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NEWS RELEASE

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PAHF Board decisions to impact Hockey in the Pan American Region for years

On October 29, 2009, the Pan American Hockey Federation (PAHF) Board of Directors took decisions which will advance the status of hockey in the Americas and change its competitive structure.

The Pan American Cups for men and women, the premier hockey events in the Americas and qualifiers for the FIH World Cups, will now be divided into two divisions – the **Pan American Cup** comprising the top eight teams and the **Pan American Challenge** comprising the next ranked 10-12 teams.

President Tony Von Ondarza stated “this change has been brought about in response to requests from our membership to create competitions which are more competitive and interesting for all member countries”. There will be promotion and relegation between the two divisions of competition. Details of the competitions are being worked on by the PAHF Competitions Committee for final approval by the Board at their next meetings.

The Board also adopted overall strategic directions for the period 2010 – 2014. In keeping with its mandate to develop hockey in the Americas and consistent with the strategic directions of its parent body, the FIH, the Board agreed to focus on raising the profile of hockey as an Olympic and Pan American Games sport and to increase both financial and human resources.

Finally the Board agreed to increase its professional administrative capacity by creating the position of PAHF Operations Manager. This position will be filled by Laura Macchiotti, of Buenos Aires, who will continue to work from the PAHF “Virtual Office”.

The next meetings of the PAHF Board of Directors and Committees will take place in Kingston, Jamaica, in May 2010.

For more information on the PAHF competitions and programs, please visit the Pan American Hockey Federation web site at www.panamhockey.org

The Pan American Hockey Federation (PAHF) is recognized by the FIH as the governing continental federation for all field hockey in the Pan American region. There are 26 member Nations of the PAHF. For more information please contact info@panamhockey.org