



**WBSC**

WORLD  
**BASEBALL SOFTBALL**  
CONFEDERATION

*Game Time!*

**Executive Board Meetings  
Essential Decisions  
2014 – 2019**

## 2014

### Interim Board – Essential Decisions

After the Conference call on 26<sup>th</sup> February 2014, and as agreed by the IB, a provisional budget for WBSC for 2014 has been put forward, which had been circulated to the IB members prior to this Meeting. The new WBSC EB would need to look into further details in that provisional budget.

The IB members agreed that the new WBSC EB should draw up the financial guidelines, such as for expenses, claims, etc..

After the elections of the new WBSC EB, the GM would re-convene to allow the delegates the opportunity to raise matters for open discussion with the new elected Board.

Ms. Maria Soto has indicated that she would withdraw her candidacy for Member At Large from Softball and that she is the ISF's candidate for Athlete Representative on the new WBSC EB as she is the duly elected Athlete Representative on the ISF Board. With Ms. Soto's withdrawal, there would remain only two (2) nominees from Softball for the Member At Large positions, namely, Ms. Taeko Utsugi (Japan) and Mr. Tommy Velzaquez (Puerto Rico).

The IB members agreed to retain the 7-year term (until 2017) for the new WBSC EB to show unity and allow the new WBSC EB members to focus on efforts to take the WBSC forward until the 2020 OG. The IB members noted that if the decision is taken by the IOC to include Baseball-Softball onto the 2020 OG programme, a lot more work needs to be done to ensure success on the 2020 OG program.

Upon confirmation, the IB recorded the following appointments announced by the respective Baseball and Softball divisions:

- Executive Vice President – Softball: Dale McMann
- Executive Vice President – Baseball: Israel Roldan Gonzalez
- Vice President Softball: Meliton Sanchez Rivas
- Vice President Baseball: Reynaldo Gonzalez Lopez

## 2014

### Executive Board – Essential Decisions

All communication should be from and by the new WBSC as that is the IOC recognized international federation for both Baseball and Softball, to avoid confusion and the perception that the sports are still separated.

The EB members agreed to an integrated approach on communication and requested the WBSC office to propose to the EB for consideration and approval, some format layouts for communication to be used by the respective divisions to send out information relating to the respective division's competitions.

The EB members agreed that IBAF should put in place an election process to elect the Baseball Athletes Representative to serve on the WBSC EB.

## 2015

### Executive Board – Essential Decisions

It was clear that there is now flexibility with the IOC and a real opportunity for an inclusion in Tokyo 2020, and that everyone in WBSC must continue to focus and work in total unity with the IOC to realize that goal.

It is very clear that the best players must be available and stated there was a need for more clarity in our strategy to ensure participation of the professional leagues.

The 2 divisions, BB and SB, would continue to be autonomous over the separate sport, as stated in the WBSC Constitution, but there is only one combined federation as IF.

The Board agreed and approved:

- (i) All new applications for membership be made to WBSC as the IOC recognised IF for Baseball and Softball in the Form and Criteria tabled; in the application form with the criteria stated therein; and
- (ii) One membership-affiliation fee of US\$200.00 per year per Division, as the case may be, be paid to WBSC, such fee to go to the respective Baseball or Softball divisions, or where applicable, to be split in the case of combined National Federations; and
- (iii) a National Federation must be a member of WBSC before it can apply to the relevant Continental federation for membership.

After discussion, the Board agreed and approved the appointments of IBAF Legal Counsel Mr. Vincenzo La Rocha and ISF Legal Counsel Mr. Edward Colbert as members of the Legal Commission with other members to be named by the Board at a later date.

After discussion, the Board agreed and approved that a Task Force be established to study, investigate and report back to the Board on issues associated with:

- (a) The change of name from IBAF and ISF to WBSC Baseball and Softball Division respectively;
- (b) The naming and branding of events organized by the Baseball and Softball Divisions;
- (c) The change of structure of IBAF and ISF Divisions in WBSC at international level, including the establishment of protocols for different levels of communication;
- (d) The change of structure of continental confederation levels, if feasible;
- (e) The amendments to the WBSC Articles of Association;
- (f) The drafting of rules, by-laws and other codes to achieve full IOC compliance and best practices.

The members of the Task Force to comprise of the following:

- 3 members from Baseball Division – namely, Angelo Vicini, Ron Finlay, Paul Seiler as appointed by IBAF;
- 3 members from Softball Division – ISF to appoint and Mr. McMann to confirm names;
- WBSC Secretary General Beng Choo Low;
- 2 Athletes Representatives;
- IBAF and ISF respective Executive Director as ex-officio members.

The Task Force is:

- to liaise with the respective Continental federations on the matter; and
- to report back at the next WBSC Executive Committee meeting.

President Fraccari tabled the motion for the appointment of Mr. Willi Kaltschmitt Luján as WBSC Vice President – Baseball.

The EB agreed to give the mandate to President Fraccari to discuss and negotiate with Botswana on the terms and conditions which Botswana need to comply to host the WBSC Congress.

It had been agreed that in future WBSC Congress, the respective Baseball and Softball Divisions would meet 1 – 2 days prior to WBSC Congress, followed thereafter by the WBSC Congress.

Regarding the Athletes Commission, it was decided that Athletes Representatives María Soto and Justin Huber shall propose criteria for the election and appointment of the members.

## **2016**

### **Executive Board – Essential Decisions**

March 2016, the IOC Olympic Programme Commission Meeting recommended a package of five new sports (including Baseball/Softball as one sport, two disciplines) for the Tokyo 2020 sports programme.

June 2016, the IOC Executive Board Meeting approved the recommendation for the package of five new sports (including Baseball/Softball as one sport, two disciplines) for the Tokyo 2020 sports programme.

August 2016, the IOC Session approved the package of five new sports (including Baseball/Softball as one sport, two disciplines) for the Tokyo 2020 sports programme.

WBSC would assign one WBSC staff to take charge of the Olympic programme for Baseball/Softball in view of the added duties and responsibilities to ensure our success in Tokyo 2020.

President Fraccari reported on his recent meetings with the professional leagues and they expressed interest to be part of the WBSC and form a unique and solid World Baseball/Softball Family.

President Fraccari updated the Board Members of the WBSC request for eight teams for a better competition schedule and larger number of professionals participating in the Tokyo 2020 Baseball and Softball competition but that the Tokyo 2020 Organisers and IOC had approved only a six-team competition.

## **2017**

### **Executive Boards – Essential Decisions**

Despite the importance of Baseball/Softball in Japan, Tokyo2020 revealed to be a challenging partner as both parties seek to ensure the success of Baseball-Softball in Tokyo2020. There were several matters still under discussion with both Tokyo2020 and International Olympic Committee (IOC) Sports Department on logistics and arrangements, with the good support from the IOC to WBSC in organising the best event in Tokyo2020.

It was important to fully integrate both Baseball and Softball Divisions under the authority of WBSC. The WBSC Baseball Division, at the meeting that morning had approved the following motion.

“That the IBAF Executive Board:

- (a) resolves to assign and transfer all of its existing contracts to WBSC;
- (b) resolves that all future contracts for the Baseball Division be entered into in the name of WBSC;
- (c) recommends to its (IBAF) members that at the forthcoming Congress in October 2017, the Baseball Division proceeds to an orderly windingup of IBAF and the transfer of all assets and liabilities of IBAF to WBSC;
- (d) requests IBAF management prepare a transition plan for the orderly and legal winding up of IBAF; and
- (e) recommends ISF follows a similar policy.

The Softball Division would similarly follow-up, with the matter to be tabled at the WBSC-Softball Division Board meeting in April 2017 in San Francisco.

After discussion, the following proposals were agreed upon:

- The Proposed new Statutes to be translated into Spanish;
- The Proposed new Statutes be forwarded to the Continental Confederations in order to receive feedback from the members within a two-(2)-month period;
- The WBSC Executive Board shall review the feedback and finalise the amendments and send it to all members;
- The final Draft of the Proposed new WBSC Statutes be tabled at a WBSC Extraordinary Congress for ratification in Botswana, immediately prior to the WBSC Congress.

The WBSC Executive Board unanimously approved the creation and formation of the WBSC Youth Commission and the Chair as Mr. Seiler and requested the Commission to study of new versions of Baseball and Softball, taking into consideration Street Baseball- Softball/Béisbol-Softbol Esquinero.

The Board unanimously approved the presentation by John Tibbs Associates (JTA) on the following proposal for the WBSC Brand Architecture:

Vision: A billion-strong baseball softball community.

Mission: To grow baseball and softball globally by making it a more appealing and more accessible team sport experience (subject re-wording to a shorter version)

The IOC-recognised International Federation solely responsible for:

- Staging world-class baseball and softball championships between national teams at all levels.
- Representing the sport within the Olympic Movement.
- Ensuring a level playing field around the world.
- Developing the sport worldwide.
- The world’s most inclusive team sport.
- Team Spirit & Community.
- Authenticity & Tradition.
- Ambition & Innovation.
- Integrity & Fair Play.

- Equality & Honour.
- Hard working, Perseverant, Professional.
- Inclusive, Open.
- Bold, Dynamic, Youth Focused.
- Passionate, Responsive.
- Innovative.

Secretary General presents a motion for approval, seconded by the WBSC Executive Board unanimously approves the two new documents (Statutes and Code of the Divisions) and it endorses the WBSC Legal Commission to present these documents and their amendments to the WBSC Members at the Extraordinary Congress.

The WBSC Executive Board unanimously approves the proposed qualifying system for Baseball and Softball to be submitted to the attention of the IOC Sports Department.

## 2018

### Executive Board – Essential Decisions

The WBSC Executive Board unanimously approves the establishment of Base International Ltd. as company.

The WBSC Executive Board unanimously approves the establishment of a WBSC OTT platform.

The WBSC Executive Board unanimously approves the award of the hosting rights for the 2021-2023-2025-2027 U-12 Baseball World Cup to Tainan, Taiwan.

The WBSC Executive Board unanimously approves the establishment of Baseball5 as a WBSC discipline.

The WBSC Executive Board unanimously approves:

- To make sure the WBSC licenses or sanctions events so that the WBSC has some kind of agreement with organisers of events.
- To protect the WBSCs intellectual property with a trademark approach registering worldwide but also making sure the WBSCs copyright the rules and all the documents that the WBSC produces and puts on the website.
- To police the Baseball5 events so that if the WBSC finds someone is running an event that is not sanctioned by WBSC and/or finds someone that is using the WBSC rules and regulations with that attribution, the WBSC should contact them.

The WBSC Executive Board unanimously approves all the three proposals and resolutions:

- To approve the creation of Base International Ltd. as a company to secondly authorise WBSC to entry into the shareholders' agreement for that company and therefore approve the constitution that the company is part of that shareholders' agreement.

- To approve the transfer of the media and marketing rights (all the rights except Premier12 2023 and 2027 and the respective periods eventual Olympic Qualifiers) of WBSC to that company and finally to authorise the

appointment of the President and the Treasurer as President of the company and second representative of WBSC within that company.

- To ratify the execution of the Dentsu contract between WBSC and Dentsu Inc.

The WBSC Executive Board unanimously (with the absence of the Chinese Executive member) approves the 2018 U-15 Baseball World Cup Wild Card and gives it to China.

The WBSC Executive Board unanimously approves the implementation of these three changes to the tournament regulations starting from 2019:

- Clock for the 20'' rule in the field.
- Intentional walk
- Replay for the umpires.

The WBSC Executive Board unanimously approves the award of the hosting rights for the 2019 U-18 Baseball World Cup to South Korea under the condition all requirements indicated in the Hosting Manual are fully endorsed and respected (especially on fields requirements and sizes) by the Local Organising Committee.

The WBSC Executive Board unanimously approves the sole participation of National Teams to the future editions of the Softball Slow Pitch Co-Ed World Cup.

The WBSC Executive Board unanimously approves the change of age categories in Softball World Cups in order to have U-12, U-15, U-18 and U- 23 Softball World Cups as follows:

- U-23 (Women's & Men's; dates to be defined)
- U-19 becomes U-18 (Women's in 2020; Men's in 2021)
- U-15 begins (Girls 2021; Boys 2020)
- U-12 (mixed) beginning in 2020

The WBSC Executive Board unanimously approves the establishment of the Baseball-Softball Centre in Clearwater for WBSC and to bring to the next meeting an agreement and contract with this purpose.

The WBSC Executive Board unanimously approves the new document as By-Laws to the WBSC Statutes for the Safeguard from Harassment and Abuse in WBSC and all WBSC events.

The WBSC Executive Board unanimously approves the membership of AABC (American Amateur Baseball Congress) as new Associate Member.

The WBSC Executive Board unanimously approves to ask the Presidential Council to analyse all the bids to host Olympic Qualifiers and to report to the WBSC Executive Board for final approval.

The WBSC Executive Board unanimously approves to adopt and approach changes to our sport in vision of the Olympic Games, but also for the WBSC World Cups, in order to change and modernise our sport being in line with IOC requirements and indications, especially taking into consideration the athlete quota, the gender equality and the increasing fun and reduction of the length of the games, with an increased involvement of the fans.



The WBSC Executive Board unanimously approves:

- to start organising a U-15 Baseball5 World Cup, a Senior Baseball5 World Cup and to open to national tournaments sanctioned by WBSC and organised by National Federation Members. All tournaments shall be mixed.
- to require the Baseball5 Commission analyses and proposes a World Ranking System for Baseball5 competitions to be finally approved by the WBSC Executive Board.

The WBSC Executive Board unanimously approves to require the WBSC Women's Development Commission to draft guidelines in order to implement a gender equality policy among WBSC and all its Members.

The WBSC Executive Board unanimously approves to require the WBSC Women's Baseball Commission to cooperate with the WBSC Tournament Commission in order to review the tournament regulations of the Women's Baseball World Cup.

The WBSC Executive Board unanimously approves to implement the Video Replay System in WBSC Baseball and Softball events.

The WBSC Executive Board unanimously approves to organise the first (1st) edition of the U-12 Mixed Team Softball World Cup as an invitational event with four (4) National Teams from Japan, China, Chinese Taipei and USA, and to negotiate with Chinese Taipei to host that event together with the U- 12 Mixed Baseball World Cup to further develop softball at young age groups.

The WBSC Executive Board unanimously approves the financial investments as per suggestion of the Treasurer and to give to him full powers of attorney to sign all WBSC's contracts, including opening of new bank accounts. For this last purpose only, the authorisation of the Executive Board is needed and unanimously given.

The WBSC Executive Board unanimously approves the membership of Liga de Béisbol Profesional de la República Dominicana Inc. (LIDOM) as new Associate Member.

The WBSC Executive Board unanimously approves the membership of AFBS (Association Francophone Baseball et Softball) as new Associate Member.

The WBSC Executive Board unanimously approves to give mandate to the Executive Director to finalise the contract with Osaka City and then to announce dates and details of 2019 WBSC Ordinary Congress to all WBSC Members.

## **2019**

### Executive Board – Essential Decisions

The WBSC Executive Board unanimously approved to adopt in principle the reduction from nine to seven innings starting from 2020 for the U-23 and from 2021 for the U-18.

The WBSC Executive Board unanimously approved to adopt in principle the recommendation of the WBSC Baseball Tournament Commission that consisted in the increase of the number of clinics for officials around the world.



The WBSC Executive Board unanimously approved to adopt in principle the recommendation of the WBSC Baseball Tournament Commission that consisted in enhancing technology on the fields to improve communications among all officials and approved to receive a final project proposed by the WBSC Office in this sense.

The WBSC Executive Board unanimously approved the introduction of the replay in all senior Women's Softball World Cups games starting from 2020.

The WBSC Executive Board unanimously approved to adopt in principle the recommendations from the WBSC Athletes' Commission.

The WBSC Executive Board unanimously approved to start the organisation of a U-15 and a Senior Baseball World Cup in 2020.

The WBSC Executive Board unanimously approved the bid for the 2020 U-23 Baseball World Cup in Hermosillo and Obregón (MEX).

The WBSC Executive Board unanimously approved the bid for the 2020 U-18 Men's Softball World Cup in Palmerston North (NZL).

The WBSC Executive Board unanimously approves the bid for the 2021 U-18 Baseball World Cup in USA.

The WBSC Executive Board unanimously approved the award of the wild card of the U-12 Baseball World Cup to the Baseball National Federation of Fiji.

The WBSC Executive Board unanimously approved the award of the wild card of the U-18 Baseball World Cup to the Baseball National Federation of China.

The WBSC Executive Board unanimously approved the membership of Benin Baseball and Softball National Federation as new Full Member.

The WBSC Executive Board unanimously approved to refrain from further analysis and to ask the applicants for more details before approving the membership of WAS (World Alliance of Baseball & Softball Schools) as new Associate Member.