

May 18, 2026

OFFICIAL STATEMENT | EVENT UPDATE

IIHS World Series 2026

To our players, teams, families, partners, and the international inline hockey community:

After several months of work, planning, institutional efforts, and legal review, IIHS – International Inline Hockey Series informs that the IIHS World Series 2026 in Medellín, Colombia will not take place on the originally planned dates and will be postponed to a future edition, with new dates and host conditions to be confirmed.

This was not the outcome we wanted.

The IIHS World Series 2026 was planned as an international inline hockey event in Medellín, Colombia, with tournament divisions, camp, forum, and international participation from different countries. From the beginning, IIHS worked to build a serious project for Colombia, including venue requests, logistics, travel information, budget planning, institutional documents, sponsors, and partners.

IIHS also wants to express its sincere gratitude to INDER Medellín for the support, openness, and willingness to listen throughout the process. We especially value the spaces of dialogue that were made available, the technical and administrative guidance received, and the fact that, despite the complexity of the situation, the conversation was always approached with respect and with the athletes' interests at the center.

IIHS recognizes and appreciates the doors that were opened for this project and the commitment shown toward sport, recreation, and the protection of players and athletes.

The event was created as a private, recreational and international competition. It was not part of the official calendar of the National Sports System, did not grant official federation titles, and did not represent any Colombian national team selection process. This position was already communicated publicly by IIHS and supported by the Colombian Constitution, Law 181 of 1995, and constitutional jurisprudence regarding freedom of association and the fundamental right to sport.

However, during the process, the Colombian Skating Federation issued Resolutions 016 and 017 of 2026 and Comunicado 002 of 2026, warning affiliated athletes that participation in non-sanctioned events, including IIHS events, could result in exclusion from the national calendar and automatic removal from Colombian National Team selection processes.

This created a situation of uncertainty and concern among players, teams, and families.

Following this situation, an athlete affiliated with the Federation filed a tutela action to protect his fundamental rights to freedom of association, recreation, sport, and the use of free time. On May 7, 2026, the Eleventh Civil Court of the Circuit of Bogotá issued a second-instance ruling protecting those rights.

The Court concluded that the challenged provisions generated broad and automatic restrictions incompatible with constitutional jurisprudence in relation to freedom of association and the practice of sport in non-official recreational settings.

The Court ordered the Colombian Skating Federation to clarify the scope of Resolutions 016 and 017 of 2026 and Communiqué 002 of 2026, or to refrain from applying or interpreting language that implies automatic exclusion, immediate disassociation, or disproportionate restrictions against affiliated athletes who participate in non-official recreational events outside the National Sports System.

IIHS values this judicial decision as an important step in the protection of athletes' rights.

Nevertheless, the timing, uncertainty, and impact created around the event made it impossible to responsibly continue with an international project of this scale on the originally planned dates. Organizing an event with international teams, travel, accommodation, logistics, venue preparation, flooring, boards, officials, staff, and families requires clarity and stability well in advance.

For IIHS, the priority is to protect the players, families, teams, partners, and the credibility of the event. We cannot ask people to travel, invest, and commit to an international event while institutional and legal uncertainty continues to affect the project.

For that reason, the IIHS World Series will be postponed to new dates, to be announced once the required conditions are in place.

This does not mean that IIHS is stepping away.

The corresponding legal and institutional processes will continue through the proper channels. IIHS will continue defending the right of players to participate in recreational, formative, and international hockey events without unjustified restrictions.

At the same time, we believe the players should not pay the price for this situation.

That is why we are now moving forward with the IIHS Andes Series – Bogotá, organized in cooperation with PlayHockey, as a smaller and more focused event created to keep offering players and teams a competitive hockey experience in Colombia.

To every player, family, team, partner, and supporter who believed in the World Series project in Medellín: thank you.

We know this situation has created frustration, confusion, and disappointment. We feel it too. But IIHS will continue working for the growth of inline hockey in Colombia, Latin America, and internationally.

This is not the end.

It is a new chapter.

Respectfully,

Organizing Committee

IIHS – International Inline Hockey Series