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WBSC

WORLD
BASEBALL SOFTBALL
CONFEDERATION

Game Time!

Executive Board 21st Meeting

By videoconference
9th June 2022

Minutes

WBSC Executive Board 21st Meeting

By videoconference

9th June 2022

AGENDA

- 1) Welcome
- 2) Roll call
- 3) Approval of the Minutes of the WBSC Executive Board Meeting held on 11th January 2022 (by videoconference)
- 4) Any matters arising from the Minutes
- 5) President's Address
- 6) Finance, Budget & Audit
- 7) Updates on the WBSC Congress
- 8) Updates on the WBSC events
- 9) To consider and approve changes to the WBSC Statutes, By-Laws and WBSC Integrity Code
- 10) Prospective new Members
- 11) Any other business
- 12) Adjournment

ATTENDANCE

Present (11/13):

President:	Mr. Riccardo Fraccari
Vice President – Baseball:	Mr. Willi Kaltschmitt
Vice President – Softball:	Ms. Beatrice Allen
Executive VP – Baseball:	Mr. Tom Peng
Executive VP – Softball:	Mr. Craig Cress
Secretary General:	Dato' (Ms.) Beng Choo Low
Treasurer:	Mr. Angelo Vicini
Member At-Large:	Mr. Ronald Finlay
Member At-Large:	Mr. Paul Seiler
Member At-Large:	Ms. Taeko Utsugi
Athletes' Rep. – Baseball:	Mr. Justin Huber

Excused:

Member At-Large:	Mr. Tommy Velázquez
Athletes' Rep – Softball:	Ms. María José Soto Gil
Co-President WBSC Oceania	Mr. Laurent Cassier
Co-President WBSC Oceania	Mr. Rex Capil

In attendance, also, as guests, from the Baseball and Softball Divisions:

President WBSC Africa	Mr. Saber Jlaïja
Vice President WBSC Africa	Mr. Mashilo Matsetela
President WBSC Americas BB	Ms. Aracelis León
President WBSC Europe	Mr. Kruno Karin
Vice President WBSC Europe	Mr. Petr Ditrich
Vice President WBSC Europe	Mr. Gabriel Waage

In attendance, also:

Mr. Michael Schmidt, Executive Director
 Ms. Karen Gaunt, Member of the WBSC Legal Commission
 Mr. Vincenzo La Rocca, Member of the WBSC Legal Commission
 Ms. Akiko Ito, Japanese interpreter
 Mr. Chris (Chien Fan) Day, Chinese interpreter
 Ms. Vivien Campos, WBSC interpreter

WBSC Staff Members:

Mr. Marco Ienna (COO)
 Mr. Valerio Cianfoni (B5)
 Mr. Richard Baker (Media & Communication)
 Mr. Joan Garcia (Events)
 Mr. Victor Isola (Executive Assistant to the President)

1. WELCOME

- 1.1 President Fraccari called to order this 9th June 2022, WBSC Executive Board (EB) Meeting at 13:10 (Lausanne time). He welcomed all the attendees and outlined the matters as listed on the Agenda for discussion in this Meeting.

2. ROLL CALL

- 2.1 Secretary General Low completed the Roll Call as per the attendance list above and confirmed that there was a quorum for this Meeting to proceed.

3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

- 3.1 Secretary General Low informed that the Minutes of the 20th WBSC EB meeting held on 11th January 2022, by videoconference, were sent earlier to all EB Members and there was no request for amendments received by the WBSC Office.

PROPOSAL:

To consider and approve the Minutes of the 20th WBSC Executive Board meeting held by videoconference on 11th January 2022, as proposed by Mr. Finlay and seconded by Mr. Seiler.

DECISION

The WBSC Executive Board unanimously approved the Minutes of the 20th WBSC Executive Board meeting held by videoconference on 11th January 2022.

4. ANY MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

- 4.1 There were no matters arising brought up.

5. PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

- 5.1 President Fraccari gave the following Address to the Executive Board:
- *This is the last meeting of this WBSC Executive Board before the elections, although we will have another short one before the congress. This is the reason why I invited the presidents of the Continental Associations to this meeting.*
 - *Some of them were elected recently, and I take the opportunity to congratulate **LEON ARACELIS**, who is the new President of WBSC Americas Baseball, as well as having been elected Vice President of the Venezuelan Olympic Committee. Congratulations Aracelis! You are the*

- first woman president of the WBSC Continental Association of the Americas, and this is a great achievement also for us.
- Congratulations to **KRUNO KARIN**, who was recently elected as the first president of the WBSC Europe. With him we also have **PETR DITRICH** who is the VP for baseball and **GABRIEL WAAGE** who is the VP for softball.
 - Today with us we also have **SABER JLAJLA** (President of WBSC Africa) and **MASHILO MATSETELA** (Vice President of WBSC Africa Softball). We are only missing **REX CAPIL** (WBSC Oceania Softball) and **LAURENT CASSIER** (WBSC Oceania Baseball).
 - I also want to congratulate **MARÍA SOTO** who was elected President of the Venezuelan Olympic Committee. It is an important accomplishment to have a member of our family also President of a National Olympic Committee, especially in a country where both baseball and softball are very important.
 - In recent days, **I have been thinking about the path we walked and the challenges we overcame together during all these years.** I would like to recap what we have achieved and reflect on the strategic purposes of the projects in which we invested so much time, efforts, and resources.
 - Sometimes looking at the past you can realise where you are going and what you have to do.
 - You certainly remember the **situation we were when we started our mission:** Our sport was just excluded from the Olympics; we had no funding, nor resources available and we were facing a very unstable future in front of us.
 - However, what we have been doing and achieved in recent years has not only given us a clear structure and strategy to guide our movement in this journey of globalising our sport, it has also put us in a position to earn the credibility of the Olympic movement.
 - As first steps, **we worked on 4 main directions:**
 - a) Build a programme of consistent international activities;**
 - b) Build economical resources and assets;**
 - c) Build a solid structure for the Confederation to grow;**
 - d) Build solid relationships with the IOC movement.**
 - The merger of the two IFs (ISF/IBAF) was of course a big challenge that forced us to work even harder in all the above listed areas. I want to go more in-depth into these four subjects:
 - a) Before, we had very few **baseball international events under us:**
 - one Senior World Cup each for male and female,
 - a U-18 World Cup,
 - an Intercontinental Cup (invitational),
 - and **for softball we had also:**
 - one Senior World Cup each for male and female,
 - a U-18 World Cup.
- If you look at our calendar **now, we have:**

- Senior World Cups,
- U-23 World Cups,
- U-18 World Cups,
- U-15 World Cups,
- U-12 World Cups **for Baseball and Softball and respectively for Men's and Women's category.**

Furthermore, **we developed other disciplines, like Baseball for the Blind, Wheelchair Softball; and Baseball5 with a Senior and a Junior World Cup.**

The number of events we had before was not sufficient for the globalisation of our sport. With the development of all categories, including youth, we have built assets with a huge commercial value.

For the senior baseball categories, we made an agreement with the MLB to recognise the Classic as our senior event, where we take 10%; the amount of the past editions (2013, 2017) averaged USD2.5 million each edition.

Later, we launched the Premier12 for 2 main reasons:

- 1) The Classic was a good event but was held only every four years. The WBSC senior events did not have the continuity to produce greater assets and to maintain our Senior category athletes active throughout the years;
- 2) WBSC wanted to have a commercially valuable event with the participation of the professionals.

We professionalised this event to fit what sponsors and broadcasting were looking to maximise revenue. This is evidence on how, through our efforts to include the professionals in our tournaments, we are able to create a product and asset that generates resources and revenue which appeals to the fans and supporters.

- b) With the resources increasing, we were able to help more and more of our NF-members. **Sometimes, the WBSC is perceived as a rich organisation** that does not share its resources with its main stakeholders: the NFs, but **this is absolutely not the case.**

As a matter of fact, **in the past Olympic Games, we were able to distribute around USD8 million dollars to our main stakeholders (NF-Members and Athletes).**

- **In response to some inappropriate remarks regarding the purchase of the WBSC HQ building, I wish to clarify that it has not been paid in cash with the money earned from our activities but through a loan that we are repaying by monthly payments with the same resources that we were spending on rentals to be in the MSI.**

This is a legacy for our organization and future, where the payments are invested into our own property-asset and changed completely the perception that the IOC and many organizations have of WBSC, our stability and future. A non-European sport that has decided to establish its

HQ in the Olympic Capital, is a clear sign of our strong commitment to be part of this family. I am very proud of this achievement, and I would like to thank again this Board that voted in favour of this project of purchasing the property-asset.

Recently, **Lausanne City published its congratulatory message to the WBSC after we won the international architecture prize, stating that we made the Olympic Capital's family proud! And I can tell you that this post is circulating among all the Olympic and international community.**

- Our **resources are coming principally from our events (P12 & WCs)**, and I believe that **in the future, we need to consolidate our position.** This is because depending only on one or two events does not guarantee a stable future. Look what happened during the pandemic, all the Olympic IFs that were dependant on the income of one event (Olympic Games) were afraid of the financial difficulties if Tokyo were to have cancel the 2020 Games.

We were faced with similar financial reality when we were forced to cancel or postpone all our events for 2 years during the pandemic, resulting in **millions of dollars lost due to the cancellation TV revenue.** We **overcame this loss thanks to our reserves**, but this is something I do not wish to be repeated as it is not sustainable, and for this reason we started to work to create a lot more of new projects and events to generate and increase our revenue.

Some of these new events include:

- 1) **BCL** (investors are already engaged in the preparation of this new product that will be launched at the end of this year with an invitational promotional event);
 - 2) **eSports** (working with **Konami** to develop the console game, with **MGO** for the mobile game and with **NewDin** for the virtual reality project);
 - 3) **Digital engagement;**
 - 4) **Betting market** (working with **Genius** on how to generate revenues from the betting in our sport and with Sport Radar to detect any potential illegal betting during our tournaments);
 - 5) **NFT – Non-Fungible Token** (we are already exploring how to use this new trend by producing material for our fans);
 - 6) **Opening to new markets** (we are working to expand our activities in new strategic areas, such as **China, Middle East and India**).
- In the next cycle, we need to consolidate these projects and develop them further to create more stability and sustainability. This is the first big challenge for the next EB.
 - c) Another aspect we worked on in the recent years is **the restructure of our organisation into a more modern and transparent organization**, to be able to satisfy the needs of our Members. Some of our restructure plans included: assigning specific tasks and targets to each department and staff member, and the launch of a

WBSC Integrity Unit to safeguard our movement. We launched **the WBSC Strategic Plan 2022-2028 aligned with the Olympic Agenda 2020+5** (in follow-up to the pilot project done in partnership with the IOC) for a new long-term vision to be implemented over the next years.

We worked hard to **increase our standards of Governance**. We are very confident of our performance, the results of which will be released soon in the latest ASOIF assessment. We will share the ASOIF report as soon as the results are made public.

We **maintained the WADA Compliance** standard, thanks to a robust Anti-Doping Programme implemented in partnership with the International Testing Agency.

We are working hand in hand with the Olympic Movement Unit on **the Prevention of the Manipulation of the Competitions** to prevent match fixing and illegal betting. **4 of our athletes have been appointed as IOC Ambassadors** on this topic.

We participated at the **first ever IOC course for safeguarding officers in sport and we are one of the few IFs that have certified officers that can professionally handle this topic**.

- Another important aspect of a strong organisation is to **help our Members growing alongside and to consolidate the Continental Associations and the WBSC Members**. for this
 - we built a lot of tools for our Members, such as the development programmes,
 - the online WBSC Academy,
 - IT support,
 - Baseball5, and
 - e-Sport strategy to continue to stay relevant, especially amongst the youth and to embrace new eSport athletes and audiences,
 - we are now working on a handbook that will be a great tool for Members to learn and grow further.
- d) **All of this contributed to give not only a new image of our organisation, but also of our sport in the eyes of our main stakeholders, commercial partners, fans, and the Olympic movement.**
- I would like to thank the Executive Board, our Continental Associations, our Commissions, our Staff and all our Members for the amazing achievements produced in such short amount of time and for bringing the professional world inside our organisation.

5.1 Mr. Kaltschmitt stated that he started following this International Federation (IF) as an IOC Member together with his late friend Reynaldo Gonzalez and remembers well how the IF was at an economic and organisational level and in terms of relations with the IOC and stakeholders. He praised the achievements by the WBSC and the wise step to invest in and purchase the new HQ in the Olympic

Capital. He said that he has seen the hard work has been done to develop the sport in Europe and Africa, and around the world. He stressed that the campaign for the Olympic Games in Los Angeles 2028 is very important, and he expressed the desire that the President continued with his commitment, work and vision.

- 5.2 Ms. Allen thanked President Fraccari for his report, and praised the work done, and the steps taken as an inspirational leader, hoping he stays as President of WBSC.

6. FINANCE, BUDGET & AUDIT

- 6.1 Mr. Vicini presented his report on the 2022 WBSC Budget. He explained that after two years in which the Covid-19 virus negatively affected every type of activity, even sports, it seems that progressively the situation is starting to normalise. He highlighted that the organisation of our tournaments is fundamental; as they are the WBSC's main and necessary financial resources, in order to manage and maintain the day-by-day duties of an IF.
- 6.2 Mr. Vicini also stated that for the Budget 2022, there were no critical elements and that WBSC should be able to carry out all the activities planned for the year. He reminded the Board that the Budget was not a Profit & Loss Account, which would be prepared at the end of the year and takes into account accounting elements, such as depreciation, not included in the forecasted financial plan.
- 6.3 Mr. Vicini pointed out that the highest income each year was from the revenue share related to the television rights of the Premier12 and World Cups. He explained that the sum is not distributed in equal parts over the four-year period but is allocated in different percentages: 50% is allocated in the year of the event and the remaining part is divided over the other three years. He stated that this could create imbalances in the accounting management, as the year in which the higher percentage is collected would result in a significant surplus while in the other three years there could be book losses even if financially, there was no risk of loss incurring in the absence of liquidity as reserve funds could be used when necessary.
- 6.4 Mr. Vicini also explained that for practical bookkeeping reasons, all the budgets and official accounting statements are in Swiss Francs (CHF) and not in United States Dollars (USD).
- 6.5 Mr. Vicini highlighted the following summarised amounts of the 2022 Budget:

Total Income for 2022	= CHF	7.199.503
Total Expenses for 2022	= CHF	7.162.400
Excess of Income for 2022	= CHF	37.103
Reserve Funds and Fixed Assets (minus Liabilities)		

on 01/01/2022

= CHF 14.989.165

- 6.6 Mr. Kaltschmitt asked if the accounts in CHF could also be done in USD for a better understanding. Mr. Vicini replied that it could be done, but exchange rates must be considered throughout the year and that currently, the rate of CHF and USD was almost equal.
- 6.7 Mr. Finlay asked whether there was a valuation of HQ building as an asset. Mr. Vicini answered that at the moment, the asset is considered for costs and depreciation; Secretary General Low said that corporations generally do asset valuations after 3-5 years. Mr. Finlay thanked Mr. Vicini for the positive result presented in the Budget despite the present global difficulties (caused by the Covid pandemic and war in Ukraine).

PROPOSAL:

To consider and approve the WBSC 2022 Budget as proposed by Mr. Finlay and seconded by Mr. Cress.

DECISION

The WBSC Executive Board unanimously approved the WBSC 2022 Budget.

- 6.8 Mr. Vicini explained that according to the WBSC Statutes, the authority to approve the Profit and Loss statements is the Congress. Due to the delays due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the next WBSC Congress has the task of considering and approving the WBSC financial statements for three years: 2019, 2020 and 2021.
- 6.9 Mr. Vicini pointed out that the Covid-19 pandemic negatively impacted the activities of the WBSC (most all WBSC sport events were cancelled in 2020 and 2021). However, he said that WBSC still managed to maintain a solid and reassuring financial position and maintain its assets/funds. He informed that on January 1, 2019, the funds amounted to CHF 12.042.607, and at the end of the year, the total was CHF 15.182.416; on December 31, 2020, the total was CHF 15.059.925 and on December 31, 2021, the amount was CHF 14.989.165.

- 6.10 He summarised the following for the 2019 P&L financial statement:

Total Income for 2019	= CHF 35.798.041
Total Expenses for 2019	= CHF 32.658.233
Excess of Income for 2019	= CHF 3.139.808
Funds and Fixed Assets on 31/12/2019	= CHF 15.182.416

- 6.11 He summarised the following for the 2020 P&L financial statement:

Total Income for 2020	= CHF 8.313.194
Total Expenses for 2020	= CHF 7.800.604
Excess of Income for 2020	= CHF 512.590
Funds and Fixed Assets on 31/12/2020	= CHF 15.059.925

6.12 He summarised the following for the 2021 P&L financial statement:

Total Income for 2021	= CHF 7.186.863
Total Expenses for 2021	= CHF 6.891.872
Excess of Income for 2021	= CHF 294.991
Funds and Fixed Assets on 31/12/2021	= CHF 14.989.165

6.13 Mr. Vicini reminded the Board that the 2019 and 2022 Financial Statements had been approved by the Board in earlier meetings and that this Meeting was to consider and approve the 2021 Financial Statements. He stated that for the future, many new opportunities would arise continuously because of the various international activities and events which would attract greater attention among the various stakeholders.

6.14 Mr. Vicini informed that the external auditors, FIBEXA SA Société Fiduciaire, conducted their meticulous examination and completed their audits in accordance with the Swiss Standard, and have declared that *“Nothing has come to our attention that causes us to believe that the financial statements do not comply with Swiss law and the Company’s articles of incorporation”*.

PROPOSAL:

To consider and approve the WBSC 2021 Profit and Loss Account and for such Account in addition to the respective WBSC 2019 and 2020 Profit and Loss Accounts to be presented as audited by FIBEXA SA Société Fiduciaire to the WBSC Congress for approval, as proposed by Mr. Finlay and seconded by Mr. Kaltschmitt.

DECISION

The WBSC Executive Board unanimously approved the respective WBSC 2019, 2020 and 2021 Profit and Loss Accounts and for all such Accounts to be presented as audited by FIBEXA SA Société Fiduciaire to the WBSC Congress for approval.

7. UPDATES ON THE WBSC CONGRESS

7.1 Mr. Schmidt thanked CTBA (Chinese Taipei Baseball Association) for all the hard work put into organising the IV WBSC Congress, amidst the challenges. He confirmed that everything was progressing as planned and that there was a greater number of delegates/attendees expressing interest to participate and requesting for visas to attend the Congress.

8. **UPDATES ON THE WBSC EVENTS**

- 8.1 Mr. Garcia explained that under the new format of the Women's Softball World Cup (in 2 stages – the Group Stage and the Final Stage), in 2023, the Group Stage (3 Groups) must be completed. He presented the three bids for the three Group Stage tournaments, namely, from Italy, Spain and Ireland, and that all the NFs agreed to all WBSC hosting requirements. He requested for the Board to consider and approve the bids.

PROPOSAL:

To consider and approve the three bids from the National Federations of Italy, Spain and Ireland to respectively host the 2023 Group Stage of the WBSC Women Softball World Cup (each National Federation – country, one Group Stage), as proposed by Mr. Cress and seconded by Mr. Vicini.

DECISION

The WBSC Executive Board unanimously approved the three bids from the National Federations of Italy, Spain and Ireland to respectively host the 2023 Group Stage of the WBSC Women Softball World Cup (each National Federation – country, one Group Stage).

- 8.2 Mr. Garcia explained that for the U-15 Women Softball in 2023 would be in one stage only, with the next edition scheduled 4-years later, in 2027. He then presented the two bids for the 2023 U-15 Women Softball World Cup in 2023:

8.2.1 Japan Softball Association (JSA)

JSA proposed three venues but with only two venues to be used at any one time during the tournament, with preferred dates end of October. It is proposed as part of the Tokyo 2020 Legacy Program, and seeking to promote international youth events, seeking to use the Olympians from Tokyo 2020 to inspiring and support development of the next generation of athletes to look forward to participation in the Olympics LA 2028/Brisbane 2032; JSA accepted all WBSC hosting requirements, and the budget is backed by the Tokyo authorities, as well as local public institutions.

8.2.2 Peru Softball National Federation (FDNPS)

FDNPS proposed two venues, with preferred dates in July. The proposal mirrors that for the U-18 Women World Cup 2021 hosted there. DDNPS has the continued support from the Peru National Government to organise international events and promote softball in Peru; they accepted all WBSC hosting requirements and the budget is backed by the National Government.

8.3 Ms. Utsugi added that the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games were a great success and it would be important to continue in the footsteps of this great event to promote the legacy and inspire the young athletes aspiring to participate in the future Olympic Games.

8.4 Mr. Schmidt read the roll call of the Executive Members with the right to vote via Zoom poll system electronic vote.

PROPOSAL:

To consider and approve either the bid from Japan or Peru to host the 2023 U-15 Women Softball World Cup.

VOTES COUNT:

The Zoom poll system was activated for the casting of votes. The following votes were submitted online by the WBSC Executive Members with the right to vote:

Votes in favour for Japan:	10
Votes in favour for Peru:	1
Abstentions:	0

DECISION

By a majority (10 votes to 1), the WBSC Executive Board approved the bid by Japan Softball Association to host the 2023 U-15 Women Softball World Cup in Japan.

8.5 Mr. Garcia continued with a presentation of the recommendations of the WBSC Baseball Tournament Commission on the following five key points for the Board's consideration and approval, and application in the 2022 WBSC World Cups Tournament Regulations.

8.5.1 B3. Protest Procedure:

- Procedure change objective is to reduce the game interruption time (30-40 minutes without play in recent experiences).
- The proposal, in summary, streamlines the individuals involved and eliminates the down time required for the written portion, making it a verbal exchange between the individuals involved (i.e., team manager, home plate umpire, technical commissioners and Directors).

PROPOSAL:

To consider and approve the new protest procedure.

DECISION

The WBSC Executive Board unanimously approved the new protest procedure.

8.5.2 C7.2. Designated Hitter Rule:

- A full review of the Designated Hitter rule has been added to the Tournament Regulations, highlighted by the recommendation to **allow**

the starting pitcher to remain in the game as the designated hitter once removed from the mound.

PROPOSAL:

To consider and approve the recommendation to allow the starting pitcher to remain in the game as the designated hitter once removed from the mound.

DECISION

The WBSC Executive Board unanimously approved the recommendation to allow the starting pitcher to remain in the game as the designated hitter once removed from the mound.

8.5.3 C7.4. Run Difference Rule:

- Implementation of 7-inning games at WBSC Baseball World Cups (U-15, U-18, U-23 and Women Baseball) has been a success, and currently followed or considered by the Professional Leagues.
- Based on feedback gathered by the Commission from teams and stakeholders, it is widely believed that **a baseball game should at play until at least five (5) innings.**
- The Commission agreed and recommended the **elimination of the 15-run difference rule in the 4th inning.** An official game would remain for at least until five (5) innings. The 10-run difference in the 5th or 6th innings would also remain in place.

PROPOSAL:

To consider and approve the recommendation to eliminate the 15-run difference rule in the 4th inning (an official game would remain at least for five (5) innings; the 10-run difference in the 5th or 6th innings would remain in place).

DECISION

The WBSC Executive Board unanimously approved the recommendation to eliminate the 15-run difference rule in the 4th inning (an official game would remain at least for five (5) innings; the 10-run difference in the 5th or 6th innings would remain in place).

8.5.4 C7.5 WBSC Exceptions to the Official Baseball Rules – 20-second pitch clock:

- Upon successful implementation of the clock at the U-18, U-23 and Women Baseball World Cups, the Commission believe the U-15 age category is an appropriate time to start the use of the pitching clock and recommended **implementing the pitch clock at U-15 Baseball World Cup starting in 2022.**

PROPOSAL:

To consider and approve the recommendation to implement the pitch clock at the U-15 Baseball World Cup starting in 2022.

DECISION

The WBSC Executive Board unanimously approved the recommendation to implement the pitch clock at the U-15 Baseball World Cup starting in 2022.

8.5.5 C7.7 Bat Regulations:

- The Commission recommended that for the U-12 Baseball World Cups **bats regulations be adjusted by removing the "BPF factor"**, as it is no longer applied in the industry.

PROPOSAL:

To consider and approve the recommendation to remove the "BPF factor" in the bat regulations for the U-12 Baseball World Cup.

DECISION

The WBSC Executive Board unanimously approved the recommendation to remove the "BPF factor" in the bat regulations for the U-12 Baseball World Cup.

8.6 Mr. Schmidt presented the following applications for the wild cards of the following tournaments:

8.6.1 U-23 Baseball World Cup 2022 (one wild card): Korea.

8.6.2 Men's Softball World Cup 2022 (one wild card): Venezuela.

PROPOSAL 1:

To consider and approve the award of the wild card of the U-23 Baseball World Cup 2022 to Korea, as supported by Mr. Peng.

DECISION 1

The WBSC Executive Board unanimously approved to award the wild card for the U-23 Baseball World Cup 2022 to Korea.

PROPOSAL 2:

To consider and approve the award of the wild card of the Men's Softball World Cup 2022 to Venezuela, as supported by Mr. Cress.

DECISION 2

The WBSC Executive Board unanimously approved to award the wild card for the Men's Softball World Cup 2022 to Venezuela.

- 8.7 Mr. Schmidt presented the recommendation of the Working Group on Slow Pitch (Softball) to start the organisation of a Slow Pitch Co-Ed (Mixed Gender) Softball World Cup. The Working Group's recommendation included that it be a 12-team tournament (three spots for Europe, three spots for Americas, three spots for Asia, one spot for Africa, one spot for Oceania and one Wild Card). He informed that the advantage of the proposed World Cup is that most of the costs would be covered by the Local Organizing Committee and the participants themselves.
- 8.8 Mr. Waage supported for the addition of the Slow Pitch World Cup, which would enlarge the WBSC portfolio of events.

PROPOSAL:

To consider and approve the recommendation of the Slow Pitch Working Group to start the organisation of the Slow Pitch Co-Ed (Mixed Gender) Softball World Cup with a first edition in 2023, as proposed by Mr. Waage and seconded by Mr. Cress.

DECISION

The WBSC Executive Board unanimously approved the recommendation of the Slow Pitch Working Group to start the organisation of the Slow Pitch Co-Ed (Mixed Gender) Softball World Cup, with a first edition in 2023.

9. TO CONSIDER AND APPROVE CHANGES TO THE WBSC STATUTES AND BY-LAWS; AND WBSC INTEGRITY CODE

- 9.1 Mr. Ienna reported that there were amendments to the WBSC Statutes and By-Laws that were unanimously approved by the Executive Board members by electronic vote on 2nd June 2022; and that those changes would be submitted to the IV WBSC Congress for approval/ratification.
- 9.2 Mr. Ienna presented the WBSC Integrity Code, which is a general framework, setting out a collection of all the Integrity Unit regulations (as per Attachment 1).

PROPOSAL:

To consider and approve the new WBSC Integrity Code (as per Attachment 1) as proposed by Mr. Finlay and seconded by Mr. Kaltschmitt.

DECISION

The WBSC Executive Board unanimously approved the new WBSC Integrity Code (as per

Attachment 1).

9.3 Mr. Finlay presented a proposal to amend the WBSC Election By-Laws as follows:

9.3.1 Current Article 6.2: No WBSC Board Member or any Division Board Member, either if elected or ratified, is eligible to vote on behalf of a Member Federation.

9.3.2 Proposed Amendment to Article 6.2: No WBSC Board Member or any Division Board Member, either if elected or ratified, is eligible to vote on behalf of a Member Federation, *unless the elected positions have been vacated for an Elective WBSC Congress, Baseball Division or Softball Division election.*

9.3.3 He explained that in an Elective Congress, the elected Board Member would have to vacate the post prior to the elections being held. As such, the amendment would clarify that the vacated officer could be eligible to vote on behalf of Member Federation.

PROPOSAL:

To consider and approve the following amendment to Article 6.2 of the WBSC Election By-Laws, as proposed by Mr. Finlay and seconded by Mr. Cress:

Article 6.2: No WBSC Board Member or any Division Board Member, either if elected or ratified, is eligible to vote on behalf of a Member Federation, *unless the elected positions have been vacated for an Elective WBSC Congress, Baseball Division or Softball Division election.*

DECISION

The WBSC Executive Board unanimously approved the amendment to Article 6.2 of the WBSC Election By-Laws as follows:

Article 6.2: No WBSC Board Member or any Division Board Member, either if elected or ratified, is eligible to vote on behalf of a Member Federation, unless the elected positions have been vacated for an Elective WBSC Congress, Baseball Division or Softball Division election.

10. PROSPECTIVE NEW MEMBERS

10.1 Mr. Schmidt informed the EB of the following applications (with supporting documents) was received by the WBSC Office for new membership for the EB's consideration and approval. He informed that the relevant documents were sent to the Secretary General in advance and were all reviewed and verified.

10.1.1 The application for associate membership by **Babe Ruth League**.

PROPOSAL:

To consider and approve the application and admission of the Babe Ruth League as a WBSC Associate Member, as proposed by Mr. Finlay and seconded by Mr. Seiler.

DECISION

The WBSC Executive Board unanimously approved the application and admission of the Babe Ruth League as a WBSC Associate Member.

10.1.2 The application for ordinary (full) membership from **Laos Baseball Federation to Laos Baseball Softball Federation**.

PROPOSAL:

To consider and approve the application and admission of the Laos Baseball Federation to that of Laos Baseball Softball Federation as a provisional WBSC Ordinary (full) Member, pending ratification by the next WBSC Congress, as proposed by Mr. Finlay and seconded by Mr. Vicini.

DECISION

The WBSC Executive Board unanimously approved the application and admission of the Laos Baseball Federation to that of Laos Baseball Softball Federation as a provisional WBSC Ordinary (full) Member, pending ratification by the next WBSC Congress.

10.2 Mr. Schmidt informed the EB of the following applications (with supporting documents from both the National Federation and the respective National Olympic Committee) received by the WBSC Office for dismissal for the EB's consideration and approval. He informed that the relevant documents were sent to the Secretary General in advance and were all reviewed and verified.

10.2.1 The application for membership dismissal of the **Bermuda Baseball Federation**.

PROPOSAL:

To consider and approve the dismissal of the Bermuda Baseball Federation as WBSC Ordinary (full) Member, pending ratification by the next WBSC Congress, as proposed by Mr. Finlay and seconded by Ms. Allen.

DECISION

The WBSC Executive Board unanimously approved the dismissal of the Bermuda Baseball Federation as WBSC Ordinary (full) Member, pending ratification by the next WBSC

Congress.

10.2.2 The application for membership dismissal of **Iceland Baseball Federation**.

PROPOSAL:

To consider and approve the dismissal of the Iceland Baseball Federation as WBSC Ordinary (full) Member, pending ratification by the next WBSC Congress, as proposed by Mr. Finlay and seconded by Ms. Allen.

DECISION

The WBSC Executive Board unanimously approved the dismissal of the Iceland Baseball Federation as WBSC Ordinary (full) Member, pending ratification by the next WBSC Congress.

10.2.3 The application for membership dismissal of **Sierra Leone Softball Federation**.

PROPOSAL:

To consider and approve the dismissal of the Sierra Leone Softball Federation as WBSC Ordinary (full) Member, pending ratification by the next WBSC Congress, as proposed by Mr. Finlay and seconded by Mr. Kaltschmitt.

DECISION

The WBSC Executive Board unanimously approved the dismissal of the Sierra Leone Softball Federation as WBSC Ordinary (full) Member, pending ratification by the next WBSC Congress.

10.2.4 The application for membership dismissal of **Samoa Softball Federation**.

PROPOSAL:

To consider and approve the dismissal of the Samoa Softball Federation as WBSC Ordinary (full) Member, pending ratification by the next WBSC Congress, as proposed by Mr. Cress and seconded by Mr. Kaltschmitt.

DECISION

The WBSC Executive Board unanimously approved the dismissal of the Samoa Softball Federation as WBSC Ordinary (full) Member, pending ratification by the next WBSC Congress.

10.2.5 The application for membership dismissal of **Samoa Baseball Federation**.

PROPOSAL:

To consider and approve the dismissal of the Samoa Baseball Federation as WBSC Ordinary (full) Member, pending ratification by the next WBSC Congress, as proposed by Mr. Vicini and seconded by Ms. Allen.

DECISION

The WBSC Executive Board unanimously approved the dismissal of the Samoa Baseball Federation as WBSC Ordinary (full) Member, pending ratification by the next WBSC Congress.

11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- 11.1 Mr. Schmidt presented an application for a change of nationality for Mr. Gustavo Alejandro Melendez Leon, from USA Baseball to Puerto Rico Baseball, with both National Federations in agreement; furthermore, the athlete did not play for the USA in the last four years. He informed that all papers were in order and requested the EB to consider and approve this change of nationality application.

PROPOSAL:

To consider and approve the change of nationality from USA to Puerto Rico for the athlete Mr. Gustavo Alejandro Melendez Leon.

DECISION

The WBSC Executive Board unanimously approved the change of nationality from USA to Puerto Rico for the athlete Mr. Gustavo Alejandro Melendez Leon.

- 11.2 Ms. Aracelis said it is important when leadership goes hand in hand with actions, and under the direction of this EB there have been many developments and goals achieved, especially giving great visibility to our Sport and keeping it sustainable.
- 11.3 Mr. Karin said WBSC Europe was finally united and that he was very excited to have a Softball World Cup 2023 in Europe as it would increase visibility of the sport and help its growth.
- 11.4 Mr. Ditrich thanked the WBSC President for the invitation to attend this EB Meeting and was looking forward to meeting members at the coming WBSC Congress in Taipei.
- 11.5 Mr. Waage stressed the importance for everyone to continue to work together.
- 11.6 Mr. Jljaja praised the leadership for the success of Baseball5, and the WBSC support to help grow it in Africa and to improve the level of play.
- 11.7 Mr. Matsetela thanked the leadership and wished to meet all at the coming WBSC Congress.

- 11.8 Mr. Peng extended welcomed all to attend the coming WBSC Congress.
- 11.9 President Fraccari thanked all colleagues for all their support and cooperation, and for all the work done. He said he felt honoured to work everyone as a team, and was proud of all the achievements attained.
- 11.10 Mr. Kaltschmitt thanked all colleagues and wished to continue working together.
- 11.11 Ms. Low thanked the President for his visionary leadership and teachings, and that it was an honour and privilege to have worked under his guidance. She also thanked all EB colleagues, the WBSC Legal Commission and other Commissions for their support and efforts, as well as the Executive Director and all the Staff members for all the committed hard work done.

12. ADJOURNMENT

- 12.1 President Fraccari thanked all who attended the Meeting. He also thanked the WBSC staff and the interpreter for their efforts in ensuring the success of the meeting.
- 12.2 There being no other matters, the Meeting adjourned at 15:10 with a vote of thanks to the Chair. [End]

These Minutes, originating from the WBSC Executive Board Meeting held by videoconference, on 9th June 2022, are formally confirmed as correct by:

Day _____ Month _____ Year _____

City _____

Signed by _____
Riccardo Fraccari
President

Signed by _____
Beng Choo Low
Secretary General