



**Date:** 19 January 2022

**Notification to:** Pan American Cup Participants

**Regarding:** FIH Top Tier Regulations Appendix 16 – special allowance

As the world has experienced over the past two years, the pandemic has required much adaptability – including in our hockey community, as we continue to move forward with our objective to promote the game of hockey in a low-risk environment.

FIH Tournament Regulations FIH Top Tier Outdoor Competitions – Appendix 16.1 *“For teams to continue in a competition they must have a minimum of 14 athletes available and no more than 3 positive test results”* was written in the spirit to provide protection to all tournament participants from the potential of a widespread group infection among a single team

As travel to the Pan American Cup has unfolded, we have realized that there are many other safeguards in place for participants, and this particular clause created other intended consequences – especially to teams who are not able to provide a full contingent of 18-20 players (for various reasons which may be unrelated to a sign of widespread group covid infection - e.g. small contingency of available players) – which places these teams at much greater risk of being forced into withdrawal. It is also noted that if *Appendix 16 – Covid-19 Specific Regulations* is not brought into effect, there is no other 14 player minimum requirement provided by the FIH Rules or Regulations.

It is within this spirit that the FIH Chief Executive Officer and PAHF President were contacted requesting a special allowance to this clause.

The FIH response is as follows:

*“the minimum 14 player requirement was put in place so that squads with multiple COVID positive cases, and therefore who have a high likelihood of other players in their squad being positive even if their tests had not yet shown a positive result, would not cause a high level of risk to other teams in a competition if they were to continue playing. From your note this rationale is clear and you are in agreement with it.*

*If some teams are struggling to get 18 players in the first place, then the minimum of 14 doesn't make sense. We therefore agree with you and can waive the minimum 14 player requirement for this competition.*

*Please inform all teams of the removal of the minimum 14 rule, and the rationale for this.*

*Additionally...If the recommendation of a maximum of 3 positive COVID tests in a squad is removed, and PAHF wish to decide on the next step if a team receives positive test results, then this is ok. PAHF is taking the responsibility for any positive COVID test management during the tournament”*



There are many other safeguards in place for the Pan American Cup which do assist with the spirit of protecting tournament participants from widespread infection

1. PAHF Covid 19 Protocol for 2022 Pan American Cup
2. Chilean Government requirements
3. Multiple testing requirements prior to start of tournament, and testing during the tournament

In consideration of these many points, teams are notified that:

**The requirement at the Pan American Cup that:**

- (1) in order *"for teams to continue in a competition they must have a minimum of 14 athletes available"* – has been removed.
- (2) in order *"for teams to continue in a competition they must have ... no more than 3 positive test results"* – is clarified to add "after the tournament starts"

Lurah Hess  
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