



Procedure to be followed by NFs to access B4B Development Funds

Baseball for the blind invented by the AIBXC (Italian Association of Baseball for the Blind) is a truly team sport, dynamic and fast that ultimately offers athletes better autonomy and mobility.

Baseball for the blind is being offered to your National Federation thanks to a cooperation agreement between the AIBXC, headquartered in Bologna, Italy, and the WBSC, headquartered in Pully, Switzerland, with the hope that you can introduce the discipline in your country and make it available to your local population with visual impairment.

The interest to introduce baseball for the blind in your country/territory could come from your own National Federation, your blind community, a local club or sport organisation, the AIBXC and/or the WBSC. In any case, when a first draft of the development project is ready, the following steps must be followed by your National Federation to access support from the WBSC:

- The NF should address the request for baseball for the blind clinics, technical assistance and/or equipment to their Continental Liaison within the WBSC and copy the WBSC Paralympic Commission at paralympiccomm@wbsc.org.
- The proposal should include as many details as possible, including scope, target population, proposed dates and programme of the event (if a clinic) and budget. The matrix of responsibilities, what is provided by AIBXC (e.g. coaches, manuals, travel grants), the NF (e.g. field, players, lodging, etc.) and the WBSC (e.g. equipment, etc.) should also be described in the project proposal.
- The Continental Liaison will submit the project to the WBSC Development Commission and communicate with the NF in due course with regards the status of the request.

If and when the request has been approved, the following must be considered for the hosting of a clinic in the NF country/territory:

- To find and to select visually impaired athletes by contacting local associations and institutions for the visually impaired. The discipline can be played by the young and the senior, men and women, boys and girls. Attention: to run a proper clinic a minimum of 5/10 visually impaired athletes are required.
- To find and select sighted assistants, preferably with baseball/softball experience, in order to teach the basic know-how and to guarantee the continuity of the game.
- To find a proper field safe and possibly away from noise. In blind baseball “hearing” is fundamental. Attention: baseball fields are preferable, with running lanes and natural grass.
- To make available bats and buckets with plenty of old baseballs for the batting exercises. Attention: softball bats are preferred due to the bigger barrel.