

## PAHF REPORT TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**Committee/Panel:** Competitions Committee & Education Panel  
**Date:** 11<sup>th</sup> January 2022  
**Submitted by:** Willard P Harris, Chair

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### COMPETITIONS COMMITTEE:

#### I) INTRODUCTORY REMARKS

Since the Competitions Committee was reconstituted in Lima in 2019, scheduled meetings were held eleven (11) occasions, via Blue Jeans Meeting App; discussing specific matters or for general updates. There were several other meetings held to discuss and decide on specific issues, including rescheduling of events carded for 2020 – 2021 and establishment of competition protocols and guidance in pandemic times.

There was very good member participation at such meetings. Meeting attendance was as follows:

- Willard P. Harris (TTO), - 11 meetings
- Rene Zelkin (USA) – 11 meetings
- Reyah Richardson (TTO) – 11 meetings
- Victor Tomlinson (JAM) – 11 meetings
- Nigel Traverso (USA) – 11 meetings,
- Thiago de Mattos Vieira (BRA) – 7 meetings, and
- Aldo Effenberger (ARG) – 0 meetings

Laura Macchiotti, Event Coordinator as Secretary to the Committee, also attended 10 meetings. The Appointments Committee Chairs during the period Laura Pigretti (3) meeting and Roque Viegas (5), and Roger St Rose, Chair Umpiring Committee/Member FIH Officials Committee (8) meeting attended.

#### II) UPDATE OF PROJECTS FROM STRATEGIC OPERATIONAL PLAN 2019-2022 (extended)

##### Events 2020 – 2022 (January):

Because of the unprecedented global increase of the novel Coronavirus Pandemic (COVID-19) the Indoor Pan Am Cup/Indoor World Cup Qualifier (IPAC) scheduled for the Spooky Nook Complex in Pennsylvania, USA was postponed a few weeks before the event could take place. The safety of all participants was the key reason for this given the then high incidence rate of the virus in the USA at the time.

### Events 2020 (continued):

This event was rescheduled and held in in June 2021 at the Eagles’s Training Center, Spring City, Pennsylvania instead of the original venue without spectators. Unfortunately, of the original participants, TTO men & women’s teams were forced out of participating as they encountered travel and health challenges. GUY women were able to join the list of participants.

This event also saw the implementation of a formalized written COVID-19 Protocol designed to guide all participants (teams, officials and organisers). This was a test to see how effective an event could be managed far less be held in pandemic times.

One thing it showed is that for future events “customized” Covid-19 Protocols had to be produced as health & safety requirement vary for each host country, and also that participants need more lead time to plan and prepare for attendance.

The postponement of the Pan Am Challenge/South American Championships scheduled for Lima, Peru in May, was also inevitable as the virus incidence increased in the entire Pan American Region.

Border closures prevented commercial air travel to most countries, and health & quarantine restrictions further affected all NA’s where travel was still possible.

The CC was able to salvage hosting the Pan Am Challenge in September/October at the same venue in Lima but with three (3) men and four (4) women’s teams. Many of the previously entered participants were unable to participate given the previously mentioned challenges as well as funding unavailability. As a result, the South American Championship had to be cancelled.

The Junior Pan Am Championships scheduled for November 2020 in Santiago, Chile was rescheduled to August 2021 due to the impact of the pandemic. The resulting participants faced several challenges including complying with border entry requirements as well as detection of Covid-19 infections on entry to the country.

For all these events, thankfully we were able to ensure participation from all sub-regions within PAHF, notwithstanding the many hurdles those teams encountered. The CC is grateful to those participants, who despite their challenges, ensured that our competitions took place.

These issues have provided PAHF with experiences, which allows us to review and adjust our set approach to organising events going forward, as it much emphasizes that more consideration to the challenges faced by member nations going forward is key to their future participation. The CC (along with the PAHF EB and Staff) must in future continue to work to ensure that events are organised with full consideration for all participants (ie. teams, officials, organisers, and when able spectators).

In summary, the EB should note the achievements of those persons who comprise the CC, as volunteers, so that events are continued to be promoted, well managed and delivered:

- a) Successfully ensuring that adequate numbers of Technical Officials were appointed and managed the PAHF events held in pandemic times.
- b) Match Schedules were organised in such a manner as to provide participating teams as much match times as possible, but also being mindful to minimize the amount of time over which each event was held to reduce the exposure risk to contracting the virus.
- c) Maintaining up to date PAHF Event Schedules, monitoring changes and establishing windows for existing and new events, such as H5's WC Qualifiers and Bi-annual JPAC Qualifiers.
- d) Revised Pan Am Games Tournaments Regulations.
- e) Managing TO Appointment Nominations to the PAHF Appointments Panel.
- f) Providing resources and working with the Education Panel to ensure the TO's continue to be trained and well prepared for managing events at both regional and FIH Top Tier levels (eg. Tokyo Olympic Games).

#### **EDUCATION PANEL:**

The members of the Chairs of the Competitions & Umpiring Committees, and Chairs of the Appointments and Development Panel unfortunately did not formally meet in 2021. However, informal meeting between some chairs were held resulting in the continuation of the training and development thrust.

#### **Training & Development:**

As was noted previously, faced with unforeseen circumstances that impact initiatives, the Education Panel Committee switched gears and collaborated with the Competitions & Umpiring Committees, and the Development Panel. The use of online and social media platforms to successfully develop and host Webinars, Web Training and Open Space forums were engaged to ensure that officials, coaches, administrators and other interested parties were continuously trained.

There continued to be high interest for these sessions and well received by participants.

New content continues in development in several areas to assist in the development of all hockey enthusiast, including facilitating sessions for NA's who request assistance in educating their membership in various areas.