All eyes will be on the Peruvian capital in less than 500 days when the top sporting spectacle of the Americas returns with more sports and top athletes than ever before.

The Lima 2019 Pan American Games will be held from July 26 to August 11 and will not only feature a record number of sports (39), but also offer record opportunities for athletes to qualify for the Tokyo 2020 Olympics. Excitement for the Pan Am Games is quickly increasing throughout Lima and the Americas.

“There are 500 days left, only 500 days for the Pan American Games Lima 2019! We are working harder than ever for this challenge and for this new dream of being able to represent Colombia and being able to represent Latin America in something so special to me,” said two-time BMX Olympic champion from Colombia, Mariana Pajon.

The best athletes from the 41 countries of Panam Sports like Pajon and karateca Alexandra Grande are taking to social media to raise excitement and awareness for the event with supportive messages and videos of adventures with Lima 2019 mascot Milco.

Activations like Milco and Grande paragliding through the skies of Lima will continue to be organized by the Lima 2019 organizing committee to generate more public exposure for the Pan Am Games.

As the 500-day countdown progresses, young fans across Peru will have more opportunities to meet the adventurous Milco as he explores the country to ramp up excitement for the Games.

“I think the 500 days to go milestone is sort of like the last sprint, it’s where decisions need to be made and everything needs to be hired and contracted. You can feel the excitement in the city for the return of Americas’ greatest sports event,” said Panam Sports Secretary General Ivar Sisniega.

Rapid construction progress can be seen at the Pan American Village and other sports facilities for the Games as the Peruvian capital continues it hard and important work preparing for the region’s biggest sports event.

The next key milestone on the road to Lima 2019 will occur this summer with a celebration to mark the one year countdown on July 26.
The Panam Sports Executive Committee concluded its first meeting of 2018 in Lima, Peru with a renewed focus towards establishing athletes at the core of sport in the Americas.

Third Vice President of Panam Sports Keith Joseph says the two-day meeting was “particularly democratic” and reflected a willingness of the new leadership - elected 11 months ago in Uruguay - to listen to its constituents.

“I think it also reflects a willingness to involve the stakeholders. I think the style of the meeting facilitates a new type of energy from the Executive Committee and I think this transformation bodes well for the future,” Joseph said.

The excitement for discussion about the future of Panam Sports was in part driven by a tour of venue infrastructure for the Lima 2019 Pan American Games one day before the EC meeting began. The rapid progress seen at the Pan American Village and the tour of the National Stadium where ceremonies will be held made the EC members enthused about the pace of preparations for their flagship event.

The democracy of the high-level gathering in the Peruvian capital was evident in the dynamism of the meeting. All of the executives attending presented their unique ideas and questions about the future direction of the organization that was analyzed thoroughly via the new Strategic Plan 2018-2023.

A revitalized focus on four key pillars will catapult Panam Sports into the future: the Athletes, the National Olympic Committees, the Pan American Games and the Panam Sports Organization.

The Strategic Plan is the culmination of several years of development and input from National Olympic Committees, athletes and stakeholders. The NOC Workshop at the 2015 ANOC General Assembly in Washington, D.C. initiated the journey towards outlining the strategic objectives and success indicators.

“To transform the Americas through the power of sport, we needed to transform our organization and deliver on an ambitious plan to take Panam Sports to the next level. This strategic plan serves to capture the essence of who we are and all we aspire to be – a true leader of sport, innovation, diversity and excellence,” said Neven Ilic, Panam Sports President.

In order to make objectives outlined in the Strategic Plan a reality, Panam Sports is actively seeking to increase its market and brand exposure. The establishment of new events, sponsorship programs, branding, marketing and communications strategies as well as increased input and value from the 16 Panam Sports Commissions will make the outlined success indicators attainable.

The new strategic vision for the future of Panam Sports will be presented in detail to the 41 National Olympic Committees during the General Assembly that will take place September 5-6 in Lima, Peru.
Team USA Conquers IAAF World Indoor Championships

Eight track and field athletes from the 41 countries of Panam Sports leave Birmingham, England as new World Champions, defeating the competition at the IAAF World Indoor Championships.

Athletes from the United States led the way in Birmingham, earning six gold medals, 10 silver and two bronze for an impressive 18 total - 11 more than host country Great Britain. The medals were won across the four-day championships that took place March 1-4.

Cuba and Venezuela are also now home to two World Champions in the jumping disciplines - Juan Miguel Echevarría in the long jump and Yulimar Rojas in the triple jump. Rojas is also the Outdoor World Champion in the triple jump and earned silver at the Rio 2016 Olympics.

The gold medals from Echevarría and Rojas placed Cuba and Venezuela each in the top-ten of the 32 countries that won medals at the event.

Out of the 32 countries from Panam Sports that competed in the competition, seven had athletes finish on the podium including the United States (18), Cuba (2), Jamaica (2), Venezuela (gold), Brazil (silver), Canada (silver) and Trinidad & Tobago (bronze).

The region combined for 26 of the 75 total medals up for grabs in Birmingham – an incredible haul of more than a third of available medals.

Here is a breakdown of the medals won from the Americas in Birmingham:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Team</th>
<th>Gold</th>
<th>Silver</th>
<th>Bronze</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>6</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cuba</td>
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<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Venezuela</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jamaica</td>
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<tr>
<td>Canada</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Trinidad &amp; Tobago</td>
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## UNITED STATES

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<th>BRONZE</th>
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<tr>
<td>Christian Coleman</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Will Claye</td>
<td>Triple Jump</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Courtney Okolo</td>
<td>400 Meters</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Kendra Harrison</td>
<td>60 Meter Hurdles</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Sandi Morris</td>
<td>Pole Vault</td>
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<td>Quanera Hayes, Georgeanne Moline, Shakima Wimbley, Courtney Okolo</td>
<td>4x400 Relay</td>
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<td>Michael Cherry</td>
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<td>Drew Windle</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Sam Kendricks</td>
<td>Pole Vault</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fred Kerley, Michael Cherry, Aldrich Bailey Jr., Vernon Norwood</td>
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<tr>
<td>Shakima Wimbley</td>
<td>400 Meters</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aje Wilson</td>
<td>800 Meters</td>
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<td>Christian Manning</td>
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<td>Vashti Cunningham</td>
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<tr>
<td>Marquis Dendy</td>
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## CUBA

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<tr>
<td>Juan Miguel Echevarría</td>
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<td>Country</td>
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<tr>
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<td>BRAZIL</td>
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<td>CANADA</td>
<td>SILVER</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TRINIDAD &amp; TOBAGO</td>
<td>BRONZE</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Top para athletes from the United States and Canada lead the Americas to more Winter Paralympic medals than ever before at the PyeongChang 2018 Games.

Team USA topped the medal table at the Winter Paralympics for the second time in history as the PyeongChang 2018 Winter Paralympics concluded March 18 in South Korea. The para athletes from the United States earned 36 medals including 13 golds.

Canada’s Paralympians were not far behind, placing second in total medals with 28 and eight golds. The top two teams in the standings earned the Americas the region’s largest-ever medal haul at the Winter Paralympics with 64, besting the 58 medals won at the Albertville 1992 Winter Games when Team USA last topped the overall podium.

The record number of medals were earned by a record number of 138 athletes competing from the 41 countries of Panam Sports. Six countries represented the Americas in PyeongChang, including Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Mexico and the United States.

An athlete from the U.S. and Canada each won six individual medals during the Games. Retired Navy SEAL Dan Cnossen earned his six medals in nordic skiing while Canadian biathlete and cross-country skier Mark Arendz became the country’s first Paralympian to earn six medals in one edition.

Team USA and Team Canada also placed first and second in the men’s hockey tournament in a thrilling overtime gold medal match.

Cristian Ribera of Brazil earned his country its highest ranking at the Games with a sixth place finish in the men’s sitting 15 kilometer cross-country race as well as ninth in the 7.5km race. Carlos Codina Thomatis of Argentina placed eighth in men’s snowboard cross in the SB-LL2 category.

Nicolas Hudson earned ninth place in men’s sitting alpine skiing slalom event for Chile’s best finish in PyeongChang. Mexico’s sole Paralympian, para-alpine skier Arly Velásquez, placed 17th in the men’s Super-G sitting discipline.

Beijing will host the next Winter Paralympics in 2022 where the Americas will seek to increase its para athlete representation for the fifth consecutive Games.
It seems that Caeleb Dressel has no limit when it comes to his sports career. After shining in the FINA World Championships last year winning seven gold medals, he keeps surprising everyone with spectacular and historic times.

At the National Collegiate Swimming Championships in the United States, the 21-year-old swimmer for the University of Florida pulverized three American records. He became the first man to finish under-43 seconds in the 100 yard butterfly (42.80) and the first to swim the 50 and 100 yard freestyles under 18 seconds and 40 seconds, respectively - finishing with incredible times of 17.63 and 39.9 seconds.

The feats of this great athlete have experts calling him the natural replacement of American legend and most decorated Olympian of all time, Michael Phelps. Dressel is a true rising star for Team USA who is sure to make a splash at the Tokyo 2020 Summer Olympics.
Eight national teams from the Americas defeated their European counterparts in friendly matches organized by FIFA on March 23 and 24 as preparation for the Russia 2018 FIFA World Cup.

These results exhibit the incredible momentum that teams from the region are experiencing after qualifying for the world’s top soccer tournament. Top national teams from Brazil, Uruguay, Colombia, Argentina, Mexico, Costa Rica and Peru are all eager to compete this summer in Russia and showed their preparations against Europe’s top clubs.

While Chile did not qualify for the 2018 FIFA World Cup, the national team displayed brilliant football strategy in a friendly win against Sweden fueled by the debut of Colombian coach Reinaldo Rueda.
Argentina 2 – Italy 0
Chile 2 – Sweden 1
Colombia 3 – France 2
Costa Rica 1 - Scotland 0

Brazil 3 - Russia 0

Uruguay 2 - Czech Republic 0
Mexico 3 – Iceland 0

APRIL 2018
Chile Holds First ANOC Executive Committee Meeting

Led by Sheikh Ahmad Al Fahad Al Sabah, the highest authorities of the Association of National Olympic Committees and Olympic Solidarity headed by Deputy Director of the IOC, Pere Miró, held their first high-level meetings of 2018 in Santiago, Chile.

The meeting was historic for both organizations as well as Chile, as they were the first ANOC and OS meetings to take place in the country. Despite long flights and jet lag, the meetings were successful.

Outside of the meetings, the global Olympic leaders visited the historic center of the city, Cerro San Cristóbal and the Palacio de la Moneda where they were received by new Chilean President Sebastián Piñera. They also visited the NOC offices of Chile to participate in the inauguration of the new Olympic Café of the institution that was built using funds from Olympic Solidarity programs.

Among the topics discussed in the meetings were the successful development of the PyeongChang 2018 Winter Olympics, the preparation of athletes for upcoming competitions and above all, ANOC's inaugural World Beach Games that will be held in San Diego, California in 2019.

“We are very happy and very proud of the effort that Chile has put into organizing this visit, and especially of the President of Panam Sports and my friend, Neven Ilic. We really felt at home. It was an honor to have visited the President of the Republic, he was very kind. They have been very productive days of meetings and we are ecstatic,” said ANOC President Sheikh Ahmad.

For Panam Sports President Neven Ilic, organizer of the gatherings in Chile, the meetings “fulfilled their objective, they advanced on many issues related to future competitions, the programs and help to the countries that Olympic Solidarity and the IOC gives us, and I think everyone left very happy to have met my country. I thanked them for the tremendous effort they made to travel so many hours, to put up with jet lag and to be present here. It was an extraordinary experience and they will always be welcome in Chile.”

The next meeting of the ANOC Executive Committee will be in November before the annual ANOC General Assembly that will be held in the 2020 Olympic host city of Tokyo.

TO SEE THE VIDEO OF THE ANOC VISIT TO CHILE:  
FOR PHOTOS FROM THE VISIT: 

Click here

Click here
Welcome to “The Athlete Angle”, a space where the Panam Sports Athlete Commission and the wider athlete community of the Americas will provide news, updates and resources created for and created by athletes.

With a revitalized strategic plan for Panam Sports that places athletes at the heart of our organization, we are committed to engaging with our athlete community and working closely with our Athlete Commission (AC) to provide support for all athletes to excel on and off the field of play.

The Panam Sports AC has one clear mission: to represent the views, rights and interests of athletes of the Americas and ensure the athlete perspective is taken into account in Panam Sports actions and overall strategic vision. We believe it is crucial to incorporate input from our athletes to better understand their needs, improve our programs and enhance the overall experience at the Pan American Games.

We are pleased to announce the ongoing work of our AC and sport partners to ensure that athletes are represented not only on our Executive Board, but as key members on the following Panam Sports Commissions: Lima 2019 Coordination, Santiago 2023 Coordination, Legal Affairs, Ethics, Awards, Medical and Scientific, New Events, Olympic Academies, Olympic Solidarity, Women and Sport, Finance, Marketing and Sport Development.

The Lima 2019 Pan American Games are right around the corner and we have worked with the Organizing Committee to establish an internal Athlete Commission to directly contribute to improving Games operations, including the Athlete Village.

With the support and collaboration of the IOC and the ANOC Athlete Commission, we are building a stronger, louder and better represented athlete community throughout the global sports system.

Stay tuned for more information about our upcoming 2018 Athlete Forum in Miami, Florida that will bring together athletes from all 41 nations of the Americas.

For more information, contact us at athletes@panamsports.org and access best-in-class resources at http://www.anoclympic.org/documents/

And you can always say hi on one of our social feeds! @panamsports Instagram, Twitter and Facebook

Your Panam Sports Athlete Commission
In a strong showing, The Tricolor team earns first place in the continental tournament. Two gold medals in men's and women's doubles, one silver and three bronze in singles launched Mexico to the overall team championship at the 2018 Pan American Racquetball Championship in Temuco, Chile.
American tennis stars John Isner and Sloane Stephens defend their home courts at the Miami Open. While Isner defeated Alexander Zverev of Germany 6-7, 6-4 and 6-4, Stephens conquered Jelena Ostapenko of Latvia 7-5 and 6-1.
Panam Sports
Legends: Ana Guevara

The woman who earned Mexico a place on world championship and Olympic podiums in an illustrious career in track and field began her climb to the top at the Pan American Games.

A winner of three gold medals at the Pan Am Games, a World Champion in the 400 meters and the first Olympic medalist from Mexico in a sprinting event, Ana Gabriela Guevara Espinosa is a true Panam Sports Legend and a national hero.

Born on March 4, 1977, Guevara would go on to inspire a nation every time she stepped on the track throughout an incredible 22-year athletics career. She performed miraculous feats at every competition she competed in across the globe, winning medals in at least eight different regional multi-sport events and international athletics competitions.

Guevara's first major breakthrough in the 400 meters came at the Winnipeg 1999 Pan American Games where she earned her first Pan Am Games gold medal. She would not relinquish the title of Americas’ fastest women in the 400m for three consecutive Pan Ams, winning two more golds at Santo Domingo 2003 and Rio de Janeiro 2007.

After her first success at the Pan Am Games, Guevara would go on to dominate the track and field world for a few years, winning the Golden League in 2002 by winning all seven of her races and sharing the jackpot of $1 million with two other winners.

In 2003, she would extend her title of fastest woman across the globe by winning the 400m at the IAAF World Championship in Paris. That night in the French capital will always be remembered by those who witnessed it, as Guevara posted one of the fastest times in history and set a national record for Mexico with 48.89 seconds.

Fueled by this confidence, Guevara achieved one of the pinnacles of her career by earning a silver medal at the Athens 2004 Summer Olympics. Not only did Guevara become the first woman from Mexico to win an Olympic medal in track and field, she also became the first medallist in a sprinting event for her country.

Guevara also excelled in the Central American and Caribbean Games with six total medals from three editions of the multi-sport event. She won two silvers in the 400m and 800m at the 1998 Maracaibo CAC Games before going on to focus on the 400m for the rest of her career. Mexico's top sprinter returned at the 2002 San Salvador CAC Games to claim gold medals in both the 400m and 4x400m relay, a feat she would repeat at the 2005 edition in Cartagena.

After her magnificent career in athletics, Guevara sought to help her country in a new way, entering the political arena and becoming a Mexican Senator for 2012–2018.

Mexico's sprinting champion embodied the values of Panam Sports and the Olympic Movement in every competition across the globe. Guevara's hunger for competition could not be satisfied as she dominated tracks throughout the Americas and the world, making her yet another true Panam Sports Legend.
Next Events

APRIL

4 - 15  XXI Commonwealth Games, Gold Coast City, Australia

15 - 20  Sport Accord, Bangkok, Thailand

23 - 26  Chef de Mission Seminar Buenos Aires 2018, Argentina

26 - 29  Pan American Judo Championship, San Jose, Costa Rica

26 - 29  Pan American Badminton Individual Championship, Guatemala, Guatemala

27 - 29  Senior Pan American Wrestling Championship, Lima, Peru

29 - MAY 6  World Team Table Tennis Championships, Halmstad, Sweden
Panam Sports
Upcoming Birthdays

APRIL

4th    Neven Ilic Álvarez, President, Panam Sports

5th    Sergio Vieira Da Costa Lobo, Secretary General, Brazilian Olympic Committee

5th    Henry Nunez Najera, President, Costa Rican Olympic Committee

14th   Tricia Catherine Smith, President, Canadian Olympic Committee

18th   Richard Peterkin, Treasurer

20th   Hilberto Martinez, President, Belize Olympic and Commonwealth Games Association

26th   Alejandro Goycoolea, Director of Communications, Panam Sports