

OFFICIAL STATEMENT

IIHS – Addressed to the Inline Hockey Community of Colombia

Eleventh Civil Court of the Circuit of Bogotá Upholds the Rights of Inline Hockey Athletes Against Restrictions Imposed by the Colombian Skating Federation

Second-Instance Tutela Ruling · May 7, 2026

Dear Inline Hockey Community of Colombia:

On behalf of the organizing committee of the **IIHS World Series 2026**, an international event scheduled to take place in the city of Medellín, we hereby inform the sporting community of recent developments and of the judicial ruling that protects the fundamental rights of athletes affiliated with the Colombian Skating Federation.

Following the announcement of our tournament, the Colombian Skating Federation issued **Resolutions 016 and 017 of 2026**, along with **Communiqué 002 of 2026**, through which it warned its affiliated athletes that participation in non-sanctioned events – such as ours – would result in their exclusion from all events on the national calendar and their automatic removal from the processes for the formation of the Colombian National Teams in all categories.

The language employed – “under no circumstances,” “will be immediately excluded,” and “automatically removed” – effectively constituted a broad and disproportionate restriction on the exercise of recreational sport.

Prior to initiating any legal action, IIHS undertook multiple institutional outreach efforts directed at the Colombian Skating Federation, at World Skate, and directly at Mr. Alberto Herrera, in his dual capacity as President of the Colombian Skating Federation and Vice President of World Skate.

Regrettably, those efforts did not result in an opportunity for dialogue; instead, they were met with progressively more restrictive measures against the organization of recreational sporting events.

In response to this situation, an athlete affiliated with the Federation, acting with commendable resolve in defense of his own rights and those of the entire community, filed a tutela action invoking the protection of his fundamental rights to freedom of association, recreation, the practice of sport, and the use of free time.

The **Eleventh Civil Circuit Court of Bogotá**, through a second and final instance ruling issued on **May 7, 2026**, granted the requested protection and concluded:

“A partial infringement of the fundamental rights invoked by the claimant was established, specifically with regard to freedom of association and the practice of sport in non-official recreational settings, insofar as the challenged provisions generate broad and automatic restrictions incompatible with the criteria established by constitutional jurisprudence.”

Accordingly, it was declared that the Colombian Skating Federation violated the fundamental rights of the claimant, a ruling whose effects extend to all affiliated athletes who were restricted from participating in recreational tournaments under threat of exclusion from official processes.

Orders Issued by the Court

FOURTH. The Colombian Skating Federation was ordered to, within forty-eight (48) hours of notification, **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 broadly disproportionate restrictions against affiliated athletes who participate in non-official recreational events outside the National Sports System.

FIFTH. The Colombian Skating Federation was cautioned to henceforth refrain from issuing communications or adopting measures that, through general or intimidating language, disregard the right of athletes to associate and participate in recreational activities organized outside the National Sports System.

IIHS acknowledges and values this judicial ruling as a significant step forward in the protection of athletes' rights and extends its deepest gratitude to the athlete whose initiative made it possible to restore fundamental guarantees for the entire community.

We likewise respectfully invite the Colombian Skating Federation to comply strictly with the ruling and to fulfil its institutional role in keeping with its stated purpose: the promotion, encouragement, and development of the discipline. In that spirit, we reiterate our willingness to engage in dialogue and cooperation, so that events such as the IIHS World Series 2026 – which seeks to encourage new players, bring together high-level international teams, and establish a space for multicultural integration around inline hockey – may be carried out for the benefit of Colombian sport.

Respectfully,

Organizing Committee

IIHS – International Inline Hockey Series