



October 19th, 2025

**OSAF CHAIRMAN RAUL LIMA NETO WELCOME SPEECH**  
**ON THE GRAN PREMIO LATINOAMERICANO 2025 DINNER,**  
**IN RIO DE JANEIRO**



OSAF is pleased to share the welcome speech of OSAF Chairman Raúl Lima Neto (Jockey Club Brasileiro) to his guests, pronounced on the dinner sponsored by 1<sup>ST</sup>/ARC, held on the Gran Premio Latinoamericano's eve on Friday October 17<sup>th</sup> at the Fairmont hotel in Río de Janeiro.

*Dear friends and colleagues, distinguished International and South American horseracing authorities.*

*Today I have the great honor of greeting and welcoming you to my city as Chairman of OSAF and as President of the Jockey Club Brasileiro, a double responsibility and commitment, and a double personal joy for me.*

*We have the honor of being joined by four of the highest authorities of the IFHA, its four Vice Chairmen, Mr. Masayuki Goto, Mr. Horacio Esposito, Mr. Jim Gagliano, and Mr. Henri Pouret, as well as by very important figures from the international horseracing industry who have traveled from Japan, the United States, France, Ireland, England, Hong Kong, Canada, South Korea, and Singapore.*

*I would like to express my deepest gratitude to you all.*

*I also want to thank all those who have come from around South America and OSAF's authorities for their presence.*

*The horseracing activity in Brazil faces the same challenges as other countries within South America. Our prizes are uncompetitive compared to those distributed in North America, Asia, and Europe, with an economy that has suffered greatly over the decades, and especially after the COVID pandemic in 2020. However, we rely on the hard work and effort of the people involved in our industry who refuse to give up, and we have managed to maintain a privileged position among the leading producers of Thoroughbreds in South America and around the world, and also as exporters to other countries outside our region.*

*Our jockeys, trainers, and horses have become international figures, recognized and distinguished throughout the world. We are driven by our passion for Thoroughbreds and the sport of horseracing, and our desire to continuously improve.*

*The commitment I make today as Chairman-elect of OSAF and as one of its representatives - along with Horacio Esposito - before the IFHA, is to continue advocating and promoting HORSERACING INTEGRITY in all its aspects, from breeding, equine welfare, jockey welfare, doping control to ensure transparency in the sport, quality control of our Pattern Race calendar, the aftercare of horses retiring from competition and breeding, and the fight against those who take advantage of our industry to conduct illegal activities for personal gain and who infringe upon the ethics of our industry. HORSERACING INTEGRITY is the concept that must guide us in our daily and long-term actions. It must be our mandate, OUR RESASON FOR BEING.*

*Integrity is the foundation on which our sport is based, and protecting that integrity is essential to the credibility and popularity of our equestrian industry.*

*Brazil was one of the founding countries of OSAF, back in August 1958, and I am personally proud to continue the legacy and follow in the footsteps of its first Chairman, Dr. Oswaldo Aranha, in the development and constant improvement of our activity and positioning South American horseracing at the level of the world's leading horseracing nations.*

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*The Jockey Club Brasileiro has hosted the Gran Premio Latinoamericano 3 times in the past: in 1985, 1996, and most recently in 2016.*

*Tomorrow, we will host the Gran Premio Latinoamericano for the fourth time. This is a great achievement for both the Jockey Club Brasileiro and OSAF, who have worked as a solid team, and to whom I want to express my deepest gratitude.*

*The Gran Premio Latinoamericano is the only itinerating race worldwide, as it not only changes host racetracks year after year, but also changes countries, rotating among OSAF member countries. This is a major challenge, as it requires a personal and professional commitment from all those involved in the core organization, as well as the trust placed in all its stakeholders.*

*The Latino is the Group 1 race with the largest prize money in all of South America, and it's also the race with the highest rating in our entire region. This is something that fills us with pride and challenges us year after year.*

*Tomorrow we'll have 11 top class races, with two Group 1s that will be broadcast to Hong Kong on the World Betting Pool. The race meeting will also feature five Group 2 races.*

*I thank everyone for their presence and support, and I thank both the Jockey Club Brasileiro and OSAF teams who have worked remarkably hard to make sure that tomorrow we will enjoy tomorrow an amazing Latinoamericano meeting.*

*I would like to personally thank the authorities of 1st and American Racing Channel for their efforts in sponsoring and organizing this dinner.*

*Now is the time to celebrate and toast to a brilliant future for our sport.*

*Thank you very much.*