



April 25, 2024

PANJUCO Welcome Letter

We are so grateful to be able to share about PAFDF's new Youth Development Committee. The Pan American Junior Committee-Comité Panamericano Junior (PANJUCO) is the result of years of work by several individuals across our region.

How did we get here?

PANJUCO is formed from what was previously known as UJULAT. UJULAT was originally formed through the work of Vanessa Rincones (Venezuela/México), Chasen Brokaw (Nicaragua), and Frank Ferrer (Panama). UJULAT was a committee made up of different academies, focused on the development of Ultimate Junior in Latin America. They sought to provide opportunities such as tournaments, special events and trainings to give opportunities to young people in the region to develop their skills and grow and form relationships among their peers. The vision was that the level of Ultimate in Latin America could grow steadily and that we could see our young people representing their countries in Pan American and World tournaments and hopefully, the Olympics.

UJULAT made history in 2023 when they organised the first ever Pan American Junior Tournament in Mexico City. That tournament was the culmination of 5 years of work and two previous attempts to do the tournament that were delayed due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Colombia, Mexico, Panama, and Nicaragua were represented at the tournament and Cajamarca (Colombia) were crowned champions after going undefeated against the other 5 teams. This tournament served as a test so that future versions could potentially be sponsored by PAFDF and WFDF and attract more teams and athletes from across the region.

What now?

Given the success of the first Pan American Junior Tournament and after many discussions about what would be best for the youth in our Latin American region, and most realistic for the leaders involved, we have arrived at an exciting new stage! Vanessa Rincones and Chasen Brokaw successfully made two proposals to WFDF. The first was to dissolve UJULAT and create the PAFDF Youth Committee, better known as PANJUCO. The second was to make the Pan Am Junior Tournament (now Pan American Youth Ultimate Championships-PAYUC) an official WFDF event that would be organised and run by PANJUCO. This committee will continue the work of UJULAT and all the other organisers, coaches, and leaders who have invested in the youth athletes of our region over the years. The tournament will be officially supported and endorsed by PAFDF and WFDF, but organised and run by PANJUCO. After many discussions on what would be best for our youth community and realistic for the people involved, we truly believe creating PANJUCO and legitimising the PAYUC event will help us have more impact across the region.

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Looking towards the future

The Pan American Junior Committee (PANJUCO) exists to develop youth Flying Disc sports in the Pan American region. PANJUCO's mission is in accordance with the goals and objectives of its governing body, the Pan American Flying Disc Federation. All activities, events, and objectives must serve the overall mission of PAFDF and consequently the World Flying Disc Federation (WFDF). PANJUCO serves as the PAFDF Youth Committee and is governed by the PAFDF Board of Directors. PANJUCO's vision is to see the level of Flying Disc sports in the entire Pan American region, but specifically the Latin America region, grow steadily and see our young people representing their countries in Pan American and World tournaments and hopefully, the Olympics. Through the Pan American Youth Ultimate Championships (PAYUC), other competitions, in person and online trainings, and shared experiences PANJUCO believes our youth athletes can form the foundation for long term growth in our region. PANJUCO's main responsibility will be to organise the newly named, Pan American Youth Ultimate Championships (PAYUC). In addition to that task they will be creating more regional events and working to develop our young people for future success.

What do we need from our community?

PANJUCO

We are in the process of accepting applications for positions on PANJUCO. For this first term we need a minimum of three individuals and a maximum of 5. The term will officially start June 1, 2024 and run through December 31, 2025. Afterwards terms will be staggered and run for two calendar years.

We are looking for individuals who actively work with youth in a Flying Disc discipline within the Pan American region. [Please fill out this form if you are interested in serving.](#)

PAYUC

We will be sending out a bid request for PAYUC 2025. All bids must be submitted by June 30th, 2024 to give PANJUCO enough time to review and approve. Our goal is to announce dates, host country, and the tournament organising committee in the beginning of August 2024. If you are interested in hosting PAYUC 2025 and do not receive the bid request, please let us know.

Thank You!

Thank you to every athlete, coach, team, and administrator over the years who decided to throw a disc for the first time, invest in young athletes for the first time, compete in an event for the first time, or organise an event for the benefit of the community. PANJUCO and everything it achieves will be due to the foundation created by many, many people over the years. Let's keep working!

Sincerely,

PAFDF Board of Directors

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