

## **COTECC will introduce some changes in 2017 in order to expand and improve tennis in the region**

The Executive Committee of the Confederation of Tennis of Central America and the Caribbean (COTECC) met in Panama on December 16, 17 and 18 to discuss an agenda of sixteen issues related to the development of tennis in the region.

The meeting established plans to work with players between 10, 12 and 14 years old in order to expand participation to improve the quality of players. As a result, U12 camps will be organized in subregions teams plus a master, as well as training in different places such as Mexico, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Curaçao, Trinidad & Tobago, among others, which will give the opportunity to the best players and coaches in all our countries to improve their skills. Furthermore, the Copa COSAT U12 will be disputed in teams.

The Committee also agreed to add a group of events U14 in Mexico and established a grade system for the COTECC U14 tournaments, in order to make them more attractive for the ranking of the region, "which will determine the players that will represent us" declared the president of COTECC, Persio Maldonado, announcing some of the agreements of the Panama's meeting.

Furthermore, he added that the Copa América U14, which is a proposal of ITF president David Haggerty, will be played by teams from the United States, Canada, COSAT and COTECC. "And we will have a U14 Master in the region", informs the sports director.

Maldonado said that they are looking for a more active participation from all the federations that make up COTECC, to strengthen our commitment to the International Tennis Federation with the "2024 ITF" plan. "We aim to achieve a better tennis management in our region to have a greater presence in the tennis world" explained Maldonado

The meeting was attended by José Antonio Flores and Armando Suárez from Mexico, Humberto Torres from Puerto Rico, Alexander Ferrales from Cuba, Hayden Mitchell from Trinidad & Tobago, Rafael Arévalo from El Salvador, William McComb from Virgin Islands and Persio Maldonado from Dominican Republic.

It was also attended by both development officers of the ITF, Cecilia Ancalmo and John Goede; Miguel Irigoyen, executive director of COTECC, and Jorge Arrue, president of the Tennis Federation of Panama, as host. Carlos Bravo from Costa Rica made a declaration by Skype.

At the meeting, Maldonado urged the promotion of tennis integrity among leaders, coaches, players and families as a way to strengthen the best values of the human condition, which are part of the aims of the ITF. He said that the Executive Committee will keep on working consistently in coordination with development officials in various ways to assist the national federations that make up COTECC.