

The background of the page features a series of curved, parallel lines in shades of blue, purple, and grey, creating a dynamic, motion-like effect. The WBSC logo is centered in the upper half of the page.

WBSC

WORLD
BASEBALL SOFTBALL
CONFEDERATION

Game Time!

CONFLICT OF INTEREST POLICY

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Approved by the WBSC Executive Board on 4 October 2021.

INDEX

CHAPTER 1	GENERAL PRINCIPLES	1
Article 1	Scope	1
Article 2	Background	1
CHAPTER 2	CONFLICT OF INTEREST	1
Article 3	Identification of “Conflict”	1
Article 4	Connected Persons.....	2
Article 5	Duty to Avoid Conflict	2
Article 6	Declaration of Interests	2
Article 7	Managing Conflicts of Interests.....	3
APPENDIX 1	DECLARATION OF INTERESTS	
APPENDIX 2	DECLARATION FORM - WBSC VOTES	

CHAPTER 1 GENERAL PRINCIPLES

Article 1 Scope

1.1 This Policy sets out the procedures for identifying and managing conflicts and potential conflicts of interests or duty (called “Conflicts” in this Policy) affecting all persons involved in the administration and running of the World Baseball Softball Confederation (WBSC) and its business (who are called “Parties” in this Policy).

Article 2 Background

2.1 Parties have an obligation to act in the best interests of WBSC and in accordance with the Statutes, Regulations and By-Laws. They are expected to act impartially and objectively and to actively take steps to avoid Conflicts.

2.2 Conflicts matter because they affect discussions and decision-making and may result in decisions being reached that are not in the best interests of WBSC. Conflicts can give the impression—both internally and to the wider public—that improper conduct has occurred even when it may not have.

2.3 Conflicts come in a number of different forms. It is primarily the responsibility of each Party to identify, and then declare, if there is a Conflict or potential Conflict that may affect them, or someone connected to them.

2.4 This Policy is not intended to adversely affect normal decision making within WBSC. It is intended to make it more transparent, and to allow the management of Conflicts that will inevitably arise. It is important that management of a Conflict is proportionate to the risk that it poses to the best interests of the WBSC.

CHAPTER 2 CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Article 3 Identification of “Conflict”

3.1 There are two types of Conflict:

3.1.1 A conflict of interests: This is where a Party has an interest personal to them (which may be financial or non-financial) which conflicts, or may conflict, with the best interests of WBSC.

- 3.1.2 A conflict of duties: This is where a Party owes a duty to another body (such as being an employee, elected official, shareholder, trustee and the like) that conflicts, or may conflict, with their duties to act in the best interests of the WBSC.

Article 4 Connected Persons

4.1 A Conflict can still rise if it involves a payment or a benefit being given to a third party connected to the Party in question. A “Connected Person” is:

- 4.1.1 Any parent, grandparent, child, stepchild, grandchild, brother, sister or spouse, or other family member of a Party or any person living with the Party as his or her partner;
- 4.1.2 A firm, company or association in which the Party is a partner, officer, employee, consultant, director, member or shareholder or in which the Party has a direct or an indirect but beneficial interest (unless the Party owns no more than 1% of the issued shares of an entity listed on a recognised stock exchange);
- 4.1.3 A firm or company in which an individual listed in Article 4.1.1 above is connected in the ways set out in Article 4.1.2.
- 4.1.4 Any official on duty that holds the same nationality as the competing teams during WBSC International Tournaments.

Article 5 Duty to Avoid Conflict

- 5.1 All Parties are under a duty to avoid a Conflict where possible.
- 5.2 If a Conflict or potential Conflict exists, it must be declared by the Party and managed as set out in this Policy.
- 5.3 Any doubt as to whether certain facts or circumstances may give rise to a Conflict should be resolved in favour of declaring those facts or circumstances.

Article 6 Declaration of Interests

6.1 On appointment, all Parties must declare their interests on the declaration of interests’ form found on the WBSC website (Appendix 1). In particular, this Declaration must include:

- 6.1.1 Directorships, partnerships and/or employments with Member Federations, Continental Associations or businesses that are engaged in the sports of Baseball, Softball and Baseball5 or derive any substantial portion of their revenue from the sports;
- 6.1.2 Trusteeships or board or similar positions with Member Federations, Continental Associations or businesses that are engaged in the sports of Baseball, Softball and Baseball5 or derive any substantial portion of their revenue from the sports; and
- 6.1.3 Any material interests arising from close family or personal relationships with another Party in WBSC.

6.2 The WBSC Integrity Unit will use the information in the Declarations to maintain a register of interests. The information provided in any Declarations will be processed in accordance with the data protection principles. The information provided will not be used for any other purpose by the WBSC.

6.3 Parties must update their Declarations as soon as possible following any change in circumstances and, in any event, must re-submit their Declarations not later than 14 days before the WBSC Congress.

6.4 If a Party has an interest listed in the Register of Interests that should be disclosed as a Conflict, the chairman of the meeting shall disclose it to the meeting if the Party does not do so at the relevant point on the agenda.

6.5 Any Party who has a concern or is unsure of the proper procedure to follow should contact the WBSC Integrity Unit for their advice.

Article 7 Managing Conflicts of Interests

7.1 If a Party has a Conflict, then a decision must be made as to how to manage it. This decision will be made by:

- 7.1.1 the President (for Conflicts relevant to WBSC Executive Board members);
- 7.1.2 the chairman of the meeting at which the Conflict becomes relevant;

and in each case after consultation with the WBSC Integrity Unit (via the relevant staff manager) and the Integrity Commission (if necessary).

7.2 If the President has a relevant Conflict, then the Secretary General will make the decision. If the chairman of the meeting has a relevant Conflict, a new chairman will be appointed by the WBSC Executive Board for that matter.

7.3 A Party is required to give the decision-maker any additional information requested of the Party in order to determine how the conflict is to be managed.

7.4 The decision-maker may decide that the Party:

- 7.4.1 can continue to participate in the normal way with the interest being minuted;
- 7.4.2 shall not participate in the proceedings and is to abstain in any vote (but the body may ask the Party to provide any relevant information concerning the matter); or
- 7.4.3 is to withdraw for the whole or part of the affected proceedings.