



**WBSC**

WORLD  
**BASEBALL SOFTBALL**  
CONFEDERATION

*Game Time!*

**SOFTBALL**

Competition &  
Technical Code 2018

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*This Code applies to WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS 2018*

## **ARTICLE 1. WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP COMPETITION**

1.1 Each participating nation shall pay a deposit of two thousand five hundred (\$2,500) USD to the WBSC Softball Division no later than six (6) months before the tournament starting date. If the team fails to participate, the deposit will be forfeited to the organising committee. If they participate, the deposit will be returned.

- 1.2 a) Each participating nation shall submit to the WBSC Softball Division no later than three (3) months before the tournament starting date, a preliminary team/squad roster of players and officials to participate in such tournament.  
b) Each participating nation shall submit to the WBSC Softball Division at the Technical Meeting prior to the tournament a final team roster of players and officials to participate in such tournament.

1.3 In the event of a team failing to appear at a World Championship, following consideration of a submission outlining the reason for that non-appearance, the Board of Directors may impose an appropriate sanction which might include, among the options, suspension of that team from a subsequent World Championship.

1.4 Junior Championships are the age of 19 and under. At the World Championships for junior men and women, the age qualification is determined as of the 31<sup>st</sup> of December of the year prior to the championship. If a player reaches his/her 19<sup>th</sup> birthday anytime during the year of the championship, that player is eligible for the Junior World Championship.

Year of Eligibility:     2018 – 1999  
                                  2019 – 2000  
                                  2020 – 2001

## **ARTICLE 2. SCHEDULING**

### **2.1 FORMATION OF SECTIONS AND METHOD OF COMPETITION (FAST PITCH)**

- a) When there are ten (10) to sixteen (16) effective entries, WBSC will form two (2) sections. A single round robin will be played within each section. The top four (4) teams from each section shall play in a double page system playoff.  
b) The allocation to sections will be:

| Section 1 | Section 2 |
|-----------|-----------|
| 1         | 2         |
| 4         | 3         |
| 5         | 6         |
| 8         | 7         |
| 9         | etc.      |

### **2.2 PLACEMENT ROUND**

For those teams that do not advance to the Page or Double Page playoff, there will be a placement round played that will provide teams with one additional game. The exact format of the placement round will be proposed by the Host and must be approved by the WBSC Softball Division. The round will count in the final standings.

### **ARTICLE 3. RESOLUTION OF TIES**

3.1 A tie exists within one (1) section, or across two (2) or four (4) sections, when two (2) or more teams have the same win-loss record.

3.2 A tie shall be resolved by following, in order, the procedure set out below:

a) Within Section Round Robins

1. With two teams tied on wins/losses, rank them by the results of their game in the round robin; the winner is placed ahead of the loser.
2. With more than two teams tied on wins/losses, rank them in order:
  - A. By the results of their games among themselves in the round robin games. With two teams tied on wins/losses, rank them by the results of their games in the round robin; the winner is placed ahead of the loser.  
If still tied on wins/losses, by their runs against record in the games among themselves; the team with the lowest runs against is placed ahead of the others, the team with the second lowest runs against is placed ahead of the others, etc., until two team remain and then rank them by the results of their game(s) in the round robin; the winner is placed ahead of the loser.
  - B. If any teams tied by their runs against record in the games amongst themselves:
    - i. two teams – by the results of their games amongst themselves in the round robin games;
    - ii. more than two teams – by their runs against record in all the round robin games; the team with the lowest runs against is placed ahead of the others, the team with the second lowest runs against is placed ahead of the others, etc., until two team remain and then rank them by the results of their game(s) in the round robin; the winner is placed ahead of the loser.

b) Across Section Round Robins

With two or more teams tied on wins/losses, rank them in order:

1. By their runs against record in all round robin games; the team with the lowest runs against is placed ahead of the others, the team with the second lowest runs against is placed ahead of the others, etc.
2. If any teams still tied on runs against, by random selection; the first team selected is placed ahead of the others.

3.3 For a tied team “runs against” is the total number of runs scored by the specified opponents of that team.

EXCEPTION: Where teams are tied for a place in a Page System the Technical Commission may decide that such tie may be resolved by a playoff provided the Technical Commission agree that conditions are satisfactory for such playoff.

### **ARTICLE 4. FINALS (FAST PITCH)**

#### **4.1 PAGE SYSTEM PLAYOFF (4 TEAMS) – ONE SECTION**

- a) The Page System shall comprise of two (2) semi-finals, one (1) final and one (1) grand final.
- b) Two (2) days shall be set aside for the Championship Page System at the end of the Championship. The two (2) semi-finals shall be played on the second to last day, the final and grand final shall be played on the last day.

- c) First Semi-final – The teams ranked third and fourth in the round robin shall play for a place in the final; the loser is fourth in the Championship.
- d) Second Semi-final – The teams ranked first and second in the round robin shall play for a place in the grand final.
- e) Final – The winner of the first semi-final and the loser of the second semi-final shall play for the second place in the grand final; the loser is third in the Championship.
- f) Grand Final – The winner of the second semi-final and the winner of the final shall play for the Championship; the loser is second in the Championship.

#### **4.2 DOUBLE PAGE SYSTEM PLAYOFF (8 TEAMS) – TWO SECTIONS**

- a) The Double Page system shall comprise of two (2) Preliminary Page Systems “A” and “B” to determine the four teams to play in the Championship Page System to determine the first four places in the Championship.
- b) The Preliminary Page Systems “A” and “B” shall each comprise of two (2) semi-finals and one (1) final.
- c) The Championship Page System shall comprise of two (2) semi-finals, and one (1) final and one (1) grand final
- d) It is recommended that two and a half days shall be set aside for the Double Page System playoff. The two (2) semi-finals of each Preliminary Page System “A” and “B” shall be played on the third to last day; one final of each Preliminary Page System “A” and “B” and two (2) semi-finals of the Championship Page System shall be played on the second to last day; and the final and grand final of the Championship page system shall be played on the last day.

#### **4.3 TWO SECTIONS – 8 TEAMS**

- a) Preliminary Page System “A”
  - 1. Shall comprise the first and third teams from Section One and the second and fourth teams from Section Two.
  - 2. First Semi-final – The teams ranked third in Section One and fourth in Section Two shall play for a place in the Preliminary Page System “A” final.
  - 3. Second Semi-final – The teams ranked first in Section One and second in Section Two shall play for a place in the Championship Page System second semi-final.
  - 4. Final – The winner of the first semi-final and the loser of the second semi-final shall play for a place in the Championship Page System first semi-final.
- b) Preliminary Page System “B”
  - 1. Shall comprise the first and third teams from Section Two and the second and fourth teams from Section One.
  - 2. First Semi-final – The teams ranked third in Section Two and fourth in Section One shall play for a place in the Preliminary Page System “B” final.
  - 3. Second Semi-final – The teams ranked first in Section Two and second in Section One shall play for a place in the Championship Page System second semi-final.
  - 4. Final – The winner of the first semi-final and the loser of the second semi-final shall play for a place in the Championship Page System first semi-final.
- c) Championship Page System
  - 1. First Semi-final – Winner of the final of Preliminary Page System “A” and winner of the final of Preliminary Page System “B” shall play for a place in the final; the loser is fourth in the Championship.
  - 2. Second Semi-final – Winner of the second semi-final of Preliminary Page System “A” and the winner of the second semi-final of Preliminary Page System “B” shall play for a place in the Grand Final.
  - 3. Final – Winner of the first semi-final of the Championship Page System and the loser of the second semi-final of the Championship Page System shall play for a place in the Grand Final, the loser is third in the Championship.

4. Grand Final – Winner of the second semi-final of the Championship Page System and the winner of the final of the Championship Page System shall play for the Championship title; the loser is second in the Championship.

## **ARTICLE 5. STANDINGS**

5.1 A schedule of final team standings shall be published immediately following the last game of a World Championship. Such other standings shall be published as and when required by the WBSC Softball Division official in charge of the Championship.

- a) The final standings of the first four (4) teams shall be determined by their standings in the final page playoff(s).
- b) The final standings for fifth to eighth (when two sections play a double page system playoff) shall be determined as follows:
  1. The losers of the First Semi-finals in Preliminary Page Systems “A” and “B”, seventh and eighth.
  2. The losers of the Final in Preliminary Page Systems “A” and “B”, fifth and sixth.
  3. The teams with the lowest loss record (round robin and preliminary page system games) shall be placed in the higher position of each pair. Where teams have the same loss record, their positions shall be determined in accordance with Article 3 of this Code.
- c) The final standings for the remaining teams will be determined by the outcome of the placement round as set forth in Article 2. Ties shall be determined in accordance with the provisions of Article 3 of this Code.

## **ARTICLE 6. COMPETITION**

### **6.1 ROSTERS**

The official team roster list must be received by the local competition manager at the time of the Technical Meeting prior to the start of the competition.

### **6.2 ROSTER CHANGE DEADLINE**

Changes in the official roster may be made only for injury, illness, death or other incapacitation as determined by the WBSC Technical Commission. Changes may be made at any time prior to the beginning (submission of the line-up) of the team’s first official competition.

### **6.3 PLAYERS**

No more than seventeen (17) individual players shall participate in a World Championship.

At the Technical Meeting prior to the commencement of the tournament the passports or government issued ID card (this excludes driver’s licenses) of each player participating shall be checked by the Technical Commission for nationality/citizenship, and at youth tournaments checked for date of birth.

A waiver of liability may be required by all players to participate in WBSC Softball Division competition. Determination of the requirement to execute a waiver will be at the sole determination of the WBSC Softball Division Board of Directors.

#### **6.4 TEAM UNIFORM**

- a) All players must be uniformed alike on a given team. The players must have the name of their country on the front of the uniform or an emblem depicting national origin. The same number must be on the back of uniform shirts, both light and dark, and be six inches in height; this will serve to identify each eligible player. These mandatory provisions shall not preclude display on the uniform, the names and or logos of sponsors (up to and not to exceed 5) provided that such display shall have a maximum size of 3.1" <sup>2</sup> / 20cm<sup>2</sup> when worn. (2.6" <sup>2</sup> / 16.8cm<sup>2</sup> on the batting helmet). (Where the logo mark appears as a rectangle or square, the mathematical rules used to calculate the surface area of the shape will be applied) Sponsorship cannot be in direct conflict with any sponsorship in place and team uniforms designs/sponsorship placement must be sent for review to the secretariat in advance of a World Championship. The WBSC Softball Division does reserve the right to place a sponsorship logo on a team uniform if such agreement is secured. A miniature flag or emblem of the country may be placed in front of the cap (men), one (1) inch above the visor is recommended.

NOTE: *Please refer to addendum 6.2 for placement norms.*

- b) Two (2) teams shall not in any games wear the same or similar colour uniforms. Each team shall be required to have a white/light colour shirt, and also a contrast colour/dark colour shirt. The home team will wear a contrast colour/dark colour shirt and the visiting team will wear a white/light colour shirt. See 6.3 A. to determine which is the home and visiting team.
- c) Players must have their number displayed on the front of their uniform shirt, 7.62cm (3") high. Shall a team and or player not have the number on the front of the uniform the team will lose their right to home team status.
- d) Shoes – Must comply with Rule 3. Section 5. Metal Cleats may be worn in Junior World Championships 19Under.

NOTE: All youth 16U, 14U, 12U and 10U, all levels of Slow Pitch and Modified Pitch - NO METAL CLEATS.

#### **6.5 CHOICE OF INNINGS AND DUGOUT**

- a) Opening Round Home and Away games are decided by WBSC once all participating countries are known. An attempt is made to insure the number of Home and Away games are as equal as possible.
1. The highest placed team in the round robin has choice of home or away in the play-off round.
  2. When two equally placed teams play (i.e. they both finished first in the pool) there will be a coin toss for home and away.
- b) The home team will be assigned the third base dugout and the visiting team, who will bat first, will be assigned the first base dugout.
- c) In the page system final where the winning team from the final plays back to back in the Grand Final, the winning team may keep the dugout utilized in the previous game

#### **6.6 HELMETS (FAST PITCH ONLY)**

Helmets are mandatory on offense for batters, on-deck batters, batter-runners, runners, youth age players who coach in the first and third base coaches box, and youth age representatives that participate as a bat boy or girl while on the field or in the dugout.

#### **6.7 REPORTING TO PLAYING SITE**

- a) Teams preparing to play must report to the TC at least one (1) hour before scheduled to play and submit at that time, the completed line-up card.

- b) When the completed line-up card is submitted to the TC, the completed line-up card must be signed by the Head Coach/Manager.
- c) Once submitted to the TC, the line-up will be official.
- d) It shall be the host organising committee's responsibility to see that teams are picked up and delivered to the playing site on time.

#### **6.8 BATS CHECKED**

Each team must have their bats checked by the umpires prior to the start of their first game, and thereafter, if necessary, in the tournament. All bats must conform to the rules of the WBSC Softball Division Equipment Standards Commission. A Bat must be on the WBSC Softball Division Bat list and have the 2005 ISF Approval Logo on the bat. A bat compression test machine must be present at all Championships and all bats must pass the WBSC Softball Division compression standard set by the WBSC Softball Division. Failure to meet any of the criteria above will result in the bat not being permitted for use at the Championship. Bats approved for use will be marked and any bat used that is not so marked will be considered an illegal bat.

#### **6.9 USE OF DIAMOND**

Prior to their first game of the tournament, each team may have a five (5) minute warm-up on the diamond. The "home team" shall have last warm-up.

#### **6.10 TEAM MEMBERS ON PLAYING FIELD OR IN DUGOUT**

No one, other than team members in uniform, coaches and managers, will be permitted on the playing field except by permission of the Technical Commissioners. Access to the dugouts is restricted to the team members (Max 26) listed on the team Roster.

#### **6.11 SMOKING**

No smoking, use of tobacco products, vaping, e-cigarettes or alcohol is permitted on the field or in the dugouts at any time.

#### **6.12 DEMONSTRATIONS**

- a) Any type of demonstration by a team before, during, or following a game, must be held in an area directly in front of their own assigned dugout.
- b) If this is violated, the team Head Coach will not be allowed to coach as follows:
  - 1. If demonstration is before a game, the Head Coach cannot coach that game.
  - 2. If demonstration is after a game, the Head Coach cannot coach the next game.
  - 3. If demonstration is after last game of Championship, appropriate action will be dealt against the country by the Board of Directors.

NOTE: Players involved in a demonstration may not go beyond an imaginary line drawn from home plate through the pitcher's plate to second base. Teams may not cross over from their own side of this line.

#### **6.13 COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT**

- a) No communication equipment is allowed between:
  - 1. The coaches on the field;
  - 2. The coaches and the dugout;
  - 3. The coaches and any player; or



4. The spectator area and the field, including the dugout, coaches and players.

NOTE: If such equipment is continued to be used after a warning, the Head Coach will be ejected from the game.

NOTE: In World Championship and Olympic Play, communication devices issued by the official scorer for the purpose of communication between the coaches/managers and the official scorer are permitted provided such devices are only used for official score keeping purposes.

- b) Videotaping will be allowed in designated areas not less than 25' to the left and right of centre field plus at any location at the venue approved by WBSC. Each team is allowed video cameras with a tripod and may video games for training purposes, with the following requirements:
  1. The cameras need to be set up in designated areas not less than 25' to the left and right of centre field plus at any location at the venue approved by WBSC but cannot interfere with the spectators, or games in progress; and
  2. Computers and other electronic equipment can be used except for immediate transmission of information to the playing teams.
  3. No videotaping will be allowed behind home plate between 1<sup>st</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup> base.

#### 6.14 **COMPLETION OF GAME**

- a) All games must go at least seven (7) innings, except if forfeited or ended by the Run Ahead Rule.
- b) **COMMENCEMENT/DELAY/SUSPENSION/DEFERMENT/RESUMPTION OF GAME**
  1. In the advent of adverse weather conditions, the Technical Commissioners in conjunction with the Home Plate Umpire shall decide whether a game shall be:
    - A. In the case of a game that has not started –
      - i. Commenced, with particular attention being given to an impending storm and for both teams to have equal innings of playing conditions, or
      - ii. Delayed, with any such game being rescheduled at a later time and/or date.
    - B. In the case of a game that has commenced –
      - i. Suspended for a short period of time (up to a maximum of three (3) hours), or
      - ii. Deferred for a long period of time (in excess of three (3) hours), with particular attention being given for both teams to have equal innings of playing conditions

A game will be resumed after a suspension or deferral at the exact point where the game was interrupted as long as the event schedule and time remaining allow.

When a game is suspended it shall be rescheduled. If this affects more than one game, all games shall be rescheduled barring any issues of special consideration. Rescheduling decisions will be made in conjunction by Technical Commission (Executive Director/Tournament Manager, Technical Director and Umpire in Chief) and LOC

For the final game of the Championship, if after a delay it is determined that a competition field cannot be made playable, the Technical Commission may award the game.

- c) **15/10/7 RUN AHEAD RULE (FAST PITCH and MODIFIED ONLY)**

A game must be called a regulation game if one team leads the other by fifteen (15) runs or more after three (3) innings, ten (10) runs or more after four (4) innings, or seven (7) runs or more after five (5)

innings have been played. Both the visiting team and the home team must complete the same number of innings at bat unless the home team leads by the required number of runs and the game is called at that point.

d) **TIE BREAKER**

If, after the completion of seven (7) innings of play, the score is tied, the following tie breaker will be played to determine the winner:

- Starting with the top of the eighth inning, and each half inning thereafter, the offensive team shall begin its turn at bat with the player who is scheduled to bat ninth (tenth in SP, or eleventh in SP with an EP) in that respective half inning being placed on second base. The player who is running can be substituted in accordance with the substitution rules.

6.15 **MAJOR DISRUPTION TO PLAYING SCHEDULE**

- a) Where there has been a major disruption to the playing schedule during the round robin or playoff rounds, the determination of placings and winners of medals shall be decided by the Technical Commission.
- b) The following guidelines are for assistance in making such determination:
1. Every attempt should be made to determine a winner through the playing of games (i.e. complete the round robin matches as a minimum).
  2. If the round robin matches cannot be completed, the placings should be decided on the games actually played. However, consideration should be given to the number of games each team has played.
  3. If any of the playoff games cannot be played or continued due to any circumstance, the following method will be used to determine the placings:
    - A. No playoff games played Placings and medal winners will be determined by the final rankings at the completion of the round robin. Rankings to be determined in accordance with the provisions of Article 5 of this Code.
    - B. Playoff rounds have commenced and cannot be completed:
      - i. Any game where a team has been defeated and eliminated from the remaining playoff round games will be deemed legal.
      - ii. An undefeated team (including round robin and playoff round games) will be declared the winner.
      - iii. In the event of there being more than one undefeated team (including round and playoff round games) the winner will be determined in accordance with the provisions of Article 3 of this Code.

6.16 **PROTESTS**

When a protest is made by a Team Manager over a suspected misapplication or misinterpretation of *Official Softball Rules*, it shall be made to the Home plate Umpire according to the *Official Softball Rules*. When such protest is made, the Home Plate Umpire shall stop the game, inform the Team Manager of the opposing team, the Technical Commissioner(s) assigned to work that game, and the audience that a protest has been filed. The Team manager will provide a protest fee of \$200 US to the Technical Commissioner at that exact time in order to proceed and then:

- 1) Umpires on the field will quickly consult and try to resolve.
- 2) The TC's & the field UIC will go to the fence and discuss the issue with the umpires and/or the teams.

- 3) The TCs will discuss with the field UIC and present their decision to the home plate umpire who will relay to the teams.
- 4) If the protest occurs on the game-ending play, the desire to submit a protest must be announced by the Team Manager or the Delegation Leader to the Technical Commissioner(s) assigned to the game. They will inform the opposing team, the umpires, and the other necessary parties that a protest has been filed. After consultation with the Umpires & Field UIC, a decision will be taken immediately by the Technical Commissioner(s) assigned to work that game. The opposing team must wait for the decision before they leave the playing field.

Any decision of the Technical Commissioner(s) *regarding the playing rules* is final and not subject to appeal.

When a participating Delegation protests the participation of any *athlete*; the protest shall be presented to the Technical Commission of the Competition prior to the conclusion of the competition.

If the protest does not refer to an action of the game, it must be submitted in writing to the Technical Commission, together with the corresponding deposit, explaining the reasons that state for it and the due dispositions *that supposedly* apply to it.

#### 6.17 **OFFICIAL SCORERS**

WBSC will name Official Scorers and/or approve Scorers named by the host country. All official score sheets will be filed with the WBSC Office at the conclusion of the tournament.

#### 6.18 **CHAMPIONSHIP TRIBUNAL**

- a) The Championship Tribunal shall be appointed by the WBSC SOFTBALL DIVISION Chairman or his nominee.
- b) The Championship Tribunal shall have the authority to deal with and take appropriate action against any player or official whose off-diamond actions or conduct are reported as being detrimental to the sport of softball.
- c) Procedures for the Championship Tribunal to investigate the report and the Championship Tribunal hearing shall follow similarly to those set out for the ejection of a player/official from a game in f, g, h, i of this clause.
- d) Any player/official ejected from a game for reason of a violation of Rule 4, Section 13 (a) or for any other reason which could be considered as bringing the game into disrepute, shall be required to appear before a Championship Tribunal.
- e) Should any player/official be ejected from a game, the umpire concerned shall submit a written report to the WBSC Softball Division Representative (per the Championship Umpire in Chief), immediately following the conclusion of the game from which the player/official was ejected.
- f) The WBSC Softball Division Representative shall advise the Manager/Administrator of the team, of the ejected player/official, of the time and place for the Tribunal Meeting. This meeting shall be conducted as soon as possible following the conclusion of the game from which the player/official was ejected and prior to the next game scheduled for that team.
- g) The player/official shall be permitted to be accompanied by the Team Manager/Administrator to the Tribunal hearing.
- h) The Tribunal shall have the authority to impose one of the following penalties:
  1. To reprimand the player/official, or

2. To suspend the player/official for any or all of the remaining games in the Championship. If it is felt that the suspension should be longer than the remaining games, or if the team is eliminated before the suspension is served, in the Championship then the suspension should carry over until the next WBSC Softball Division event or Regional event.
  3. If that player is not at the next event his country will play shorthanded for the number of games the player was suspended. The Country must nominate one player to sit out the number of games.
- i) The Tribunal shall advise the player/official of its decision immediately following the meeting. Also notify all Regions if the suspension is to last longer than the Championship.

#### 6.19 **TWENTY SECOND (20) CLOCK**

Following will be the procedure and guidelines for the use of the Twenty Second (20) clocks throughout the round robin, play-off and placement games. The following guidelines will be in place:

1. The Clocks will be placed on the playing field where they can be easily viewed by the players, managers, umpires and spectators. One clock will be on or near the score board in the outfield so as to be visible to the batter and the plate umpire. The other(s) clock shall be placed on the outside of the playing field to either the right or left of home plate so as to be visible to the pitcher and one more of the base umpires.
2. The twenty (20) second clock will begin:
  - a) when the umpire says "Play Ball";
  - b) when a new batter is in the vicinity of the batter's box and the pitcher has possession of the ball in the pitching circle and the catcher and umpire are in position, the umpire shall signal with a chopping motion to begin the clock;
  - c) when after a pitch, the catcher is in a position to return the ball to the pitcher;
  - d) when the umpire indicates "Play Ball", after the batter leaves the batter's box as a result of one of the Exceptions listed below. The umpire shall indicate "Play Ball" once all play has ceased, and the batter is in or near the batter's box, the pitcher has possession of the ball in the pitching circle or the catcher is in a position to return the ball to the pitcher. The umpire shall signal with a chopping motion to begin the clock. This includes a foul ball, a dead ball being called or Time being called, even if the batter does not leave the batter's box;
  - e) on a passed ball, once all play has ceased, and the batter is in or near the batter's box, the pitcher has possession of the ball in the pitching circle or the catcher is in a position to return the ball to the pitcher, the umpire shall signal with a chopping motion to begin the clock;
  - f) when there is no longer an opportunity for a play or attempted play by the catcher, and all runners returned to their base, the batter is in or near the batter's box, the pitcher has possession of the ball in the pitching circle or the catcher is in a position to return the ball to the pitcher, the umpire shall signal with a chopping motion to begin the clock;
  - g) on a checked swing, once all play has ceased, and the batter is in or near the batter's box, the pitcher has possession of the ball in the pitching circle or the catcher is in a position to return the ball to the pitcher, the umpire shall signal with a chopping motion to begin the clock.

The pitcher has twenty (20) seconds to begin his wind up after the twenty (20) second clock begins. If the twenty (20) second clock expires prior to the pitcher starting the pitch wind-up, the ball shall be declared dead and a ball award to the batter. The pitch starts when the pitcher begins any motion that is part of the wind-up. The umpire responsible for pitcher clock violation administration (normally the 2nd base umpire), shall call

and signal “dead ball”, point to the pitcher with an open hand and say “clock violation”. The plate umpire shall award the batter a ball and give the new count.

Once the twenty (20) second clock has started the batter has ten (10) seconds to enter the batter’s box and must keep one foot in the batter’s box between pitches. Failure to keep one foot in the batter’s box shall result in a strike being called on the batter. The batter may only step out of the batter’s box with both feet in the following circumstances:

- a) when the ball is hit;
- b) on a swing, provided it is the momentum of the swing that takes them out of the batter’s box;
- c) if forced out of the batter’s box to avoid a pitch;
- d) on a wild pitch;
- e) on an attempted play at the plate or by the catcher on an advancing runner or by any player;
- f) if time has been called, or the plate umpire leaves his position to perform other duties not directly connected with the calling of plays;
- g) if the pitcher leaves the pitching circle;
- h) on a 3-ball count that the batter thinks the pitch was a ball.

A delay of the game caused by the failure of the batter to keep one foot in the batter’s box between pitches will result in the ball being declared dead and a strike awarded against the batter. The Plate umpire shall call and signal “dead ball”, point to the batter’s box and say “batter’s box violation” and award a strike on the batter and give the new count.

If time is called during the twenty (20) second time period, the clock will be paused, and the time recommence at the point where it stopped after the umpire is sure the batter and pitcher are ready. The umpire will indicate “play ball” and the clock will restart.

No time shall be granted in the last five (5) seconds of the twenty (20) second clock run down. If time should be inadvertently granted, the clock shall be reset to twenty (20) seconds.

The calling of or the failure to call a clock violation or a batter’s box violation by the umpire is NOT subject to appeal or protest.

## ARTICLE 7. GROUND

7.1 There shall be a standard distance from home plate to the outfield fence. There shall also be lateral boundary fences from the backstop, parallel with each foul line, linking with the outfield fence.

|    |       |  |
|----|-------|--|
| FP | MEN   | Not less than seventy-six point two zero (76.20) meters (two hundred fifty (250) feet) nor more than eighty-three point eight two (83.82) meters (two hundred seventy-five (275) feet. |
|    | WOMEN | Sixty-seven point zero six (67.06) meters (two hundred twenty (220) feet)  |
| SP | MEN   | Not less than ninety-one point forty-four (91.44) meters (three hundred (300) feet) from home plate to the outfield fence.   |
|    | WOMEN | Not less than eighty point seventy-seven (80.77) meters (two hundred sixty-five (265) feet) from home plate to the outfield fence.   |

7.2 There shall be a standard type backstop at least seven point sixty zero (7.60) meters (twenty-five (25) feet) from home plate and not more than nine point one zero (9.10) meters (thirty (30) feet)

7.3 There shall be a standard type base, of strong material, securely fastened.

7.4 In World Championship or, on skinned or loose surfaces, there shall be a marker of rope or horse hair staked below the surface to mark the corners of the batters' boxes.

7.5 Ground rules shall clearly indicate areas that photographers will be allowed. Only properly certified (by the WBSC Softball Division) photographers will be allowed on field, if provided by ground rules.

7.6 Medical or first aid attendants shall be on duty at all times.

## **ARTICLE 8. EQUIPMENT**

8.1 An official ball for each WBSC Softball World Championship will be designated not less than one (1) year prior to the commencement of the World Championship. Manufacturers will be contacted to send sample balls to WBSC Office for review and testing. The WBSC Office shall determine through a testing procedure whether the balls meet the WBSC specifications as set out in the WBSC Playing Rules.

8.2 All balls used in World Championship play must bear the WBSC logo. Application for official ball status must contain a specific monetary guarantee to WBSC and enough complimentary balls for use in World Championship as determined by the Competition Commission. The ball or balls must be able to pass specifications set by the WBSC and be of high quality and durability.

8.3 A supply of balls will be turned over to the TC's prior to the start of the tournament and they will be responsible to see that only those balls designated official World Championship balls are used during the tournament games.

8.4 All bats to be used must be approved by WBSC. Notification of the approval shall be made by adding the bat name and model number to the list of approved maintained on the WBSC website. Once the bat is added to the list, it is certified for use in Championship play. All bats to be used must conform to the specifications as set out in the WBSC Rules. Once a bat manufacturer withdraws from the bat certification program, all bats currently listed as certified bats shall remain on the certified bat list for a period of five (5) years from the date of withdrawal. (The expiry date of the bats should be included in brackets after its listing. e.g. Easton Synergy 2)

Bats taken off WBSC List because manufacturer leaves program or withdraws are still legal for 5 years after withdrawal by manufacturer provided the bat still meets the bat standards set out in Rule 3.

8.5 With respect to two-piece bats:

- a) Manufacturers must demonstrate that the interchangeable bat fails in a safe manner, i.e., visible damage before locking feature fails
- b) Bat components must be designed in a way to prevent uncertified equipment alterations. ISF approval logo must appear on either the handle or the barrel.

8.6 Equipment with identifying marks and/or logo of the original manufacturer may be used in any WBSC Softball Division competition including World Championships, Olympic Games and other sanctioned competition. Except the original manufacturing mark and/or logo must not represent more than ten percent of the equipment. NOTE: Any dispute regarding this section shall be resolved by the WBSC Softball Division Equipment Standards Commission. As this section relates to Olympic competition any exception must be approved by the IOC.

8.7 All other equipment must adhere to the specifications as set in the official rules of the WBSC Softball Division.

8.8 Equipment On Ground. This will be the responsibility of the team. Umpire should see that no equipment is left in any way that would obstruct playing of the game or present a hazard to players or umpires.

8.9 The double base must be used in WBSC Softball Division World Championship and Olympic play.

## **ARTICLE 9. UMPIRES**

9.1 Prior to the World Championship, the Chairman of WBSC Softball Division shall appoint an Umpire in Chief who shall be in attendance at the Championship and be responsible for the assessment and game assignment of umpires. The Chairman shall also appoint one or more assistant(s) to the Umpire in Chief.

9.2 Approximately seven (7) months prior to a World Championship, the Director of Umpires will recommend to the WBSC Softball Division President, the number of umpires needed for the championship, based on the number of teams tentatively scheduled to participate and the number of fields to be used. The WBSC Softball Division Director of Umpires may recommend the use of either 3 umpire crews or 4 umpires crews after taking into consideration the number of umpires nominated, teams, games to be played, fields to be used and the number of days' duration of the Championship.

9.3 Process for nominating umpires to World Championships

1. Each National Federation of the WBSC Softball Division will be invited to nominate up to four (4) umpires – five (5) to six (6) months prior to the World Championship.
2. Nominations may be made by returning the umpire application form to the WBSC Softball Division.
3. The umpire application form must be approved by the National Federation or the National Federation Director of Umpires (NOTE: Electronic approvals submitted by the National Federation or the National Federation Director of Umpires are considered acceptable).
4. The application form must be submitted to WBSC by the posted deadline unless an extension has been granted by the WBSC Softball Division Director of Umpires.
5. The WBSC Softball Division Director of Umpires may request a Federation if they would consider sending an umpire named by the WBSC Umpire Director to a specified World Championships. (NOTE: Such a request may only be made to balance the umpire crew in terms of gender or to enhance the experience level of the crew.

Process to select umpires for World Championships

1. Should a National Federation nominate more than one umpire, the umpires must be seeded by the National Federation and the justification used for the seeding must be submitted to the WBSC Softball Division along with the nomination forms.
2. The regional umpire coordinator reviews the nomination of his/her region based on ability and/or experience in conjunction with level needed in the said tournament.
3. An activity report indicating the number of games officiated by the nominated umpire as well as the level of ball of the games officiated, i.e., Adult/Youth, Male/Female, Elite/Recreational must accompany each umpire's nomination.
4. The WBSC Softball Division Director of Umpires will determine the number of umpires required for the World Championship based on the number of teams, fields utilized and number of games per day.
5. The WBSC Softball Division Director of Umpires will make the selections from the submitted umpire nominations in consultation with regional umpire coordinators and the Directors' from the umpire selection committee.

6. The WBSC Softball Division Director of Umpires will submit the selected umpire crew list to the WBSC Softball Division President for final approval.

#### 9.4 Selection Criteria for World Championships

1. The umpire's ability to officiate at the level of competition to be played at the World Championship.
2. Performance in previous WBSC Softball Division tournaments (based on evaluations or reports from the attending UIC and DUICS).
3. Umpires for Senior Championships must have received a previous WBSC Softball Division evaluation [two (2) or three (3) evaluations preferred].
4. Eligible evaluations can be used from participation at an WBSC Softball Division senior or youth tournament.
5. For youth tournaments, evaluations are required from either the regional umpire coordinator or National Federation Director of Umpires.
6. The contents of the umpire activity reports must cover the umpire's activity for the previous three years. The activity report must be validated by the National Federation.
7. Selections will be made in three elimination rounds based on the following:
  - a) the first selection round - umpires with a participating country are considered.
  - b) the second selection round - the number of participating countries of a region (i.e. North America, Latin America, Asia, Europe, Africa and Oceania) are taken into consideration in regards to the number of umpires selected from the region.
  - c) the third selection round - any remaining umpire positions may be filled from the host federation or from the federations located in the hosting region.

#### 9.5 Process for selecting umpires to WBSC Softball Division operated "Cups" or World Games

1. Participating National Federations will be invited to nominate one (1) umpire – five (5) or six (6) months prior to the Championship.
2. Nominations may be made by submitting the umpire application form to the WBSC Softball Division.
3. The umpire application form must be approved by the National Federation or the National Federation Director of Umpires (NOTE: Electronic approvals submitted by the National Federation or the National Federation Director of Umpires are considered acceptable).
4. An activity report indicating the number of games officiated by the nominated umpire as well as the level of ball of the games officiated, i.e., Adult/Youth, Male/Female, Elite/Recreational must accompany each umpire's nomination.
5. The application form must be submitted to the WBSC Softball Division by the posted deadline unless an extension has been granted by the WBSC Softball Division Director of Umpires.
6. The regional umpire coordinator reviews the nomination of his/her region based on ability and/or experience in conjunction with level needed in the said tournament.
7. The WBSC Softball Division Director of Umpires will determine the number of umpires required for the Championship based on the number of teams, fields utilized and number of games per day.
8. The WBSC Softball Division Director of Umpires and the Regional Coordinator (of the location where the championship is to be held) comprise the umpire selection committee and will make umpire selections from submitted umpire nominations.
9. The WBSC Softball Division Director of Umpires will submit the selected umpire crew list to the WBSC Softball Division President for final approval.

#### N.B. Process for Sanctioned Cups

WBSC Softball Division Director of Umpires will review list of umpires selected by the host Federation or host committee and offer advice on the selected umpires.



9.6 Criteria used for WBSC Softball Division operated “Cups” or World Games

1. Umpire’s ability to officiate at the level of competition to be played at the Championship. Special consideration may be given to adding female umpires to the crew outside of participating team or regional balance considerations.
2. Performance in previous WBSC Softball Division tournaments (based on evaluations or report from the attending UIC and DUICS).
3. Eligible evaluations can be used from participation at an WBSC Softball Division senior or youth tournament.
4. For youth tournaments evaluations are required from either the regional umpire coordinator or National Federation Director of Umpires.
5. The contents of the umpire activity reports must cover the umpire’s activity for the previous three (3) years. The activity report must be validated by the National Federation.
6. Selections will be made in three elimination rounds based on the following:
  - a) In the first selection round - umpires with a participating country are considered.
  - b) In the second selection round - the number of participating countries of a region is taken into consideration in regards to the number of umpires selected from the region (consideration may be given to adding female umpires to the crew).
  - c) In the third selection round - any remaining umpire positions may be filled from the host federation or from the federations located in the hosting region.

9.7 Each National Federation of the WBSC Softball Division shall have the right to notify the WBSC Softball Division if any umpire is not in good standing or unavailable with said National/Federation and the reason that the umpire is not in good standing.

9.8 The National Federation will be notified no later than five (5) months prior to the championship of the umpire(s) selected by the Committee. The National Federation must have the umpire(s) selected, complete both the general information form and the uniform measurement form and submit (by email) to the Director of Umpires no later than four (4) months prior to the championship. Failure to email the forms by the deadline could cancel the assignment.

9.9 Each umpire selected and participating in any World Championship must wear the official WBSC Softball Division uniform as described under Rule 10, Section 1c of the official rules, and provided by an official WBSC Softball Division sponsor. It is important that uniform measurements be submitted no later than four (4) months prior to the competition.

9.10 Should the National Federation umpire fail to attend their assigned championship, that National Federation loses its right to submit an umpire recommendation for the next two world championships.

EXCEPTION: A Medical Doctor’s Certificate, verifying the umpire’s inability to attend and participate, will nullify this ruling.

9.11 At the discretion of the Umpire-in-Chief of the Championship, selected umpires may be assigned to umpire in games involving their own country. In such cases, the home plate umpire assigned to the game shall not be a national of either playing country.

## **ARTICLE 10. AWARDS**

10.1 The “World Cup” will be the official championship trophy.

10.2 Twenty-five (25) individual gold, silver and bronze medals will be prepared by the host with approval of WBSC headquarters and will be awarded to each player on the roster of the first, second, and third place teams and members of the delegation as shown on the roster.

10.3 The President or his/her representative will present the championship trophy and individual medals to the first-place team; he may invite the regional vice president and/or president of the host organising commission to make presentation of the second or third place awards, and if desired, a distinguished person of the host country.

## **ARTICLE 11. PROTOCOL**

11.1 The WBSC Office and Technical Commissioners shall have the prerogative of defining what flag, anthem and symbol shall be used and in all matters of protocol at all times during a World Championship.

- 11.2
- a) A Technical Commission for each World Championship will be appointed
  - b) Each Technical Commission shall be comprised of the Executive Director/Tournament Manager, the Technical Director and the Umpire in Chief
  - c) The duties of the Technical Commission shall be:
    1. To interpret where necessary and apply the WBSC Softball Division Code and Technical Code as they relate to World Championships.
    2. To rule on matters relating to eligibility of players.
    3. To determine matters specifically referred to the Commission in the Technical Code.
  - d) Decisions of the Technical Commission shall be final.

11.3 There shall be opening and closing ceremonies at all World Championships. The WBSC Office shall determine the form of such ceremonies and advise the LOC. No other ceremonies, presentations or similar events shall be held except with the prior approval of the President of the Federation.

11.4 The WBSC Softball Division Technical and Protocol Guide must be used in all WBSC World Championships. The Guide may be amended when necessary under Article 4.09h of the WBSC Softball Division Constitution.

## ADDENDUM ARTICLE 6. 2 TEAM UNIFORM (SPONSOR LOGOS)

### Applying sponsor logos – Uniform

Includes official uniform jersey, shorts or pants and helmet worn by athletes, officials and accredited personnel within World Championship venues and sites. Up to and not exceeding 5 sponsor trademark/logo will be permitted, with a maximum size of  $3.1''^2 / 20\text{cm}^2$ , when worn ( $2.6''^2 / 16.8\text{cm}^2$  on the batting helmet). This rule applies, without exception, to all items.

Areas designated for logo placement are as follows:

- Sleeve (Right): one only
- Sleeve (Left): one only
- Pant/Shorts (Left leg): one only
- Pants/Shorts (Right leg): one only
- Rear Neck: one only
- Helmet either right side or left side: must select one side and one placement only

Where the Sponsor Trademark/Logo is an irregular shape, a rectangle or square will be traced around the trademark and the mathematical rules used to calculate the surface area of the rectangle or square shall be applied.  $a \times b = 3.1''^2 / 20\text{cm}^2$  or  $a \times b = 2.6''^2 / 16.8\text{cm}^2$



**Note:** Noncompliance with Article 11.02 will be dealt with by the Championship Tribunal. The Tribunal has the authority to impose penalties, which include but are not limited to: suspension of the coach, elimination of the sponsor logo either by removal from uniform, covering or removing the use of the uniform completely.