



WBSC

WORLD
BASEBALL SOFTBALL
CONFEDERATION

Game Time!

Executive Board 18th Meeting

By videoconference
28th June 2021



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Minutes

WBSC Executive Board 18th Meeting

By videoconference

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AGENDA

- 1) Welcome
- 2) Roll call
- 3) Approval of the Minutes of the WBSC Executive Board Meetings held on 19th and 28th May 2021 (by videoconference)
- 4) Any matters arising from the Minutes
- 5) President's Address
- 6) Los Angeles 2028 Olympic Games
- 7) Updates from the Integrity Unit
- 8) Any other business
- 9) Adjournment of the Meeting

ATTENDANCE

Present (29/33):

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. Tommy Velázquez
Member At-Large:	Mr. Ronald Finlay
Member At-Large:	Mr. Paul Seiler
Member At-Large:	Ms. Taeko Utsugi
Athletes' Rep – Softball:	Ms. María José Soto Gil
Athletes' Rep. – Baseball:	Mr. Justin Huber
Global Ambassador:	Mr. Antonio Castro
Global Ambassador:	Mr. Melitón Sanchez

Baseball Division:

Member At-Large:	Ms. Hiroko Yamada
Member At-Large:	Mr. Luís Melero
Member At-Large:	Mr. Benicio Robinson
Continental VP Africa:	Mr. Saber Jlaïla
Continental VP Americas:	Mr. Nemesio Porras
Continental VP Asia:	Mr. Xu Chen
Athletes Rep. – Baseball:	Ms. Ashley Stephenson

Softball Division:

Treasurer:	Mr. Javier Anaya
Member At-Large:	Mr. Tirelo Mukokomani
Continental VP Africa:	Mr. Mashilo Matsetela
Continental VP Asia:	Mr. Hiromi Tokuda
Continental VP Europe:	Mr. Gabriel Waage
Continental VP Oceania:	Mr. Rex Capil
Athletes' Rep. – Women's Softball:	Ms. Erika Polidori

Excused:

Continental VP Europe:	Mr. Didier Seminet
Continental VP Oceania:	Mr. Laurent Cassier
Athletes' Rep. – Baseball:	Mr. Randolph Oduber
Athletes' Rep. – Men's Softball:	Mr. Bruno Motroni

In attendance, also:

Mr. Michael Schmidt, Executive Director

Ms. Karen Gaunt, WBSC Legal Commission Member
Mr. Vincenzo La Rocca, WBSC Legal Commission Member
Ms. Akiko Ito, Japanese interpreter
Mr. Chris (Chien Fan) Day, Chinese interpreter
Mr. Ding Feng, Chinese interpreter
Ms. Vivien Campos, WBSC interpreter
Mr. Jonathan Firpo, JTA

WBSC Staff Members:

Mr. Marco Ienna (COO)
Mr. Valerio Cianfoni (B5)
Mr. Victor Isola (Anti-Doping)
Mr. Miguel Pazcabrales (BASE)
Mr. Yusuke Nagai (BASE)

1. WELCOME

- 1.1 President Fraccari called this June 28th, 2021 WBSC Executive Board (EB) Meeting enlarged to WBSC Baseball and Softball Divisions to order at 13:00 (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 Emergency Board Meeting held on 19th May 2021 and the 17th WBSC Executive Board meeting enlarged to WBSC Baseball and Softball Divisions held on 28th May 2021, both by videoconference, were sent earlier to all EB Members and there was no request for amendments received by the WBSC Secretariat.

PROPOSAL 1:

To consider and approve the Minutes of the Emergency WBSC Executive Board meeting held by videoconference on May 19th, 2021, as proposed by Mr. Capil and seconded by Mr. Finlay.

DECISION 1

The WBSC Executive Board unanimously approved the Minutes of the Emergency WBSC Executive Board meeting held by videoconference on May 19th, 2021.

PROPOSAL 2:

To consider and approve the Minutes of the 17th WBSC Executive Board meeting enlarged to WBSC Baseball and Softball Divisions held by videoconference on May 28th, 2021, as proposed by Mr. Finlay and seconded by Mr. Cress.

DECISION 2

The WBSC Executive Board unanimously approved the Minutes of the 17th WBSC Executive Board meeting enlarged to WBSC Baseball and Softball Divisions held by videoconference on May 28th, 2021.

4. ANY MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

- 4.1 There were no matters arising brought up.

5. PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

The 2 Baseball Olympic Qualifiers

- 5.1 President Fraccari reported on the 2 recent events held, namely (1) the Americas Baseball Olympic Qualifier held in Florida, USA, and (2) the Final Baseball Olympic Qualifier held in Puebla, Mexico, respectively. These events awarded the 2 last Baseball Olympic spots, namely, USA in the Americas Qualifier and Dominican Republic in the Final Qualifier respectively. He said that both tournaments had electrifying plays by the athletes, with very wide broadcast coverage and huge fan-following of more than 25,000 fans in the stands physically and more than 3,000,000 online viewers around the world through WBSC platforms (such as YouTube, and other social media platforms).
- 5.2 He informed that strict Covid-19 countermeasures and protocols were implemented successfully, and Covid tests were conducted every 2 days for all athletes, officials, staff and volunteers - more than 1,500 tests were completed with no case of positive result reported. He stated that more than 500 doses of Covid-19 vaccines were offered free to those who wanted the vaccinations.
- 5.3 He stated that with the completion of the final 2 Olympic Qualifiers, the Tokyo2020 Olympic Games (T2020) Baseball competition schedule has been finalised, with 1 Baseball game to be played in Fukushima.
- 5.4 He said that the T2020 Softball competition had been finalised much earlier as the 6 participating teams were already decided, and the schedule included 2 days of Softball competition in Fukushima.
- 5.5 He informed that the IOC (International Olympic Committee) and

T2020 Organising Committee would be implementing strict countermeasures and protocols (such as daily Covid tests, 14 days self-isolation, mandatory wearing of face masks, social distancing, etc.) during the T2020 period and everyone was expected to comply with them.

[Video on the Americas Baseball Olympic Qualifier was shown to all Executive Members]

[Video on the Final Baseball Olympic Qualifier was shown to all Executive Members]

- 5.6 Mr. Kaltschmitt congratulated the WBSC team on the successful organisation of the 2 events. He said that he attended them and saw a very high quality of baseball played, with a good number of professional players playing for their respective countries.

The Olympic Virtual Series (OVS)

- 5.7 President Fraccari then requested Mr. Yusuke Nagai from BASE to report on the success of WBSC's participation in the IOC's OVS (Olympic Virtual Series).

- 5.8 Mr. Nagai gave a PowerPoint presentation on WBSC's participation in the OVS and reported briefly as follows:

- 5.8.1 WBSC participated in the OVS, the first eSport event organised by the IOC, together with other four International Federations, namely, UCI (Cycling), World Sailing, FIA (Motor Sports) and World Rowing. Whilst the OVS is owned by the IOC, each IF managed its respective eSport.

Olympic Virtual Series: Framework



5.8.2 There were good broadcast opportunities, such as the Olympic Channel, the WBSC platforms, and other social media platforms, (such as Facebook and YouTube) as well as wide media coverage.

5.8.3 The OVS was a good take-away for WBSC:

- (i) The eSport event delivered a reach to new fans and audience for our sport.
- (ii) The partnership with Konami helped to accelerate WBSC's eSport endeavour. Konami eBaseball Powerful Pro Baseball 2020 is an eBaseball game that has been on the market since 1994 and it is one of the most successful eGames globally.
- (iii) As a founding participant of the IOC's OVS, WBSC's presence in the Olympic Movement is enhanced.

5.8.4 The Baseball OVS tournament was organised in 2 divisions, namely, PS4 and Nintendo Switch, with the former being more formal and the latter more casual.

OVS Baseball Event



OVS Baseball Overview

Organizer: World Baseball Softball Confederation

Delivery Partner: Konami Digital Entertainment (POWERFUL PRO BASEBALL 2020)

Divisions:

1. PlayStation 4 Division (eBaseball OVS mode)
2. Nintendo Switch Division (Home Run Derby)

Schedules:

- Press Conference: 26 April 2021
- Online Qualifications: 24 - 30 May 2021
- Finals @ Konami HQ: 23 June 2021



5.8.5 The number of participants was very encouraging: about 1,640 players with PS4, 4,552 players with Nintendo Switch, that was, 6,192 players in total, from 14 countries across 3 continents; the Switch Home Run Derby was played 113.947 times and the PS4 Baseball had 12.263 games.

5.8.6 The OVS Baseball Finals were played on 23rd June with 11 finalists out of 1,640 for the PS4 and 8 finalists out of 4,554 for the Nintendo Switch and were physically played in the Konami building in Tokyo with English and Japanese speaking commentators. Broadcast and media coverage were also very encouraging, and the WBSC was waiting for the finalised data and numbers.

5.9 President Fraccari reported that the WBSC received good feedback from the IOC on WBSC's eSport. He thanked everyone involved in the WBSC's OVS project. He highlighted the importance of eSports as one of the pillars for the WBSC and the new opportunities it offered, not only for visibility, but also for generation of new sources of income for the WBSC.

6. LOS ANGELES 2028 OLYMPIC GAMES AND BEYOND

6.1 President Fraccari reported that when he attended the Americas Qualifiers, he had the opportunity to have several important and fruitful meetings with various persons and organisations. In the meeting with MLB (Major League Baseball) and other stakeholders, they discussed strategic alliances for further and future cooperation in both Baseball and Softball, and also the WBSC campaign for LA2028 inclusion of Baseball-Softball. He said that MLB was open to investing not only in Baseball, but also in Softball.

6.2 Mr. Cress stated that he was in some of the meetings and recorded his appreciation to the President for the discussions with the various stakeholders to widely discuss common interests openly. He noted that MLB was open to extending cooperation to Softball and USA Softball.

6.3 Mr. Schmidt explained that the WBSC and MLB are in discussion for an MoU (Memorandum of Understanding) to agree not only on the strategy for LA2028, but also for the joint cooperation and coordination of more high-level events and activities.

6.4 President Fraccari informed that the WBSC planned to organise a summit in Lausanne with the IOC and all the major professional baseball leagues of the world, in the early part of 2022, to establish direct contacts and find ways for further future cooperation with the professional leagues. He expressed hope that the WBSC would also be able to have a physical EB Meeting then.

6.5 He stressed that it is very important for all parties and stakeholders to work together for the inclusion of our Sport in the Olympic Programme on a permanent basis, and not just for LA2028 and Brisbane 2032. He stated that in particular, the National Federations of USA Softball, USA Baseball, Australia Softball and Australia Baseball and the EB Members from USA and Australia would have to play a vital role in the WBSC's campaign for inclusion.

6.6 Mr. Baker then presented the WBSC's LA2028 strategy and reported briefly as follows:

6.6.1 The LA2028 Campaign includes a series of initiatives to further the position of the WBSC, and Baseball and Softball, within the Olympic Movement for permanent inclusion in the Olympic Games sports programme, starting with the LA2028 Olympic Games.

6.6.2 The key dates to be noted are as follows:

- (i) During the IOC Session at the Winter Olympic Games (WOG) Beijing 2022, the IOC is expected to announce its decision on the 27 / 28 core sports on the LA2028 Sports Programme.
- (ii) Later in 2022 (between 6 – 12 months after the WOG Beijing 2022), the announcement of the additional sports by the host is expected to be made by LA2028.

6.6.3 Each EB Member would receive the following to be used in the inclusion campaign:

- (i) an individualised document with key points for each EB Member to activate connections, which includes:
 - Identification of key decision-making targets;
 - Tailored messaging for each EB Member;
 - Key communication assets to use (letter template, social media assets).
- (ii) a messaging flyer for key decision makers was ready for distribution at T2020, with messages to include:
 - The strength of Baseball and Softball as a sports / discipline;
 - The WBSC as a reliable and strong IF;
 - The history and added value of Baseball and Softball

to the Olympic Games (past, present and future) and LA2028.

- The overall message that Baseball-Softball and the WBSC were most inclusive and gender-balanced at all levels, and would make a concrete sustainable addition to the Olympic Games.

6.6.4 Another key step in the inclusion campaign would be the Baseball5 booth at T2020 as a showcase.

6.7 Mr. Cianfoni gave a presentation on the Baseball5 booth to be set up at the Urban Park in T2020 as a showcase of Baseball5 as well as Baseball-Softball activities.

6.8 Mr. Ienna briefed the EB Members on the strategic plan for the campaign that has been individualised for each EB Member.

6.9 Mr. Schmidt explained that these documents were “living” documents and were subject to changes and adaptation from time to time to suit the circumstances. President Fraccari highlighted that strong and cohesive teamwork was crucial for the success of the campaign.

6.10 Ms. Low highlighted the importance of reports and statistics for all games from all the Olympics and WBSC events and activities, not just from Tokyo2020, in particular those related to the USA and Australia.

6.11 Mr. Seiler agreed that it is important to collect all relevant data, such as those related to the international games played and venues used in the USA, for example, the Olympic Games Atlanta 1996 and World Baseball Classics.

6.12 Mr. Kaltschmitt agreed and said that the role of athletes was also important. He stated that the WBSC must show that we are a strong IF and that we can contribute with important income resources, spectator-popularity with worldwide media coverage, and gender equality opportunities.

6.13 Ms. Allen reiterated all the strengths of the WBSC developed up to now and stressed the need for athletes’ involvement, the importance of the good teamwork, as well as the close discussions with the key targets.

6.14 Mr. Cress said that the success of the WBSC events, such as the recent Baseball Qualifiers in the Americas, was important.

6.15 Mr. Castro welcomed the work done with the documents presented

and also highlighted the important role of athletes in the campaign and the involvement of the younger generations who dream of representing their respective countries or territories at the Olympic Games.

6.16 Ms. Low added the following 2 points:

6.16.1 The continuing legacy programmes of the Sydney 2000 Olympic Games with the use of the Softball Olympic stadium still on-going was important to be noted.

6.16.2 To start early discussions with Australia Baseball and Australia Softball about possible venues for Brisbane 2032.

6.17 Mr. Finlay agreed that discussions needed to be started as regards Baseball-Softball venues and the key targets for Brisbane 2032. He said that the Melbourne Open Series in 2022/2024 could be a good opportunity for the WBSC team to work with.

6.18 President Fraccari requested the EB Members to give their feedback and comments on the documents they have received on the campaign so that the documents may be updated from time to time.

7. UPDATES FROM THE INTEGRITY UNIT

7.1 Mr. Ienna gave a brief report on the progress of work carried out by the Integrity Unit, in cooperation with the WBSC Legal Commission and the WBSC Medical Commission. He tabled the following 4 documents, which had been sent to the EB Members and stated that these documents, if approved by the EB, would serve as guidelines and be applied together with the WBSC Statutes and By-Laws, to add further clarity in the decision-making processes and procedures. He added that these documents were in line with the IOC guidelines on such matters. He added that the WBSC was aligning the WBSC Strategy with the IOC Agenda 2020+5 and a joint task force was working on that alignment project.

Documents:

7.1.1 Gender Policy.

7.1.2 Gifts & Hospitality Policy.

7.1.3 Prevention of the Manipulation of Competitions Code.

7.1.4 Reallocation of Medals Rules.

PROPOSAL:

To consider and approve the WBSC documents stated in paragraph 7.1.1, 7.1.2, 7.1.3 and 7.1.4 presented by the WBSC Integrity Unit and to incorporate them as WBSC By-Laws, as proposed by Mr. Finlay and seconded by Mr. Kaltschmitt.

DECISION

The WBSC Executive Board unanimously approved the following documents as presented by the WBSC Integrity Unit and for them to be incorporated as WBSC By-Laws.

- Gender Policy.
- Gifts & Hospitality Policy.
- Prevention of the Manipulation of Competitions Code.
- Reallocation of Medals Rules.

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

8.1 Applications for New Membership

Mr. Schmidt informed the EB of the following 2 applications (with supporting documents) 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 EB Members prior to this Meeting:

8.1.1 The application for ordinary (full) membership by Bhutan Baseball Softball Federation.

The application was for ordinary (full) membership and the documents submitted included a letter of recognition and support by the Bhutan (National) Olympic Committee. He stated that the WBSC Office has vetted the application and documents and have found them to be in order, and the EB may consider approval of the membership provisionally pending the matter being tabled to the next Congress for ratification under Articles 7 and 8 of the WBSC Statutes.

8.1.2 The application for ordinary (full) membership by Saudi Arabia Baseball Softball Federation.

The application was for ordinary (full) membership and the documents submitted included a letter of recognition and

support by the Saudi Arabia (National) Olympic Committee. He stated that the WBSC Office has vetted the application and documents and have found them to be in order and the EB may consider approval of the membership provisionally pending the matter being tabled to the next Congress for ratification under Articles 7 and 8 of the WBSC Statutes.

PROPOSAL:

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

DECISION

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

PROPOSAL:

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

DECISION

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

8.2 New Vietnam Baseball Softball Federation

Ms. Low requested that the WBSC Office to follow-up with the newly formed Vietnam Baseball Softball Federation to apply for membership with the WBSC.

8.3 Meeting Wrap-up

Mr. Kaltschmitt gave a summary wrap-up of the Meeting and highlighted the following:

- The successes of the Americas Baseball and Final Baseball

Qualifiers for the Tokyo 2020 Olympics, with strict Covid-19 countermeasures and protocols implemented and complied with by all participants.

- The strict Covid-19 countermeasures and protocols to be implemented by the IOC and Tokyo 2020 Organisers which have to be complied with by all participants during the Olympic Games 2020 in Tokyo.
- The finalisation of the Softball and Baseball competition schedules for the Tokyo 2020 Olympics.
- The success of the OVS and WBSC's eSport.
- The WBSC's plan for a summit with all the major professional baseball leagues in the world in early 2022.
- The LA2028 campaign and plans for Baseball-Softball inclusion in the Brisbane 2032 Olympics and beyond - to be part of the permanent sports programme in the Olympics.
- The approval of the WBSC Integrity documents tabled.
- The approval of 2 new ordinary (full) members from Bhutan and Saudi Arabia provisionally, pending tabling at the next Congress for ratification.

9. ADJOURNMENT OF THE MEETING

- 9.1 President Fraccari thanked all who attended the Meeting. He also thanked the WBSC staff and the interpreters for their efforts in ensuring the success of the meeting.
- 9.2 There being no other matters, the Meeting adjourned at 14:50 with a vote of thanks to the Chair. [End]

These Minutes, originating from the WBSC Executive Board Meeting held by videoconference, on 28th June 2021, are formally confirmed as correct by:

Day _____ Month _____ Year _____

City _____

Signed by _____ Signed by _____

Riccardo Fraccari
President

Beng Choo Low
Secretary General