



**Badminton
Pan America**

PRESIDENT REMARKS AGM 2021

Dear friends of the great Badminton Pan Am family,

It has been an incredibly difficult year for all of us and we are still navigating the pandemic challenges and uncertainties. I hope that you and your loved ones are in good health.

It is widely acknowledged that sport can serve as a source of empowerment, inclusion, and inspiration, bringing communities around the world together in its celebration.

Unfortunately, we have to acknowledge the impact that COVID 19 still has on the world on sport. Analyzing what we lived and learned in 2020 where the pandemic led us to try harder to keep the shuttle in the air. While we did not reach all our goals, we have do our best to deliver, innovate activities and re-defining how we work Effort has been put to follow local policies, setting out recommendations, seeking support to safe re-opening of sporting events. I am glad to note that some of our MA have made their best into carrying activities to maximize the benefits that sport can bring in the age of COVID 19.

We know the potential of sport in our region has not yet been fully realized and it's in this matter that we take an approach in identifying the critical issues, involvement of relevant stakeholders and formulating practical tools to reach out our member associations and try to assist them in moving forward with our sport. This is the real purpose of our work.

We would have love to have this opportunity to get together but due to ongoing restrictions this was not possible and is for this reason that our AGM will be held virtually.

Throughout all of this, we've put the safety of the athletes, coaches and support staff first and foremost. And by working so closely, we have made sure this has been a collaborative, consensual effort to create the safest possible environments for everyone involved. The progress made during the year is testament to BPAC clear purpose, our values and resilient capacity.

Therefore, I am pleased to report the main actions that have taken place since May 2020 to date, which for a greater understanding I have divided into the following blocks: Events, Development, Communications.

As for the **Events** area, 2020 has been a rough year due to the pandemic with 21 of our tournaments being cancelled or postponed due to the strict regulations and for the safety of our badminton family, while 2021 looked brighter and we were able to deliver our Pan Am Individual Championship with the participation of 12 countries, being one of the few Confederations that has been able to hold a Continental Championship, in these times of pandemic, and very important, to provide WR Points toward their Qualification for Tokyo Games!!! Our Junior Pan Am in Acapulco, Mexico was a success in the hands of Mexico BA team, with very good participation numbers. We hosted Team and Individual events in Acapulco. Also, for the 2nd half of this year, we expect that Associations as Guatemala, Mexico, Dominican Republic and El Salvador will deliver their events in benefit of our players!!



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I am very proud of the 20 athletes who represented Pan American badminton at the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games, it is the largest number of badminton players in the entire history of the Olympic Games! I am sure, you have inspired a new generation of Olympians!!

As for the area of **Development**, virtuality was the key point that allowed us to stay close to you, offering new seasons of the BPAC Coach Corner programme covering different topics (injuries, mental training, para badminton...) till last scientific researches done in our sport and other workshops where provided (strategic planning, dartfish software) that invited us to continue training ourselves. In addition, the virtual trainings also allowed us to meet new Shuttle Time Teachers in the region.

AirBadminton showed to be a great opportunity for our MA's to keep active and deliver outdoor activities, several activities were organized, Pan Am assist with equipment, workshops on the Rules for the tournaments to come, and it was possible to deliver two face-to-face activities, one of them our Continental Launch in Mexico with the objective to create partnerships and networks to help the growth and implementation of future projects, and the Legacy regional launch in Guatemala during April with the Individual Championships, proved very successful due to the integration of local stakeholders.

As for **Communications Area** is our core strength that place a high priority on regular communication with our members through the website, email, activities articles that have allow us to keep our members up to date. There has been a huge spike in internet traffic during the pandemic. A positive point is that many are becoming better at using and accessing communication technologies, which may be more beneficial moving forward.

Future challenges

Our athletes are dreaming big, our coaches continue to train, our technical officials are pursuing new goals, and the invaluable work of each Association is the driving force for all this.

The Junior Pan American Games Cali 2021 are just around the corner (November) expectation to see the best of young athletes from 22 countries representing the future of each of their countries is great and with the decision to have an open television signal it is going to be an amazing window to promote our sport.

For 2022 we have the challenge to deliver our 3 Pan Am Championships, a great responsibility. We have the Team Championships in February in Acapulco; Individual Championships in San Salvador and the Junior Pan Am in Santo Domingo.

Also, we had BWF Elections as part of the 2021 AGM and we have now as part of BWF Council, Mrs. Pilar Carrillo and Mr. Jose Del Busto for whom we wish the best in their term serving BWF. Please also consider our recognition to Mr. Wayne Somers, who has been serving with BWF and currently is assisting us in the position of Treasurer.

I also want to thank our MA's for the confidence placed in your Pan Am ExCo, we pledge to serve you to the best of our abilities and to ensure that Pan Am is the best run CC. The board would also like to thank the membership for your support over the past year and in the future to keep in play the Pan Am Shuttle.



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Finally, I would like to reiterate my constant willingness to support your possible endeavors and have the support of all our staff of the Pan Am office led by German Valdez, who will gladly be able to assist you, their commitment and contribution to the efficient operation of the office and the success of our activities as well as their ongoing effort to work safely during this pandemic.

Thank you ExCo members.
Thanks a lot.