



**PAN AMERICAN
HOCKEY FEDERATION**

STATUTES

**Approved by Congress
October 25th 2011**

PAN AMERICAN HOCKEY FEDERATION

STATUTES

ARTICLE 1 – NAME

- 1.1 The Federation shall be called the “Pan American Hockey Federation”.
- 1.2 The official initials of the Federation are “PAHF”

ARTICLE 2 – AUTHORITY

The PAHF derives its authority from and works in collaboration with the FIH. In carrying out its responsibilities the PAHF shall at all times work in conformity with such directions as may from time to time be given by the Executive Board of the FIH. Authority in respect of the areas of responsibility may be withdrawn by the FIH at any time.

ARTICLE 3 – OFFICIAL SEAT

The official seat of the PAHF is at the address of the Hon. Secretary General of the PAHF or at such other place as may from time to time be decided by the Board.

ARTICLE 4 - INTERPRETATION

- 4.1 In these Statutes, the Bye-Laws and the Rules and Regulations, unless the context otherwise requires, the following words and expressions have the meanings set out opposite:

Athlete Any player who takes part in any event approved and/or controlled by the PAHF or the FIH or a National Federation.

Bye-Laws The Bye-Laws of the PAHF made in accordance with the provisions of these Statutes and includes all amendments, alterations and re-enactments.

CAS The Court of Arbitration for Sport in Lausanne, Switzerland.

Committees The committees appointed by the Board under Article 9.5(c).

Congress	The Congress of the PAHF referred to in Article 8.
Board of Directors	The Board of Directors of the PAHF referred to in Article 9.
Country	The whole country, state, territory or part of a territory as recognized by the PAHF and the FIH in its absolute discretion to be the zone of judicial control of a NA and identical to that of the NOC of the country as recognized by the IOC in so far as a NOC exists.
Event	A hockey match, tournament or competition.
FIH	The International Hockey Federation.
The Federation And PAHF	The Pan American Hockey Federation hereby constituted.
Hockey	The game of (field) hockey including both outdoor and indoor hockey.
IOC	The International Olympic Committee.
Jurisdictional Body	The Congress, the Board of Directors (or any body or official designated by the Board) and the Disciplinary Committee who are by these Statutes, the Bye-Laws and the Rules and Regulations vested with the jurisdictional powers of the PAHF.
Member	A NA duly affiliated to the PAHF and, subject to Article 7, includes an adherent Member.
NA	A National Association or Federation of a country which is the recognized central authority responsible for all matters relating to the administration, organization and playing of Hockey in that country and recognized as such by its respective NOC.
NOC	The National Olympic Committee of a country as recognized by the IOC.
Office Bearers	The President, Hon. Secretary General, Hon. Treasurer.

Simple Majority	Majority of votes cast.
Absolute Majority	More than 1/2 of those present and entitled to vote.
Special Majority	More than 3/4 of those present and entitled to vote.
Rules and Regulations	Any rules or regulations made in accordance with these Statutes and includes all amendments, alterations and re-enactments thereof.

- 4.2 These Statutes shall be written in both the Spanish and English (the official) languages. In the event of any differences of interpretation, the English text shall prevail.

ARTICLE 5 – OBJECTS

The objects of the PAHF shall be to encourage, promote, develop and control hockey, including indoor hockey, at all levels throughout the Americas including North, South and Central America and the Caribbean, in accordance with the scope and extent of the activity and responsibility delegated by the FIH.

To this effect, the PAHF shall:

- 5.1 Conduct itself and take such administrative, financial or other actions as are necessary and in conformity with and in furtherance of its objects.
- 5.2 Support and maintain the ideals and objects of the Olympic movement and in particular the fight against doping ;
- 5.3 Exercise jurisdiction over and resolve disputes or disagreements between Members, between Athletes and the PAHF;
- 5.4 Establish and maintain an efficient administration;
- 5.5 Preserve the independence of the PAHF in all matters directly or indirectly concerning hockey without the intervention of any outside authority;
- 5.6 Receive donations, gifts and bequests and make the same in line with the policies of the PAHF for the welfare and benefit of athletes and others as the Board deems fit.

ARTICLE 6 – POWERS

In furtherance of its objects the PAHF may:

- 6.1 Define the rules governing eligibility for hockey played under the jurisdiction of the PAHF in conformity with the rules made by the FIH to be observed by all its members;
- 6.2 Enforce the rules of Hockey as made by the FIH uniformly for all hockey matches throughout the continent;
- 6.3 Raise funds for the activities of the PAHF by all available means including from fees, levies and subscriptions, royalties, sponsorships and the licensing or assignment of commercial and other rights;
- 6.4 Establish rules and/or regulations for the conduct of Events under the jurisdiction of the PAHF consistent with the rules and regulations of the FIH;
- 6.5 Employ and pay and terminate the employment of any person or persons to supervise, organize and carry out the work of the PAHF;
- 6.6 Purchase, take on lease or in exchange or otherwise acquire any property or other rights and privileges necessary for the promotion of its objects and construct, maintain and alter any buildings or premises necessary for the work of the PAHF;
- 6.7 Sell, let, mortgage, dispose of or turn to account all or any of the property or assets of the PAHF;
- 6.8 Invest the funds of the PAHF not immediately required in or on such investments, securities or property as may be thought fit by the Board of Directors subject to any conditions as may for the time being be imposed by the Board of Directors or required by law; and,
- 6.9 Take such lawful action as is necessary or desirable for the attainment of the objects of the PAHF.

ARTICLE 7 – MEMBERSHIP (Appendix A)

- 7.1 Only National Associations of countries in the Americas which are formally affiliated to the FIH shall be eligible to become members in the PAHF.

- 7.2 Upon obtaining formal membership to the FIH, it shall be obligatory for the NA of a country in the Americas to become a member of the PAHF.
- 7.3 With effect from 1 January 2000, a NA of a country (including those listed in Appendix A) may be affiliated to the PAHF only if it governs Hockey for both men and women in that country.
- 7.4 Existing NA's which govern all Hockey in a country shall not be permitted to split into separate Associations.
- 7.5 The activities of the National Associations of the PAHF shall be solely and exclusively concerned with Hockey in their own country but the PAHF may make special and temporary allowance in this regard in respect of new small NA's.
- 7.6 In the case of a country where the creation of a NA is currently impractical the PAHF may admit an organization of that country as an adherent Member. Adherent Members have no voting rights but in all other respects shall be regarded as Members.
- 7.7 Members shall pay such fees as required by the PAHF in US dollars as decided by the Congress.
- 7.8 Every Member must declare:
 - (a) Its opposition to any discrimination on the grounds of race, sex, politics, religion or creed; and
 - (b) That it has the exclusive right to govern Hockey in its own country.
- 7.9 Any Member may withdraw from the PAHF at the end of any calendar year provided it has given at least six months notice in writing to the PAHF and settles all outstanding dues, fees, levies and other monies payable to the PAHF.
- 7.10 Statutes, Bye-laws, Rules, Regulations and decisions of the PAHF and its Committees are binding upon all Members.
- 7.11 The Board of Directors may at any time by resolution of which proper notice has been given and by a Special Majority, expel a Member for conduct which is inconsistent with its responsibilities as a Member subject to such expulsion being ratified by a Special Majority of the Members voting at the next Congress.

- 7.12 Expulsion, withdrawal, suspension or striking off of any Member will mean simultaneous expulsion, withdrawal, suspension or striking off from the FIH.
- 7.13 Upon the proposal of the Board of Directors, the Congress may suspend or expel any NA owing more than two annual subscriptions. Any NA which has been expelled and which is readmitted to membership must pay all arrears up to the date of expulsion.
- 7.14 Unless it settles its outstanding debts at least three (3) months beforehand, no team representing that Member may participate in any Event without the approval of the Board of Directors
- 7.15 Any NA whose subscription or any other money due and owing to the PAHF is outstanding and unpaid shall not be entitled to take part in the Congress
- 7.16 NAs fulfilling the criteria for membership of the PAHF may be provisionally admitted by the Board of Directors and formally admitted by the first Congress following application for membership.
- 7.17 Provisional members are entitled to all the benefits of membership and must fulfill all obligations of a Member. Provisional Members may attend and speak but not vote at any Congress.

ARTICLE 8 – CONGRESS

- 8.1 The Congress is the ultimate authority governing the conduct of the PAHF.
- 8.2 All Members shall be represented at the Congress in accordance with the provisions of the Bye-Laws as are determined by the Board of Directors from time to time.
- 8.3 Ordinary meetings of the Congress shall be held once in every two years.
- 8.4 Extraordinary meetings of the Congress shall be held:
- (a) when requested by a decision of the Board of Directors;
 - (b) within two months of the receipt by the PAHF of a request signed on behalf of at least one-third of its members;
 - (c) on the request of the President; or

- (d) within six months of the death, resignation or permanent incapacity of the President.
- 8.5 Not less than two month' notice shall be given to convene a meeting of the Congress and such notice shall specify the place, day and time of the meeting and the nature of the business to be transacted at such meeting.
- 8.6 The procedure to be observed at meetings of the Congress shall be in accordance with the relevant Bye-Laws.

ARTICLE 9 – BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- 9.1 There shall be a Board of Directors of the PAHF which shall be responsible for ensuring the proper performance and observance of the objects of the PAHF and the Statutes, Bye-Laws, Rules and Regulations and for directing the policy, management and activities of the PAHF.
- 9.2 The Board shall consist of the President, Hon. Secretary General, Hon. Treasurer and nine Ordinary Directors of whom three shall reside in respectively North America, the Caribbean and Central America and South America. There shall be a minimum of five (5) Directors of each gender.
- 9.3 All members of the Board elected at each ordinary meeting of the Congress shall hold office until the closure of the ordinary meeting of the Congress in the fourth following year.
- 9.4 All members of the Board shall hold office in their personal capacity and not as representatives of any NA or any other organization.
- 9.5 The Board shall have the power to make Bye-Laws, Rules and Regulations inter alia on the following matters:
 - (a) the qualifications necessary for membership of the Board of Directors;
 - (b) the procedure for filling casual vacancies of the Board of Directors;
 - (c) the appointment and dissolution of the Committees as it shall from time to time consider necessary and the delegation to the Committees of such duties or powers as it deems fit;
 - (d) the procedure to be observed at meetings of the Congress and Board;
 - (e) the granting of Awards;
 - (f) the system of qualification for the Pan American Games and other competitions under the jurisdiction of the PAHF.

- (g) Conflicts of interest affecting members of the Board of Directors, Members of Committees, staff and other individuals engaged by the Federation
- 9.6 Approval of the Bye-laws, Rules and Regulations and any amendments, additions or alterations to them requires a Special Majority.
- 9.7 The Board of Directors shall meet at least once in each year at a place to be determined by the President and the Hon. Secretary General.

ARTICLE 10 –PRESIDENT

- 10.1 The President shall be elected by the Congress and shall hold office until the closure of the ordinary meeting of the Congress to be held in the fourth following year. The President is eligible for re-election at the expiration of any term of office.
- 10.2 The President shall:
- (a) represent the PAHF;
 - (b) preside at all meetings of the Congress and the Board of Directors;
 - (c) be an ex officio member of all Committees;
 - (d) deal with any matters of urgency arising between meetings of the Board in consultation with the Hon. Secretary General; and
 - (e) report to the Board on all matters of significance to the PAHF which may have arisen since the last Board Meeting.
 - (f) serve as the Continental representative from the PAHF on the FIH Executive Board

ARTICLE 11 – VICE PRESIDENTS

The Vice Presidents shall:

- (a) be elected by the Board of Directors from among the elected Ordinary Directors in accordance with the Bye-Laws;
- (b) Among the Vice Presidents, there shall be at least one of each gender and one from each of North America, the Caribbean and Central America, and South America.
- (c) hold office until the closure of the ordinary meeting of the Congress to be held in the second year and on the expiration of any term of office shall be eligible for re-election, and
- (d) assist in carrying out the duties of the President and the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE 12 – HON. SECRETARY GENERAL

12.1 The Hon. Secretary General shall be elected by the Congress and shall hold office until the closure of the ordinary meeting of the Congress to be held in the fourth year following his or her election. The Hon. Secretary General shall be eligible for re-election.

12.2 The Hon. Secretary General shall:

- (a) cause minutes to be kept of all meetings and be the custodian of all papers and records pertaining to the affairs of the PAHF;
- (b) be responsible for the correspondence of the PAHF and for implementing the decisions of the Congress and the Board of Directors;
- (c) supervise the actions of any staff of the PAHF;
- (d) ex officio be a member of all the Committees;
- (e) deputise for the President whenever requested and assist in carrying out the President's duties;
- (f) be responsible for supervising membership, administration and legal matters in accordance with the Statutes and the Bye-laws and the directions of the Board of Directors, and
- (g) ensure compliance with all technical and other rules and regulations of the PAHF in respect of all events under its jurisdiction.

ARTICLE 13 – HON. TREASURER

13.1 The Hon. Treasurer shall be elected by Congress and shall hold office until the closure of the ordinary meeting of the Congress to be held in the fourth year following his or her election. The Treasurer is eligible for re-election.

13.2 The Hon. Treasurer shall:

- (a) collect all dues, fees, levies and other monies payable to the PAHF and deposit them in the PAHF's accounts;
- (b) make all necessary disbursements on behalf of the PAHF;
- (c) on behalf of the PAHF, participate in negotiations for payment for royalties, sponsorships and television and other rights of the PAHF;
- (d) submit a statement showing the current financial position of the PAHF to each meeting of the Board of Directors;
- (e) produce to each ordinary meeting of the Congress an audited balance sheet and a receipts and payments account made up to 31 December immediately preceding that meeting, and

- (f) make recommendations on the management of the funds of the PAHF and prepare budgets and reports as and when requested by the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE 14 – AUDIT OF ACCOUNTS

- 14.1 At each ordinary meeting, the Congress shall appoint an auditor for the PAHF accounts for the ensuing two year;

ARTICLE 15 – RESOURCES

- 15.1 The PAHF shall receive fees in accordance with a scale proposed by the Board of Directors and adopted by Congress. The PAHF may also receive donations, gifts and bequests.
- 15.2 The PAHF may claim payment in respect of rights for organization, participation, supervision, etc. or of events, seminars, courses or other activities in the Americas, as determined by agreement with the FIH.

ARTICLE 16 – JURISDICTION

16.1 Agreements

Any person dealing with the PAHF or participating in its activities including any person who:

- (a) plays or acts as an official of any team in any event organized by or under the jurisdiction of PAHF;
- (b) acts as an umpire or tournament official in any event organized by or under the jurisdiction of PAHF;
- (c) organises or participates in the organization of any event approved by the PAHF; or
- (d) holds any position whatsoever in the PAHF including but not limited to the Board of Directors and the Committees;

Thereby acknowledges that:

- (e) the PAHF, as delegated by the FIH, has full jurisdiction and authority over everything concerning Hockey and the playing of Hockey in the Americas;

- (f) the Statutes, Bye-Laws, Rules and Regulations for the time being in force are legal and binding and agrees to comply with them without reservation;
- (g) the PAHF has full jurisdiction, power and authority to take any decisions and apply any sanctions in accordance with the Statutes, Bye-Laws, Rules and Regulations and agrees to be bound by such decisions and sanctions; and
- (h) the FIH and the CAS are the only other bodies, outside the PAHF, having jurisdiction to the exclusion of all other courts or arbitration bodies of any country or organization whatsoever:
 - (i) to resolve any conflict involving the PAHF or any of its Jurisdictional Bodies, Office Bearers, tournament officials or Members; and
 - (ii) to rule as an external appeals body on any disciplinary decision or sanction of any nature whatsoever taken by the PAHF or any Jurisdictional Body.
 - (iii) The definitive and unappealable nature of decisions handed down by the CAS with which they pledge to comply in good faith without seeking to hinder their application; and

16.2 Confirmation of Agreements

Notwithstanding the binding nature of these Statutes and the provisions of Article 19.1, the PAHF may require written agreements in a form to be determined by the PAHF from time from any of the following:

- (a) any NA;
- (b) any player (senior or junior) or any official of any team;
- (c) any umpire or other official appointed by or with the authority of the PAHF; and
- (d) any other person or body with whom the PAHF has any associations.

ARTICLE 17 – SANCTIONS

The Jurisdictional Bodies may make decisions and impose sanctions in accordance with the powers conferred upon them by the Statutes, Bye-Laws, Rules and Regulations and may impose the following disciplinary measures:

- Reprimand
- Disqualification
- Suspension
- Fine
- Costs

ARTICLE 18 – COURT OF ARBITRATION FOR SPORT (CAS)

- 18.1 All legal disputes which cannot be settled in accordance with the Statutes, Bye-Laws, Rules and Regulations shall be settled by a panel of arbitrators of the CAS in Lausanne appointed in conformity to the Statutes and Rules of the said Court to the exclusion of all recourse to other courts and tribunals.
- 18.2 All decisions made by the CAS are final and binding on all parties concerned.
- 18.3 In all its decisions the CAS must examine the appeal and issue its ruling in accordance with its own rules.
- 18.4 Pending the decision of the CAS, any sanction imposed by a Jurisdictional Body (other than a sanction imposed under the FIH Doping Policy which shall remain in force) shall be suspended.

ARTICLE 19 – PROCEDURES

19.1 Procedures for Jurisdictional Bodies

- (a) The Jurisdictional Bodies must ensure that procedures are fair to all interested parties and uphold those parties' basic rights. In particular they must ensure that:
 - (i) no person who has a conflict of interest participates in a decision-making body;
 - (ii) the accused person is informed of the charges against him or her and the potential sanctions if the charges are upheld;

- (iii) the accused person or body is given access to all relevant material in the possession or under the control of the PAHF, is given every reasonable opportunity to defend the charges and to be heard and is given the right to produce evidence and to be accompanied and/or assisted by an advisor, and
- (b) In doping cases, the burden of proof falls first on the PAHF to establish that a prohibited substance was present in the body of the Athlete and/or Official. If the PAHF satisfies this burden, then the burden of proof falls on the Athlete and/or Official to rebut the presumption. In all other cases, the burden of proof falls on the party bringing the matter before the Jurisdictional Body.
- (c) There is no internal appeal from a decision of a Jurisdictional Body. Appeal to the FIH and then to the CAS is the only resource available in accordance with Article 18.

19.2 Normal Arbitration Procedures

- (a) Any person or body who is or which is subject to a disciplinary sanction by a Jurisdictional Body may appeal first the FIH and thereafter to the CAS.
- (b) All appeals must be in writing and contain reasons for the appeal and a copy given to the PAHF at the same time as it is given to the FIH or the CAS.
- (c) Any appeal to the FIH from any decision of a Jurisdictional Body shall be in writing to the FIH within fourteen (14) days of the notification of the decision in question by the PAHF to the person or NA concerned.
- (d) Any appeal to the CAS under this Article must be made to the CAS within one (1) month of the Member becoming aware of the decision or conflict.

ARTICLE 20 – MODIFICATION

- 20.1 These Statutes may be amended, added to or rescinded by a resolution of the Congress passed by a Special Majority. No such resolution shall be submitted to the Congress unless the prior notice prescribed by the By-laws has been given to all NA's.
- 20.2 No such resolution passed by the congress shall have any force or effect until it has been ratified by the Executive Board of the FIH.

ARTICLE 21 – DISSOLUTION

- 21.1 The PAHF may only be dissolved at an Extraordinary meeting of the Congress convened for the purpose and by a resolution supported by a Special Majority.
- 21.2 If dissolved, all debts and liabilities legally incurred on behalf of the PAHF shall be fully discharged and the remaining assets, if any, shall be donated a similar body established for the promotion and development of Hockey.

APPENDIX A

MEMBERSHIP – STATUTES 7

1.	ARGENTINA	(ARG)	Confederacion Argentina de Hockey
2.	BAHAMAS	(BAH)	Bahamas Hockey Association
3.	BARBADOS	(BAR)	Barbados Hockey Federation
4.	BERMUDA	(BER)	Bermuda Hockey Federation
5.	BRAZIL	(BRA)	Confederação Brasileira de Hóquei
6.	CANADA	(CAN)	Field Hockey Canada
7.	CAYMAN ISLANDS	(CAY)	Cayman Islands Hockey Federation
8.	CHILE	(CHI)	Federacion Chilena de Hockey
9.	COSTA RICA	(CRI)	Asociación Costarricense de Hockey
10.	CUBA	(CUB)	Federacion Cubana de Hockey
11.	DOMINICAN REPUBLIC	(DOM)	Federacion Dominicana de Hockey
12.	ECUADOR	(ECU)	Federacion Ecuatoriana de Hockey
13.	EL SALVADOR	(SAL)	Federacion Salvadoreña de Hockey
14.	GUATEMALA	(GUA)	Federación Nacional de Hockey
15.	GUYANA	(GUY)	Guyana Hockey Board
16.	HONDURAS(Provisional Member)	(HON)	Federacion Hondureña de Hockey Sobre Césped y Pista
17.	JAMAICA	(JAM)	Jamaica Hockey Federation
18.	MEXICO	(MEX)	Federacion Mexicana de Hockey
19.	PANAMA	(PAN)	Asociación Panameña de Hockey
20.	PARAGUAY	(PAR)	Asociacion Amateur Paraguaya de Hockey
21.	PERU	(PER)	Federación Peruana de Hockey
22.	PUERTO RICO	(PUR)	Federacion Puertorriqueña de Hockey
23.	TRINIDAD & TOBAGO	(TRI)	Trinidad & Tobago Hockey Board
24.	URUGUAY	(URU)	Federacion Uruguay e Hockey
25.	UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	(USA)	US Field Hockey Association
26.	VENEZUELA	(VEN)	Federación Venezolana de Hockey