Male Candidate. If one person receives an **Absolute Majority (including any abstentions or blank or spoiled votes)** that is more than half (1/2) of those present in the room and entitled to vote. Then, that person is elected.

or

- b. If any vacancy still remains after the first ballot, there shall be a second and subsequent ballots until all vacancies have been filled. In each such ballot the candidate with the least number of votes will be removed.
- c. A second ballot shall be held. If there are more than two candidates for the post, then only the two candidates who came first and second in the first ballot shall be put forward in the second ballot.

or

- d. If neither candidate is supported by an **Absolute Majority (including any abstentions or blank or spoiled votes)** on the second ballot, there shall be a third ballot.

or

- e. If neither candidate is supported by an **Absolute Majority (including any abstentions or blank or spoiled votes)** on the third ballot, the candidate with the larger number of votes shall be declared the winner.

or

- f. If there is a tied vote on the third ballot, the following completion of all other elections, the members of the Board of Directors present at Congress, with no conflict of interest shall select the winner by Simple Majority. **(Disregarding any abstentions or blanked or spoiled votes).**

Honorary Treasurer

Mrs. Mary Cicinelli was re-elected Honorary Treasurer, by acclamation (until 2027)

Elected Female Board Members

Lauren Crandall (USA) North America (until 2027)

Sylvia Valenzuela (CHI) South America (until 2027)

Elected Male Board Members

Carlos Manuel Lazarte (PER) South America (until 2027)

Fabian Stewart (JAM)- Caribbean (until 2027)

18. Adjournment

12.30 pm

Note all Congress documents are posted in PAHF website: <https://www.panamhockey.org/pahf/congresses/congreso-ordinario-y-foro-se-llevara-a-cabo-en-santiago-chile-el-31-de-octubre-de-2023>