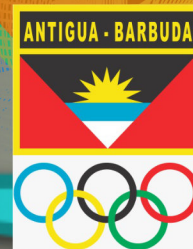


# OLYMPISM

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## Cali 2021

### Junior Pan American Games



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**President  
Antigua and Barbuda  
National Olympic  
Committee**

The constantly changing landscape caused by the Covid-19 pandemic has continued to challenge societies the world over. 2021 has been a year of challenge and change. Many countries have re-opened their economies only to close them again, and the rollercoaster ride has caused emotional and psychological stress and severe financial hardship. The sporting world also suffered, particularly in the first twelve months of the pandemic, with many major events rescheduled and even cancelled.

As increasing numbers of citizens step forward and get vaccinated, economies have started to re-open with cross border travel now more possible, albeit with expanded rules and regulations. The ABNOC has busied itself with the launch of several developmental and educational programs in 2021 and looks forward with eager anticipation as it prepares for the next Olympic cycle (shortened to three years due to the rescheduled Tokyo Games).

The ABNOC will continue to build on its initiatives in 2022 as it plays its part in strengthening the sporting landscape in Antigua and Barbuda.

As we reflect on 2021 and notwithstanding challenges endured and, for many, the loss of friends and family, let us remain grateful for life and the hope for a brighter and better tomorrow.

Over this season, remember to stay safe, observing all established Covid-19 protocols as you protect not just yourself but also your loved ones and, by extension, the nation of Antigua and Barbuda. I encourage those of you not yet vaccinated to go ahead and receive your vaccine shots.



**A Safe and Merry Christmas Season to you and a most  
Blessed and Prosperous Covid-free  
2022 to us all!**

History was made in Cali Colombia with the hosting of the inaugural Junior Pan American Games from November 26<sup>th</sup> to December 5<sup>th</sup> 2021.

Although the dates for the games had to be changed twice, Panam Sports remained resolute in its determination to host the Games. Special commendation to President Nevin Illic for his vision and his hardworking and dedicated staff and Organizing Committee for supporting this vision. President Illic extended special commendations to the Government of Colombia, the Government of the Valle del Cauca, the Mayor and the Governor of Cali.

The Junior Pan American Games was a significant event creating new opportunities for young athletes of the Americas. "We opened the first door to start supporting and working for the new generations. In many countries, it is difficult to technically and financially support the generations to come. So many talented athletes get left behind because sport does not offer them a good alternative for the future. These Games are going to change everything, and it will allow Governments and Olympic Committees to detect and work with new young athletes every year, knowing that they have this great event where they can show the strength of the new generations with the incredible added bonus of qualifying to the Pan American Games." – Panam Sports President – Nevin Illic

The Junior Pan American Games have created a pathway to high-performance with a total of 220 athletes from over twenty-five sports earning automatic qualification to Santiago 2023 (Pan American Games), all while setting new World and Pan American Records.

Antigua and Barbuda sent eight athletes to the Games:

- Tyke Hawkins and Rayana Regis - Female Beach Volleyball
- Hosea Ward - Fencing
- Ghery Coates - Cycling
- Taeco O'Garro - Long and Triple Jump
- Daniel Bryan - 100m
- Timon Emmanuel - 800m
- Daniel Smit - Sailing (One-Person Dinghy)

Although none of our athletes medalled, the Games provided an excellent sounding board for a realistic evaluation of the level of sports development and excellence in the youth sports program in Antigua and Barbuda.

There is an exciting road ahead as the ABNOC continues with its rollout of development programs targeting the various stakeholders in sport locally. In this regard 2022 is expected to be a busy year for the ABNOC with Athlete Development and Coach Education topping the list.



*Season's greetings from the*

# ABNOC



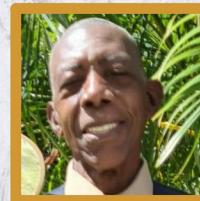
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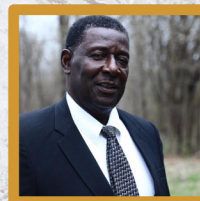
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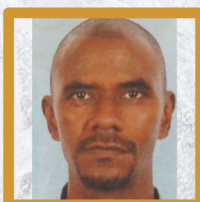
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# See You Next Year!

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