

- CONMEBOL -
EVOLUCIÓN

SOUTH AMERICAN
FOOTBALL
SEMINAR **2026**

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CONMEBOL EVOLUCIÓN Seminar April 2026

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PRESIDENT
OF
CONMEBOL

Alejandro
Dominguez
WS

We are grateful to everyone who made this Football Seminar possible, which is probably amongst the largest in the world, but it is certainly **the largest in the history of South American football.**

The purpose of this meeting is so we can talk about football again. We have much to share, but first we need to remember ourselves, begin to listen, talk again. We must find ourselves as a football community and rediscover our identity. And go out to show the world that we do know who we are and what we want.

And now, as we are just days away from starting the World Cup, of which we proudly hold the title of being the continent with Argentina as World Champions, I want to share a dream with you—and it's not just about beating the Europeans. I dream that the final must be between two South American teams, and I believe it is possible.

If separately we were already invincible, if we unite as a continent and realise that ultimately we all speak the same language, what awaits us is an even richer future. I welcome you and thank you all.

*Institutional
Words*

**A Vision for South American
Football Development**





ABOUT THE SEMINAR

Where South American Football Meets

An unprecedented event that brought together more than **56,000 people from the 10 countries of the continent** to share experiences and strengthen football development across the continent.

OBJECTIVE

Create, for the first time, a continental network to share knowledge, experiences, methodologies, and case studies to strengthen and develop youth football in South America.





THE AGENDA

13 and 14 April

10hrs - 16hrs (Paraguay Time) CONMEBOL Convention Centre
Accessible in 3 languages: Spanish, Portuguese, and English

AUDIENCE:

- 10 Member Associations
- Coaches, trainers, analysts, students, communicators, and football enthusiasts

DAY 1 | MONDAY, APRIL 13

SCHEDULE	SPEAKERS	TOPIC
10:00-10:15	Alejandro Domínguez (CONMEBOL)	VISION AND LEADERSHIP.
10:15-10:45	Mauro Silva (BRA)	WE ARE ALL PART OF FOOTBALL.
10:45-11:15	Claudio Vivas (ARG)	PLAYER DEVELOPMENT ACROSS ALL STAGES.
11:15-11:30	Marcelo Broli (UY)	DEVELOPING TALENT IN DIFFERENT ENVIRONMENTS.
11:45-12:15	Filipe Luís (BRA)	DEVELOPMENT OF THE COACH.
12:45-13:15	Rilany Aguiar da Silva (BRA) Gabriel Mastrodomenico (BRA)	ADVANCING WOMEN'S FOOTBALL.
13:45-14:15	Oswaldo Pangrazio (CONMEBOL)	INJURY PREVENTION: CURRENT CHALLENGES AND FUTURE DIRECTIONS.
12:15-12:45	Gerardo Pelusso (URU)	TACTICAL TRENDS IN THE SOUTH AMERICAN GAME.
15:00-15:30	Panel of Players and Coaches: Martín Palermo (ARG) Toro Acuña (PY) Oscar Ruggeri (ARG) Formiga (BRA) Catalina Usme (COL)	EXPERT PANEL.
15:30-16:00	Martín Tocalli (ARG)	CASE STUDY: ARGENTINA NATIONAL TEAM.
16:00-16:30	Gabriel Bussinger (BRA)	CASE STUDY: VASCO DA GAMA.

DAY 2 | TUESDAY, APRIL 14

SCHEDULE	SPEAKERS	TOPIC
10:00-10:15		OPENING.
10:15-10:45	Montserrat Jiménez (CONMEBOL)	RESPECT IS KEY.
10:45-11:15	Graciela Garay (CONMEBOL)	INTEGRITY IN FOOTBALL.
11:15-11:30	Diego Caballero (CONMEBOL)	COACHING LICENCE PATHWAYS.
11:30-11:45	Maurício Marques (CONMEBOL)	DEVELOPING COACHES.
11:45-12:15	Enrique Cáceres (CONMEBOL)	REFEREE APPOINTMENTS AND PREPARATION.
12:15-12:45	Pablo Nigro (ARG)	MENTAL HEALTH IN SPORT.
12:45-13:15	Israel Teoldo (BRA)	UNDERSTANDING THE GAME: A COGNITIVE PERSPECTIVE.
13:15-13:45	Sandra Rossi (ARG)	NEUROSCIENCE IN SPORT: THE HIGH-PERFORMANCE MINDSET.
13:45-14:15	Carlos Tabares (COL)	PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT IN YOUTH FOOTBALL.
15:00-15:30	Roberto Arroyo (ECU)	INDEPENDIENTE DEL VALLE FORMATIVE PROJECT
15:30-16:00	Luis Ramírez (MINISTRO DE EDUCACIÓN DEL PARAGUAY)	EDUCATION AND FOOTBALL: LEARNING BEYOND THE PITCH.
16:00-16:30	Nery Pumpido (CONMEBOL)	DEVELOPING ATHLETES WITH A GROWTH MINDSET.



Insights and Reflections

Perspectives That Leave Their Mark

"You have to understand that on the pitch you compete at the highest level, as I did, but if off the pitch I can offer a hand to a South American team, you have to do it. You have to work together. It's intelligent to work together, we are partners and our rivals are not in South America."

DAY 1

Mauro Silva

World Champion -
Technical
Consultant (GET)



Uruguayan
Coach
World Sub-20
Champion

Marcelo Broli

Claudio Vivas



"I love sharing with football people. There are lots of people with things to contribute. What I tried to convey is that we prepare, we work well. When things are done well, incredible things can be achieved."



Argentine Coach

"We all want to form winning players, but winning doesn't have to be what matters most in training. Because in training, what's most important is the development that players and athletes can achieve."



RELIVE
THE SEMINAR
DAY 1



**Martin
Tocalli**

Goalkeeper Coach of the
Argentine National Team

"I think that at the South American
level we have much to offer. South
America is a diamond in the rough."

President of
CONMEBOL Medical
Commission



**DR. Osvaldo
Pangrazio**

"I think the team that
arrives best and can aspire
to be champion is the team
that has the fewest injured
players."

"In football, no one has absolute
truth and what's important is being
able to transmit knowledge."



**Martin
Palermo**

Trainer and Former
Argentine
International

DAY 1



**Catalina
Ysme**

CONMEBOL Legend

"Women's football has taken a wonderful path for all of
us who expected these changes. The leaders who have
carried this process until now—that a girl can say she
lives from football, which was not seen just a few years
ago—have been very important for accelerated growth."

Women's
Football
Legend



Formiga

"All the difficulties I went
through throughout my
career made me think a lot
and grow mentally. I had a
very big dream of playing in
Europe and that dream came
true. I was 38 years old when
the invitation came to play
at PSG."

"There are 100,000 people watching the
Seminar. I laugh with joy remembering the first
steps. This is fantastic. Knowledge didn't reach
everywhere before, and now we have reach to
every corner—South America is all its peoples."



Gerardo Pelusso

Member of the Tactical
Studies Group (GET)
CONMEBOL Legend



"For me, good leaders manage empathy and excellent communication well. They consider others as part of a whole, they prioritize common goals over their own. And they are able to manage egos, which I believe are necessary, in a balanced way."

DAY 2

Sandra Rossi



Doctor, Specialist
in Neuroscience
Applied to High
Performance



Luis Ramirez

Minister of Education
and Sciences of Paraguay

"It was truly extraordinary what could be experienced at this Seminar because it has triple impact. First, the carnal, to show education and its importance. Second, sport as a key to social management. And third, by doing it in this digital format, it becomes much more specialised."

"The Seminar is a pioneering event, a reference that will remain in history. It depends on the trainer to awaken, motivate and inspire the learner. And that's what we're doing through CONMEBOL."

Mauricio Marques

CONMEBOL
Educational
Coordinator



"The only way to eradicate racism, discrimination and violence is through education."



Montserrat Jimenez

Deputy Secretary
General - Administrative
Legal Director CONMEBOL



"We work so that referees are at their best for matches. I have to ensure that a person is most aware that they have to give their best for a match despite having had a poor previous day."



Graciela Garay

Director of Ethics, Compliance and Integrity

President of the Arbitration Commission



Enrique Cáceres

Israel Tealdo da Costa



CONMEBOL Instructor

"South America is not just a supplier of players. It is a shaper of global football identity."

"A high percentage of actions that end in a goal are preceded by high-intensity efforts."

DAY 2

RELIVE THE SEMINAR DAY 2

HERE



Pablo Nigro

CONMEBOL EVOLUCIÓN Academic Expert



"Current football demands more and more. Addressing mental health is not a weakness, but a necessity."

"The integrity of football is maintaining that unpredictability of sport that is the essence of what we do. In football, integrity is built as a TEAM."

Carlos Tabares

CONMEBOL Instructor





Seminar Impact

Seminar in Numbers

**+68 nationalities from
the 6 confederations**

**APF (Paraguayan Football Association)
and FBF (Bolivian Football Federation)
remained connected with more than
200 people at each venue
every day.**



**+56,000
certificates
delivered to
participants**

**All corners of South
America connected,
especially our 10 Member
Associations concentrated
in their countries, standing
out with more than 550 in-
person participants at APF,
FBF, and FFCH during 2 days.**

**+200,000
views**

@DecheyvosTV
"Congratulations on the initiative,
greetings from Florida, Uruguay."

@anaguanes
"What great work you are doing...
it's good to show this to people."

@jvsport1
"May continuous learning continue,
greetings from Lima, Peru."

@Merynathaysnavarrohaas
"Grateful for sharing all this wealth of
information that will serve us to apply it in
our club from Venezuela."

Representatives of the 10 Member Associations



10 development directors of the 10 Member Associations:

Pablo Escobar (FBF), Matheus Senna (CBF), Douglas Martinez (APF), Ivonett Paredes (FPF), Valentina Carbonell (AUF), Luis Giménez (FVF), Miguel Torrecilla (FFCH), Juan Manuel Escobar (FCF), Gonzalo Martinez (AFA), Sebastian Portilla (FEF).



Impacto del Seminario

Testimonios de invitados

"This is the first seminar, and I hope these opportunities given to young people and everyone occur more frequently. You learn something new every day, and I personally learned a lot. We always grow when there is community and we are together."



Carlos Jara Saguier

Paraguayan Coach

Felipe Melo

CONMEBOL Legend
Paraguayan Coach.



"So many people registered to be here, to be together, people in their homes, so many different countries. It is very important that we are all united so that each time the next seminars are better. Unity is strength, without a doubt."

Colombian Coach



"Every football match gives us information, a lesson, a teaching, study and work material, and the idea is always to invite people to have that desire for continuous learning."

"It is the first seminar, hopefully more opportunities like this are given to young people and to everyone. Every day you learn something, I learned a lot. You always grow when there is community and we are together."

Pablo Escobar

Director of Development
of the Bolivian Football
Federation





INTERVIEWS

Voices from the Seminar



Filipe Luis

Coach and Former Brazilian International

"It is extremely important that the leaders of South America—administrators, players, coaches—are always together in favour of improving South American football."

Filipe Luis has become a true benchmark of South American football. Not only for his great career as a left-back, but also for his achievements as a coach: he was champion of the Copa Libertadores with Flamengo in 2025. With that experience, he spoke during the first day of the Seminar.

What is the importance of South American Leadership being involved in these activities?

It is extremely important that the leaders of South America—administrators, players, coaches—are always together in favour of improving South American football, which is already top-tier, extremely competitive. Perhaps it is the most competitive football in the world, so it is always important that we all remain united to try to improve and keep competition healthy.

What are the values that identify South American Football?

Diversity. It is very different playing against teams from Ecuador, Bolivia, or Brazil. Each football has its particularities. I would define South American football as diverse, with great diversity.

Is there a single leadership style that works in all sports institutions?

No, no. All people are different and leadership must always be different. It depends on the characteristics of the people you are working with.



Three Champions: CONMEBOL Libertadores 2025, U-20 World Cup with Uruguay, and CONMEBOL Libertadores U-20.



Claudio Vivas
CONMEBOL Expert

"The message is clear: you have to train yourself. Today there are no excuses not to".

How many matches without winning should a youth sports project sustain before being modified?

In a youth project, results should not set the limit; in that sense, the process is practically infinite. What is truly important is evaluating the development and training that players and athletes receive in formative stages. That's why it's fundamental to assign coaches appropriately according to ages: there are profiles better prepared to work with children and others with older youth. As players grow, demands increase, but the result should not be the central focus. We all want to form winning players, but winning cannot be the most significant part of training. What's essential is the integral development of footballers.

What message would you give to those who participated in this seminar regarding the training of young footballers?

The message is clear: you have to train yourself. Today there are no excuses not to. When I started, in 1988, my only option was to watch coaches like "Piojo" Yudica. Back then I thought I could adapt adult training for children, and over time I understood that was a mistake.

Today those mistakes can be avoided. The training coach must educate themselves, understand current social sensitivity and the different realities of young people. We don't just form footballers, but also people—people from different resources, different realities. Football is an inclusive space where children from different contexts participate, and that must always be considered. Continuing to learn and continuing to train is fundamental, and these types of seminars are a key tool for that process.



Gabriel Buzinger
CONMEBOL Instructor / General Technical
Coordinator Vasco da Gama SAF

What is your perspective on training and its importance for different roles within a football team?

Alvin Toffler said: "The illiterate of the 21st century will not be those who cannot read and write, but those who cannot learn, unlearn, and relearn." This idea reflects the importance of continuous training very well. Today, lifelong learning is fundamental, as we live in a constantly changing environment. That's why it's key to continue training throughout your life. Instances like this seminar are very valuable, as they allow coaches, physical trainers, goalkeeper coaches, and coordinators to reflect on their professional development. It's not just about acquiring knowledge, but also knowing how to apply it in practice. Training should help professionals deepen their intrapersonal knowledge, better understand their ideas, philosophy, values, and principles, and take all of that to the pitch. Continuing to learn and train is essential for all professionals seeking to grow and adapt to the demands of modern football.



"Continuous training is key in modern football: it's not enough to know, you have to learn, unlearn, and relearn to adapt to a constantly changing environment."



Roberto Arroyo

Sports Manager of
Independiente del Valle

**"It is necessary to have
patience and invest in
processes."**

What are the sports management pillars that made Independiente del Valle a reference academy in South America?

It is fundamental to have an important structure at the business level, with administrative management, financial management, with important infrastructure to be able to perform at high performance. Comprehensive training, which is key. And also talent management, not just the talent of footballers, but also the talent of the staff that trains and works with them towards the future.

What message would you give to other clubs to achieve successful management like Independiente del Valle's?

It is necessary to have patience and invest in processes. The kids need tools to continue developing and then enjoy the final product.

Does South America have the potential to be a world reference?

Of course. Not only because of the great talent of its players, but because of the processes it has been working on and has been maturing. We are the great power at the global level.



Cree en grande.



Deputy
Secretary
General of
Football and
Development
Director

Nery
Pumpido

This idea was born last year. I thought big and wondered: why not make it open and accessible to everyone? If we've learnt anything in this time, it's that connectivity allows us to be close, from anywhere in the world. I didn't imagine this magnitude, but it confirms that there is enormous interest in learning and training. We have to reach everywhere. Make football better every day, make it change.

We have technical directors, referees, psychologists, doctors—we try to make a very complete Seminar and make it a great service to the football community.

We are planning to do a different kind of Seminar in the future; we have to keep working and make CONMEBOL the mirror that all clubs in South America should be.

Projection for
the Future





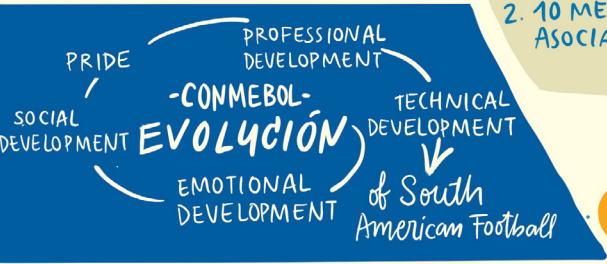
The Future
is Built
Together



PURPOSE
 TRANSFORM SOCIETIES
 THROUGH FOOTBALL
 AND BE **ROLE MODELS**

DEVELOPMENT OF SOUTH AMERICAN FOOTBALL • CONMEBOL •

$FG = (C+T)^P$
 SOUTH AMERICAN FOOTBALL = (CREATIVITY + TALENT) PASSION



how?
 1. DIRECT PROJECTS
 2. 10 MEMBER ASSOCIATION



PLAY

- DISCIPLINE IN DEVELOPMENT
- DEVELOPMENT OF GRASSROOT FOOTBALL
- YOUTH CATEGORY NATIONAL TEAMS

BUILD

- MAINTENANCE AND RENOVATIONS
- NEW INFRASTRUCTURE
- EQUIPMENT AND TECHNOLOGY

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 ... OPPORTUNITIES ...
 ... INSPIRE ...
 ... INCLUDE ...
 ... INSPIRE EMOTION ...



8 SOUTH AMERICAN DEVELOPMENTS COMPETITIONS
1,400 ATHLETES IN DEVELOPMENT * **244** MATCHES
52,000 COMPETE LOCALLY TO PARTICIPATE
+ 3,000 COACHES TRAINED PER YEAR



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