



AGM 2020 VIRTUAL

PRESIDENT REMARKS

Dear friends of the great Badminton Pan Am Family

I would like to start by wishing you and your families my personal best—for your health and safety in these difficult times. I would also like to express my profound gratitude to all those doctors, nurses, and workers who are serving so selflessly on the front lines of this health crisis

In your countries.

To safeguard the health of athletes and others involved, most major sporting events at international, regional and national levels have been cancelled or postponed – from marathons to football tournaments, athletics championships to badminton games, handball to ice hockey, rugby, cricket, sailing, skiing, weightlifting to wrestling and more. The Olympics and Paralympics, for the first time in the history of the modern games, have been postponed, and will be held in 2021.

The Pandemic has taken away our opportunity to be together physically and believe me that I had great desires to be able to share personally with all of you. That is why I hope that soon we can be together again to talk without barriers about the future of our sport.

As time was passing, we had to generate this virtual assembly. We asked you our members to decide on this virtual AGM and the majority agreed thereof. as our world federation did last July and in which almost all of our countries have participated. In this sense, and in the face of compliant with our statutes governing us, we have proposed the holding this AGM with a reduced agenda, in the hope of complementing it at our next assembly on 2021.

Therefore, I am pleased to report the main actions that have taken place since May 2019 to date, which for a greater understanding I have divided it into the following blocks: Events, Development, Agreements and Communications.

As for EVENTS and without fear of making mistakes, 2019 was a very successful year for our sport, in which we were able to organize the Pan American and Para Pan American Games with a marked success from start to finish.

A total of 22 countries participated in these Games, of which 3 participated for the first in Badminton... for this reason, we welcome Bolivia, Colombia and Panama

The Para badminton shone with its own light, its debut on the circuit was really spectacular to the point IPC and BWF has opted to increase the number of spots for Santiago 2023 and that fills us with pride. As for the podium, 7 out of 11 countries got on the podium for the first time and we are very pleased with this

A month earlier, in August 2019 Giuliana Póveda positioned the name of Peru and all of America by reaching the title of World Champion in the SH6 class in Basel, Switzerland, where for the first time Badminton and Para badminton were joined in a single program.

As for continental tournaments, Future series, International series and International Challenge we closed the year with a total of 48 tournaments, a situation that challenged us to offer world-class tournament settings and with an offer of higher Ranking points.. At this point I must thank and congratulate all the countries that have hosted these tournaments.

As for the area of DEVELOPMENT, the activity of Shuttle Time has remained uphill reaching more children with whom we have added in the last year more than 100,000 schoolchildren and about 1,200 teachers and tutors. Similarly, we have a greater training offer for teachers aspiring to the program through the BWF Online component.

On the coaches' side and the route of having better professionals it has been our distinct pleasure to host in Lima the pilot course for level 3 in done by BWF, where 14 of our best coaches on the Continent. Participated.

One fact that has caught the attention of the last Pan American Games has been the increase of the number of national born coaches directing their national, 91%.

In addition, most of the athletes who have reached bronze medals have participated in at least one of our programs or athlete camps developed by Pan Am.

To close the year, Argentina made history with the first Coach Level 1 integrated course where module 13 disability was included for the first time worldwide. In this sense, we have integrated the Para badminton from its root making the phrase: A sport, a family.

Before the beginning of Pan Am Games Lima 2019, we renewed in Lima our agreement with Special Olympics Latin America. This will consolidate the development of our sport in the population of people with intellectual disabilities, the same as since 2015, in which we started the agreement. We have added more than 2000 active athletes, highlighting the work of Colombia, Cuba, El Salvador, Guatemala and Paraguay.

With the advent of the Pandemic and everything it brought with it, we have been forced to generate activities through the Internet, the same ones that have given a high prominence to our area of COMMUNICATIONS, thus generating a great acceptance of our followers.

Under the premise of serving each of the stakeholders, we have generated content for our coaches to whom we have offered to date, more than **40 live programs**, 2 times per week and in 3 languages (English, Spanish and French) by experts from América and around the world. At this point I should appreciate the collaboration of all, including BWF, for providing us with interesting research work that everyone can review on our YouTube channel.

For our community of athletes we created a virtual tournament called HOMECUP and that has reached both badminton and Para badminton athletes. For them and for our technical officers our sincere thanks.

Likewise we created the program called "Talking about rules" for our community of technical officials where important aspects that need to be taken care of in each meeting were analyzed.

These activities, in addition to the relaunch of our magazine "Pan Am Shuttle" have generated quality content which has made possible an increase in both traffic and followers on our website and social networks that we are very pleased with. In this sense, not all have been bad news about the staggered cancellation of almost all our tournaments planned for this year, but there have also been many possibilities to continue doing Badminton in spite of everything.

Future challenges:

I do not want to talk only about what we did, I also want to talk to you a little about the great opportunities that will come in the future, the first of them is the MAs CATEGORIZATION that BWF has structured by which every two years we will have the possibility to climb one more step in terms of strengthening our sport at the level of member associations.

In addition, AirBadminton will soon be part of our schedules of activities and our offer of competence as soon as we return to normal. For this reason, I invite you to disseminate it and organize yourself in all its details.

By now you would have received the Member's grant from BWF and it is my hope that we (Pan Am) could lobby for more funding to our MA's in the future.

The inaugural Cali 2021 Pan American Youth Games are just around the corner and represent the link we needed to strengthen our competitive level from the ground up. It will certainly be for a great challenge and I am sure many of you will be present.

To say goodbye, I would like to reiterate my constant willingness to support your possible endeavors and also have the support of all of our staff of the Pan Am Office led today by Germán Valdez, who will gladly be able to assist you.

I make a special mention of our former COO, Ms. Pilar Carrillo.

Pilar resigned her position on December 31, 2019 after spending over 12 years with the PAN AM Office.

WE have grown under her stewardship and she leaves us with a well-organized and professional office.

Under her stewardship, we have seen tremendous growth in our office structure ..from 1 person to currently 9..improvements in our governance and administrative structure. Growth within our events circuit and many more activities related to her management of Pan Am Badminton.

She has served well and faithful. She stood with the Pan Am organization in a time when we faced a lot of difficulties. Especially right after the 2007 Rio Pan Am Games.

To Pilar, A Big BIG thank you on behalf of the entire Pan Am Community for your dedication, vision and stellar service to Badminton in Pan America.

To the staff ably led by German, I thank you on behalf of the MA's for the great work being done during this pandemic. German, please pass on our sincerest appreciation to the staff. Well done guys.

I also want to thank you our MA's for the confidence placed in your Panam Exco during the past election and we pledge to serve you to the best of our abilities and to ensure that Pan Am is the best run CC.

Thank you Exco members, Anil, Chepe, Zarko, Gonzalo, Generoso, Javier, Gokarn & Wayne .

Thanks a lot!