

**WBSC Europe Executive Board meeting**  
**Pully, WBSC Headquarters**  
**April 8<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> 2022**

**Attendance**

Krunoslav Karin, President ("KK")	Ami Baran, Secretary General; ("AB")
Gabriel Waage, Vice President Softball; ("GW")	Peter Ditrich, Vice President Baseball; ("PD")
Mette N Jakobsen, Member at Large ; ("MJ")	François Collet, Member at Large ; ("FC")
Kristian Pälviä, Member at Large ; ("KP")	Virmidas Neverauskas, Member at Large, ("VN")
Youri Alkalay, Member at Large SB; ("YA")	Juergen Elsishans, Member at Large, ("JE")
Eddy Van Straelen, Treasurer; ("EvS") – by Video link on the 8 <sup>th</sup> April	

Legal Counsel: Lars Sundin; ("LS")

Secretariat: Kristina Uroic; ("KU"), Communications Director Elda Ghilardi; ("EG")

Guests: WBSC President Riccardo Fraccari, ("RF"), WBSC Executive Director Michael Schmidt; ("MS")

WBSC COO Marco Ienna; ("MI"), WBSC Membership Manager Francesca Fabretto; ("FF")

**Friday 18:00 Session 1**

**1. Welcome Quorum and President opening**

"KK" - thanked the WBSC President and the WBSC staff for hosting this meeting at the WBSC Headquarters

"RF":

- Pleased to see the newly formed WBSC Europe
- Need to achieve financial stability through our product with the possibility of Pro Leagues
- A few words on HQ – WBSC took a loan, paying less than the rent of the old office, it will be a legacy for the future
- Presented the WBSC Structure , operations, media, development, new tournaments (events)
- WBSC can assist in branding issues. Need for new projects to continue to grow;
  - Champions League (one team from Europe)
  - B5 growing a lot
  - E sports console and mobile
  - Virtual reality possible income for Europe
  - Betting company agreement possible % for Confederations
- WBSC shall be allocating Development funds to the Confederations (70% to the Confederations, 30% stays for special projects of WBSC )
- LA 2028:- WBSC proposition is to increase the no. of teams to 8 (2 groups of 4) and to move baseball and softball games outside of LA (Boston, NY, Chicago) – owners like the idea. The decision about baseball and softball will be made in 2023 by LA
- Meetings with MLB and NBC – NBC is enthusiastic of the other cities concept.
- Ukraine: WBSC received the letter from Ukraine and is willing to help regarding their participation at some tournaments

"KK":

- Pointed out that this EB won the election and that with this comes great responsibility. EB needs to come up with fresh ideas to move WBSCE forward, to be financially independent. Each of the EB members has been elected for WBSCE and not for our countries. EB needs to connect baseball and softball.

## 2. Minutes approval

- Proposal to approve The WBSC Europe minutes of meeting of February 13, 2022

**Approved unanimously**

## 3. President and immediate issues

- WBSC Baseball Continental Representative  
"LS"

Based on Article 19.4 of the Election By Laws the position shall be shall be provisionally filled by nomination of the Continental Association and the proposal on hand is to appoint Kruno Karin.

**Approved unanimously**

## 4. Financial

"EvS":

- For now, we have only Congress cost, all the other financial expenses are still CEB and ESF until September.  
WBSCE has about 32 000 EUR on the bank account.

"RF":

- Unsure of the amount of funds that will be allocated to the continental federations from WBSC.

"GW"

- This year is unification and we need to plan for the future – overview what we would like to do and then allocate the funds and other resources.

"KK":

- We have received the letter from Ukraine to help with their participation at the tournaments.

"GW"

- Update on his contact with the Ukrainians with requests to assist them with accommodations and food at the European Tournaments. Should have a joint effort to assist them.

WBSCE and WBSC agree that it should be a joint effort to help the national teams of Ukraine to participate in all European Championships.

**Action Item: GW and PD:** It needs to be seen on how many tournaments Ukraine can participate and how much will this cost. Three parties will be involved to help with the funding: WBSC, WBSC Europe and the organizers of the tournaments.

"PD":

- Ukraine asked to not be relegated if they are not able to participate at the tournaments because of the war situation

**Action Item: Baseball and Softball Commissions** to make the decisions on this issue but need to be compatible.

"YA":

- Ukraine federation is asking if their players could be considered as home players in WBSCE federations, so they can play for any federation without restriction.

"GW"

- This decision is not with WBSC Europe, but with the Federations. We can only recommend.

**Decision :** The EB agrees to send the letter of recommendation to the Federations regarding the Ukraine players to be considered as home players.

**Action Item AB:** Letter of recommendation to the federations based on the decision above.

"JE"

- There should be no Russian and Belarus officials on WBSCE tournaments.

**Proposal** - Russian and Belarus players that are playing in European Member Federations clubs in leagues should not be allowed to participate in European Cup Tournaments for these clubs.

"GW":

- It is the political decision in the end because of the war. The pressure should come from the sport as well.

**Approved 9-1-1.**

"FC"

- The French federation has an issue that the Spanish Federation is asking a problem with asking for the transfer form for one of the players from Spanish federation. The Spanish federation is asking for money.

**Action Item AB:** call the Spanish federation and try to resolve the situation.

## **Saturday 10:00 Session 2**

### **5. WBSC Europe Structure**

"AB"

- Explanation of the Organizational Structure
  - Includes the Board, Head of the Departments, Baseball and Softball Commissions, Mandatory Commissions, non-mandatory commissions.
  - We need to understand that this is the 100% plan, however, we will be moving forward systematically and progressively to get to the 100% plan. and not a one shot implementation.
  - We will have 5 main Departments: Corporate Activities, Governance, Marketing, Communications and Events.

"YA"

- There is a need to have clear communications between the Board and the divisions and departments
- I would like to see Baseball5 as a separate Commission

**Proposal** – Baseball5 should be a separate non mandatory Commission.

**Approved 11-0-0.**

Discussion on whether the Marketing and Communication Departments should be under one Department  
"EG"

There is a difference between Marketing and Communication, however, there are areas which they will overlap and will need to work together but they should be separate as some decisions will be for Head of Marketing and some by the Head of Communications

**Proposal** – Keep the Departments of Communications and Marketing separate.

**Approved 11-0-0.**

"AB":

- There are 2 main Commissions – Baseball and Softball. Based on the Statutes they may have at least 5 members. The Softball Commission will have 6 members.
- There are 3 Committees within the BB and SB Commissions (Operations, Competition and Technical and Development [this name will be changed as it may confuse the Federations as there is a WBSC Europe Development Commission])

"PD"

- Stephen Lesfergues will be added to the Baseball Commission, so there will be 6 members.

"FC"

- What is the procedure of appointing the Technical and Competitions Chiefs? The Board was not informed prior to the announcement of the Director of Umpires in the Softball Commission.

Discussion if all other appointments (other than the at least 5 top members) should be approved by the EB

"RF"

- The Board is responsible for the Chairs' work in the end and that's why they need to be approved by the Board.

**The Board agrees that all the positions should be approved by the Board.**

PD and GW introduce their choice for each of the Commissions.

**Proposal** – To approve the appointments to the Commissions.

**Approved 11-0-0.**

AB:

- We have 2 mandatory commissions: Legal Commission and Integrity Commission. Lars Sundin is proposed as the Chair of the Legal Commission with 4 more members in it. Bjorn Thode is proposed as the Chair of the Integrity Commission. Members of the Integrity Commission will be decided later.
- Anti-doping is included in the Integrity Commission.

**Proposal** – To approve the appointments to the Mandatory Commissions.

**Approved 11-0-0.**

AB:

- We have 4 non mandatory Commissions after we decided that Baseball5 should be considered as one.

GW:

- Proposes Juergen Elsishans as the Chair of the Disciplinary Commission.

**Proposal** – To approve the appointments to the Non-Mandatory Commissions.

**Approved 11-0-0.**

## Working Plan

AB:

- President's, Secretary General's, Treasurer's and VP's points of job descriptions are defined by the Statutes.

GW:

- For the VP's job descriptions, it needs to be added: follow the code of Commissions.

AB:

- Events Department: As we have moved Baseball5 to the non mandatory commission, there will be 3 people in charge for the Events department: Jürgen Elsishans (Bidding and Special Events) and Virmidas Neverauskas & Kristian Pälviä (Unified Events).

The job descriptions will be changed in line with the new ideas

GW:

- For the Bidding process, it needs to be unified for softball and baseball.  
**Proposal** – To make the changes in the Events Department.

**Approved 11-0-0.**

AB:

- For the Communication Department, we need to have a person from Baseball to cover Baseball events on the web page.

JE:

- Philipp Würfel did the job before for CEB and he is willing to be the person responsible for the news from baseball on the web page.

**Proposal** – To accept the generous offer of the German Baseball and Softball Federation to have Philipp Würfel to be in charge for baseball news on the web page

**Approved 11-0-0.**

AB:

- Corporate activities with François Collet will work closely with Secretary General, President and Treasurer.
- Marketing: Jukka Ropponen will make some changes and will send it to the Board for the approval.

AB:

- For the Medical Commission, the Disciplinary code will be made.

**Proposal** – To approve the Structure and the job descriptions *presented*

**Approved 11-0-0.**

**Action Item EG:** The Structure should be published by the end of April.

## 6. Legal Aspects

LS:

- We will prepare the Code of Commissions using the Code that was approved in Vilnius.
- Protocol and Procedures By Laws will be created based on the WBSC template modified for Europe
- WBSC Europe will have a travel policy indicating how the procedures will be for all travel issues...
- Create the WBSC Europe Hall of Fame: based on the ESF's and modify for all of Europe
- By Laws – Athlete Representatives Election process to be clarified – discussion held

GW:

- We should follow the current rule and vote on it this year. For softball this will be done at the Women's European Championships.

AB:

- Proposal is that for Baseball, the Commission proposes the name and he will be an Athlete Representative until the next year's European Championship where the election will be done.

**Action Item PD and Baseball Commission:** to propose a name for the Athlete representative from Baseball until the elections next year..

- Registration of WBSC Europe:

LS:

We will conclude this issue in the next few weeks after consulting with a local advocate.

KK:

- Strongly believe that WBSC Europe should be registered.

**Action Item LS and Legal Commission:** to finalize the registration of WBSC Europe..

LS:

- The house - cleaning of the Statutes will be finalized by the Legal Commission.
- Insurance for the Board Members will be looked into.

## 7. Communication Strategy

EG:

- We made the logos for Baseball Europe and Softball Europe and they will be used temporarily
- Instructions for the signatures will be resent, so everyone will use the same type of signature. Group emails will be made as well.
- Logos for the events will be done after the season.
- We are looking for the possibilities for the OTT platform (maybe YouTube as WBSC has)
- We still need to cover media at Baseball events. We have a procedure at softball events and this is covered by the organizers.

**Action Item Baseball Division** ; make a proposal for covering the tournaments and it could be paid from the CEB account.

## 8. Plan of activities

YA:

- Baseball5 youth European Championship will be played in Sofia from 16<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> November (the starting date depends on the no. of teams subscribed).

## 9. Information of VP's

PD:

- Presented the plans for European Championship 2025 in Israel.
- Baseball is planning to use the same or similar system of the technical staff organization on the tournaments that softball has.
- The plans for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Winter league in Tenerife are being made.

GW:

- We had a convention in Prague for the officials.
- We have appointed the Chiefs of the Commissions and I apologize for not informing the Board about it beforehand.
- We have updated our Competition Regulations
- Game Scheduling is already in progress.

## 10. AOB

GW

- Please make sure we have timeline for all of the different action items and also create all by laws, protocols, procedures adapted for WBSC Europe.

KK:

- The next meeting will be planned in Taiwan during the WBSC Congress.

## Action Items

Action Item	Responsible	Date due	Status	Remarks
Number of Tournaments Ukraine will participate	Petr Ditrich and Gabriel Waage BB and SB Commissions	30.4		
Decision on non relegation for Ukraine	Petr Ditrich and Gabriel Waage BB and SB Commissions	30.4		
Letter of recommendation to MF's pertaining to Ukraine home players	SG - Ami Baran	18.4	Sent	
Solution for the French and Spanish Federation as to transfer fee	SG- Ami Baran	20.4		
Structure to be published	Elda Ghilardi	30.4	Published	
Propose name of Athlete Rep from Baseball for EB	Petr Ditrich and BB Commission	30.4		
Register WBSC Europe in Switzerland	SG & Legal Commission	30.4		
Propose coverage for Baseball tournaments	Petr Ditrich & BB Commission	30.4		