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WBSC

WORLD
BASEBALL SOFTBALL
CONFEDERATION

Game Time!

**SANCTION
REGULATION**

SANCTION REGULATION

Approved by the WBSC Executive Board on 25 February 2017.

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CHAPTER 1 GENERAL

ASSESSMENTS

Article 1 This draft refers to the Regulation drawn up by WBSC to regulate international events under the jurisdiction of WBSC.

Article 2 As per Article 19.1 of the WBSC Statutes regarding international play, “Any International Baseball/Softball competition, match, game, tournament between teams and/or clubs that come under the jurisdiction and/or auspices of one or more Member Federations and/or comprising of one or more players that come under the jurisdiction and/or auspices of one or more Member Federations, shall come under the jurisdiction of the WBSC and shall be subject to the Statutes, Code of the Divisions, By-Laws, Rules and Regulations as established by the WBSC.”

Article 3 As per Article 19.2 of the WBSC Statutes regarding international play, “WBSC Full Members are the only authorities in each country to select their National Team and have the exclusive right to represent the country or territory name, flag and colours.”

Article 4 As per Article 19.6 of the WBSC Statutes regarding international play, “Failure to obtain this sanction would constitute a breach of the Statutes and such Member in breach thereof may be liable to disciplinary action under the Disciplinary By-Laws.”

Article 5 Misrepresentation and fraud: where a team is not the National Team acting under the authority of the National Federation and/or respective National Olympic Committee - and/or where a competition has not been duly sanctioned by the WBSC - the uniform colours and style of such team competing in an international competition must not be the same as or similar to any National Team uniforms of the WBSC Member. The National Flag of the country of that National Federation must not appear on the uniform and such team should not be promoted/positioned as a team representing a country or nation on any media outlets (broadcasting, website, social media, print publications, etc.).

Article 6 The process to follow the sanction procedure are detailed in Appendix I.

CHAPTER 2 DEFINITIONS

Article 7 “Club Team” refers to any individual team not formed to represent a National Team (e.g., youth organisation team, high school team, professional team, etc.) that typically participates in local/domestic competitions or leagues and may have players from different countries of origin.

Article 8 “International Competition” means that a Baseball/Softball/Baseball5 competition shall be considered an international competition and come under the jurisdiction of WBSC when the competition features any of the following:

- 8.1 National Team vs. National Team;
- 8.2 National Team vs. Club (e.g., youth organisation, high school, university, professional, etc.);
- 8.3 Club vs. Club (e.g., youth organisation, high school, university, professional, etc.) when:
 - 8.3.1 Clubs competing against each other have a different country of origin; or
 - 8.3.2 Clubs from the same country of origin compete against each other in a foreign territory; or
 - 8.3.3 The competition involves one or more players that come under the jurisdiction and/or auspice of one or more Member Federations.

Article 9 “Member” refers to a National Federation Member or Professional League Associate Member affiliated to the WBSC.

Article 10 “National Team” refers to a selection of players who share the same nationality and are assembled under the authority of their respective National Federation – and/or in partnership with WBSC Associate Members, where applicable – to represent their nation in sanctioned international competitions.

Article 11 “Non-Member” means any organisation, league, individual (e.g., promoter) that is not a Member of the WBSC.

Article 12 “Sanction” means explicit written approval granted by the WBSC.

Article 13 “Exclusive Authority” means WBSC holds the exclusive authority to organise, sanction and regulate international competitions among its Members and in each constituent country for which there is a national governing body for Baseball and/or Softball.

Article 14 “Requesting a Sanction” means Members and Non-members/persons (through the respective NF(s) in concerned territory/ies) shall request a sanction from the WBSC to organise an international competition, as defined under 1.1.

Article 15 “Automatic Sanction Granted” means an international competition will automatically be recognised and granted a sanction by the WBSC for:

- 15.1 Continental championships organised under WBSC’s Continental Confederations;
- 15.2 Regional multisport events, such as the Asian Games and Pan-American Games, which are organised under the auspices of the Olympic Movement;
- 15.3 Exhibition series/games organised within 15 days prior to a major international event sanctioned or organised by WBSC (e.g., Premier12, World Baseball Classic) provided that same team or teams are involved in both exhibition and main event.

Article 16 “Granting a Sanction” means the WBSC shall review the application and grant a sanction in a timely manner if:

- 16.1 The proposed competition is in accordance with the WBSC Statutes;
- 16.2 The proposed scope or size of the event are not in conflict with any major WBSC sanctioned event or competition platform (e.g., World Cups);
- 16.3 The proposed dates of the event are not in conflict with any major WBSC sanctioned event or competition platform (e.g., World Cups);
- 16.4 The proposed event takes into the highest consideration and has provisions to ensure player’s safety;
- 16.5 The proposed name of the event is a reasonably accurate representation of the scope and size of event;
- 16.6 The organiser will properly identify the event as being sanctioned by the WBSC;
- 16.7 Any required sanctioning fee is paid to (may be waived for Members):

16.7.1 The WBSC;

16.7.2 The relevant host National Federation/s when the event is not directly organised by the NF.

16.8 A notarised/audited Financial Report for a commercial international competition (or provisional budget for a new event) is submitted;

16.9 The sanctioning application is completed in full, with any/all supporting documents and submitted no later than six (6) weeks prior to the event.

Article 17 “Denying a Sanction” means a sanction shall be refused or revoked if:

17.1 There is non-compliance with any of the conditions set forth under Article 1.5;

17.2 An organiser makes use of – or is complicit in – false advertising practices to identify Club Teams as National Teams, including but not limited to:

17.2.1 Making use of a country name (e.g., “Japan”) or national flag:

17.2.1.1 On team apparel (such as uniforms, ball/bat bags, travel outfits, batting practice jerseys, t-shirts, helmets, or any other team items);

17.2.1.2 In the media (e.g., websites, advertisements, promotional materials, media guides, tournament schedules, TV, social media, or any other place).

17.2.2 Through their broadcast partners, sponsors, suppliers or any other partners.

Article 18 “Non-Compliance”:

18.1 Members found to be complicit or in violation of WBSC international sanction policy (e.g., participating in an unsanctioned event, failure to enforce international competition guidelines within its territory, etc.) will face penalties commensurate with said violations, which may include and not be limited to: suspension (to the National Federation and any involved players) and fines.

18.2 Non-Members who do not secure the proper international sanction from WBSC will be subject to actions as may be deemed by WBSC to be appropriate under its rules or at law. All associated parties (e.g., teams, players, etc.) may be subject to potential action.

CHAPTER 3 COUNTRY NAMES ON TEAM UNIFORM

Article 19 WBSC issues this regulation direction to its National Federations in relation to those Federations sanctioning participation by teams in international tournaments and competitions conducted by other and youth baseball/softball/Baseball5 organisations.

Article 20 A National Federation will not be permitted to allow a team competing in an international tournament to wear a playing outfit, uniform or jersey ("uniform") unless it complies with the following policy:

- 20.1 Where the team is not the national team, the uniform colours and style of the team competing in an international tournament must not be the same as or similar to the national senior team uniform or the national youth team uniform of that National Federation.
- 20.2 It is the responsibility of the National Federation to advise the baseball/softball/Baseball5 organisations of the colours and style of the national team and the national team uniforms for that National Federation and to agree with the relevant baseball/softball/Baseball5 organisation the colours and style of the uniform for a team competing in an international tournament that comply with this policy.
- 20.3 Where a National Federation changes the uniform colours and style of its national team and/or national team uniform, the National Federation in question must notify the baseball/softball/Baseball5 organisations and allow sufficient and reasonable time for the baseball/softball/Baseball5 organisations to amend the colours and style of the uniform for a team competing in an international tournament to enable it to comply with this policy.
- 20.4 The national flag of the country of that National Federation must not appear on the uniform.
- 20.5 The name of the country of that National Federation must not appear on the uniform alone and must be accompanied by one of the words "Region," "Regional" or such other word as may be agreed between the baseball/softball/Baseball5 organisations and WBSC.

Article 21 In all relevant broadcasts, publications, programs, media guides and the like for the baseball/softball/Baseball5 organisations tournament, the baseball/softball/Baseball5 organisations will in good faith use its best efforts to make it clear that the local team only represents a region of that country and is not the National Federation team.

Article 22 In administering this policy, the baseball/softball/Baseball5 organisations will liaise with WBSC but may receive information directly from any affected National Federation.

Article 23 Any dispute in relation to this policy must be referred to the WBSC for good faith negotiations and resolution with the baseball/softball/Baseball5 organisation.

Article 24 These principles apply to all teams from National Federations, which have direct qualification into, or participation in international tournaments.

Article 25 The principles set out in this communication may be set out in a subsequent MOU between WBSC and such baseball/softball/Baseball5 organisations, but in the interim, the principles set out in this communication remain the agreed position between WBSC, its National Federations and all recognised baseball/softball/Baseball5 organisations within their territories.