

The background of the cover features a series of curved, parallel lines in shades of blue, purple, and grey, creating a sense of motion and depth. The WBSC logo is prominently displayed in the center.

WBSC

WORLD
BASEBALL SOFTBALL
CONFEDERATION

Game Time!

ELECTIONS
BY-LAWS



ELECTIONS BY-LAWS

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CHAPTER 1 GENERAL CONDITIONS

Article 1 General Conditions

1.1 The election and ratification procedures for positions on the WBSC Executive Board and on the Division Boards (Baseball Division, BD, and Softball Division, SD) shall be conducted during the WBSC Congresses and respective Division Meetings held in the year immediately after the Summer Olympic Games (first year of the Olympic Cycle) or as otherwise determined by the Congress (Elective Congress). In case of any retirement or vacancy, amongst the remaining members of the WBSC Executive Board or on the Division Boards, a successor will be ratified or elected for the remainder of the original term at the next Elective Congress, subject to notice being given about such election and call for nominations at least sixty (60) calendars days before the Elective Congress. The WBSC Executive Board and the Division Boards may decide not to call for an election to fill a vacancy in their respective Boards if such an elected board cannot serve for at least the time between two (2) Elective Congresses.

1.2 The election and ratification procedures outlined under these By-Laws shall be under the control of the WBSC Legal Commission, who shall apply these procedures in strict accordance with these By-Laws.

1.3 Any dispute regarding the interpretation of the Elections By-Laws, any kind of ratification process or any protest related to the results of the elections, should be made in writing and presented to the Chair of the WBSC Legal Commission before the closing of the respective meeting of the Elective Congress.

1.4 Subject to Article 1.3 of these By-Laws above, a Member Federation may appeal the decision of the WBSC Legal Commission in regard to the interpretation of the Elections By-Laws or any kind of ratification process by appealing to the Court of Arbitration for Sport in Lausanne, Switzerland no later than sixty (60) days after the publication of the decision of the WBSC Legal Commission. By the mere fact of participating in the election process, the Member Federations accept the competence and exclusive jurisdiction of the Court of Arbitration for Sport, in regard to the previous paragraph, excluding all recourse to ordinary courts.

Article 2 Positions Concerned by Elections

2.1 In the WBSC Executive Board, the following are the positions that are subject to an election in accordance with these By-Laws:

- President
- Secretary General

- Treasurer
- First Member At-Large for Baseball
- Second Member At-Large for Baseball
- First Member At-Large for Softball
- Second Member At-Large for Softball

2.2 In each of the Division Boards, the following are the positions that are subject to an election in accordance with these By-Laws:

- Chairman
- First Vice Chairman
- Second Vice Chairman
- First Member At-Large
- Second Member At-Large
- Third Member At-Large

Article 3 Positions Concerned by Ratification

3.1 In the WBSC Executive Board, the following are the positions that are subject to be ratified in accordance with these By-Laws:

- Executive Vice President for Baseball
- Executive Vice President for Softball
- Vice Presidents
- Athlete Representatives for Men's Baseball and Women's Baseball
- Athlete Representatives for Men's Softball and Women's Softball

3.2 In each of the Division Boards, the following are the positions that are subject to be ratified in accordance with these By-Laws:

- Continental Representative for Africa
- Continental Representative for Americas
- Continental Representative for Asia
- Continental Representative for Europe
- Continental Representative for Oceania
- Athlete Representatives for Men's Baseball and Women's Baseball
- Athlete Representatives for Men's Softball and Women's Softball

CHAPTER 2 NOMINATIONS & CAMPAIGN

Article 4 Nominations and Campaign

4.1 At least sixty (60) days prior to the opening date of the Elective Congress, the WBSC Executive Director shall inform all Member Federations of the positions that are due for election and shall invite nominations for those positions, to close with the WBSC Executive Director, no later than at least thirty (30) days after the opening of nominations. The closing time and date shall be clearly specified including the relevant rules which will apply. The notification should also include the time and location of the Elective Congress and logistic details of that Elective Congress. The WBSC Office should make its best efforts to publish the list of candidates (Candidate) at least thirty (30) days before the elections, ensuring also that the WBSC Legal Commission has 15-20 days to complete the eligibility check (the list of Candidates and with the nominating member and respective biographies should be included in the Elective Congress agenda).

4.2 In regard to the calling of nominations, the following shall be the nomination procedure:

- nominations can only be made by Member Federations (see Article 4.3).
- a Member Federation has the right to nominate one person for any elected position. A Candidate should require only one nomination. Nominations may be made for more than one position.
- all nominations shall be in writing and must clearly state the position, or positions, for which a person or persons is being nominated. The nominee then, should also send his/her biography and a signed "Integrity Self-Declaration" (see Appendix 1 of this By-Laws) filled and signed to the WBSC Office.
- the nomination must include the name of the nominating Member Federation and must be signed by the President or the Secretary General of that Member Federation.
- the nomination assumes that the person being nominated is willing to be elected and will abide by the WBSC Statutes, Code of the Divisions, By-Laws, Rules and Regulations, both during the election process and in the event that that person shall be elected.
- A candidate for election is identified as such when the nomination is submitted. An individual may be regarded as a Candidate and subject to relevant rules if they state their intention in public to be a Candidate and campaign in such a way that gives the appearance of being a Candidate, even if they have not been nominated.

4.3 Only Member Federations in good financial standing may nominate a person for election. To be in good financial standing, a Member Federation must be a current member with no fees or dues outstanding prior to the year of the elections or have a prior written agreement with the WBSC concerning the payment of outstanding fees or dues. Furthermore, such a Member Federation must not be under suspension or disqualification.

4.4 In the case where no nominations have been received in accordance with these By-Laws, or where a nominee withdraws his or her nomination, thereby resulting in no nomination existing for a particular position, the WBSC Legal Commission at the appropriate order as outlined in these By-Laws, shall call for nominations from the Elective Congress or the respective Biennial Meeting for that position. An individual may be nominated for a position only by Member Federations and only an Accredited Delegate shall make such a nomination; there may be more than one such nomination for a position. Once nominations for that position have been received from the Elective Congress or the respective Biennial Meeting, the election procedures outlined above shall continue.

4.5 If no individual Candidate receives the required majority of votes cast after exhaustion of the process set out in Article 7 and there are no additional nominations from the floor, then the WBSC Legal Commission shall declare that position vacant and that position shall be filled as provided for in Article 13.

4.6 Depending on the Member Federation, the followings will apply:

- a) A Member Federation, which governs only Baseball in its country, shall send nominations only for the WBSC Executive Board and the Baseball Division Board using separate documents as indicated by the WBSC Executive Director in a timely manner.
- b) A Member Federation which governs only Softball in its country shall send nominations only for the WBSC Executive Board and the Softball Division Board using separate documents as indicated by the WBSC Executive Director in a timely manner.
- c) A Member Federation which governs both Baseball and Softball in its country shall send nominations for all three Executive bodies using separate documents as indicated by the WBSC Executive Director in a timely manner.

4.7 Candidates have the right to promote their candidacies subject to the WBSC Ethics By-Laws, the WBSC Statutes, Code of the Divisions, the WBSC Elections By-Laws, as well as any other rules and regulations issued by the WBSC.

4.8 Candidates shall refrain from carrying out electoral campaign prior to the official publication on the WBSC website of the list of eligible Candidates.

4.9 Candidates shall conduct their campaigns with honesty, dignity, moderation and respect of their opponents.

4.10 Candidates may decide to create, at their own expenses, written propaganda materials (such material must be in line with WBSC Statutes and all other WBSC rules and regulations) and spread it throughout the WBSC Member Federations using the information provided in the WBSC website.

4.11 Candidates have the right to present their campaign during the Elective Congress as per Article 5.3.3

CHAPTER 3 ELECTIONS

Article 5 Preliminary Process Prior to the Elections

5.1 The WBSC Congress shall elect the positions for the WBSC Executive Board.

5.2 Each Biennial Meeting shall elect the positions for each Division Board respectively.

5.3 The election process shall be as follows:

5.3.1 The President/Chairman of each Elective Congress or Biennial Meeting shall declare “vacant” all positions on the respective Executive body and its members shall vacate the official table/dais.

5.3.2 After the process described in Article 5.3.1 is completed, the WBSC Legal Commission shall take control of each Elective Congress/Biennial Meeting for the period of the election process. In the case where a member of the WBSC Legal Commission is nominated for any position on any Executive body, that person shall be replaced on the WBSC Legal Commission by another person, appointed by the WBSC Executive Board, from outside of the WBSC Executive Board.

5.3.3 Each Candidate should be provided with an equal opportunity to make a presentation to the members at the Elective Congress. The presentation should focus on the credentials of the Candidate and the vision and objectives for their term if elected. The presentation should last no more than ten (10) minutes for President and the Chairs of the Divisions and five (5) minutes for any other position and may include video-presentations.

- 5.3.4 The WBSC Legal Commission shall confirm the number of Member Federations that are eligible to vote, in accordance with these By-Laws, and shall explain the election procedure to the delegates of each Elective Congress/Biennial Meeting.
- 5.3.5 All positions to be elected shall be elected by secret ballot or secret electronic ballot (each a ballot) in order of precedence as outlined above, under Article 2.
- 5.3.6 The WBSC Legal Commission/Notaries (the Notary) (see Articles 7.4, 7.5 and 7.5) shall conduct the elections for each position one at a time, and complete each election process for each position, prior to proceeding to the election of the next position.
- 5.3.7 In case of use of ballot papers, the WBSC Legal Commission shall ensure that there is one location in the meeting room where there are at least two (2) private voting positions where delegates may complete their ballot paper in total privacy, prior to lodging their ballot paper in the appropriate ballot box under the control of the WBSC Legal Commission.
- 5.3.8 In case of use of electronic votes, the WBSC Legal Commission shall ensure that the electronic ballots are secure and have been certified for this purpose. For any in-person Elective Congress, in case of a technical failure, the WBSC Legal Commission should revert to a paper-based system.

Article 6 Eligibility to Vote

- 6.1 In order to be eligible to vote a Member Federation must be in good financial standing in accordance with Article 4.3 of these By-Laws.
- 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.

Article 7 The Voting Procedure

- 7.1 The following is the procedure to apply in each and every position, for each of the three Executive bodies and by each respective Elective Congress/Biennial Meeting.
- 7.2 After specifying the order in which positions will be elected, the WBSC Legal Commission shall announce the election of each position, for example "Election of the

President”, and it shall ensure that the meeting room of the Elective Congress/Biennial Meeting is secure, with no person being allowed entry or exit during the voting procedure and process for that particular position.

7.3 The WBSC Legal Commission shall read aloud the list of Candidates nominated for that particular position and shall display the list in writing on a large display board in alphabetical order of surname.

7.4 In the case where more than one nomination has been made for a position and a ballot paper system is chosen, the voting procedure shall be as follows:

- 7.4.1 The WBSC Legal Commission shall ensure that the ballot paper to be distributed shall have the surname of each Candidate listed in alphabetical order as it appears on the display board.
- 7.4.2 The WBSC Legal Commission shall read out, in alphabetical order, the Member Federations that are present and eligible to cast a vote and one (1) of the official delegates for that Member Federation shall collect from the WBSC Legal Commission a ballot paper.
- 7.4.3 The delegate shall then proceed to the voting position and complete the ballot paper.
- 7.4.4 The delegate shall then return the ballot paper to the ballot box, which at all times shall be under the complete control and supervision of the WBSC Legal Commission.
- 7.4.5 Each Member Federation shall be entitled to the following votes:
 - at the WBSC Elective Congress, only Baseball Member Federations shall be entitled to only one (1) vote; only Softball Member Federations shall be entitled to only one (1) vote; Member Federations that govern both Baseball and Softball shall be entitled to two (2) votes (expressed by one (1) or two (2) separate delegates).
 - at the Baseball Division Biennial Meeting, only Baseball Member Federations shall be entitled to only one (1) vote; Member Federations that govern both Baseball and Softball shall be entitled to one (1) vote (expressed by only one (1) delegate).
 - at the Softball Division Biennial Meeting, only Softball Member Federations shall be entitled to only one (1) vote; Member Federations that govern both Baseball and Softball shall be entitled to one (1) vote (expressed by only one (1) delegate).

- 7.4.6 The delegate shall complete the ballot paper by placing a cross or a tick in the box corresponding to the person for whom the Member Federation wish to vote.
- 7.4.7 A ballot paper shall be declared invalid if:
- more than one cross or tick appears on the ballot paper indicating more than one person or if it does not clearly indicate the single Candidate for whom the delegate wishes to vote.
 - the ballot paper bears marks or erasers of such a nature as to prevent the WBSC Legal Commission from clearly determining the person for whom the delegate intended to vote.
 - the ballot paper bears marks or words identifying the person or the Member Federation casting the vote.
 - more ballot papers are returned than were distributed. In this case, a new vote will be held.
- 7.4.8 At the conclusion of this process for a particular position, the WBSC Legal Commission shall declare closed the voting procedure for that particular position and shall proceed to the counting of votes in accordance with Article 8.
- 7.4.9 Under no circumstances shall the meeting room of the Congress/Biennial Meeting be opened to allow entry or exit of persons or delegates until the total process, including the counting of all votes and the announcement of the elected Candidate has been completed.
- 7.5 In the case where more than one nomination has been made for a position and an electronic voting system is chosen with the delegates being present in person, the voting procedure shall be as follows:
- 7.5.1 The WBSC Legal Commission shall ensure that the distribution of the Candidates shall have the surname of each Candidate listed in alphabetical order as it appears on the display board.
- 7.5.2 The WBSC Legal Commission shall read out, in alphabetical order, the Member Federations that are present and eligible to cast a vote and the official delegate(s) for that Member Federation shall have received the access to the digital voting system.
- 7.5.3 The delegate shall then proceed accordingly electronically.
- 7.5.4 Each Member Federation shall be entitled to the following votes:

- at the WBSC Congress, only Baseball Member Federations shall be entitled to only one (1) vote; only Softball Member Federations shall be entitled to only one (1) vote; Member Federations that govern both Baseball and Softball shall be entitled to two (2) votes (expressed by one (1) or two (2) separate delegates).
- at the Baseball Division Biennial Meeting, only Baseball Member Federations shall be entitled to only one (1) vote; Member Federations that govern both Baseball and Softball shall be entitled to one (1) vote (expressed by only one (1) delegate).
- at the Softball Division Biennial Meeting, only Softball Member Federations shall be entitled to only one (1) vote; Member Federations that govern both Baseball and Softball shall be entitled to one (1) vote (expressed by only one (1) delegate).

7.5.5 The delegate shall complete the vote by placing the electronic vote to the person for whom the Member Federation wish to vote.

7.5.6 A vote shall be declared invalid if:

- more than one vote appears or indicates more than one person or if it does not clearly indicate the single Candidate for whom the delegate wishes to vote.
- the electronic system bears marks or erasers of such a nature as to prevent the WBSC Legal Commission from clearly determining the person for whom the delegate intended to vote.
- the electronic system bears marks or words identifying the person or the Member Federation casting the vote.
- The number of received votes is higher than the number of eligible votes. In this case, a new vote will be held.

7.5.7 At the conclusion of this process for a particular position, the WBSC Legal Commission shall declare closed the voting procedure for that particular position and shall proceed to the counting of votes in accordance with Article 8.

7.5.8 Under no circumstances shall the meeting room of the Congress/Biennial Meeting be opened to allow entry or exit of persons or delegates until the total process, including the announcement of the elected Candidate has been completed.

7.6 In the case where more than one nomination has been made for a position and an online (all delegates are not present in person) or hybrid (delegates can attend in person or online) voting system is chosen, the voting procedure shall be as follows:

- 7.6.1 The WBSC Legal Commission shall read out, in alphabetical order, the Member Federations that are present and eligible to cast a vote and the official delegate(s) for that Member Federation shall have received the access to the digital voting system.
- 7.6.2 The WBSC Legal Commission shall hand over the process to the Notaries of the certified company chosen to run the electronic voting if it is an online voting only or a hybrid solution with delegates present in person voting while others may vote online only.
- 7.6.3 The Notaries shall explain the voting procedures and run the entire voting process.
- 7.6.4 The Notaries shall ensure that each Candidate's surname is listed in alphabetical order in the display board/computer screen.
- 7.6.5 The Notaries shall then proceed accordingly with the voting electronically.
- 7.6.6 Each Member Federation shall be entitled to the following votes:
- at the WBSC Congress, only Baseball Member Federations shall be entitled to only one (1) vote; only Softball Member Federations shall be entitled to only one (1) vote; Member Federations that govern both Baseball and Softball shall be entitled to two (2) votes (expressed by one (1) or two (2) separate delegates).
 - at the Baseball Division Biennial Meeting, only Baseball Member Federations shall be entitled to only one (1) vote; Member Federations that govern both Baseball and Softball shall be entitled to one (1) vote (expressed by only one (1) delegate).
 - at the Softball Division Biennial Meeting, only Softball Member Federations shall be entitled to only one (1) vote; Member Federations that govern both Baseball and Softball shall be entitled to one (1) vote (expressed by only one (1) delegate).
- 7.6.7 The delegate shall complete the vote by placing the electronic vote for the person for whom the Member Federation wish to vote.
- 7.6.8 A vote shall be declared invalid if:
- more than one vote appears or indicates more than one person or if it does not clearly indicate the single Candidate for whom the delegate wishes to vote.
 - the electronic system bears marks or erasers of such a nature as to prevent the Notaries from clearly determining the person for whom the delegate intended to vote.

- the electronic system bears marks or words identifying the person or the Member Federation casting the vote.
- The number of received votes is higher than the number of eligible votes. In this case, a new vote will be held.

7.6.9 At the conclusion of this process for a particular position, the Notaries shall declare closed the voting procedure for that particular position and shall proceed to announce the number of valid votes after the electronic system counts them in accordance with Article 8.

7.6.10 Under no circumstances shall the meeting room (in case of hybrid) of the Congress/Biennial Meeting be opened to allow entry or exit of persons or delegates until the total process, including the announcement of the elected Candidate has been completed.

7.7 In the case where there has been no nomination for the position or whereby a person nominated has withdrawn his or her nomination, thereby resulting in no nomination existing for a particular position, Article 4.4 shall apply.

Article 8 Counting of the Votes

8.1 After the voting procedures (see Article 7) have been completed, the WBSC Legal Commission (for voting with ballot papers and electronic votes in person) or the Notaries (for online or hybrid electronic voting – as defined under Articles 7.4, 7.5 and 7.6), shall count and then announce the votes and proceed as follows:

- 8.1.1 If a Candidate obtains an absolute majority of valid votes cast (that is, more than 50% of valid votes cast), that person is elected.
- 8.1.2 If no Candidate obtains an absolute majority at the first vote, the Candidate with the least number of votes shall be excluded from the next round of votes and the voting procedure shall be repeated in accordance with the above-mentioned process, until such time as only one (1) Candidate receives an absolute majority.
- 8.1.3 In the case where there are four (4) or more Candidates and two (2) of them receive an equal number of votes in the last position, then those two (2) Candidates shall be deleted from the list of Candidates and the voting procedure shall be repeated in accordance with the above until such time as only one (1) Candidate receives an absolute majority.
- 8.1.4 In the case where there are three (3) Candidates or only three (3) Candidates are remaining and two (2) of them receive an equal number of

votes in the last position, then a further vote shall be held between these two (2) Candidates that finished equally last to determine which one (1) of these Candidates shall be excluded from the next round of votes.

8.1.5 If, after the second vote, any tied vote remains tied, the WBSC Legal Commission/Notaries shall call a recess of the Congress/Biennial Meeting for a maximum of fifteen (15) minutes, after which a third vote shall be conducted.

8.1.6 If, after the third vote, the vote remains tied, the WBSC Legal Commission (for all kind of voting system including but not limited to electronic) shall determine the matter by the toss of a coin. However, for the election of the President only, if after the third vote the vote remains tied, the voting shall be repeated until one (1) Candidate receives an absolute majority.

8.2 When one (1) Candidate has received an absolute majority of votes, the results shall be publicly announced by the WBSC Legal Commission/Notaries, who shall record the vote and certify the result that should be published in due time.

8.3 It is only after the announcement of the person properly elected that the meeting room can be opened for the entry and exit of delegates and accredited persons.

8.4 For a position where there is only one (1) Candidate, that Candidate is elected. The WBSC Legal Commission/Notaries shall declare the Candidate elected.

8.5 The ballot papers/electronic records should be kept in a sealed container for one hundred (100) calendars days after the Elective Congress and then be destroyed/deleted.

Article 9 Oath of Office

9.1 At the conclusion of the election and ratification process for all positions, the elected members, together with the ratified members, shall swear the Oath of Office and take their position immediately.

9.2 No person elected or ratified can take their position on the respective Executive body unless that person has taken the Oath of Office.

9.3 If a person elected to a position on the respective Executive body is not present at the Elective Congress/Biennial Meeting, the person must take the Oath of Office at the WBSC Headquarters in front of the President and one witness, or at a subsequent meeting of the respective Congress/Biennial Meeting or the respective Executive body.

9.4 If the Oath of Office is not taken within a period of one (1) year of the election taking place, the position shall be declared vacant and another election for the position shall be held in accordance with these By-Laws.

9.5 The Oath of Office shall be as follows:

"I, (name of person) having been duly elected by this Congress/Biennial Meeting, accept the duties and responsibilities of my position and swear to carry out the letter and the spirit of the Statutes of the World Baseball Softball Confederation with integrity and loyalty."

9.6 After the Oath of Office, all the elected people shall stand in front of the Congress/Biennial Meeting and the WBSC anthem shall be played.

9.7 The elected people at the Baseball Division Biennial Meeting and the elected people at the Softball Division Biennial Meeting shall be introduced to the WBSC Congress.

CHAPTER 4 VARIOUS DISPOSITIONS REGARDING ELECTED POSITIONS

Article 10 Terms of Office

10.1 All the elected positions on the WBSC Executive bodies shall be for a period of four (4) years, commencing immediately after the elections have been concluded and ceasing immediately prior to the next elections being held. Only the first mandate of the President shall be for a period of eight (8) years.

10.2 The term of office shall only be reduced by the resignation by the individual Member or through the removal of the Member in accordance with the WBSC Statutes and By-Laws.

10.3 In case of an official taking up his/her position part-away through the term due to a vacancy for any period less than three (3) years, the period will not be counted as a full term.

Article 11 Attendance at Meetings

11.1 In the event that a Member of the Executive fails to attend two (2) consecutive meetings of the Executive without such absence being approved by the Executive, such

Member shall be deemed to have resigned his or her position on the respective Executive body.

Article 12 Suspension from Office

12.1 Any Member of the Executive bodies (whether the Member is an elected Member or a ratified Member) may be suspended from his or her position by a decision, requiring a two-third majority of the members of the concerned Executive Body present at a duly constituted meeting. The affected Member is not eligible to vote.

12.1.1 If a Candidate signs the “Integrity Self-Declaration” giving incorrect information (as determined by the Legal Commission), the candidate will be immediately removed from the pertinent Executive Body without requiring the two-third majority of votes and the membership will be removed permanently.

12.2 Prior to the respective Executive body considering the suspension of a Member, the procedures outlined in the By-Laws regarding Disciplinary Matters affecting an individual person shall be instigated.

12.3 The grounds for the removal of an Executive Member are as follows:

12.3.1 Failure to properly discharge his or her duties under WBSC Statutes and By-Laws.

12.3.2 The conviction of a criminal offense that in his or her country would result in the imposition of a monetary fine or a term of imprisonment, or the insolvency, bankruptcy or disqualification to serve as a director of a company of such person.

12.3.3 The commission or omission of an act that brings WBSC, Baseball or Softball into disrepute.

12.3.4 The incapacity of the individual involved.

12.4 The Member of the Executive body subject to removal shall be timely notified of the receipt of any such motion for removal.

12.5 In the case of a removal, the provisions for election of individuals in the event of a vacancy shall apply. In the case of a suspension, the individual shall be suspended from all activities as regards his or her position and may not take part in any activities or deliberations of any Executive body, in accordance with the terms of the suspension.

Article 13 Vacancy

13.1 In the event that a member of one Executive body resigns, dies, or is deemed to have resigned, or is removed from office, the respective Executive body may, at its absolute discretion, decide to appoint another person from within or from outside the Executive Board itself, to fill the positions vacant if it is important that such a position be filled. If in the course of his or her tenure, a particular Athlete Representative loses his or her position, the WBSC Athletes' Commission will seek for a possible substitute that meets the same Athlete Representative election criteria as per Article 17.4.1.

13.2 Should a person from within an Executive body be appointed to fill another vacancy within such Executive body, such a person shall only have one (1) vote, even if that person occupies two (2) positions, except for the situation to apply per Article 14.

13.3 Should an Executive body make such a temporary appointment, that appointment shall be for a period up to the next respective Congress/Biennial Meeting, where the position shall be filled in accordance with these By-Laws.

13.4 If an Executive body determines that the position need not be filled, the position can remain vacant, and an election for that position shall be held in accordance with the procedures outlined in these By-Laws at the next respective Congress/Biennial Meeting. Should a person from outside of an Executive body be appointed to a vacancy within such Executive body, such a person shall have no vote.

Article 14 Vacancy of the Position of President

14.1 In the case the position of President of the WBSC becomes vacant, then the Executive Vice President who has held his office for the longest time shall be appointed and become the Acting President. If the two (2) Executive Vice Presidents have held their office for the same period of time, the oldest Executive Vice President by age will become the Acting President.

14.2 In the case the position of Chairman of the Baseball or Softball Division Board becomes vacant, then the 1st Vice Chairman shall become the Acting Chairman.

14.3 In this situation, the Acting President/Chairman shall arrange to have an Extraordinary Congress/Members' Meeting called, to be held within one hundred twenty (120) days of the position becoming vacant and to have the position of President/Chairman subject to elections in accordance with these By-Laws.

Article 15 Powers of the Acting President / Chairman

15.1 Further to Clause 14, the “Acting President/Chairman” shall retain his or her original position but shall have only one (1) vote within the respective Executive body. In the case of a tied vote, the Acting President/Chairman shall have the casting vote.

Article 16 Nationality of Elected Members

16.1 In the case of elected positions as outlined under Article 2 of these By-Laws, each elected Member shall be from different Member Federations, Associations or Organisations of the WBSC.

CHAPTER 5 VARIOUS DISPOSITIONS REGARDING RATIFIED POSITIONS

Article 17 Positions

17.1 During the Elective Congress/Biennial Meetings held in the year immediately after the Summer Olympic Games, the positions listed in Article 3 shall be subject to ratification by each respective Congress/Biennial Meetings.

17.2 The Vice Presidents shall be International Olympic Committee members and shall be nominated and appointed by the WBSC Executive Board. They shall hold only one Office at a time and their ratification is by the WBSC Congress.

17.3 The Executive Vice Presidents shall be the Chairman of each respective Baseball and Softball Division or such other person who may be nominated and appointed by the Board of the relevant Division (in case the Chairman already has a position in the WBSC Executive Board), and their ratification is by the WBSC Congress.

17.4 The respective Athletes’ Representatives shall be elected every four (4) years.

17.4.1 Only an “Active Athlete” as defined in Article 5.2 of the Commissions By-Laws is eligible. They must be at least eighteen (18) years old in the year of election, participated in at least one (1) WBSC World Championships/Cup, including Premier12, Olympic Qualifiers and Olympic Games, in at least six (6) years prior to nomination and participated in no less than two (2) WBSC sanctioned or recognised competitions, including multisport games, have

the written confirmation of the National Federation of the country that they represented in the WBSC World Championship/Cup, including Premier12, Olympic Qualifiers and Olympic Games, that they are in good standing with such National Federation and of good character and not been found guilty of any breach of any rule, regulation or other provision of the WBSC or any other sports or other organisation.

- 17.4.2 The Athlete Representatives shall be elected during an election year by eligible players. The term of an Athlete Representative on the Executive Board shall be four (4) years. Nominations for the Athlete Representatives will be collected in advance by the WBSC by requesting the nominees to the Member Federations in good standing via email. At least sixty (60) days prior to the opening date of the elections, the WBSC Executive Director shall inform all Member Federations of the positions that are due for election and shall invite nominations for those positions, to close with the WBSC Executive Director, no later than at least thirty (30) days after the opening of nominations. The WBSC Office should ask each president or secretary general of the pertinent member federations to sign Appendix 2 of this By-Laws to complete the voting process and make its best efforts to publish the list of Candidates at least thirty (30) days before the elections, ensuring also that the WBSC Legal Commission has 15-20 days to complete the eligibility check.
- 17.4.3 To declare elected those eight (8) Athlete Representatives who have obtained the highest number and the second highest number of valid votes per category (Men's Baseball, Women's Baseball, Men's Softball, Women's Softball), in case of a tie between candidates and to break that tie, the athlete with a higher number of international competition (recognised by the WBSC) wins. If the number is the same, the older candidate wins. If the age is the same, the WBSC Integrity Commission and the Executive Board will choose after analysing the situation and taking into consideration criteria to ensure a fair and balanced representation within the Commission, including but not limited to geographic balance. In case the tie happens between the candidates with the highest number of valid votes, the two candidates with tie will then be both elected.
- 17.4.4 The eight (8) Athlete Representatives will then elect among themselves the four (4) representatives to be included in the WBSC Board (one Men's Baseball, one Women's Baseball, one Men's Softball, one Women's Softball) and four (4) representatives (one Men's Baseball, one Women's Baseball, one Men's Softball, one Women's Softball) to be included in the Baseball and Softball Divisions. The four (4) Athlete Representatives on the

Executive Board and the four (4) Athlete Representatives on the Division Boards must be gender and discipline balanced.

17.4.5 To decide which four (4) representatives will be included in the WBSC Executive Board, the following scenarios will be applied:

17.4.5.1 The two (2) Athlete Representatives from the same category to agree on who shall be in the Executive Board;

17.4.5.2 In case both Athlete Representatives from the same category are willing to be in the Executive Board, a vote is required among the remaining six (6) representatives. The Athlete Representative with highest vote will be included in the Executive Board. In case of tie, flipping a coin or a similar electronic system will be required to make the decision.

17.5 The WBSC Executive Board shall have the authority to fill any vacancy, which occurs through death or resignation of any Member of the Executive Board, except for Athlete Representatives. Should a vacancy occur in an Athlete Representative position, the Executive Board shall establish a mechanism, if necessary, for the eligible athletes to elect a replacement. The person elected shall serve until the expiration of the term of office for which the person has been elected.

Article 18 The Ratification Process

18.1 The ratification process shall commence immediately after the elections of Members of the Executive bodies. Each Elective Congress/Biennial Meeting shall ratify its respective positions.

18.2 The WBSC Legal Commission shall take control of the Congress/Biennial Meeting for the period of the election of the ratification process. In the case where a member of the WBSC Legal Commission is nominated for any position on any Executive body, that person shall be replaced on the WBSC Legal Commission by another person, appointed by the WBSC Executive Board, from outside of the WBSC Executive Board (as already provided by Article 5.4.2).

18.3 Prior to the ratification process, each responsible body shall nominate every appointed person and shall advise the WBSC Legal Commission of the nominee for that ratified position. Such nominations shall be in writing and shall be signed by the President or Chairman of each responsible body making that nomination.

18.4 The President of the WBSC shall announce the names of the positions to be ratified in front of the WBSC Congress and seek for final ratification.

Article 19 Vacancy

19.1 If in the course of his or her tenure, a particular Executive Vice President of the WBSC Executive Board loses his or her position on the Baseball or Softball Division Board, that person will automatically cease to act in his or her capacity as Executive Vice President on the WBSC Executive Board.

19.2 If in the course of his or her tenure, a particular Vice President of the WBSC Executive Board loses his or her position, the WBSC Executive Board will seek for a possible substitute.

19.3 If in the course of their tenure, a particular Athlete Representative of the WBSC Executive Board loses their position, they will be automatically substituted by the representative of the same category sitting in the Division Board. The representative of the division board will be replaced as per normal procedure as per Article 13.1.

19.4 If in the course of his or her tenure, a particular Continental Representative loses his or her position on the Continental Executive body of his or her particular Continental Association, that person will automatically cease to act in his or her capacity as Continental Representative on the respective Division Board. The position so vacated shall be provisionally filled by nomination of the Continental Association, through its President, of a person nominated by that Continental Association.

19.5 All such appointments shall be subject to the ratification process at the next available Congress/Biennial Meeting.

19.6 During the period of the vacancy that has been filled by a substitute, and until the time that that particular person is ratified in the position, the position shall only be filled on a provisional basis and the person filling that position shall have no vote on the respective Executive body.

Article 20 Suspension from Office

20.1 Any Member of the Executive bodies (whether the Member is an elected Member or a ratified Member) may be suspended from his or her position as per Article 12.1.

Article 21 Nationality of Ratified Members

21.1 In the case of ratified positions as outlined under Article 3 of these By-Laws, each ratified Member shall be from different Member Federations, Associations or Organisations of the WBSC.