

IPRO Director's Message May, 2026

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We recently returned from Guatemala City, where the annual Pan American Racquetball Championships were held. Fifteen countries from Canada to Argentina, Cuba to Costa Rica, performed on the World Stage. The first Championships, known as the Torneo de las Americas, were held in 1987 at the Lynmar Racquet Club in Colorado Springs, Colorado USA.

Countries in Latin America have identified racquetball as a top tier sport; and, growth across ages has been a bi-product. In year 2000, Mexico made a commitment to youth. With Bolivia, it ranks in the top two each year in international play. Bolivia has hundreds of courts throughout the country, many in areas with poor access. Two courts sit above 12,000 feet at Lago Titicaca (highest lake in the world). Bolivia continues to develop young talent. Conrado Moscoso is #2 ranked male pro, and Maria Jose Vargas is #1 ranked female pro. They hail from Sucre and Santa Cruz de la Sierra respectively.

The Guatemala Racquetball Federation is the recipient of a successful construction project at the Parque Central de Deportes, which houses other sport disciplines like ciclismo, squash racquets, taekwondo, and volleyball. The ten-court dedicated venue has hosted the 'Pan Ams' each of the past four years. It is a natural, as Guatemala sits strategically in the Americas. Most enthusiasts are able to manage travel to or from on the same day. The venue is located five minutes from the international airport (La Aurora) and ten minutes from Distrito Diez, the pedestrian friendly area of businesses, hotels, restaurants, and shopping.

Latin America will continue to hold strong in international play, based on court venues, government support, and youth driven by opportunity. Upcoming international events:

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| 2026 | July | <i>Juegos Centro Americano y del Caribe</i> | <i>Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic</i> |
| | Sept | <i>41st Frank Hotels IRF World Senior Racquetball</i> | <i>Las Vegas, NM USA</i> |
| | | <i>South American Games</i> | <i>Santa Fe, Argentina</i> |
| | | <i>International Paddleball Championships</i> | <i>Albuquerque, NM USA</i> |
| | Oct | <i>IRF World Championships & Level 1-2 Certification, Rogelio Medina</i> | <i>Temuco, Chile</i> |
| | Dec | <i>IRF Junior World Championships</i> | <i>Location tbd</i> |
| 2029 | July | <i>IWGA World Games Racquetball</i> | <i>Karlsruhe, Germany</i> |

Quote of the month

'All cracks are GOOD' *Words from the IRF Broadcasting team*

