

WBSC

WORLD
BASEBALL SOFTBALL
CONFEDERATION

Game Time!

WBSC SOFTBALL WORLD CUPS

TOURNAMENT REGULATIONS

May 2019

WBSC.ORG

This is an abstract of the WBSC Softball World Cups Tournament Regulations, published by the World Baseball Softball Confederation (WBSC). Its application is compulsory in all competitions.

In the whole document everything that is written in masculine applies also to the feminine

e.g.: he = she
his = her

Likewise, “competition”, “event” or “tournament” under this document is synonymous with Softball World Cup.

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A. GENERAL NORMS

A1. PLAYERS ELIGIBILITY

Nationality of Competitors

A1.1. Any player in any WBSC official competition must be a national of the country or region of the Federation that is entering him.

A1.2. All disputes relating to the determination of the country which a competitor may represent in a WBSC official competition or in qualifying tournaments for WBSC Official Competitions shall be resolved by the Executive Committee of the WBSC.

A1.3. A competitor who is a national of two or more countries or at the same time may represent either one of them, as he may elect. However, after having represented one of them (in a WBSC Women's Softball World Cup, Men's Softball World Cup, U-23 Men's Softball World Cup, U-19/U-18 Women's Softball World Cup, U-18 Men's Softball World Cup, U-15 Women's Softball World Cup, U-12 Women's Softball World Cup, Continental or Regional Games or World or Regional Championships recognized by the WBSC), the competitor may not represent another country or region unless he/she meets the conditions set forth in the following paragraph that apply to persons who have changed their nationality or acquired a new nationality. (Note: Some non-official WBSC Invitational Tournaments may be considered exceptions to this rule).

A1.4. A competitor who has represented one country in a WBSC Softball World Cup, Regional and Continental Championships (EG European Championships or Asian Championships), the U-23 Softball World Cup, the U-18 Softball World Cup, the U-15 Softball World Cup and the U-12 Softball World Cup and who has changed her/his nationality or acquired a new nationality shall not participate in any of the aforementioned competitions to represent her/his new country or region until three years after such change or acquisition. (Note: Non-official WBSC Invitational Tournaments may be considered exceptions to this rule). This period may be reduced or even canceled with the agreement of the initial National Federation and the approval of the WBSC Executive Committee.

A1.5. If an associated state, province or overseas department, a country or colony acquires independence, if a country becomes incorporated within another country by reason of a change of border, or if a new NOC is recognized by the IOC, a competitor may continue to represent the country or region to which she/he belongs or belonged. However, she/he may, if she/he prefers, choose to represent her/his country or be entered in the WBSC official competition or the Olympic qualifying tournaments by her/his new Federation or NOC if one exists. This particular choice may only be made once.

A1.6. In all cases not expressly addressed in this By-law, in particular in those cases in which a competitor would be in a position to represent a country other than that of which she/he is a national or have a choice as to the country or region which she/he intends to represent, the WBSC Executive Committee may take all decisions of a general or individual nature, and, in particular, issue specific requirements relating to nationality, citizenship, domicile or residence of the competitors, including the duration of any waiting period.

A1.7. Should an eligibility violation occur, and a player be proven to be ineligible prior to any games being played, the player is automatically removed from her/his team roster and will not be allowed to participate in any game of the competition. The Technical Commission of the Competition will notify the WBSC Executive Committee for further action.

A1.8. Should a violation be discovered during the competition and after the athlete has played in one or more games, the player is automatically removed from the roster, and any game in which she/he actually played shall be considered a forfeited game for her/his team. The team shall continue to play in the competition, and the infraction shall be reported by the Technical Commission of the Competition to the WBSC Executive Committee for further action.

A1.9. Should a violation of eligibility be discovered after the competition, the case can be submitted by the WBSC Technical Commission, or by the National Federation, directly to the WBSC Executive Committee for further action. In any case the Executive Committee may act officially should a violation of eligibility be discovered after the competition.

A1.10. A player, removed for any eligibility violation, cannot be replaced by another player. A team can be penalized for eligibility violation only if a player has actually played in a game.

A1.11. In any case, it is the obligation of the Delegation or the National Federation, officially protesting the ineligibility of a player, to produce valid proof, the documentation and all the information regarding the violation in writing at the moment when filing the protest.

A2. FINAL TEAM ROSTER – (FTR)

A2.1. At latest 10 days prior to the beginning of a competition, all National Federations must communicate to the WBSC / LOC the Final Team Roster (FTR), through the online platform. <http://my.wbsc.org>

Note: User ID and Password have been communicated to all NFs from WBSC Headquarters.

A2.2. Following the team arrival in the country hosting the competition and before the Pre-Competition Technical/Organizational Meeting, the Delegation Leader shall submit the following to the Technical Commission:

- A valid and current passport (individual passport) for each player for verification by the Technical Commission. Other members of the Delegation such as Delegation Leader, Team Head Coach, Coaches, Trainers, etc. shall appear on the Final Team Roster form (**FTR**) but do not need to submit their Passport.
- The name, room number and phone number (local address) of the Delegation Leader and Team Head Coach of each Delegation.
- Email address(es) and Phone numbers for Delegation Leader and/or media officer.

A2.3 A maximum of 5 (five) players are allowed to be replaced on the Final Team Roster (**FTR**) for WBSC official tournaments. The WBSC/LOC must be informed of such changes at any moment up to and including the Pre-Competition Technical/Organizational Meeting. These documents should be in the hands of the Technical Director at the time of the Pre-Competition Technical/Organizational Meeting. If for whatever reason, previously known and accepted by the WBSC, a team arrives in the country later, the team should make sure that the Technical Director gets these documents no later than upon the team's arrival.

A2.4. Official Delegation – Refer to the Tournament Regulations Appendix I to see specific tournament delegation numbers.

A2.5. The non-fulfillment of the deadline to submit the documents mentioned under point A3.1., the incomplete submission or lack of fulfillment of any of the sections shall be sanctioned with a USD five hundred (500) fine per day until the problem is corrected.

A2.6 Once the athletes' verification is over, no changes of the FTR will be permitted for the duration of the competition. Copies of the FTR shall be provided to each Delegation Leader, Tournament Director, Technical Commissioners, Scorers, Anti-Doping Commissioner and Media before the start of the competition.

A3. PRE-COMPETITION TECHNICAL/ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING

A3.1. On the day before the start of the competition (or at most on the same day in the morning when the competition starts with one game only, scheduled to start not before 17:30), an information meeting will be held,

to discuss all the technical and organizational issues concerning the competition. Place, date and time of the meeting will be made available to the teams as soon as possible.

A3.2. The Pre-Competition Technical/Organizational Meeting will be chaired by the Executive Director accompanied by the Technical Director, the Director of Umpires (or Assistant assigned for the competition), the Scorers' Director (or Assistant), the Anti-Doping Commissioner, a representative of the Local Organizing Committee (LOC) and a representative of the WBSC Tournaments Department. The following items will be discussed in this meeting:

- Relationships between the Executive Director, Technical Director, Umpires, Team Head Coach, Coaches, Delegates and LOC.
- Conduct of the games.
- Competition Norms.
- Ground Rules (if necessary).
- Speed-up rules.
- Handling protests.
- Handling ejections.
- Sanctions/penalties against teams or players.
- Information on the final phase of the Competition.
- Communication between the Technical Commission of the Competition and the teams.
- Teams transportation (information provided by the LOC).
- Housing and food (information provided by the LOC).
- General information (information provided by the LOC).
- Open/Free day.
- Laundry Service (information provided by the LOC).
- Hotel Conduct (information provided by the LOC).
- Team Uniform (colors & patches to be checked).
- Impact of TV production (if televised)

Note: All materials handed out at this meeting should be printed in English and Spanish at a minimum.

A4. DOPING CONTROL

A4.1. Doping Control will be conducted in accordance with the WBSC Anti-Doping Rules, which are in compliance with the World Anti-Doping Code.

A4.2. During an official competition of any Softball event under WBSC control, unless agreed with the WBSC Anti-Doping Program, the frequency of doping controls shall be as follows.

Opening Round: at least one game from each group each day with two players selected per team. The intention in the Opening Round is to test each team at least once and preferably twice. However, such testing shall be limited to up to 2 games per day.

Super Round/Placement Round: two players per team may be selected from all Super Round, Placement Round and Medal Games.

A4.3. WBSC will appoint a WBSC Anti-Doping Commissioner to oversee the anti-doping program. The WBSC Anti-Doping Commissioner may vary the test distribution in consultation with the head Doping Control Officer (DCO).

A4.4. For games in which doping controls will be conducted, the following procedure shall be followed:

- At the end of the first half of the fourth innings the head DCO, the WBSC Anti-Doping Commissioner and one of the Technical Commissioners in charge of the game, with a copy of the starting Line-ups, shall meet in the Doping Control Station. The head DCO will have a copy of the FTR for the selection process.

- The Team Head Coach has to confirm to the TC that all players are at the game and if one is missing (for injury, sickness, etc...) why and where the player is (for Doping test reason).
- The head DCO will provide a random system. In the case of no available system, player names or numbers will be written on pieces of paper and cut up.
- A random selection process will be conducted for each team. This will include selection of reserve players in the event the original selected player/s are seriously injured during the game.
- If one player from each team is being selected, all players will be included in the draw, and one reserve player selected. If two players from each team are being tested, the first selection will be from the Starting Line-up, the second from the full player roster. The reserve selections will be made from the full list.
- While a player may be subject to doping control on more than one occasion, the WBSC Anti-Doping Commissioner may ask for a redraw if the player has already been tested twice at the same tournament.
- The selections will be marked on the Starting Line-up, signed by the parties in attendance and given to the DCO.
- The names of the selected players shall not be communicated to the teams before the end of the game.

A4.5. Players must stay at the field for the duration of the game. The Technical Commissioner(s) assigned to the game and the Executive Director shall be informed immediately in case of a player needs to be absent from the field or tournament at any time.

A4.6. If a selected player gets seriously injured and needs to be immediately hospitalised, the reserve player selected from the same team shall be tested instead. In such a case, medical evidence on the serious status of the injury must be given to the WBSC Anti-Doping Commissioner. The injured player may still be selected for a doping control by WBSC once they have recovered. *For example:* a player is hurt before the doping procedure on a Monday and goes to the hospital. On Tuesday, the player is taken off the roster but is still in the country at the hotel or at the game. That player is still eligible to be tested just as the rest of the players on the initial FTR are eligible to be tested. In short, any player who is injured or removed from the roster is still subject to the same drug testing procedures as the rest of the team.

A4.7. Any players on the Final Team Roster (FTR) not present at the game may be selected by WBSC for a doping control whether still in the host city or not.

A4.8. The LOC is responsible for getting the Doping Control Station properly equipped and ready for use.

A4.9 Doping control will take place at all WBSC official tournaments and age categories except at U-12 and U-15 Softball World Cups.

A5. AWARDS

A5.1.	First place:	Team: World Championship Trophy	Individuals: Gold Medal
	Second place:		Individuals: Silver Medal
	Third place:		Individuals: Bronze Medal

The total number of Medals will be the number of the Official Delegation members (See A3.4. for details).

A6. INFRACTIONS AND FINES

A6.1. Infraction of specific WBSC Tournament rules will automatically incur a fine in USD. The violator will have two months from the date of notification to pay the fine or an amount incurred by said fine would be deducted from the participation deposit paid by the National Federation to WBSC Headquarters. Any appeal of a decision regarding a fine will be handled as per the section B4 of this document. While teams, players and

federations will be notified about fines during the tournament by the Tournament Director and/or the Technical Director, the WBSC Headquarters will be responsible for ensuring that fines are paid in a timely fashion. It is ultimately the responsibility of the National Federations to ensure that these fines have been paid. Failure to do so will result in teams being unable to participate in the next international event, as well as additional fines being incurred. No team will be permitted to play in WBSC official events if outstanding fines have not been paid to the WBSC Headquarters.

A6.2. The following is the list of infraction levels and associated fines and suspensions:

A level fines: \$1000 - \$2000

B level fines: \$500 - \$999

C level fines: \$100 - \$499

A level infractions:

A level is infractions of rules that are considered crucial for competition success, those that cause serious negative effects on international softball. The fine for an A level infraction is \$1000 - \$2000.

The following are examples of A level infractions:

- Foreign substance/doctored softball
- Physically aggressive behaviors against WBSC Officials
- Physically aggressive behaviors against a fan
- Illegal bat
- Non-presence of a team in the tournament after confirming the participation
- Intentional throwing at a batter
- Throwing equipment in umpire's direction

B level infractions:

B level is infractions of rules that are considered important for games operations and/or also is a behavior that is considered unsportsmanlike. The fine for a B level infraction is \$500 - \$999.

The following are examples of B level infractions:

- Not leaving dugout after ejection
- Contacting an umpire
- Fighting
- Team personnel ejection

C level infractions:

C level is infractions of logistical and/or routine rules in nature. The fine for a C level infraction is \$100 - \$499.

The following are examples of C level infractions:

- Delay or absence in technical meeting without prior notice
- Failure to follow regulations concerning uniform color and related regulations
- Failure by the host to follow guidelines on stadium use and maintenance
- Failure by the host to notify all participants regarding the ground rules at each competition site
- Failure by the host to meet the protection and security regulations of the players in the playing field
- When non-authorized personnel enters/does not leave the dugout, after being instructed by TCs.

The following incidents are examples of potential infractions and fines. These incidents will serve as guidelines for the types of fines and/or suspensions that the Technical Director and the Executive Director will use when rendering judgments:

Infraction Level	Action	Fine	Suspension
C	Delay or absence in technical meeting without prior notice	\$300	
C	Failure to follow regulations concerning uniform color and related regulations	\$350	
C	Failure by the host to follow guidelines on stadium use and maintenance	\$350	
C	Failure by the host to notify all participants regarding the ground rules at each competition site	\$350	

C	Failure by the host to meet the protection and security regulations of the players in the playing field	\$400	
C	Failure by the host to adhere to the Technical Commission guidelines regarding scheduling of games	\$400	
C	Failure to submit starting line ups in time	\$450	
C	Failure by the host to use the WBSC official softball	\$450	
C	Prolonged arguing	\$500	
C	Non-authorized personnel enters/does not leave the dugout, after being instructed by TCs	\$500	
B	Communication between dugout and stands detected during games	\$500	
B	Inappropriate comments directed at an umpire	\$500	
B	Use of non-approved bat	\$500	
B	Violently throwing equipment	\$500	
B	Inappropriate gestures at an umpire	\$500	
B	Restrained from confronting umpire/player	\$500	
B	Actions causing benches to empty	\$600	
B	Team personnel ejection	\$600	
B	Failure by the host to provide adequate scorekeeping personnel and resources	\$650	
B	Actions during bench clearing (not physical violence)	\$650	0 to 3 games
B	Throwing equipment/debris onto field from dugout	\$700	0 to 6 games
B	Charging the mound	\$750	0 to 3 games
B	Not leaving dugout after ejection	\$800	1 to 3 games
B	Contacting an umpire	\$800	1 to 6 games
B	Fighting	\$950	3 to 8 games
A	Throwing equipment in umpire's direction	\$1,000	1 to 6 games
A	Use of altered bat	\$1,000	7 to 8 games
A	Foreign substance/doctored softball	\$1,000	10 games
A	Intentional throwing at a batter	\$1000	1 to 6 games
A	Physically aggressive behavior against a fan	\$1,500	5 to 15 games
A	Physically aggressive behavior against WBSC Officials	\$2,000	0 to 6 games
A	Causing a forfeit game	\$2,000	0 to 6 games

Note: The WBSC Executive Director has the ability to make additional decisions at his discretion

A6.3. In case any tournament participants are charged with conduct that requires stronger sanctions than the above, the Technical Director and the Tournament Director may impose a penalty and/or suspension they find appropriate and justified. Any appeal of the decision will be taken up by the Jury of Appeal.

A6.4. Conduct on or off the field: damages caused by any member of a Delegation to the installation where they are housed, the competition facilities or transport units, or to any other area, will be the direct responsibility of the Federation they represent. The host country and/or Organising Committee shall not be responsible for the financial situation of any Delegation or team. The WBSC Executive Director may impose any penalty he finds appropriate and justified. Any appeal of the decision will be taken up by the Jury of Appeal, which will make the final decision.

B. COMPETITION ADMINISTRATION

B1. COMPETITION OFFICIALS

WBSC Executive Director

B1.1. The WBSC Executive Director is the highest authority in all official competitions.

B1.2. The Responsibilities of the WBSC Executive Director, or in his absence the Tournament Director, include:

- Enforce all WBSC regulations and all agreements between the WBSC, the National Federations and the LOC.
- Review final arrangements with the LOC Chairperson for the organization of the competition, which include all logistical aspects such as accommodation, transportation, protocol, etc. and all related aspects.
- Harmonize the interests represented by the WBSC, the LOC, the National Federations and the Technical Commission working in the competition.
- Ensure that the Jury of Appeal is constituted to act if the situation arises.
- Ensure that the LOC facilitates and enforces all matters related to the rights and privileges of WBSC sponsors regarding the competition.
- Arbitrate and have final authority in making a decision regarding any disputes that cannot be resolved by negotiations among any or all of the groups or organizations involved in the competition.
- Convene and chair along with the Technical Director at the Tournament Technical/ Organizational Meeting before the competition.
- Act as the official WBSC spokesperson to all media.
- In the absence of the WBSC President, or of his specifically designated representative for this, represent the WBSC in all formal acts and presentations related to the competition.
- Inform the WBSC Executive Committee about the matters regarding the competition organization.
- Prepare the final official report for its consideration by the Executive Committee.
- Take a final decision in regard to game schedule after consulting the Technical Director and LOC.

Technical Commission

B1.3. For every official WBSC competition, a Technical Commission will be appointed to work at least five (5) months prior to the competition. Its functions and responsibilities are:

- Supervise all technical aspects of the competition.
- Compile, verify and submit for the approval of the Executive Committee all statistical data related to the competition.
- Control the eligibility and the credentials of the players.
- Inspect the playing fields and practice facilities for the competition.

- Enforce the regulations as written in the tournament regulations.
- In the event of suspended games, the Technical Commission will propose the adjustment of the competition schedule in consultation with the WBSC Tournament Department. Any changes in the schedule require the final approval of the WBSC Executive Director / Tournament Director.
- Receive and judge as first instance protests related to technical matters that come from participating teams.
- Rule as first instance in discipline cases on the playing field involving participants, Players, Coaches, Umpires and Officials.

B1.4. At least one international member of the Technical Commission for the tournament is recommended at each game to supervise all technical aspects of the game and the fulfillment of the present rules.

B1.5 At games selected for doping controls, one of the Technical Commissioners appointed for the game shall participate in the selection of athletes for doping control. This will occur at the end of the first half of the fourth inning in the Doping Control Station (unless another location is agreed.) If there is only one Technical Commissioner, then the selection process will be done in the Technical Commissioners area.

B1.6. The name(s) of the Technical Commissioner(s) assigned for each game shall be announced on the list of Officials specifically assigned to the game. The Host Organizing Committee shall provide a Spanish-English translator at the disposal of the Technical Commission if it is requested. Also, the Technical Commission Members will be seated in a reserve area with good visibility and easy access to the playing field.

Technical Director

B1.7. The WBSC will appoint one member as Technical Director in the Competition.

B1.8. The responsibilities of the Technical Director include:

- Assign the Technical Commission members to daily game supervision.
- Liaise with WBSC Umpire Director (or Assistant) to confirm assignments of Umpires. The final decision belongs to the Umpire Director.
- Liaise with Technical Commission members regarding game delays, rescheduling and cancellation to submit jointly a proposal to the WBSC Executive Director / Tournament Director, who is charged with making the final decision.
- Gather relevant statistical and game report information from Technical Commission members.
- Chair the meetings of the Technical Commission to review problems associated with technical areas of competition and to determine actions related to participants' discipline or team protests.
- Proceed to the final review and approval of competition and practice venues.
- Chair the All-World Team selection meeting.

Jury of Appeal

B1.9. The WBSC will appoint a Jury of Appeal comprising of the chairman, and two (2) other members.

B1.10. The Jury of Appeal will be the organ of appeal for fines, judgments, or suspensions dictated by the Technical Commission in the Competition. It will have no application in the judgments dictated by the Technical

Commission in cases related to the *Official Softball Rules*. Only the Technical Commission decisions that are not related to the Rules of the Game may be appealed in front of the Jury of Appeal.

B1.11. A person having the same nationality as the appealing country may not act as a member of the Jury. If this incompatibility occurs, the WBSC Executive Director / Tournament Director will designate another member.

Umpires

B1.12. The panel of Umpires shall consist of a number of WBSC International Umpires (recommended by the WBSC Softball Umpire Director). All Umpires for the competition must be recommended by the WBSC Softball Umpire Director and appointed by the WBSC Headquarters with the approval of the WBSC Softball Division Chairman.

B1.13. The WBSC will directly appoint the international Umpires to serve, taking into account the criteria of quality, experience and ability.

B1.14. All WBSC umpires selected, including national umpires, will have their cost of lodging, meals and per-diem covered.

B1.15. Each Umpire must make the commitment to stay for the whole duration of the competition, including the final phase if needed. Failure to abide by this rule by an Umpire from a participating country may result in a fine of up to US\$ 1.000 to the Umpire's National Federation, and/or a suspension of the individual from participation in WBSC events.

B1.16. Two umpires of a same participating country may work together in a game, but an Umpire shall not be allowed to take part as Home-plate umpire in a game in which his country is playing. Every attempt will be made in order for umpires, even host team country umpires, not to be assigned to work their countries games if at all possible.

B1.17. Game assignments for Umpires will be notified no less than 12 hours before game time of their respective assignments. No more than two days of assignments will be distributed at any time during the competition.

B1.18. At the beginning of the competition, an Umpire Pre-Competition meeting will be conducted by the Umpire Director. The Executive Director, the Technical Director, a representative of the LOC, and other selected WBSC staff may be requested to attend this meeting. During the competition, a daily umpire meeting may be held as required. The Umpire Director will chair this meeting.

B1.19. The Umpire Director will complete Umpire Evaluations during the event. The Umpire Director will be in contact with Technical Commissioners to seek their feedback on the umpires officiating their games.

B1.20. After the completion of the tournament, the Director of Umpires will submit a complete report to the WBSC Executive Director.

Umpire Director

B1.21. The WBSC with the approval of the WBSC Softball Division Chairman will appoint one member as Umpire Director in the Competition.

B1.22. The responsibilities of the Umpire Director include:

- Carry on the final inspection and approval of competition venues, determining the specific Ground Rules for each field of play.
- Present Ground Rules and any other pertaining items at the Pre-Tournament Technical Meeting.

- Assign Assistant Umpire Directors and Umpire crews to daily games.
- Liaise with Technical Director to confirm assignments of Umpires. The final decision belongs to the Umpire director.
- Liaise with tournament Umpires regarding game delays, rescheduling and cancellation, or any other matters that arise during the competition.
- Supervise and evaluate each Umpire during the competition, compiling information to present a final evaluation report after the tournament.
- Chair the Umpire tournament meetings before and during the tournament to review items associated with umpiring the competition.
- Oversee replay and/or time clocks operation.

Scorers

B1.23. The board of Scorers shall consist of a minimum of four (4) WBSC International Scorers (recommended by the WBSC Scoring Director and appointed by the WBSC) and a sufficient number of local scorers (recommended by the LOC and appointed by the WBSC) to score and register each game officially, in addition to the production of a “live” online transmission of the play-by-play of each game on WBSC platforms. All Scorers shall be appointed by the WBSC Headquarters.

B1.24. No later than sixty minutes (60) before the start of the game, the Technical Commissioner(s) shall obtain from each Team Head Coach a tentative line-up and then distribute it to LOC to make copies for the scorers and other appropriate individuals.

B1.25. Each game shall be recorded by two or more Scorers. At the end of each game, the Scorer(s) shall give game results (box-score) to each Delegation, the Tournament Director, the Technical Commission members, the members of the Jury of Appeal, and members of the Media. It shall be the duty of the Scorer to compile the averages of defense and offense plays for the players of each team and provide a day-by-day account and circulate these statistics daily to all the above-mentioned persons within 24 hours after the game. *At the end of the tournament*, in accordance with what has been established; the Scorer(s) shall indicate the name of the players who have excelled individually.

Scorers Director

B1.26. The WBSC will appoint one member as Scorer Director in the Competition.

B1.27. The responsibilities of the Scorer Director include:

- Carry on the final inspection and approval of scorers working spaces at the competition venues.
- Attend the Pre-Tournament Technical Meeting to cover any items related to scoring, tie-breakers, etc. that may arise during the meeting.
- Assign Scorer’s crews to daily games.
- Liaise with WBSC Office to confirm assignments of Scorers.
- Liaise with tournament scorers regarding game delays, rescheduling and cancellation, or any other matters that arise during the competition.
- Supervise and evaluate each scorer during the competition, compiling information to present a final evaluation report after the tournament.

- Chair the Scorers tournament meetings before and during the tournament to review items associated with scoring the competition.
- Provide statistical data to Technical Commission for the election of the All-World Team.
- Provide tie-breaker and/or statistical information to Tournament Director upon petition.
- Provide list of Individual Award winners to Tournament Director upon completion of the games determining the calculation for the awards.

Anti-Doping Commissioner

B1.28. The Anti-Doping Commissioner appointed by WBSC will oversee the anti-doping program at the event. This will include ensuring that the facilities for doping control are appropriate, overseeing the doping control process, including athlete selection, notification and the sample collection process, and making decisions on any issues arising during this process.

B2. OTHERS

Bat Boys/Girls

B2.1. For all games the bat boys/girls shall be furnished by the Local Organizing Committee. The bat boys/girls of each team shall be kept close to the dugout when the team is at bat. They must be at least 13 years-old, and they must wear uniforms and double-ear flap protective helmets. They are to receive proper training on their functions and responsibilities from the LOC. Infractions may result in ejection of the bat boy/girl. Also, teams can bring their own bat boys/girls as long as they are in appropriate uniforms during games and teams are responsible for all associated costs.

Interpreters

B2.2. The LOC will assign a person who speaks the language of the team and Spanish or English, whichever the case may be, to act as interpreter during the games. This person shall be permitted to sit in the dugout of the team to which he/she is assigned. Note: If a coach for the team is also serving as an interpreter, the Head Coach must let the home plate umpire know about this at the pre-game meeting at home plate.

TV Cameramen and Photographers

B2.3. TV cameramen and photographers are allowed to be at restricted areas on the field. They must wear an official WBSC Tournament bib as well as their accreditation in order to access the corresponding areas.

First Aid

B2.4. Medical and first aid attendance shall be available all the time during the competition and practices. LOC is responsible to make sure adequate staff and facilities are assigned to the competition. Adequate staff and facilities are defined as having present a certified first aid attendant with ambulance and doctor on call.

B3. PROTESTS

B3.1. When a rule clarification is made by a Team Head Coach over a suspected misapplication or misinterpretation of the 2018-2021 Official Softball Rules, it shall be made to the Home plate Umpire according to the Official Softball Rules.

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

- c) The TCs will discuss with the field UD and present their decision to the home plate umpire who will relay to the teams.

B3.2. If the rule clarification results in a protest being made or if a protest is made, the Home plate Umpire shall stop the game, inform the Team Head Coach of the opposing team, the Technical Commissioner(s) assigned to work that game, and the audience that a protest has been filed. The protest shall be presented in written form, within ten (10) minutes after it was announced to the Head Umpire, indicating the number(s) of the Softball Rule(s) involved to the Technical Commissioners assigned to the game, who must immediately take a decision. *The presentation of a protest will incur a cost of \$200 USD to be deducted from the National Federation's participation deposit. If the protest occurs on the game-ending play, the desire to submit a protest must be announced by the Team Head Coach 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, 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.

B3.3. Any decision of the Technical Commissioner(s) *regarding the playing rules* is final and not subject to appeal.

B3.4. 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.

B3.5. 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.

B4. APPEALS

B4.1. The appeal brief shall be forwarded to a member of the Jury of Appeal, accompanied by a copy of the judgment being appealed, quoting the rules that the appellant believes have been violated or have not been applied. *The presentation of an appeal will incur a cost of \$100 USD to be deducted from the National Federation's participation deposit.* Only the Technical Commission's decisions that are not related to the rules of the game may be appealed in front of the Jury of Appeal. Technical Commission's decisions related to the rules of the game are final and they can only appeal other items not related to game rules.

B4.2. The time limit to present an appeal is three (3) hours after having received the notification of the judgment to be appealed.

B4.3. Once the appeal has been presented to the Jury of Appeal, the Jury will meet immediately after receiving the appeal, and the decision will be made within 12 hours of receiving the appeal, knowing that the decision of the Jury could have a bearing on any subsequent games in the competition.

B5. DELIVERY OF NOTICES

B5.1. The Technical Director in cooperation with WBSC Headquarters will deliver the fines or ruling communications to the interested parties with acknowledgement of receipt within 24 hours after the incident occurred, making evident the time of delivery for the latter purposes of appealing. Official WBSC sheet provided by the Technical Director shall be dully signed by the parties involved and the LOC.

B6. GAME PROTOCOL

B6.1. The following ceremony shall be used before and during all matches:

- The tournament song/music supplied from the WBSC Headquarters shall be played to indicate the

start of the ceremony and shall continue to be played in the background during the introductions.

- Before the match begins, the speaker first calls the visiting team players in the starting lineup first, then the rest of the roster and the coaching staff on to the field, followed by the home team and then the umpires. The teams shall line up in a straight line from first and third base to the pitcher's plate, while the umpires stand at home plate.
- A 30-45 second version of the national anthems of the two teams shall be played with the teams and umpires lined up. During the national anthems, the team delegation members must show a respectful posture with hats removed and refrain from talking, laughing, spitting, eating and drinking.
- Music and sound effects should be used prior to, during and after each game in order to enhance a sense of cultural diversity and international competition. After the anthems and before the match starts, time shall be made available for any prize-giving, special recognition or announcement of special guests.
- Only uniformed members of the team delegations are permitted on the field during the pre-game ceremony. Non-uniformed personnel must stay in dugouts or their designated seats.

B6.2. Opening ceremony

B6.2.1 Opening ceremony shall take place 45-60 minutes before the beginning of the first game as follows:

a) Parade and presentation of all teams participating in the competition (can be limited to an official representation of the team). Each team shall carry its own flag and a member of the organization shall carry a sign with the name of the country.

b) Parade and presentation (non-nominal) of the competition Officials (can be limited to a representation with at least one per estate).

c) Raising of the WBSC flag.

d) Athletes' oath. A player of the local team shall proceed on behalf of all the participating athletes. The text of the oath which cannot be modified under any circumstances, shall be as follows: *«On behalf of all the players I vow to take part in (full name of the competition including its ordinal number) in accordance with its rules, accepting all decisions made by the umpires and officials and in competing with all our strength to win through sportsmanship for the glory of international Softball and the honour of our teams».*

e) Umpires' oath. An umpire of the crew assigned to the competition shall proceed on behalf of all the officiating umpires. The text of the oath which cannot be modified under any circumstances, shall be as follows: *«In the name of all the umpires and officials, I swear that we shall officiate in <ordinal number> WBSC <age category> Softball World Cup with complete impartiality, respecting and abiding by the rules which govern it in the true spirit of sportsmanship».*

f) Competition inaugural declaration. The WBSC President, and in his absence his representative, declares the competition opened with the following words: *«In the city of... (name of the city), in... (name of the country), today... (day, month, year), on behalf of the World Baseball Softball Confederation, I have the honor to declare the (full name of the competition including its ordinal number) open».* If the Head of State or Prime Minister of the host country personally attends the ceremony, and the WBSC President or his representative consider it appropriate under the circumstances, this latter can invite the former to pronounce the competition inaugural declaration, in which case the following protocol shall be followed: the WBSC President or his representative shall publicly address the Head of State or the Prime Minister with the following words: *«Mr. ... (or Mrs, or his/her corresponding title) on behalf of the World Baseball Softball Confederation, I have the honor to invite you to declare this competition open».* Then, the first authority shall pronounce the following words: *«In the city of... (name of the city), in... (name of the country), today... (day, month, year), I declare the (full name of the competition including its ordinal number) open».*

g) Further to the inaugural declaration, the national anthem of the host country shall be played and, at the end of which the Ceremony shall be over.

B6.2.2. The Organizing Committee may plan to insert as a part of the Opening Ceremony a sports, cultural or artistic show which shall take place after the parade of participants. In any case, this part shall not exceed more than thirty (30) minutes and shall first be approved by the WBSC, as indicated in the Competitions General Rules.

B6.2.3. If the Organizing Committee plans to hold a first pitch ceremony before the first game of the competition, then the throw corresponds to the WBSC President or his representative according to the following protocol:

The WBSC President or his representative, accompanied by the President of the Organizing Committee and the Head of Protocol of the WBSC shall enter the field and proceed to the mound. Once there, the WBSC President shall receive from the hands of the Organizing Committee's President, the glove and the ball to throw. The catcher of the local team and the chief umpire shall be standing at the home-plate, both in position. The chief umpire shall shout «play ball!» and the WBSC President shall throw the ball to the catcher.

If a high authority of the host country or a world personality takes part in this competition, and the WBSC President or his representative consider it convenient under such circumstances to invite him to throw the first pitch, the protocol previously defined shall be followed. The WBSC President or his representative shall hand the glove and the ball to the personality to allow him to throw.

NOTE: Further details about the Opening Ceremony can be found in the Appendix II: WBSC World Cup Ceremonies Guidelines.

B 6.3. Closing ceremony

B 6.3.1 After the end of the gold medal final, the awards shall be prepared, and a closing ceremony will take place as follows:

a) Parade of the teams classified in the first three places of the competition (entire teams). A member of the organization shall carry a sign with the name of the country. The players of the other teams who shall receive individual awards shall also parade in a single group. The WBSC flag, carried by members of the Organizing Committee shall open the parade. During the duration of the Ceremony, the WBSC flag shall be raised in a place of honor.

b) The distribution of the trophies shall end with the national anthem of the winning country, at the same time as the flag is being raised to the honor mast.

c) Then, the President of the Organizing Committee shall hand the WBSC flag to the WBSC President or to his representative who, in his turn, shall give it to the President of the National Federation who shall host the next championship.

d) Acknowledgements and competition closing statement. The WBSC President and in his absence his representative, shall thank and declare the competition closed with the following words: *«On behalf of the World Baseball Softball Confederation, and particularly on behalf of all the participants, I wish to express our gratefulness to the Federation (full name of the host national Federation) and to the Organizing Committee of this competition. We particularly thank all the volunteers for their collaboration, since without their participation, it would not have been possible to run the competition. We also wish to thank the authorities accompanying us for their help given to the Organizing Committee and to our sport, and to all of you who represent the esteemed nation of (name of the host country). Last, allow me on behalf of the World Baseball Softball Confederation to officially declare the... (full name of the competition, including its ordinal number) closed. Thank you very much».*

B 6.3.2 The Organizing Committee may plan to insert as a part of the Closing Ceremony a sport, cultural or artistic show, which shall take place before the parade of participants for the awards. In any case, this part shall not exceed more than thirty (30) minutes and shall first be approved by the WBSC as indicated in the Competitions General Rules.

B 6.3.3 In some competitions, whenever it is convenient for the WBSC and/or Organizing Committee's interest, in a common agreement of both parties which shall be explicitly included in the competition contract, the Opening and/or Closing Ceremonies may be reduced or shortened with the suppression of some items. If there is no indication in the contract to this regard, the Ceremony shall take place as stated in these Rules.

Further details about the Closing Ceremony can be found in the Appendix II: WBSC World Cup Ceremonies Guidelines.

B6.4 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.

B7. COMPETITION SYSTEMS

12-Team Format

Opening Round

Two (2) groups of six (6) Teams (1, 2), will play all vs. all (round robin format), with the top three (3) teams from each group advancing to the Super Round. In case of a tie, see tie-breaking system. Bottom three (3) teams from each group will go to the Placement Round.

Super Round

The top three (3) teams from one group (1, 2), will play all vs. all (round robin format) against the top three (3) teams from the other group.

At the end of this round, the four (4) teams to play in the Finals will be determined based upon the results of the Opening Round between the three (3) qualified teams as well as the Super Round games (two games from the Opening Round and three games from the Super Round).

Ex: Team A, Team B and Team C qualified for the Super Round and D, E, F were eliminated after the Opening Round.

For team A, the records of A vs B and A vs C will count as well as the three (3) games from the Super Round, however the records of A vs D, A vs E and A vs F will not count.

Placement Round

The bottom three (3) teams from one group after the Opening Round will play all vs. all against the bottom three (3) teams from the other group.

At the end of this round, the standings among the six (6) teams will be determined based upon the results of the Opening Round between the three teams that went to the Placement Round as well as the Placement Round games (two games from Opening Round and three games from Placement Round).

Ex: Team D, Team E and Team F went to play Placement Round and A, B, C advanced to the Super Round.

For team D, the records of D vs E and D vs F will count as well as three (3) games from the Placement Round, however the records of D vs A, D vs B and D vs C will not count.

Finals

The teams will play in the Final Round in the following manner:

- 1st and 2nd place teams after the Super Round will play the Gold Medal Game;
- 3rd and 4th place teams after the Super Round will play the Bronze Medal Game.

16-Team Format

Opening Round

Four (4) groups of four (4) Teams (1, 2, 3, 4), will play all vs. all, with the top two (2) teams from each group advancing to the Super Round. In case of a tie, see tie-breaking system. Bottom two (2) teams from each group will go to the Placement Round.

Super Round

The top two (2) teams from each group (1, 2, 3, 4), will play all vs. all against the top two (2) teams from the other groups.

At the end of this round, the four (4) teams to play in the Finals will be determined based upon the results of the Opening Round between the two (2) qualified teams as well as the Super Round games (one game from the Opening Round and six games from the Super Round).

Ex: In Group 1 Team A and Team B qualified for the Super Round and D and E were eliminated after the Opening Round.

For team A, the record of A vs B will count as well as the six (6) games from the Super Round, however the records of A vs C and A vs D will not count.

Placement Round

The teams qualified in third (3rd) place from each group (1,2,3,4) after the Opening Round will play all vs. all amongst them to determine final standings places from nine to twelve (9-12).

The teams qualified in fourth (4th) place from each group (1,2,3,4) after the Opening Round will play all vs. all amongst them to determine final standings places from thirteen to sixteen (13-16).

At the end of the Placement Round, the standings amongst the eight (8) teams will be determined based solely upon the results of the Placement Round.

Ex: In Group 1 Team C and Team D play the Placement Round and A and B advanced to the Super Round.

For team C1, the records of C1 vs C2, C1 vs C3 and C1 vs C4 will count, however the records of C1 vs A1, C1 vs B1 and C1 vs D1 will not count.

Finals

The teams will play in the Final Round in the following manner:

- 1st and 2nd place teams after the Super Round will play the Gold Medal Game;
- 3rd and 4th place teams after the Super Round will play the Bronze Medal Game.

Men's Softball World Championships 2019 – (16-Team Format Exception)

Opening Round

2 groups of 8 Teams (1, 2), will play all vs. all, with top 4 teams from each group advancing to the Quarter Finals. In case of a tie, see tie-breaking system. Bottom 4 teams from each group will go to the Placement Round.

Qualifying Round

PO1 - A1 vs B4

PO2 - A2 vs B3

PO3 - A3 vs B2

PO4 - A4 vs B1

PP01 - Loser of P01 vs Loser of P04

PP02 - Loser of P02 vs Loser of P03

Placement Round

A8 vs B8 for 15th place
A7 vs B7 for 13th place
A6 vs B6 for 11th place
A5 vs B5 for 9th place
Loser PPO1 vs. Loser PPO2 - 7th place
Winner PPO1 vs. Winner PPO2 - 5th place

Semi-Finals

SPO1 - Winner of PO1 vs. Winner of PO3
SPO2 - Winner of PO2 vs. Winner of PO4

Finals

The teams will play in the Final Round in the following manner:
Winner SPO1 vs. Winner SPO2 - Gold Medal Game
Loser SPO1 vs. Loser SPO2 - Bronze Medal Game

C. TECHNICAL ASPECTS

C1. UNIFORMS

C1.1. The Home Team shall have preference to wear the colours of their national uniform, and the Visiting Team shall wear a colour that cannot get confused with the other one. The final decision on the colours to be worn by each Team on each game will be made at the Pre-Competition Technical/Organizational Meeting. The home team shall wear a dark/contrast color (i.e. navy, gray) uniform top and the Visiting team a white/light color uniform top. There will be no changes allowed to the established uniforms without prior approval of the Technical Commission. If any team requests a change to uniform color, the said request must be submitted in writing to the Technical Commission, and the Technical Commission will also communicate to the team its decision (whether approved or disapproved) in writing.

C1.2. All players must wear a specified and different number on the front and the back of the uniform. Each player will keep the same number during the competition. The numbers cannot be changed during the competition unless exceptional circumstances justifying such changes arise, which require previous approval by the Technical Commissioners of the game. If any changes to uniform numbers are approved, then Technical commissioners of the game will hand in both teams in writing such notice prior to the start of the game. Uniform numbers must be chosen from 1 to 99. The number displayed in the front of the jersey shall be 7.62cm (3") high. Shall a team and or player not have the number on the front of the uniform, the team shall be fined - see A7 – Infractions level C.

C1.3. The participants shall fulfil the following regulations with regard to the trademark of the manufacturers and the advertising on the uniforms and material. These items will be checked by members of the Technical Commission upon arrival of that team in the host country. A designated time and location will be determined to check all the following items:

a) Manufacturer trademark

The manufacturer trademark, i.e. indication of the name, a design, a mark, a logo or any other distinguishing mark of the manufacturer of the item, may only appear once on each item and should not exceed the following sizes:

- Uniform and any kind of clothing: Each side of manufacturer trademark should not be longer than 10 cm and the dimension shall not be larger than 20 cm².
- Shoes: All footwear items may carry the Identification as generally used on products sold through the retail trade during the period of 12 months prior to the tournament.
- Equipment of play: The manufacturer trademark should not exceed 10% of the total surface of the material visible during the competition and in any case up to a maximum of 60 cm².
- Bag: The manufacturer trademark should not exceed 10% of the total surface of the material visible during the competition and in any case up to a maximum of 60 cm².
- Accessories (cap, visor, helmet, glasses, batting glove, wrist band, etc.): 6 cm².

b) Advertising

Advertising is allowed on the uniforms per WBSC Uniform Guidelines (see Appendix III), previously authorized by the WBSC, with the following restrictions:

- Any kind of religious, political or racial advertising is banned, as well as any other advertising, which may be considered as contrary to the image of WBSC.
- Just one and only the same designer or sponsor may appear in the uniform and accessories. The only exception will be WBSC's sponsor, if any.

In any case, the advertising should not exceed the following sizes:

- Shirt: up to 120 cm² on the left sleeve. The right sleeve is reserved for the WBSC advertising if any. No advertising is allowed either in the chest or in the back.
- Jacket: up to 120 cm² on the left sleeve. The right sleeve is reserved for the WBSC advertising if any.
- Cap/visor: Up to 35 cm² on the left side. The right side is reserved for the WBSC advertising if any. The entire item on the cap/visor is considered advertising and will be subject to the dimension above.
- Helmet: Up to 35 cm² on the left side. The right side is reserved for the WBSC advertising if any. The entire sticker (or any other material used to place advertising) on helmet is considered advertising and will be subject to the dimension above.
- Other clothing or items: not authorized.

The design and/or name of the advertising or sponsor to appear on the uniform, or any other authorized accessory, should be reported to the WBSC at latest thirty days (30) prior to the beginning of the competition and must be authorized by the WBSC in writing. Non-authorized advertising may not be allowed and subject to removal.

Further details about the uniforms can be found in the Appendix III: WBSC World Cup Uniform Guidelines.

C2. COMPETITION VENUES

C2.1. All competition facilities shall fulfil the requirements established by the WBSC and will be subject to inspections by WBSC representatives to verify their use during the official competitions.

C2.2. Details about competition field dimensions for youth categories can be found in the Appendix I: Specific Regulations for each WBSC Softball World Cup.

C3. GROUND RULES

C3.1. Ground rules related to the stadium(s) will be proposed by the Local Organizing Committee before the start of the competition and approved by the Technical Director. These rules shall be printed in both English, Spanish and the language of the host country and distributed to all Team Head Coaches and Umpires and discussed thoroughly at the Pre-tournament Technical/Organizational Meeting. In addition, copies of the Ground Rules shall be posted in both dugouts of all competition sites. Ground rules shall be prepared by the LOC prior to the arrival of the Technical Director and Umpire Director and shall be completed after their site inspection before the Pre-tournament Technical Organisational Meeting.

C4. DUGOUT

C4.1. For all games, the home team will be located in the 3rd base dugout and the visiting team in the 1st base dugout.

C4.2. Only credentialed personnel (staff, delegation members, translators, uniformed players, and uniformed coaches) will be allowed to stay in the dugout. The maximum amount of people allowed in the dugout will vary based on each WBSC Softball World Cup. Refer to Tournament Regulations Appendix I for the exact number allowed in each age category. There will be no exceptions to this rule. It shall be the responsibility of the Technical Commissioners assigned to the game to make sure that unauthorized persons do not occupy the dugout and that all the authorized persons stay inside the dugout during the game. More than this number of

people in the dugout will not be permitted, and teams in violation of this rule subject themselves to fines from the Technical Commission.

C4.3. No communication between any personnel in the dugout and those in the stands should take place during the games. The communication with bullpens is allowed and is considered as exception to this rule.

C5. PRACTICE SCHEDULE

Pre-Competition Practice

C5.1. The Local Organizing Committee in conjunction with WBSC Office, shall set up a pre-competition schedule for all teams. This practice should be a two-hour period and should be arranged upon request from teams. If more than one stadium is to be used, teams will be assigned to respective timeframes in accordance to team’s arrival time where applicable. Assignments and schedule shall be made available to the teams prior to their arrival at the competition.

Pre-Game Practice

C5.2. The Technical Director shall determine the practice site(s) and times together with the WBSC Tournament Director and the LOC.

C5.3 Pre-Game Procedure:

Prior to Game	Activity	Location
Team Decision	Team arrives at Venue or Off-site practice fields no earlier than 2 hours prior to game start at which time they can begin warm up.	Athlete’s drop off/ Training Sites (Met by the host)
60 minutes	Teams at offsite practice fields leave for the main venue.	Arrive at Field house. Use batting cages at Competition Field they are assigned.
25 minutes	Day 1 Games Only - Visiting team “Infield” warm up.	Competition Field
20 minutes	Day 1 Games Only - Home team “Infield” warm up.	Competition Field
15 minutes	Official Home Plate Meeting. Starting Line-up Confirmed. Return game balls Grounders in foul territory on the infield and fly balls in the outfield may be taken, provided the field crew is off the infield.	Competition Field
25 – 15 minutes	Umpires check team equipment – 1 st day mandatory, random checks thereafter.	Competition Field – Dugouts
15 minutes	Teams must be in dugouts	Competition Field
12 minutes	WBSC anthem played to start Pre-Game Ceremony	Competition Field
10 minutes	Athlete introductions.	1 st or 3 rd base to pitcher’s plate
7 minutes	Umpire introductions.	Home plate
6 minutes	National Anthems (If having one).	1 st or 3 rd base to pitcher’s plate
4 minutes	Teams shake hands and exchange gifts	2 lines from pitcher’s circle to home plate
2 minutes	First pitch ceremony (if having one). Home team takes field.	Competition Field. Visitor Team and rest of Home Team stand in

	Home team catcher to receive the pitch.	front of dugout
0 minutes	Game starts	Competition Field

After Game

After Game	Activity	Location
1 minute	Team equipment put in dugout. Shake hands.	
1 minute	Athletes/Coaches may be asked to be interviewed must confirm with team representative player is available	Outside competition field or in press centre
2-5 minutes	Doping Control identifies athletes for testing	Dugout
10 minutes	Teams depart Competition Field to Warm Down	Beyond outfield fence on competition field
45 minutes – 60minutes	Team departs venue or stays depending on next scheduled game.	Exit next to Warm up fields

All teams will be dropped off at designation venue location according to the transportation schedule. The team will be met by the transportation host. They will direct the team to the training site fields. The LOC will also ensure that the team is picked up and transferred to the competition site on time.

Athletes and team officials must wear their accreditation to gain access to the venue. Without accreditation, immediate access may not be granted. Please ensure Accreditation passes are carried at all times.

C5.4. Note that while practice prior to the game is for a set number of minutes, it certainly can be less if a team desire. This does not, however, mean that the other team can practice for a longer period of time. Moreover, teams are not permitted to stretch or warm up until practice for the other team is over. Teams should warm-up in an area outside the softball field during this time. The Technical Commissioner will be on site to assist with any difficulties during this time.

C5.5. Each team may have a five (5) minute warm-up on the diamond prior to each game of the competition. The Technical Commissioners assigned to the game will decide and inform each team accordingly if, due to unforeseen delays, the warm-up must be skipped in order to begin the game on schedule, which will be the priority at all times.

The “home team” shall have the last warm-up.

C6. STARTING LINE-UP

C6.1. The Head Coach/coach shall compulsorily present the line-up to the Technical Commissioner(s) at least sixty (60) minutes before the scheduled start of the game. The completed line-up must be signed by the Head Coach and once submitted will be official. The line-up shall include the name, uniform number, and field position of each player in the starting batting order, the pitcher and all the reserve players. A copy of the official line-up shall be given to the opposite Team Head Coach, the Scorer(s) and Technical Commissioner(s) in charge of the game. If there are changes in the starting line-up due to extraordinary circumstances, it must be announced to the Home Plate Umpire during the pre-game meeting and the Technical Commissioner in charge of the game and to the opposing team shall be informed. An injury or other extraordinary reason should be the only reason for changes in the line-up. Abuses in this regard will not be viewed lightly and are subject to fines from the Technical Director.

C7. PLAYING RULES AND PACE OF PLAY

Official Softball Rules

C7.1. All games will be played under the *Official Rules of Softball* and *Softball Umpire Case Book* procedures and interpretations unless noted in this section.

C7.2. Specific regulations for youth categories can be found in the Appendix I: Specific Regulations for each WBSC Softball World Cup.

Bats

C7.2. 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. A Bat must be on the WBSC Softball Bat Approved List and have the 2005 ISF / 2019 WBSC Certified Logo on the bat. A bat compression test machine shall be present at all tournaments, and all bats must pass the WBSC Softball compression standard set by the WBSC. Failure to meet any of the criteria above will result in the bat not being permitted for use at the Tournament. Bats approved for use will be marked, and any bat used that is not so marked will be considered an illegal bat.

C7.3. Bats taken off WBSC List because manufacturer leaves the program or withdraws are still legal for 5 years after withdrawal by the manufacturer provided the bat still meets the bat standards set out in Rule C7.2.

C7.4. 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. 2005 ISF / 2019 WBSC Certified Logo must appear on either the handle or the barrel.

C7.5. Bats with identifying marks and/or logo of the original manufacturer may be used in any WBSC Softball World Cups and other WBSC sanctioned competitions. The original manufacturing mark and/or logo shall not represent more than ten percent of the equipment.

Protective Equipment

C7.6. Helmets are mandatory on offence 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. All other equipment must adhere to the specifications as set in the official rules of the WBSC Softball.

C7.7. There shall be no equipment laying on the ground that may obstruct playing of the game or present a hazard for players and umpires. Teams will be responsible to keep all equipment inside the dugout and may be subject to fines if warned by the umpire.

C7.8. The double base shall be used in all WBSC Softball World Cups.

Run Ahead Rule

C7.9. 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.

WBSC Exceptions to the Official Softball Rules

C7.10. The need to speed-up the play of international competition games must be constantly stressed to the Umpires, Team Head Coaches and Coaches, and the following rules must be constantly enforced in an effort to keep the game moving quickly:

- a) In the event of inclement weather or other unforeseen conditions, the Technical Commissioners assigned to the game will have the responsibility of determining the start of a game.
- b) Warm-up Pitches - 5 warm-up pitches in both halves of the first inning and 3 warm-up pitches thereafter. New Pitchers are allowed 5 warm-up pitches. The umpire can limit to 1 warm-up pitch if they do not send out a warm-up catcher immediately
- c) A defensive team has only three (3) charged defensive conferences in a seven-inning game.
 - Charged defensive conferences are accumulative and do not start over when a new pitcher enters the game.
 - Charged defensive conferences not taken in the seven innings do not carry forward to extra-inning games.
 - There is only one charged defensive conference for every extra inning in an extra-innings game. A charged defensive conference not taken in an extra inning of a game may not be carried over to any subsequent extra inning.
 - A charged defensive conference ends when the defensive team member crosses the foul line returning to the dugout or a fielder returns to the field.
 - A conference includes players in the field leaving their position and going to the dugout for instructions, regardless of whether or not 'TIME' has been requested.
- d) Teams are allowed a maximum of 1 "offensive charged conference" per inning. Only one charged conference per inning is permitted. This includes batter, runner, on-deck batter and the coaches amongst themselves.
- e) Twenty-Second (20) Clock Rule
The following procedure and guidelines will be in place for the use of the Twenty-Second (20) clocks at the Softball World Cups:
 1. The Clocks will be placed on the playing field where they can be easily viewed by the players, Head Coaches, umpires and spectators. One clock will be on or near the scoreboard 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:
 - when the umpire says "Play Ball";
 - 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;
 - when after a pitch, the catcher is in a position to return the ball to the pitcher;
 - 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;
 - 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;

- 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;
- 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 windup 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 awarded 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:

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

f) Collision Rule

The WBSC is concerned about unnecessary and violent collisions primarily with the catcher at home plate, and with infielders at all bases. The intent of this rule is to encourage base runners and defensive players to avoid such collisions whenever possible.

1. When there is a collision between a runner and a fielder who clearly is in possession of the ball, the umpire shall judge:
 - I. Whether the collision by the runner was avoidable (could the runner have reached the plate without colliding) or unavoidable (the runner's path to the plate was blocked);
 - II. Whether the runner actually was attempting to reach the plate or attempting to dislodge the ball from the fielder. Contact above the waist shall be judged by the umpire as an attempt by the runner to dislodge the ball; or
 - III. Whether the runner was using flagrant contact to maliciously dislodge the ball.

PENALTY:

- If the runner attempted to dislodge the ball, the runner shall be declared out even if the fielder loses possession of the ball. The ball is dead and all other base runners shall return to the last base touched at the time of the interference.
 - If the fielder blocks the path of the base runner to the plate, the runner may make contact, slide into, or collide with a fielder as long as the runner is making a legitimate attempt to reach the plate.
 - If the flagrant or malicious contact by the runner was before the runner's touching the plate, the runner shall be declared out and also ejected from the contest. The ball shall be declared dead immediately. All other base runners shall return to the bases they occupied at the time of the pitch.
 - If the contact was after a preceding runner had touched home plate, the preceding runner will be ruled safe, the ball becomes dead immediately and all other base runners will return to the base they had last touched prior to the contact.
 - If the runner is safe and the collision is malicious, the runner shall be ruled safe and ejected from the game.
2. If the defensive player blocks the plate or base line clearly without possession of the ball, obstruction shall be called. The umpire shall signal and say, "obstruction." The umpire shall let the play continue until all play has ceased, call time and award any bases that are justified in Rule 5.10.2 of the Official Rules of Softball. The obstructed runner will be awarded the bases or bases they would have reached in the umpire's judgement, had there been no obstruction.
- If the base runner collides flagrantly, the runner shall be declared safe on the obstruction, but will be ejected from the contest. The ball is dead.
 - If the offensive player, defensive player and ball arrive at the contact point at the same time it is not considered to be either obstruction or interference. If the contact is flagrant, it is considered unsportsmanlike and the offending player should be ejected.

g) Extra-Inning Rule:

If the game remains tied after the completion of seven (7) innings, the following procedures will be implemented during extra innings:

- Each team will begin the eight (8th) inning (and any subsequent necessary extra innings) with the player scheduled to bat last in the inning on second, no outs.
- The lineup will continue as in any other inning. For example, if the 7th inning ends with the #8 hitter having the last plate appearance (PA), the 8th inning begins with the #9 at bat and 2B runner is the #8 in the lineup. The runner can be substituted in accordance with the substitution rules.
- With the exception of beginning the inning with runners on 2B with no one out, all other "Official Rules of Softball" and "WBSC Tournament Regulations" will remain in effect during extra innings required to determine a winner.
- The traditional system of the visiting team hitting in the top of the inning and the home team hitting in the bottom of the inning (if needed) will remain in effect until a winner is determined.

Metal Cleats

C7.11. No metal cleats are allowed at U-12 and U-15 WBSC Softball World Cups.

C8. COMPETITION GAME SCHEDULE

C8.1. Once the competition game schedule has been approved by the WBSC Executive Committee, it becomes inviolable and can only be amended further to a new decision of the Executive Committee itself. Nevertheless, if during the competition there are reasons unforeseen in these norms and an amendment to the schedule would be necessary, changes to the game schedule could be done through a joint proposal of the Competition's Technical Commission and the Local Organizing Committee to the WBSC Executive Director, who is the only person entitled to sanction an amendment. The WBSC Executive Director shall officially approve the new game schedule in writing before being released to all participants.

C9. SUSPENDED GAMES

In case a game is stopped because of weather, curfew or other reason, the following will apply:

C9.1. Before a contest becomes a regulation game, it is not an official game and shall be resumed at the exact point of suspension. All games must go at least seven (7) innings, except if forfeited or ended by the Run Ahead Rule.

C9.2. After it becomes a regulation game, it is ruled a complete game.

C9.3. In the advent of adverse weather conditions, the Technical Commissioners, Umpire Director in conjunction with the Home Plate Umpire shall decide whether a game shall be:

1. In the case of a game that has not started:
 - Commenced, with particular attention being given to an impending storm and for both teams to have equal innings of playing conditions, or
 - Delayed, with any such game being rescheduled at a later time and/or date.
2. In the case of a game that has commenced –
 - Suspended for a short period of time (up to a maximum of three (3) hours), or
 - 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. The scheduling of completion of suspended game shall be given priority by Technical Commission in order to complete it as soon as possible.

C9.4. All suspended, tied or games not played shall be re-scheduled by the Technical Commission and the WBSC Office in order to resume them following the suspension order if applicable. The new schedule has to be officially approved in writing by the WBSC Executive Director before being released to all participants.

C9.5. If there are difficulties concerning the closing date, only the games necessary to establish the final positions of the first three teams will be re-scheduled. No team shall be asked to play more than two games on the same day, unless the case warranted by exceptional circumstances and agreed upon by both teams affected by this measure. Would the exceptional circumstances persist and would any of the involved teams refuse to play two games on the same day, the WBSC Executive Director has the authority officially to determine whether they must play or not and the team or teams will be under the obligation to do it if the decision of the WBSC Executive Director establishes it as to be so. If the team or teams do not agree to play, they will lose the game by forfeit to appear.

C9.6. If a play is in progress at the moment of a failure of the field's lighting system and an additional action is impossible, the game is considered suspended. Whenever the lights are restored, the game shall continue in the same situation that existed at the beginning of the play which was interrupted due to lack of lighting.

C10. HOME/VISITOR ASSIGNMENTS

C10.1. Opening Round Home and Visitor game assignments are decided by WBSC once all participating countries are known. An attempt is made to ensure the number of Home and Visitor games is as equitable as possible.

C10.2. Establishing home and visitor teams for the Super Round / Quarter-Finals / Placement Round games and Finals shall be done in the following order:

1. Based on the standings of the Opening Round. Teams with higher seed after the Opening Round will be home team (i.e. 1st from A vs 2nd from B, then 1st from A will be home team).
2. By the drawing of lots if the seeding after the Opening Round is equal (i.e. 1st from pool A vs 1st from pool B).

C10.3 In the event where a team from any round game plays back to back games (double header), the winning team may keep the dugout utilised in the previous game.

C11. TIE BREAKING

C11.1. The ranking of the teams after the round robin shall be according to the win-loss record of all the games played. A tie exists within one (1) group, or across two (2), three (3) or four (4) groups, when two (2) or more teams have the same win-loss record.

C11.2. A tie shall be resolved by following, in order, the procedure set out below:

- 1) Within Group Round Robin (Opening Round)
 - a) 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.
 - b) With more than two teams tied on wins/losses, rank them in order:
 - i) 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.
 - ii) 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.
 - iii) If any teams tied by their runs against record in the games amongst themselves:
 - (1) two teams – by the results of their games amongst themselves in the round robin games;
 - (2) 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.

C11.3 For a tied team “runs against” is the total number of runs scored by the specified opponents of that team.

C12. ALTERNATE DETERMINATION OF CHAMPION

C12.1. In case of rain during the Super Round and/or Finals, it will proceed as follows:

- a) If rain prevents the playing of all the Super Round and/or Finals, an extra day will be used to permit the top finishers from each of the Opening Round groups to play a game or games to determine the title.
- b) If rain disrupts the Super Round and/or Finals before completion, all efforts will be made to determine a champion by playing only the game(s), which remain to determine the title. If a decision regarding a medal must be made without playing a game, the tie breaking criteria from C-11 shall apply. The same procedure will be followed for subsequent positions if necessary.

D. FOR THE USE AND CARE OF PROPERTY AND INSTALLATIONS

D1. The participating teams will be responsible for the damages to or disappearance of property in the places where they will be accommodated during the competition. The following procedures will be applied:

- a) A LOC representative and one person from each team will inspect the dormitories upon arrival of each team and an inspection report will follow.
- b) A clearance certificate or a bill for damages and alleged disappearances of property will be prepared by the LOC (in writing) at the end of the competition and submitted to the team Leader of each non-local participating team before leaving the city.
- c) A certificate in writing will certify that the LOC does not have any claim for damages or disappearance of property against the team or any of its members and that it does not know of the existence of any claim against the team.
- d) A written invoice for damages or disappearance of property will specify the damages claimed, the disappeared article(s), name and address of the affected person(s) and amount of the claimed compensation.

D2. In the event of a claim for damages and/or disappearance of property against a team, the LOC and the WBSC will conduct a complete investigation of the events, proposing the corresponding steps to be taken.

D3. Failure to fulfill the stipulations of this section shall mean that the LOC loses the right to make any claim for damages or disappearance of property against any offending team and the WBSC.

E. OTHER MATTERS

E1. USE OF ELECTRONIC DEVICES

The use of electronic devices is forbidden during the games. None of the electronic devices such as cellular phones, laptops, tablets, video cameras, walkie-talkies, shall be used to communicate to on-field personnel, those in the dugout, bullpen, clubhouse and stands. Exceptions to this rule:

- Use of phone/cellular phone to communicate between dugout and bullpen if not adjacent and there is no internal line. However, such device must be approved by WBSC in advance.
- Videotaping will be allowed in designated areas. Each team is allowed one video camera with a tripod and may record games for training purposes with the following requirements:
 - The cameras need to be set up in designated areas not less than 25' to the left and right of centre field, or at any location at the venue approved by WBSC, but cannot interfere with spectators or games in progress;
 - Computers and other electronic equipment may be used except for immediate transmission of information to the playing teams.
 - No videotaping will be allowed behind home plate between 1st to 3rd base, including from spectators seating areas.

No microphones or cameras are permitted in the dugout, bullpens or on the field of play without approval of WBSC. The participating teams must obtain approval of WBSC before using any electronic equipment during a game.

E2. USE OF SOCIAL MEDIA

The use of social media by uniformed personnel of team delegations is not allowed during the games. If any violation is detected, individual(s) and National Federation(s) in question will subject themselves to fines and penalties by WBSC. If your team staff is in the stands during the entire duration of the game, such person may use electronic devices. However, the use of electronic device is prohibited when in and close to dugouts. Before and after the game, use of such electronic devices is allowed. Fans can follow the official online play-by-play, live-stream and/or @WBSC. Press officers stationed in designated press zones are encouraged to share posts (no video footage of game) to social media during the games.

E3. BREAK BETWEEN INNINGS

The amount of time between innings shall be as set for each game by WBSC, which shall provide that information to the Technical Commission. The Technical Commission shall communicate to the umpires and the participating teams accordingly. Umpires shall keep between-inning timings on the field. The home plate umpire shall signal "one more pitch" 45 seconds before the conclusion of a between-inning break. After signaling "one more pitch," the home plate umpire shall actively call the leadoff batter to approach home plate. The goal is to have the first pitch delivered immediately after the inning break concludes.

E4. SMOKING AND SMOKELESS TOBACCO

Any members of team delegation are not permitted to smoke, including but not limited to tobacco in any form, vaping, e-cigarettes or alcohol, in places that are visible to the public including audiences on media outlets such as TV, Internet streaming, etc. It is the responsibility of the delegation leader to ensure such smoking is not seen by public as long as they are in game venues and practice facilities as well as other tournament official activities. Any violation of this rule will be taken seriously, and violators would be subject to disciplinary action as WBSC may deem appropriate. The use of smokeless tobacco is also prohibited for team delegation members during televised interviews or appearances. While spectators are permitted into the stadium, the delegation leader must ensure that such tobacco products (including tobacco tins or packages) are not visible to audience.

E5. TEAM PRESENTATION

All official delegation members must wear official game uniform at the tournament venues. For uniformed personnel including players and coaches, they must wear game uniform during their stay at the venues when participating in official activities (e.g. games, ceremonies, any other events as requested by WBSC). For non-uniformed personnel staying in dugout during the games, they must wear official team apparel provided by their respective teams or organizations. All official delegation members must be mindful of how their teams are presented and must maintain professional attire at all time at the venues.

E6. MEDIA OBLIGATIONS

On game and workout days, players and coaches shall be present at media interviews and press conference if so requested by WBSC or its partners. All players and coaches must go through the mixed zones at each venue, if any. All official delegation members shall also cooperate on all other media opportunities reasonably requested by WBSC or its partners. Team Delegation Members must wear game uniform at press conference and other media appearances if so requested by W

F. FINAL DISPOSITIONS

F1. The Agreement signed between the WBSC and the host National Federation establishes the rules and the general norms under which the competition shall be conducted, as well as the obligations and responsibilities of each of the parties. This document serves as a non-restrictive complement to said Agreement.

F2. During the course of a competition, the WBSC Executive Director and the Technical Director shall have the authority to jointly make decisions on any point not specifically covered in this document, according to each competition. In any aspects where there is no mutual agreement, the WBSC Executive Director will be the final authority.

F3. Any unforeseen circumstances which arise and are not specified in the WBSC Tournament Regulations, then the Official Rules of Softball will serve as the primary source of guidance for all WBSC Tournament Officials.

APPENDIX I: Specific Regulations For Each WBSC Softball World Cup

APPENDIX II: World Cups Ceremonies Guidelines

APPENDIX III: Uniform Guidelines

APPENDIX IV: [WBSC Certified Bat List \(Linked to / see WBSC website\)](#)

WBSC

WORLD
BASEBALL SOFTBALL
CONFEDERATION

Game Time!

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