

from the **NACAC President's Desk**

JULY 2016

BACK TO BUSINESS AS USUAL – I must apologize for not producing this communication since 2015 but the fact is that after August 2015, the sport of Athletics and the IAAF experienced the worse crisis in history. The amount of extraordinary meetings and communications in which we were engaged as members of the IAAF Council to deal with the exceptional situation that we were facing as a governing body, practically occupied most of our time. That, plus as NACAC Area President and Area



Representative, I also needed to invest a great amount of time in overlooking that our area program and development continue smoothly and progressing to the highest level. To this day the IAAF and all of us in positions of leadership are dealing with an immense amount of projects to put our house in order and bring the necessary credibility and transparency to our beloved sport. But, with joy and happiness, I must say that the decisions that we took on November 2015 and in June 2016, under the leadership of President Coe, were the right ones and it might take years to have everything in order but we are on the right track to win the war.

NACAC READY TO DEFEND ITS TITLE IN RIO – Yes, the NACAC Area is ready to, once again, come on top in the medal count at the end of the Athletics competition in Rio de Janeiro. We will be challenged by Europe, as always, and we need to keep an eye on Africa since, that continent lately has become more diverse in producing top competitors in other disciplines besides the endurance events. Indeed, as Africa has improved a lot in the sprints, throws and jumps, we have improved significantly in the endurance events, making our NACAC Team stronger. Of course, a lot of our medals will come from the number one nation in Athletics, Team USA, but we will get a good share of our medals also, from an improved Team Canada, the always strong in the sprints, Team Jamaica which is even stronger now with world-class throwers.

As always, medals could be earned from the steadily strong Team Cuba, from Team Bahamas, Team Trinidad and Tobago, Team Barbados, Team Grenada and Teams, Mexico, St. Kitts and Nevis, Puerto Rico, St. Lucia, Guatemala, Costa Rica, Antigua & Barbuda and any of the other member of our Family from where an individual athlete could raise to the occasion and contribute with a medal. GO NACAC, SHOW THE WORLD WHO RULES THE SPORT ON THE TRACK AND ON THE FIELD...



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IAAF GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE REFORM – We all agree that in order to put our house on the right path and avoid the mistakes of the past, we need to create in the IAAF practically a new structure. President Coe, as our leader started that project right away after becoming president in August 2015 and, shortly after, he understood that the number one task that we needed to achieve was to restructure the organization. The objective is to have a complete new structure and Constitution in place by 2017 and to implement the new Constitution starting in January 2019. Therefore, a number of different Task Force Groups have been appointed to deal with all the different issues that we are facing. The main group is the Governance Structure Reform Task Group, which is holding meetings with all our stakeholders in order to get their input, points of views, recommendations and suggestions, before they produce the final product. We hope the IAAF Family could approve the first phase of the project in an Extraordinary Congress in December 2016. So far the Task Force Group has held meetings with the IAAF Executive Board and with the IAAF Council to present the project and to get our feedback. On July 5th they held a Forum in Amsterdam where six members of each of the IAAF six continental areas attended and received a presentation from the group and, at the same time, they were able to interact with the members of the Task Force.



The next step is a meeting which we are calling The IAAF Governance Structure Reform Roadshow, with all the leaders of each of the Areas Member Federations where the Task Force Group will interact with the full AA and will get their input. The one for the NACAC AA is scheduled for October 8, 2016 in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic.

Hopefully, by November 2016, the first phase of the project will be finished and will be presented to the full IAAF Family in an Extraordinary Congress to be held December 3, 2016, for its approval. For both the AA Roadshow and the Extraordinary Congress, one delegate per Member Federation will be invited with all expenses paid by the IAAF. We expect that that individual is the President or the Vice President, in case the President cannot attend. Therefore, I would like to encourage all NACAC MFs presidents to put both dates on your calendar.

GREAT SUCCESS IN ALL NACAC EVENTS IN 2016 – I am happy to inform you that all the NACAC competitions and championships organized so far in 2016 have been very successful. Starting early in the year with the inaugural NACAC 10K Race Cup held on February 22 in conjunction with the World Best 10K, an IAAF Gold Label Race and sponsored by the WB10K LOC with a prize money structure of \$35,000.00 USD, attracted nine teams representing the NACAC AA. The winning teams were, Canada (\$20,000.00), USA

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(\$10,000.00) and Puerto Rico (\$5,000.00). On March 2-5, 2016, we had the NACAC Cross Country Championships within the Pan American Cross Country Cup held in the state of Vargas in Venezuela. That was followed by the 45th CARIFTA Games, March 26-28, 2016, which was held in Grenada with the largest participation ever and televised live on HD, all over the Caribbean and worldwide by FLOW Sports, who bought the television broadcasting rights for the next three years for the CARIFTA Games. This constitutes a great success in the NACAC marketing program since the broadcast reached 21 million people all over the world and the quality of the production was of the highest standards.

Afterwards we had APMs in Nassau, Bahamas, Hamilton Bermuda, Penn and Drake Relays in USA, the Jamaica International – IWC, the Cayman Islands Invitational, and the Guadeloupe Baia Maut. In June 11th the inaugural Racers Track Club Grand Prix – APM, was held in Kingston, Jamaica with an overwhelming participation of world-class athletes and 32,000 spectators and televised worldwide and topping perhaps the ranking of the NACAC one day meetings. In June 14-15 the NACAC Combined Events Championships were held in Ottawa, Canada in conjunction with the Pan American Combined Events Cup. Ottawa, has become the permanent site of the Pan Am Cup CE since, they had built a culture and tradition for the event in the Canadian Capital.

We personally attended the Barrientos Memorial in Havana, Cuba in late May, the 2nd OECS Open Championships that was held in Tortola, BVI in July 2-3, with a huge success and the USATF Olympic Trials in Eugene, Oregon, July 1-10. These were followed by the IX NACAC U23 Championships that was held in San Salvador, El Salvador, July 15-17. It is important to point out that all of these events were a total success. On July 15th The Edmonton International APM was held in Canada Track Town attracting many of the top athletes in the world and was also well attended. While I am writing this communication the last NACAC one day meeting is being held, July 29th in Eugene, Oregon sponsored by Track Town USA, Inc. as part of their Summer Series. This will be followed by the Olympic Games in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil where the NACAC athletes will shine as in the past...



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2017 WILL MARK THE FUTURE OF THE NACAC AA – With the unveiling of a new logo and brand image, already launched and a new webpage that will be inaugurated in September 2016 and with more than 15 Area Permit Meetings and a number of Championships in the 2017 Calendar, the NACAC AA, Inc. is expecting to present an attractive package for sponsors and television with the objective to sign a multiyear contract with several multinational companies and several television broadcasting companies. The NACAC area and the sub regions have the products which are: the best athletes in the world, great tradition and culture, great facilities all over the area, enthusiastic spectators and the most beautiful weather in the world all year around. Therefore, we have a winning situation. We are very close to confirm all the future sites of our championships until 2020 which will be very positive for the LOCs who will have at least two or three years to prepare ahead of time and for our sponsors and television to promote our competitions.

THE 26TH NACACTFCA CONGRESS – SAN SALVADOR 2016 – The 26th consecutive NACAC Coaches Association (NACACTFCA) was held July 15-17, 2016 in San Salvador, El Salvador in conjunction with the NACAC U23. The Congress was a total success with more than 70 coaches who were part of their delegations for the NACAC U23 attending every session. Also, the speakers were master coaches who were part of the different teams participating in the NACAC U23. Olympics multi medalists, Alberto Juantorena and Pauline Davis delivered the keynote presentation to close the Congress. Their topic was well received by the coaches since they spoke about how the relationship in their long and successful careers was impacted by a coach in all the stages. The fact that the Congress registration was free for all the coaches accredited by their countries and that they did not have to spent any money in traveling since, they were already there was a huge positive factor to have a fantastic Congress. I would like to commend NACACTFCA BOD members, VP Dianne Woodside from Bahamas and Les Gramantik from Canada for running the Congress program and organization.

OFFICIAL NACAC PRESIDENT VISIT TO CUBA – From May 21st to May 30th, we had an official visit where we held five meetings with different sport organizations and their directors to sign cooperation MOU between the NACAC AA and the Cuban Sports Organizations. Please, visit the NACAC webpage for more detailed information about our visit to Cuba.

Best wishes to all...

Victor López

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NEW NACAC LOGO – July 2016

