

WBSC

*PREMIER12*TM

2-17 NOVEMBER 2019



OFFICIAL PROGRAM

www.wbsc.org



WELCOME TO THE PREMIER12 2019

WBSC WORLD RANKINGS



<https://rankings.wbsc.org>

www.wbsc.org

On Thursday 13 January 2009 the International Baseball Federation (IBAF) released its World Rankings for the first time.

The President at the time Harvey Schiller commented: "The level of competition worldwide grows stronger every year, and we need to begin to recognise the federations that are fielding teams and performing well, whether it is in an intra-continental tournament or a World Cup."

The release further explained that "the rankings are based on a point total which IBAF member Federations (National Teams) earn from IBAF sanctioned events in a four-year window or a period of time that encompasses two IBAF World Cups."

President Riccardo Fraccari started to work on an international tournament based on the ranking system just weeks after he was elected to succeed Harvey Schiller as the IBAF President. This would lead eventually to the WBSC Premier12.

After the IBAF and the International Softball Federation (ISF) merged in 2013 into the WBSC, the ranking system was extended also to softball.

The first ever softball rankings were published in March 2016. Dale McMann, then the WBSC Softball Division Chairman, commented: "These rankings not only provide a benchmarking tool for nations to construct and evaluate their strategic/development plans, but they also give the players and fans a new and exciting way to express the pride of their country through sport."

WBSC World Rankings weigh a country's entire National Team programme in international competition. They reflect the four-year cycle and a data set of thousands of international baseball and softball games. The World Rankings are constantly updated. WBSC launched in late 2018 a new website dedicated to the rankings. The site offers a complete overview of the World Rankings and allows the visitor to surf through men's and women's rankings in both baseball and softball. The page is completed by a point calculator and allows each visitor to compare the history of the rankings for each National Federation.

A note by the author The main source of information for the content of this magazine is 'The Game We Love', the book on the history of international baseball published by the International Baseball Federation (IBAF) in the Fall of 2011. A second edition, that includes the history of international softball, was published in late Spring of 2019.

Other sources include Wikipedia.org and Baseball-reference.com.

premier12.wbsc.org



MESSAGE FROM THE WBSC PRESIDENT

Only in its second edition, the 2019 WBSC Premier12, which features the Top 12 nations in the WBSC World Rankings, will be one of the most important international baseball competitions in history, directly connected to the return of Olympic baseball at the Tokyo 2020 Games. This II WBSC Premier12 represents the first opportunity for baseball teams from the Americas, Asia and Oceania to qualify for the Tokyo 2020 Olympics.

There will be several exciting changes for the second edition of this global baseball battle that serve the players and teams, as well as the fans of our sport. A new tournament format has been introduced, including 3x4 groups, a Super Round and 32 total games. WBSC, as the world governing body, will also be introducing innovations like a game-clock and umpire video review -- the first time a game-clock is to be used at a major international baseball event -- helping to lead the sport of baseball into the future by embracing the use of technology not only to raise the global standard of the game but also to connect with the younger, digital generation.

As baseball continues to grow internationally, National Team programmes are growing stronger, and the Premier12 will therefore be much more challenging to win than the first edition in 2015. We can expect some very close games as well as exciting surprises from the beginning to the end of the 2019 Premier12, when the champions are crowned.

To help grow the sport of baseball globally, over \$5

million in prize money will be distributed for the 2019 WBSC Premier12, marking a 40% increase over the inaugural edition. Also for the first time, a team will be awarded \$10,000 for every game won in the Opening Round and \$20,000 in the Super Round, so every game matters.

The 2015 Premier12 generated an estimated \$131 million dollars in brand exposure and a global broadcast reach of 253.7 million households, while setting the record for the most social media impressions for an international baseball event, with over 2 billion generated.

I am confident the 2019 WBSC Premier12 -- thanks to the players, teams, hosts and great fans around the world -- will surpass these impressive numbers and be one of the biggest international sporting events of the year -- helping to put the global spotlight on baseball.

In sharing this global vision to put baseball on the world stage, I would like to thank our four great hosts, the Chinese Taipei Baseball Association (CTBA), the Charros de Jalisco of the Liga Mexicana del Pacífico (LMP), the Korea Baseball Organization (KBO) and Nippon Professional Baseball (NPB) for their roles in growing the international game. I would also like to thank all our broadcast partners and sponsors, as well as all the leagues and clubs around the world whose players are represented on the 12 teams competing here, and all the WBSC umpires, scorers and technical commissioners who officiate these important games.

**WBSC President
Riccardo Fraccari**

WELCOME MESSAGE FROM THE **NPB** COMMISSIONER



It is time for the international baseball tournament where the world's top 12 National Baseball Teams vie to become world champion, "2019 WBSC Premier12" to start. In coordination with WBSC, Nippon Professional Baseball organise the Super Round and Finals for this iconic baseball competition after its launch in 2015. In this II WBSC Premier12, the 12 participating teams will be drawn into three groups to compete in the Opening Rounds in Mexico, Taiwan, and South Korea, and top 2 teams from each Opening Round will then advance to the Super Round and Finals in Japan. It is my privilege that Japan hosts this prestigious international baseball tournament again.

Having 12 participating teams on the basis of the WBSC Baseball World Rankings based on results in WBSC-sanctioned international competitions from U-12 to Professional, it is not too much to say that the WBSC Premier12 is a tournament to determine the world champion with best National Team performance. In addition, the 2019 WBSC Premier12 will reserve placement for teams qualifying to the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games, which makes teams from Asia/Oceania and Americas excluding the host Japan aim to win a spot. There is no doubt that the competition would be significantly fierce and intense.

Samurai Japan, having finished 3rd in the previous tournament in 2015, desperately expects to come out on top with its best members under Manager Atsunori Inaba. The 2019 WBSC Premier12 would

be of high importance for the team is aspiring to win a long-cherished gold medal in the Tokyo 2020 Olympics. We would kindly ask as many people as possible to cheer the team up and hope that unprecedented exciting games would be witnessed to attract a number of fans around the world.

In Japan, facing population decline and accelerated ageing population, increasing the number of baseball players in younger generations is one of the major tasks to work on. Showcasing the fascination of our sports in the 2019 WBSC Premier12 will certainly lead to give children dreams and hopes, and to further promote baseball.

Last but not least, we would like to express our sincere gratitude to all the relevant parties for supporting us, all fans who love baseball, WBSC President Riccardo Fraccari and all the WBSC staff members, and all our fellow baseball federations and organisations around the world.

Nippon Professional Baseball
Commissioner
Atsushi Saito

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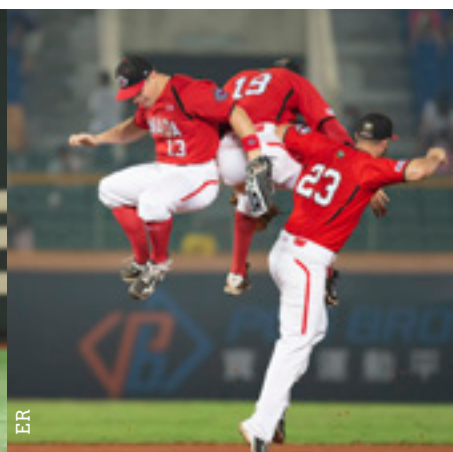
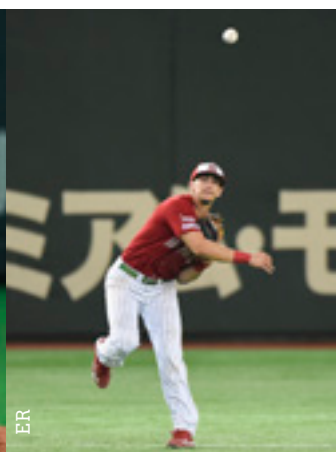
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UNITING THE
TOP 12
NATIONS



WHAT IS THE PREMIER12

The **Premier12** was introduced to the world during the IBAF Congress **2013** in **Tokyo**, but **Riccardo Fraccari** had worked on it since **2010**.

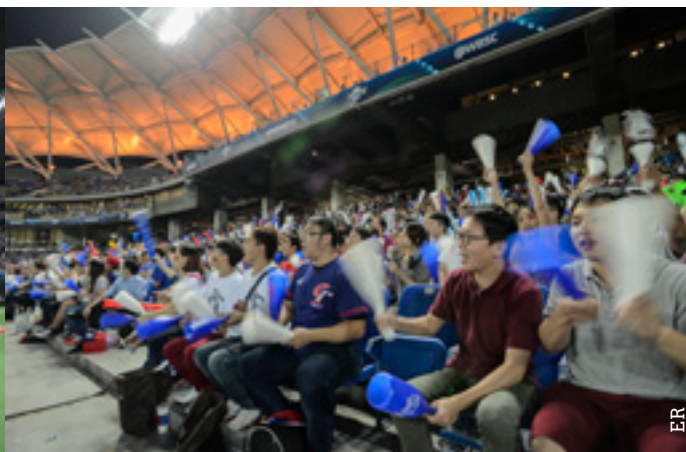
"During talks with Major League Baseball (MLB), we understood that the IBAF *World Cup* was going to conflict with the *World Baseball Classic*" remembered Fraccari. "MLB proposed to award the title of **World Champion** to the winners of the *World Baseball Classic*. The IBAF Executive agreed provided that the *World Baseball Classic* was not an invitational tournament, that the rules complied to the **World Anti Doping Agency** (WADA) Code and that the eligibility rules for players were reviewed."

The IBAF had already discontinued the *Intercontinental Cup*.

"Various National Federations didn't like the idea of having the *World Baseball Classic* as the only competition on the world stage. They thought that opportunities for their National Teams to compete were decreasing too much. At the IBAF Congress **2011** in

Dallas, we started talking about a new tournament." It had to be something new: "Our World Rankings were recognizing and awarding the whole activity of a National Federation, not only for the results at the top level, but also for what they achieved in youth international competition. For this reason, we thought that a tournament featuring the 12 countries with the best baseball programmes, based on our rankings, could be what we needed."

The first edition of the *Premier12* took off in Japan at the **Sapporo Dome**. **Japan** shut out **Korea** 5-0, in front of almost **29,000** fans. Young star **Shohei Otani** pitched six innings of two-hit ball. The rest of the qualifying round was played in **Chinese Taipei**. Group A (Canada, Cuba, the Netherlands, Puerto Rico, Chinese Taipei and Italy) played in **Dou Liou** and **Taichung**. Group B (Japan, USA, Korea, Mexico, Venezuela, Dominican Republic) saw action in **Taipei City** and **Taoyuan**. Chinese Taipei also hosted the quarterfinals that sent Japan, Korea, USA and Mexico to Tokyo for the medal round. Mexico had been heavily underrated, but manager **Mike Brito**, a living legend still willing to wear a baseball uniform as an **80-year old**, knew how to assemble a team. After all, he had been honoured as the *International Scout of the Year* by Major League Baseball. Mexico eliminated Chinese Taipei.



THE SUCCESSFUL INAUGURAL 2015 EDITION

The **Tokyo Dome** provided an unforgettable experience to those who were fortunate enough to be amongst the crowd of over **40,000** on Thursday, **19 November 2015**. The game turned out to be a disappointment for **Samurai Japan**, the stellar Japanese National Team. For most of the night, the semi-final resembled the opener in Sapporo. Otani dominated on the mound (7 innings, 1 hit) and reliever Norimoto shut out Korea in the eighth. **Korea** went to bat in the ninth inning trailing 3-0 but got to Norimoto. When asked why he didn't rush another reliever out of the bullpen before, Samurai manager **Hiroki Kokubo** answered (through a translator): "We had a different game plan."

Korea scored four runs in the ninth and played some outstanding defense to protect the lead in the bottom half of the frame and win the semifinal, 4-3. **Dae Ho Lee**, the MVP of the **2015 Japan Series**, batted in the winning runs.

Korea, a team with a core made by the best of the best performing in the domestic professional KBO league, went on to shut out Team **USA** 8-0 in the final. USA Baseball had selected a team mostly made of AAA caliber players. The star of the USA was the manager: former MLB superstar **Willy Randolph**. **Japan** claimed third place defeating Mexico, 11-1, in the bronze medal game.

"Thanks to the *Premier12*, the WBSC had access to resources that we couldn't have imagined," commented **Riccardo Fraccari** "Now we are working to make it even more appealing."

The *Premier12* has an easily recognizable edge over any other international tournament: "The tournament fills the heart of a fan. They understand that National Teams qualify also because of the results of their youth teams. When players take the field during the *Premier12*, they are aware of the fact they represent their baseball at every level and play for every other baseball player in their country."

PREMIER 12 REGULATIONS

This is a summary of the Premier12 regulations. A complete list of rules and regulations can be found on WBSC official website at this page
<https://premier12.wbsc.org/en/2019/tournament-info>



A-GENERAL NORMS

A1-Players Eligibility

A1.1-Any player in the 2019 Premier12 must be a National of the Country or Region of the National Federation/Associated Member that is entering him.
A1.7-Should an eligibility violation occur, and a player be proven to be ineligible prior to any games being played, the player is automatically removed from his team roster.
A1.9-Should a violation be discovered after the competition, the case can be submitted by the WBSC Technical Commission or by the National Federation, directly to WBSC Executive Committee for further action.

A3 Final Team Roster

The Final Team Roster (FTR) is composed of 28 players (at least 13 pitchers and 2 catchers) and 14 delegation members, including coaches. The deadline to communicate the FTR to the WBSC was Thursday 3 October.

A3.3-A maximum of eight (8) players are allowed to be replaced on the FTR after the 3 October deadline. The WBSC must be informed of such changes at any moment up to and including the pre-competition Technical/Organizational Meeting.

A5 Doping Control

A5.1-Doping Control will be conducted in accordance with the WBSC Anti Doping Rules, which are in compliance with the World Anti Doping Code.

A7 Infraction and Fines

A7.1-Infraction of competition rules will automatically incur a fine in US Dollars.

A7.3-In case any tournament participants are charged with conduct that requires stronger sanctions than the above, the Technical Director and the Executive Director may impose a penalty and/or a suspension they find appropriate and justified. Any appeal of the decision will be taken up by the Jury of Appeal.

B7 Competition System

Three groups of four teams will play all vs all, with top two teams from each group advancing to the super round.

In the super round the teams will play all vs all with the teams from the other groups. The result of the opening round will stand.

At the end of the super round first and second place teams will play the championship final, while third and fourth place teams will play the bronze medal game.

C7 Playing Rules and Pace of Play

C7.5 If a team is losing by 15 or more runs after having batted at least in five (5) innings, the game is ended at that point. If a team is losing by 10 or more runs after having batted at least in seven (7) innings, the game is ended at that point.

The rule does not apply for the super round games and the final.

C7.6-Exceptions to the official rules of baseball

b) The 20-second clock rule for the pitcher must be enforced at all times during the game, without runners on base.

j) If the game remains tied after the completion of nine (9) innings each team will begin the 10th inning (and any subsequent necessary extra innings) with a player on first and second, no outs. The line up will continue as in any other inning.

C11 Tie Breaking

All ties after the opening round and super round will be settled by Team's Quality Balance (TQB) if the head to head games don't break the tie.

TQB is the sum of runs scored divided by the number of innings played on offense, minus the number of runs allowed, divided by the number of innings played on defense. For purposes of determining TQB, only the scores from the games between the tied teams are to be used in the calculation.

Video Review System

The WBSC implemented a play call video review system that intends to support umpiring crews.

Each manager will have one (1) challenge per nine (9) innings of play. If the call is upheld the manager will lose the challenge. If the game goes into extra innings, each team will receive one (1) extra challenge



WBSC

2-17 NOVEMBER 2019

GLOBAL BASEBALL BATTLE

GROUP A

Estadio de Béisbol Charros de Jalisco (Mexico)

No.2		
No.6		
No.8		
No.12		

GROUP B

Taoyuan International Stadium (Taiwan)
Taichung Intercontinental Stadium (Taiwan)

No.4		
No.1		
No.9		
No.11		

GROUP C

Gocheok Sky Dome (Korea)

No.3		
No.5		
No.7		
No.10		

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#PREMIER12

@WBSC

OPENING ROUND

		VISITOR		HOME			
SAT, 2 NOV	1	12:00			VS		
	2	19:00			VS		
SUN, 3 NOV	3	12:00			VS		
	4	19:00			VS		
MON, 4 NOV	5	19:00			VS		
	6	19:00			VS		
TUE, 5 NOV	7	18:00			VS		
	8	18:30			VS		
WED, 6 NOV	9	18:00			VS		
	10	18:30			VS		
	13	12:00			VS		
	14	19:00			VS		
THU, 7 NOV	11	12:00			VS		
	12	18:30			VS		
	15	12:00			VS		
	16	19:00			VS		
FRI, 8 NOV	17	12:00			VS		
	18	19:00			VS		

SAT, 9 NOV | TEAM PRACTICE

SUN, 10 NOV | TEAM PRACTICE

SUPER ROUND

		VISITOR		HOME			
MON, 11 NOV	19	12:00			VS		
	20	19:00			VS		
	21	19:00			VS		
TUE, 12 NOV	22	12:00			VS		
	23	19:00			VS		
	24	19:00			VS		
WED, 13 NOV	25	12:00			VS		
	26	19:00			VS		
THU, 14 NOV TEAM PRACTICE/RESCHEDULED GAMES							
FRI, 15 NOV	27	12:00			VS		
	28	19:00			VS		
SAT, 16 NOV	29	12:00			VS		
	30	19:00			VS		

CHAMPIONSHIP FINAL AND BRONZE MEDAL GAME

		VISITOR		HOME			
SUN 17 NOV	31	12:00			VS		
	32	19:00			VS		

NOTES

All times included are local.

Super Round match-ups and home/visitor will be confirmed after the Opening Round.



**ATSUNORI INABA:
"I HOPE ONE DAY
WE WILL HAVE
THE BEST PLAYERS
IN INTERNATIONAL
BASEBALL"**

We interviewed the Samurai Japan manager during his visit to Italy for the Europe/Africa Qualifier

We had a chance to meet Atsunori Inaba, the manager of Samurai Japan, at the WBSC Baseball Europe/Africa Qualifying Event for the Games of the XXXII Olympiad Tokyo 2020 in Parma, Italy.

"I think there's a big difference between the National Teams that have players with professional league experience on their roster and teams that don't," commented Inaba about the Qualifier.

Inaba was on Japan's coaching staff during the inaugural Premier12. We asked him what he remembered of the painful loss against Korea in their semifinal.

"I remember that game very clearly. The last three innings are always the very important part of a baseball game. As a manager, I need to concentrate and focus on how to finish the game. In particular, a manager needs to have a good plan to manage the pitching staff in the last three innings. The final part of the game is a lot of fun, the exciting part from the perspective of the fan. When you come from behind to win, it's always a lot of fun. If you see it from the perspective of the manager, it is the scary part. One walk can change the atmosphere of the game. What happened in 2015 was a learning experience. I will be even more focused while managing the final three innings."

Inaba was named the manager of the Japanese National Team in July 2017.

How does it feel being named the manager of Samurai Japan?

"Baseball used to be the number one sport in Japan; everybody played baseball. Recently, the population of baseball has been decreasing. We see people playing soccer and other sports. I see the Premier12 and the Tokyo Olympics as very important events to bring back the attention to baseball, adults and children, and make the baseball population grow again."

Baseball people visiting Japan will notice that fans show a lot of respect, almost reverence, to National Team members. Being so highly regarded, makes you feel a particular responsibility?

"Winning, becoming the champions, is the most important accomplishment for the National Team. International baseball is very different from the regular-season games in the national leagues. In international baseball each game is very important, every win is very important. Winning, celebrating with our fans, is what we feel is important, what we are looking forward to."

People may think that your job is easy. You have a lot of very good players to select. Tell us

how difficult it is to balance the needs of the clubs that own the rights to certain players and the needs of the National Team.

"When I work on the selection, I focus a lot on the mental part. When I evaluate a player, I don't consider just his stats. I want to find out how much a certain player wants to represent Japan. I have individual conversations with the players I'm considering since I believe this is a very important aspect. At the same time, we must not forget that we are talking about professional players who are being paid a lot of money to play for the regular season, it's very delicate."

You had over 2,000 hits during your career in Nippon Professional Baseball (NPB). Did you ever need to say to a player that your background as a star player gives you more knowledge than what the player can possibly have?

"This never happened to me. Players who are part of the National Team know what to do, they know their role and know what they are supposed to do."

Which is the tournament you enjoyed the most as a National Team player?

"I played in the 2008 Beijing Olympics. That was different from any other tournament, really special. I also played in the 2009 and 2013 World Baseball Classic, but the Olympic Games were certainly a different, special experience."

Japan won the final of the World Baseball Classic 2009 against Korea. What's your fondest memory of that day?

"I entered the game from the bench that day and I remember in the top of the 10th with a runner at first, I sacrificed and advanced the runner to second. That runner became the winning run for Japan. It is my fondest memory because it reminds me of the fact I was able to contribute to the win."

We asked Inaba, as a final note, what he hopes for the future of the WBSC Premier12.

"I really hope that one day we will be able to play a tournament in which every National Team can field the best players they have. It would be competing for a World Championship for real. I hear that in soccer, winning a World Championship is the most important thing. Players go after their season also to be ready for a World Championship. In baseball, players have their regular season as a priority. International baseball is a different event. It is the biggest difference between soccer and baseball. I'm looking forward to seeing the Premier12 develop into a real World Championship and become the number one priority for baseball players."





PREMIER12 2019 TEAM BY TEAM

The best programmes in the world of baseball will battle on the field for the honour of becoming Premier 12 champion. The tournament will potentially assign two spots for the Tokyo 2020 Olympics. We go in depth to find out more about each competing side

Correct as of October 19. However, National Teams are allowed up to eight roster changes up until the pre-competition Technical/Organizational Meeting. Rosters will be updated in real time on the Premier 12 website.



TEAMS & ROSTERS

<https://premier12.wbcs.org/en/2019/teams-and-rosters>



DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

THE MANAGER

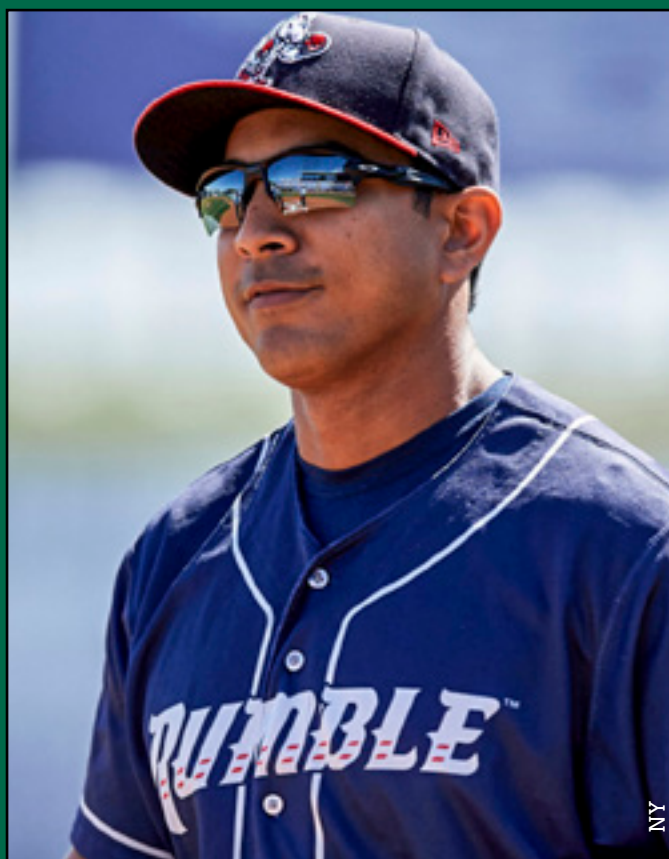
Luis Rojas, born 1981, is the quality control coach of the New York Mets.

The Mets hired him in 2006. His first assignment in the organisation was in the Dominican Summer League. Rojas later coached at the Class-A and Double-A levels. The Mets promoted him to the Major League team just before the 2019 season.

Rojas is the son of former Big League player and manager Felipe Alou and the brother of Moises Alou, another Major League player. His playing career lasted eight seasons and developed in the New York Mets organisation. Rojas, a corner infielder who could also play the outfield, appeared in over 1,000 games, including 283 at the Double-A level.

"I'm very happy and proud of the talent that will represent us in the Premier12," said Rojas after he announced his selection.

The coaching staff includes Joselito Cano, Nelson Cruz, Tomas Francisco, Pedro Guerriero, Ramon Santiago and Audo Vincente.



PREMIER12 2019

General Manager Jose Gomez believes the 28-man roster of the Dominican Republic for the WBSC Premier12 2019 “represents Dominican baseball as a whole, in the hunt of the Olympic dream.”

The roster features as many as 15 pitchers and veterans Ervin Santana, Enny Romero and Neftali Feliz lead the staff.

They all have Major League Baseball experience. Ervin Santana started 384 career MLB games, including three for the Chicago White Sox during the 2019 season. Left-hander Enny Romero pitched five seasons as a reliever in Major League Baseball and is currently

on the roster of the Nippon Professional Baseball Chunichi Dragons. Neftali Feliz, the American League Rookie of the Year 2010, has been a Major League reliever for nine seasons. He has over 100 career saves and currently plays in the Seattle Mariners Minor Leagues.

Veteran outfielder Mel Rojas Junior, who just finished a solid season with KT Wiz of the Korean Baseball Organization (KBO) with a .322 batting average, 24 home runs and 104 RBIs, is expected to lead the lineup.

Shortstop Geraldo Perdomo, born 1999, is very likely the player to watch on the Dominican roster. He is considered the number six prospect in the Arizona Diamondbacks

organisation. He played in 116 games at three different levels during the 2019 season. He seems to be on the fast track to the Major League team.

Veteran Charlie Valerio and 23-year old prospect Jose Mena are both catchers with good defensive skills.

SAT, 2 NOV 19.00

DOMINICANA VS MEXICO

SUN, 3 NOV 12.00

DOMINICANA VS NETHERLANDS

MON, 4 NOV 19.00

USA BASEBALL VS DOMINICANA



THE HISTORY

The first bat and ball game the inhabitants of the Dominican Republic got to know was cricket. Baseball spread as soon as Cuban refugees reached the island during the Ten Year's war in the early 1870s.

Baseball had so much success that the first professional league was born in 1890.

Dictator Rafael Leonidas Trujillo built modern baseball stadiums in the 1930s.

The Dominican Republic National Team appeared on the world stage at the 1941 Amateur World Series. During the 1942 edition, USA withdrew from the

tournament to protest against the fact Trujillo himself was trying to influence the games. USA returned to the Amateur World Series in 1969, during a historic edition hosted by the Dominican Republic.

The modern Dominican League started in 1951 as a Summer league. The schedule moved to the Winter months for the 1955-1956 season.

Oswaldo Virgil Senior became the first Dominican to play in the USA Major League when he debuted for the New York Giants in 1956. A total 251 of the 882 players who were on MLB rosters as the 2019 season opened are Dominican citizens.

WBSC IN WBSC COMPETITIONS

WBSC WORLD RANKING: 12

PREMIER12 2015:

0 wins 5 losses in group B
USA-Dominican Republic 11-5
Korea-Dominican Republic 10-1
Japan-Dominican Republic 4-2
Venezuela-Dominican Republic 8-6
Mexico-Dominican Republic 9-6

PREMIER12 2015:
eliminated after opening round

The Dominican Republic won the 1948 Amateur World Series. It also won silver medals in 1942, 1950 and 1952 and bronze medals in 1943 and 1969. Third place in the Amateur World Series 1969 marked the last appearance of the Dominican Republic on the podium in over 40 years. The Dominican Republic won the World Baseball Classic 2013, the first edition that awarded the title of Baseball World Champion.



MEXICO

THE MANAGER

Juan Gabriel Castro, born 1972, enjoyed a 17-year career as a Major League Baseball player.

After he retired in 2011, he was offered a position as a special assistant to the General Manager of the Los Angeles Dodgers, with involvement in player development and talent evaluation. He also served as a Minor League infield coordinator and as the Major League Quality Assurance coach. He left the Dodgers after the 2017 season to become the director of operations for the Tijuana Toros in the Mexican League.

Castro was on Mexico's coaching staff at the World Baseball Classic 2013 and managed the Aguilas de Mexicali in the Liga Mexicana del Pacifico.

Castro said that Mexico is going to the Premier12 to win. His coaching staff includes Martin Arzate, Lorenzo Bundy, Hector Estrada, Santos Hernandez, Mario Mendoza, Ruben Niebla and Gilberto Velazquez.



PREMIER12 2019

Mexico was the surprise of the inaugural WBSC Premier12. Two members of that team are on the 28-man roster for the Premier12 2019. Left-hander Brennan Bernardino collected two saves, against Venezuela and Canada, during the 2015 campaign. He now plays for the Toros de Tijuana in the Mexican Baseball League (LMB, Liga Mexicana de Béisbol). Outfielder Juan Perez (Saraperos de Saltillo) started every game in 2015 and led his team with a .348 batting average. A total of 17 players are on LMB rosters, including catchers Ali Solis and Armando Araiza.

The pitching staff will count

on a lot of international experience. Righthander Eduardo Vera started 22 games at the Triple-A level for the Washington Nationals. Arturo Reyes, also a right-hander, started 19 for the Triple-A Tampa Bay Rays. Jesus Cruz came out of the bullpen 50 times for the Triple-A St Louis Cardinals. Left-hander Ryan Verdugo, who appeared in a Major League Baseball Game for the Kansas City Royals in 2012, is now on the roster of the Uni-President Lions of the Chinese Professional Baseball League.

Veteran slugger Efrén Navarro, who now plays for the Nippon Professional Baseball (NPB) Hanshin Tigers, appeared in 157 Major

League games. Third baseman Christian Villanueva moved to the NPB Yomiuri Giants after hitting 20 home runs for the MLB San Diego Padres in 2018. Utility infielder Phillip Evans appeared in 34 MLB games between the 2017 and 2018 seasons.

SAT, 2 NOV 19.00

DOMINICANA VS MEXICO

SUN, 3 NOV 19.00

MEXICO VS USA BASEBALL

TUE, 5 NOV 19.00

NETHERLANDS VS MEXICO



THE HISTORY

Historians place the origin of baseball in Mexico in the early 1840s. Mexico started selecting a National Team in 1887

The Liga Mexicana de Béisbol started in 1925 with six teams. African American players were the biggest stars during the 1930s and early 1940s. It is now a 16-team Summer League.

The Caribbean World Series started as a series between Mexico and Cuba in 1926.

Mexico played for the first time in the Amateur World Series in 1940. Jorge Reyes became the President of the International Baseball Federation in 1944 and changed the

name of the world governing body into FIBA (Federacion Internacional Béisbol Amateur).

The Liga Mexicana del Pacífico, today a 10-team Winter League, started in 1945.

Mexico won the Little League World Series 1957. Angel Macias pitched a perfect game that became a Disney movie in 2010.

The first Mexican player to appear in the USA Major Leagues was Baldomero Melo Almada, who made his debut in 1933 for the Boston Red Sox. The most iconic is probably Fernando El Toro Valenzuela, who starred for the Los Angeles Dodgers in the 1980s.

IN WBSC COMPETITIONS

WBSC WORLD RANKING: 6

PREMIER12 2015:

2 wins 3 losses in group B

Mexico-Venezuela 6-4

Japan-Mexico 6-5

USA-Mexico 10-0

Korea-Mexico 4-3

Mexico-Dominican Republic 9-6

PREMIER12 2015:

fourth place

QUARTERFINALS

Mexico-Canada 4-3

SEMIFINALS

USA-Mexico 6-1

THIRD PLACE GAME

Japan-Mexico 11-1

Mexico's best results on the world stage are four silver medals at the Amateur World Series: 1943, 1944, 1961 and 1965.

Mexico also won a bronze medal in 1941.



ER

THE NETHERLANDS

THE MANAGER

Hensley Filemon Acasio Meulens was born in 1967 in Curaçao. He was a slugging outfielder who played in MLB, NPB and KBO. However, his nickname BamBam comes from his left-handed power-hitting in softball.

He represented the Netherlands at the 2000 Sydney Olympics. He batted in the run that gave Cuba its first loss in 21 Olympic games.

Meulens began his coaching career in the Baltimore Orioles organisation in 2003. He became the Triple-A hitting coach for the San Francisco Giants in 2009. The Giants promoted him to the Major League team in 2010. He was part of the coaching staff that won the World Series in 2010, 2012 and 2014.

Meulens also managed the Netherlands in the 2013 World Baseball Classic.

His coaching staff includes Evert Jan 'Thoen, Sharnol Adriana, former MLB All-Star pitcher Bert Blyleven, Sidney De Jong, Andruw Jones and Ben Thijssen.



ER

PREMIER12 2019

The Kingdom of the Netherlands finished second at the Europe/Africa Olympic Qualifier and will try to find a ticket to Tokyo in the Final Qualifier, scheduled in April 2020.

The Dutch have improved their squad that played in Parma and Bologna, Italy, in September. The 28-man roster of the Kingdom of the Netherlands for the WBSC Premier12 2019 will feature 15 professionals under contract in Minor League Baseball or Independent Leagues. Pitchers Shairon Martis, Jair Jurjens and outfielders Roger Bernadina and Yurendell De Caster have Major League Base-

ball experience. Martis pitched a no-hitter in the inaugural World Baseball Classic when he made his international debut. De Caster now plays in the Liga Aqualetra in his native island Curaçao.

Third baseman Juremi Profar played 90 games at Double-A and 23 at Triple-A for the Texas Rangers. Ray Patrick Diddy is the starting shortstop at Double-A for the Atlanta Braves. Catcher Chadwick Tromp performed at the Double-A and the Triple-A level for the Cincinnati Reds.

A total of 11 players come from the domestic Hoofdklasse. Amongst them, there are still key members of the pitching staff that won the Baseball World Cup

2011. Rob Cordemans, the winning pitcher of the final, will start at age 45. Left-hander Diegomar Markwell and right-hander Orlando Yintema are also part of the staff.

Pitcher Mike Bolsenbroek plays in the German Bundesliga.

SAT, 2 NOV 12.00



VS



SUN, 3 NOV 12.00



VS



TUE, 5 NOV 19.00



VS



THE HISTORY

J.C.G. Grasé, an English teacher in Amsterdam, travelled to the United States in 1911 and fell in love with baseball. He translated the rules into Dutch and introduced the game to the Netherlands as soon as he was back on home soil. Grasé founded the Dutch Baseball Union in March 1912 and the Quick Amsterdam, the oldest team in Europe, in 1913.

The first official competition was a four-team tournament played in 1922 in the Amsterdam area. Quick won the first league title.

The Netherlands won the first European title in 1956 in Rome, beating the hosts and defending continental champions Italy. The

Dutch went on to win 23 European Championships, including the last three editions.

The Netherlands made their debut on the world stage at the Global World Series 1956, a tournament that represented an alternative to the International Baseball Federation Amateur World Series. The Dutch National Team first appeared in the Amateur World Series in 1970 and hosted the Baseball World Cup in 1986, 2005 and part of the 2009 edition.

The Kingdom of the Netherlands played the Final Four of the 2013 World Baseball Classic.



**IN WBSC
COMPETITIONS**

WBSC WORLD RANKING: 8

PREMIER12 2015:

3 wins 2 losses in group A
Netherlands-Chinese Taipei
7-4

Cuba-Netherlands 6-5

Netherlands-Italy 16-1

Netherlands-Puerto Rico 11-7

Canada-Netherlands 3-1

PREMIER12 2015:

eliminated in the
quarterfinals

United States-Netherlands 6-1

The Kingdom of the Netherlands is the undisputed European powerhouse. In 2011 it became the first, and only, nation in the continent to ever win a Baseball World Cup.



USA

THE MANAGER

Scott David Brosius, born 1966, was part of the New York Yankees that won consecutive World Series from 1998 to 2000. He was named the 1998 World Series MVP.

Brosius is currently the USA Baseball Senior Director of Player Development. He won the Rod Dedeaux Coach of the Year Award.

He was named USA manager for the Premier12 2019 after Joe Girardi, another former World Series winner, stepped down from the role to pursue open managerial opportunities in Major League Baseball.

The coaching staff includes more former star players. Willie Randolph, who managed USA at the Premier12 2015, will be the bench coach. Anthony Sanders, who helped USA win an Olympic gold medal in Sydney, was an assistant to Randolph in 2015 and will coach at first base. Ernie Young will coach at third base. The staff also includes Bryan Price, Rolando De Armas and Phil Plantier.



PREMIER12 2019

The USA 28-man roster for the WBSC Premier12 2019 is loaded with highly touted prospects, supported by veterans with Major League Baseball Experience.

Left-handed pitcher Brian Flynn has appeared in over 100 games for the Miami Marlins and the Kansas City Royals, mostly as a reliever. Clayton Richard, also a left-hander, has started 210 games at the Major League level during a career that started in 2008. He started ten games for the Toronto Blue Jays in 2019. Caleb Thielbar pitched as a left-handed reliever in 109 games for the Minnesota Twins from 2013 to 2015. Right-hander Brooks Pounders is the only player who was on the roster for the inau-

gural Premier12. He also appeared in the final against Korea. He pitched in three games for the New York Mets during a 2019 season that he mostly spent as a Triple-A reliever.

Jo Adell, a 20-year old outfielder in the Los Angeles Angels organisation, is considered one of the top prospects in the game. The Angels selected him at number 10 in the 2017 Amateur Draft and Adell received a signing bonus of over US\$ 4 million. Infielder Bobby Dalbec combined 27 home runs at the Double-A and Triple-A levels for the Boston Red Sox during the 2019 season. Scouts rate outfielder Drew Waters as the prospect with the best tools in the Atlanta Braves organisation.

Other players to watch are infielder Andrew Vaughn of the

Chicago White Sox, Alec Boh of the Philadelphia Phillies, Xavier Edwards of the San Diego Padres, catcher Daulton Varsho of the Arizona Diamondbacks and righthanded pitchers Spencer Howard (Philadelphia Phillies) and Tanner Houck (Boston Red Sox).

SAT, 2 NOV 12.00



VS



SUN, 3 NOV 19.00



VS



MON, 4 NOV 19.00



VS



THE HISTORY

Abner Doubleday did not invent baseball in Cooperstown in 1839. Even the Hall of Fame of Baseball admits that the famed story is too perfect to be true. Cooperstown claims "the spiritual origin of baseball."

Baseball is the American version of the various bat and ball games that developed all over Europe in the 16th and 17th century. The modern game originated in Manhattan, New York, in the 1840s. Alexander J. Cartwright wrote the first set of rules in 1845 at the Knickerbocker Club. The New York model expanded after 1865. Overhand pitching wasn't

allowed until 1884.

What USA invented was international baseball. Leslie Mann launched the idea of an International Baseball Federation at the 1936 Olympics. He then travelled to Great Britain for the 1938 series that left the Amateur World Series, later the Baseball World Cup, as its heritage.

Legendary coach Rod Dedeaux, United Federation President Dutch Fehring and the International Federation President Robert Smith became key US figures of the development that would ultimately take baseball to the Olympics.



IN WBSC COMPETITIONS

WBSC WORLD RANKING: 2

PREMIER12 2015:

PREMIER12 2015: 3 wins 2 losses in group A

USA-Dominican Republic 11-5

Venezuela-USA 7-5

USA-Mexico 10-0

Japan-USA 10-2

USA-Korea 3-2

PREMIER12 2015:

second place

QUARTERFINAL USA-NED 6-1

SEMIFINAL USA-Mexico 6-1

FINAL Korea-USA 8-0

1 Olympic gold medal (2000) and 2 Olympic bronze medals (1996, 2008)

Olympic Demonstration tournaments: 1 first place (1988) and 1 second place (1984)
4 World Cups (1973 1974, 2007, 2009)

1 Intercontinental Cup (1981)
9 U-18 World Cups (1982, 1988, 1989, 1995, 1999, 2012, 2013, 2015, 2017)

World Baseball Classic 2017



CHINESE TAIPEI

THE MANAGER

Hong I-Chung, born in 1961, was a high profile catcher in his playing days. He served in the Air Force until 1985, then made the Chinese Taipei National Team while playing for the amateur Brothers Hotel team. He played in the demonstration tournament of the 1988 Olympics. He joined the Brother Elephants of the newly formed Chinese Professional Baseball League and earned MVP honours at the 1993 Championship Series. He also won four Gold Gloves.

Hong I-Chung is the most successful manager in CPBL history. He passed the 800-win mark in 2018 and won a record six League Titles, one as the manager of La New Bears and five as the skipper of the Lamigo Monkeys, including consecutive wins in 2017 and 2018.

He managed Chinese Taipei at the 2008 Beijing Olympics and was on the coaching staff at the inaugural World Baseball Classic.



PREMIER12 2019

Players from the Chinese Professional Baseball League (CPBL) make the core of the 28-man roster that Chinese Taipei selected for the WBSC Premier12 2019. Only eight players are not on CPBL rosters.

Three of these players spent the 2019 season in Minor League Baseball in the USA. Right-hander Hu Chih-Wei, 26, played at the Double-A and Triple-A levels for the Chicago Cubs, Chiang Shao-Ching, also 26, was a starter for the Cleveland Indians at the Triple-A level, Lin Kai-Wei, 23, appeared in 28 games as a reliever at Class-A for the Arizona Diamondbacks.

Three more pitchers play in

Nippon Professional Baseball (NPB). Left-hander Chen Kuan-yu is a starter for the Chiba Lotte Marines; Sung Chia-Hao is a reliever for the Tohoku Rakuten Eagles and Chang Yi became in August the only player in NPB history to start the season as a development player and then earn a win for the Major team. He plays for the Orix Buffaloes.

The pitching staff features the only amateur player, rising star Wu Sheng-Feng, who plays for Co-operative Bank.

The eighth player not on a CPBL roster is outfielder Wang Po-Jung, who plays for the NPB Hokkaido Nippon Ham Fighters and is nicknamed The King.

Veteran outfielders Lin Che-Hsuan, who appeared in nine games for the Major League Baseball Boston Red Sox in 2012, and Hu Chin-Lung, who played parts of five MLB seasons with the Los Angeles Dodgers and the New York Mets, are expected to be the leaders.

TUE, 5 NOV 18.30

PUERTO RICO

VS

Chinese Taipei

WED, 6 NOV 18.30

Chinese Taipei

VS

VENEZUELA

THU, 7 NOV 18.30

JAPAN

VS

Chinese Taipei



THE HISTORY

Japanese colonial administrators introduced baseball to the island of Taiwan in 1895. Games between locals and Japanese immigrants became common after 1920.

Baseball popularity decreased after World War II but exploded again in the 1960s.

Hongye, a little village in the middle of the island, used baseball to convince Aborigine kids to attend school. The school team defeated a Japanese school in 1968 and the win convinced the Chinese Taipei Baseball Association (CTBA) to send a team to the Little League World Series. The CTBA team won 13 Little League World Series from

1969 to 1982. The Hongye team is still depicted on the 500 local dollar banknote.

Chinese Taipei National Team made its debut on the world stage at the 1972 Amateur World Series and made a stand qualifying for the Los Angeles 1984 demonstration tournament.

Brother Hotel's chairman Hung Teng-Sheng involved Wei Chuan Corporation, Mercuries Chain Stores and Uni-President Corporation in the project of a professional league. The four-team Chinese Professional Baseball League (CPBL) was born in October 1989.

IN WBSC COMPETITIONS

WBSC WORLD RANKING: 4

PREMIER12 2015:

2 wins 3 losses in group A
Netherlands-Chinese Taipei 7-4
Chinese Taipei-Italy 7-1
Canada-Chinese Taipei 9-8
Chinese Taipei-Cuba 4-1
Puerto Rico-Chinese Taipei 7-4
PREMIER12 2015:
eliminated after the opening round

Chinese Taipei earned a silver medal at the 1992 Barcelona Olympics and finished third in the Los Angeles 1984 demonstration tournament.

Chinese Taipei earned one silver medal (1984) and three bronze medals (1986, 1988 and 2001) in the Baseball World Cup. Chinese Taipei won 3 U-18 Baseball World Cups: 1983, 2010 and 2019



JAPAN

THE MANAGER

Atsunori Inaba, born 1972, has been a star player in the Nippon Professional Baseball (NPB). He made his debut in 1995 and played his last season in 2014. He has 2,167 career hits and a total 261 home runs. Inaba was the MVP of the 2006 Japan Series.

He represented Japan internationally at the 2008 Olympics and the 2009 and 2013 World Baseball Classic. He is a member of the coaching staff of Samurai Japan since his retirement as a player. He has been the National Team manager since July 2017. He will be the skipper at least after the 2020 Tokyo Olympics. Inaba told the press that he is ready to bet his baseball life on the Olympics, but that he doesn't feel any pressure.

Inaba's coaching staff includes Hirozaku Ibata, Makoto Kaneko, Yoshinori Murata, Masaji Shimizu and Yoshinori Tateyama.

You can read a full interview on page 10.



PREMIER12 2019

Samurai Japan will head to the WBSC Premier12 2019 with a 28-man roster made only of Nippon Professional Baseball (NPB) players. The Tokyo Giants and Fukuoka Softbank Hawks are leading the selection, both with five players. The roster is filled with experienced players.

Japan will have returning players from the inaugural 2015 Premier12. Yomiuri Tokyo Giants shortstop Hayato Sakamoto is a middle infielder that can provide some power. He has over 200 career home runs. Tokyo Yakult Swallow second baseman Tetsuto Yamada can also hit for power. He combined 34 home runs in 2018 and hit 35 in

the 2019 regular season. Veteran Hawks third baseman Nobuhiro Matsuda has been an everyday player in NPB since 2006. He also had a couple of 30-home run seasons in 2018 and 2019. Seibu Lions outfielder Shogo Akiyama has a career batting average above .300.

Veteran right-hander Takayuki Kishi has 270 career NPB starts but was limited to 15 games in 2019. He is a former Japan Series MVP. Young star Yuki Matsui has collected 38 saves during the NPB 2019 season. They both play for the Rakuten Eagles. Yasuaki Yamasaki also starred as a reliever for Yokohama. Right-hander Kodai Senga of the

Fukuoka Hawks is one of the NPB starting pitchers on the radar of MLB scouts. Veteran left-hander Yudai Ono is one of the most reliable NPB starters.

Tsubasa Aizawa, Seiji Kobayashi and Takuya Kai are a trio of All-Star catchers.

TUE, 5 NOV 18.00

VENEZUELA vs JAPAN

WED, 6 NOV 18.00

PUERTO RICO vs JAPAN

THU, 7 NOV 18.30

JAPAN vs CHINESE Taipei



THE HISTORY

Horace Wilson, a professor of English at the Kaisei Academy in Tokyo, introduced baseball to Japan in 1872. The Shimbashi Athletic Club was the first organised team in 1878. Tokyo's Ichiko High School won a game against a team of resident foreigners in 1896. The event contributed to the popularity of baseball as a school sport.

Professional baseball has existed in Japan since the 1920s. The success of the modern professional game dates to 1934, when the Shoriki All-Star club played against an American All-Star that featured Babe Ruth and Lou Gehrig.

The first professional league began action in 1936 and by 1950 split into two different leagues under the umbrella of Nippon Professional Baseball (NPB).

Nobuo Fujita and Rod Dedaux started the Japan-USA College Series just after the Melbourne Olympics and Japan played a baseball demonstration game at the Tokyo 1964 Olympics against USA.

The Japanese National Team appeared on the world stage at the 1972 Amateur World Series.

Hall of Famer Eichiro Yamamoto was one of the most respected actors in international baseball of the 1980s and 1990s.

J IN WBSC COMPETITIONS

WBSC WORLD RANKING: 1

PREMIER12 2015:

5 wins 0 losses in group A

Japan-Korea 5-0

Japan-Mexico 6-5

Japan-Dominican Republic 4-2

Japan-USA 10-2

Japan-Venezuela 6-5

PREMIER12 2015: third place
QUARTERFINAL Japan-P.Rico 9-3

SEMIFINAL Korea-Japan 4-3

THIRD PLACE GAME

Japan-Mexico 11-1

Japan earned an Olympic silver (1996), a bronze medal (2004), won the demonstration tournament 1984 and finished second in 1988.

Japan finished second in 1982 and five times third (1976, 1980, 1994, 2003, 2007) in the Baseball World Cup.

Japan won two Intercontinental Cups (1973, 1997)

Japan won the World Baseball Classic 2006 and 2009



PUERTO RICO

THE MANAGER

Juan Alberto Gonzalez played 16 years in Major League Baseball. He made his debut as a 20-year old in 1989 for the Texas Rangers and played his last season in 2005 for the Cleveland Indians. He was an outfielder and one of the most feared hitters of the 1990s. He earned two American League MVP awards (1992, 1993) and played in three All-Star Games. He played over 1,600 games and had 1,936 career hits, 434 home runs and 1,404 runs batted in. He loved to say that he “concentrated more” when he saw men on base.

He is nicknamed *Igor* in Puerto Rico because of his passion for professional wrestler Igor The Magnificent. *Igor* Gonzalez led Puerto Rico to a gold medal at the Pan American Games 2019.

His coaching staff includes Carlos Ferrer, Efrain Garcia, Jose Jimenez, Stephen Morales, Jaime Munoz and Julio Valera.



PREMIER12 2019

The Baseball Federation of Puerto Rico and the Roberto Clemente Professional League made a united effort to select the 28-man roster for the WBSC Premier12.

Puerto Rico will count on six players with Major League Baseball experience. Right-handed pitcher Fernando Cabrera appeared in 132 games as a reliever, left-hander Giovanni Soto has started at various levels, including a Major League stint with the Cleveland Indians. Utility infielder Ivan De Jesus has appeared in over 200 games during four years of service. Shortstop Ozzie Martinez was on the Miami Marlins roster in 2010 and 2011 and currently plays in the independent Atlantic

League. Switch-hitting infielder Jesmuel Valentin appeared in 48 games for the Philadelphia Phillies in 2018. Outfielder Danny Ortiz, who currently plays in Mexico, had his MLB experience in 2017.

"Our goal is a spot in the Olympic Games," said Federation President José Quiles, who believes that baseball fans in Puerto Rico are witnessing a historic moment: "The Federation and the Professional League have Puerto Rico on their minds."

Efraín Williams, the General Manager of the Puerto Rico National Teams, added: "This selection is an achievement, the Federation and the Professional League worked to put on the field the best team possible."

The League President Juan Flores commented: "*Todos con Puerto Rico* is much more than a slogan, it represents the agreement between the Federation and the League to continue developing the game in Puerto Rico."

TUE, 5 NOV 18.30

PUERTO RICO

VS

Chinese Taipei

WED, 6 NOV 18.00

PUERTO RICO

VS

JAPAN

THU, 7 NOV 12.00

VENEZUELA

VS

PUERTO RICO



THE HISTORY

When baseball was first introduced into Puerto Rico, the press and the general public considered it a silly game.

The first two teams were born in 1897. The first organised baseball game was played one year later: on 11 January 1898 in Santurce.

American soldiers stationed in Puerto Rico at the end of the Spanish-American war in 1898 started to play games against local clubs.

A semi-pro league, Liga Semi-Pro de Béisbol de Puerto Rico, was born in 1938 and was included in the National Baseball Congress of the United States. It would evolve

in the professional league now called Liga de Béisbol Profesional Roberto Clemente.

The Puerto Rico National Team made its debut on the world stage participating at the 1940 Amateur World Series. The President of the Baseball Federation Osvaldo Gil, who would later become the President of the National Olympic Committee, played a key role in international baseball in the 1970s and 1980s. He later became the Chairman of the Technical Commission of the International Baseball Federation.

The first Major League player born in Puerto Rico was Hiram Bithorn, who made his debut in 1942 for the Chicago Cubs.

PR IN WBSC COMPETITIONS

WBSC WORLD RANKING: 11

PREMIER12 2015:

2 wins 3 losses in group A
Puerto Rico-Italy 7-1
Canada-Puerto Rico 2-0
Cuba-Puerto Rico 8-7
Netherlands-Puerto Rico 11-7
Puerto Rico-Chinese Taipei 7-4
PREMIER12 2015:
eliminated in quarterfinals
Japan-Puerto Rico 9-3

Puerto Rico won the Amateur World Series 1951.
Puerto Rico finished third at the demonstration tournament at the 1988 Olympics in Seoul and participated in the 1992 Barcelona Games.



VENEZUELA

THE MANAGER

Carlos Ingver Subero is currently the first base coach of the Milwaukee Brewers of Major League.

He was born in 1972 and began his professional playing career as an 18-year old with the Kansas City Royals. He spent five seasons in the Minor Leagues and retired after playing in the independent Big South League in 1997.

He began his career as a coach managing the Rookie League Texas Rangers in 2001. He managed at various Minor League levels and moved to the Milwaukee Brewers organisation in 2014. He lost the final series of the Double-A Southern League but earned Manager of the Year honours.

He has been the first base coach of the Major League team since the 2016 season.

Subero's coaching staff includes Carlos El Almirante Garcia, Darwin Marrero, Cibney Bello, Jobel Jimenez, Wilfredo Romero, Liu Rodriguez.



PREMIER12 2019

Aracelis León, *La Presidenta* of the Baseball Federation of Venezuela, said during the roster presentation: "We worked hard to put together an experienced roster. All of the professional players have the desire to represent Venezuela."

Leon also added that the goal of Venezuela is a spot in the Olympics.

The 28-man roster for the WBSC Premier12 is a mix of experienced veterans and young prospects.

The pitching staff can count on left-hander Felix Doubront, who currently plays in Mexico but has under his belt 188 games

in the Major Leagues, 85 as a starter. Miguel Socolovich also spent the season in Mexico. He is a former Major League reliever and also appeared in Nippon Professional Baseball (NPB). Henderson Alvarez and Williams Perez also have MLB experience. Left-hander Cristian Alvarado is a Double-A reliever for the Baltimore Orioles.

Veteran infielder Andres Blanco played over 500 career games at the Major League level. Also switch hitter Henry Rodriguez, who now plays in the Liga Mexicana de Beisbol, and Carlos Rivero hit the infield in the Major Leagues.

Catcher Juan Apodaca, 33, is a

seasoned veteran who has experience at the Triple-A level in the USA and now plays in Mexico.

First baseman Luis Castro is a hitting prospect, who connected for 25 home runs at Class A-Advanced for the Colorado Rockies.

TUE, 5 NOV 18.00

VENEZUELA vs JAPAN

WED, 6 NOV 18.30

Chinese Taipei vs VENEZUELA

THU, 7 NOV 12.00

VENEZUELA vs PUERTO RICO



THE HISTORY

Venezuelan students who had attended University in the United States introduced baseball in the country during the last decade of the 19th century. Early baseball was known in Venezuela as a "new kind of chess-game." The first organised club was Caracas in 1895.

Professional baseball began in 1927 with the founding of the Federación Venezolana de Béisbol. The first championship took place with four teams. The Association of Professional Baseball was born in 1930. Pitcher Alejandro Carrasquel became the first Venezuelan to play in the Major Leagues when he made his debut for the Washington Sena-

tors in 1939.

Venezuela has had a National Team since 1938. It made its first appearance at the Central American and Caribbean Games. The debut on the world stage came at the Amateur World Series 1940. Venezuela claimed the World Title in 1941, when legendary pitcher Daniel El Chino Canonico defeated Conrado Marrero, another legend, and Cuba in the final.

The Liga Venezolana de Béisbol Profesional played the inaugural season in 1945.

Pablo Morales was the only Venezuelan President of the International Baseball Federation. He was elected two times: in 1946 and 1951.

IN WBSC COMPETITIONS

WBSC WORLD RANKING: 9

PREMIER12 2015:

2 wins 3 losses in group B
Mexico-Venezuela 6-4
Venezuela-USA 7-5
Korea-Venezuela 13-2
Venezuela-Dominican Republic 8-6
Japan-Venezuela 6-5
PREMIER12 2015:
eliminated after the opening round

Venezuela won three editions of the Baseball World Cup, then known as the Amateur World Series: 1941, 1944 and 1945. It hasn't finished on the podium since the 1973 edition, when Venezuela finished third behind Nicaragua and USA.



Official Premier12 Mobile App



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WBSC
PREMIER12

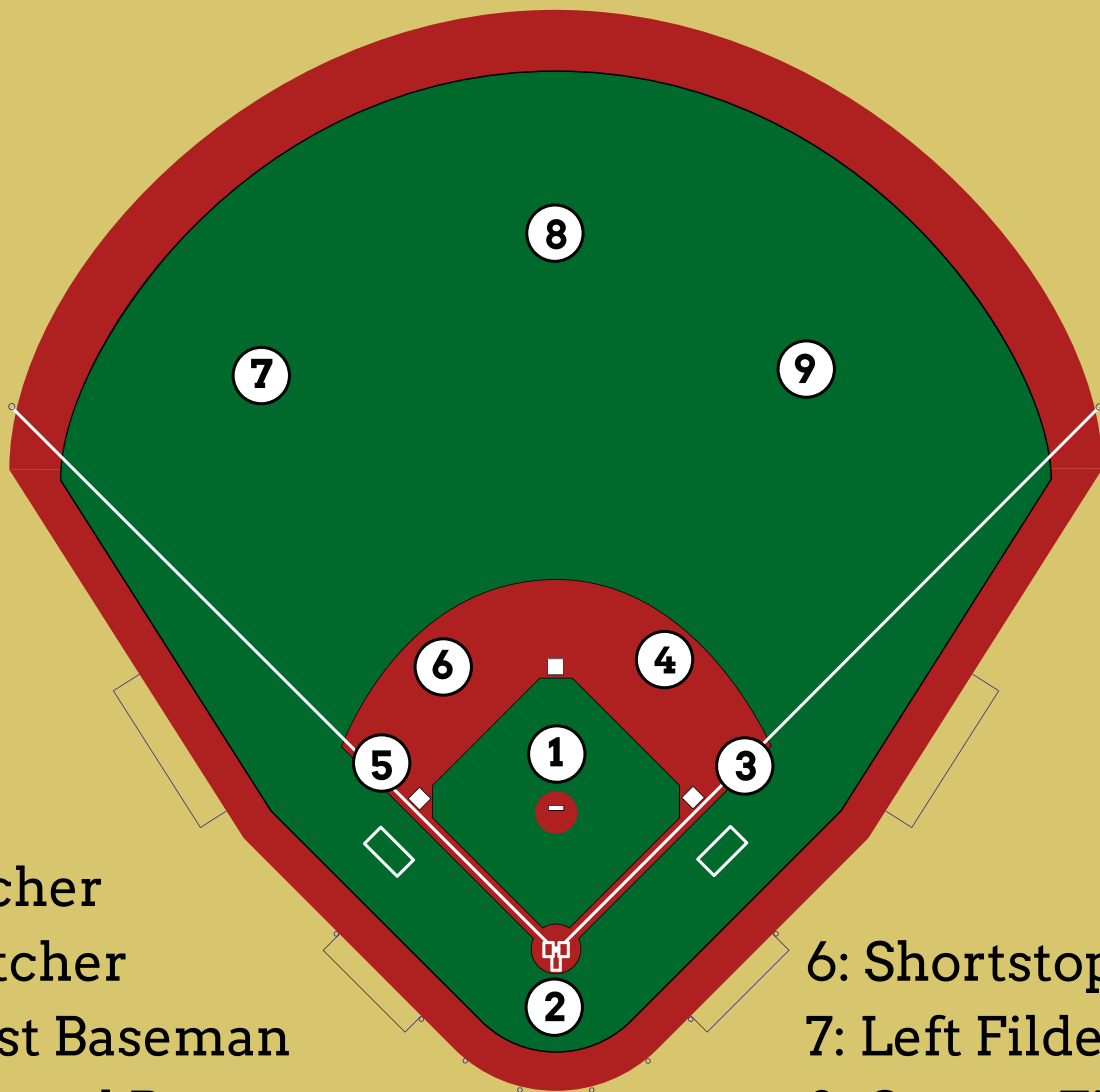
HAVE MORE FUN, SCORE YOUR GAME

Sportswriter Henry Chadwick (1824-1908) is the inventor of baseball scorekeeping. He also deserves credit for creating the statistic known as batting average.

His basic scorecard and notation have evolved significantly since their advent in the 1870s, but they remain the basis for most of what has followed.

Even if you are not an official scorekeeper, scoring will take you deeper into the game. In the following pages, you will find WBSC souvenir score-sheets.

Even if you are not familiar with official scorekeeping notations, you may score a game. Below we numbered the official positions of players on a baseball field



1: Pitcher

2: Catcher

3: First Baseman

4: Second Baseman

5: Third Baseman

6: Shortstop

7: Left Fielder

8: Center Fielder

9: Right Fielder



**GET MORE
SCORESHEET**



**GET MORE
PITCHINGSHEET**

[illegible]

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Official Online Store



AUSTRALIA

THE MANAGER

David Wayne Nilsson, born December 1969, played over 800 Major League games for the Milwaukee Brewers from 1992 to 1999. He was an All Star in 1999. He became a free agent after the season and opted not to sign for any MLB organisation because he had the desire to represent Australia at the Sydney Olympics.

His playing career ended after the 2006 World Baseball Classic. Nilsson was included in the Sport Australia Hall of Fame in 2008.

He was named the National Team manager in 2018, after leading the Brisbane Bandits to three consecutive ABL championships.

"I really like the balance and the experience of the team" said Nilsson "We have a lot of depth and everyone is going to get their opportunity."

The coaching staff includes Michael Collins, Andrew Graham, Jim Bennett, Chris Oxspring, Russell Teichmann, Chris Adamson and Shayne Watson.



PREMIER12 2019

Australia started to work on the concept of developing a tournament team since February. The final selection will put on the field at the WBSC Premier12 2019 an experienced roster. The 28-man squad includes 18 players who represented Australia at the 2017 World Baseball Classic.

Pitchers Travis Blackley, Warwick Saupold, Peter Moylan and infielder Luke Hughes have Major League Baseball experience. Saupold just completed his first season in the Korea Baseball Organization (KBO). He had a 12-11 record playing for the Hanwha Eagles.

Veteran left-hander Josh Tols

is a key reliever in the bullpen of the Triple-A affiliate of the Philadelphia Phillies. Second baseman Robbie Glendinning, at 24, has reached the Double-A level in the Pittsburgh Pirates organization in the USA. He was the Australian Baseball League (ABL) Rookie of the Year last season. Outfielder Aaron Whitefield, 23, has also been promoted to Double-A by the Minnesota Twins. He is a previous ABL Rookie of the Year.

The team captain is catcher and third baseman Tim Kennelly, 32. He won two Helms Awards, the MVP of the National Championship in Australia.

Australia's baseball programme has been growing

steadily in the last four years. In early September the Aussie showcased their future stars at the U-18 Baseball World Cup. Australia finished fourth, after entering the ninth and final inning of the third-place game with a lead.

WED, 6 NOV 19.00

AUSTRALIA VS Korea

THU, 7 NOV 12.00

AUSTRALIA VS Cuba

FRI, 8 NOV 12.00

CANADA VS AUSTRALIA



THE HISTORY

Baseball landed in Australia during the Victoria Gold Rush of the 18th century. The Albert Spalding World Tour took professional players to Sydney in 1888

The first interstate games happened in 1890 when Victoria played South Australia in Melbourne. The two states formed an Australian team that went on what became the Kangaroo Tour of the United States in 1897.

The Australian Baseball Council was born in 1913. The first attempt to have a National League in Australia dates back to 1934. Norrie Claxton, a former baseball and cricket player, donated a shield to be awarded to the winners. The Claxton Shield is still

awarded to National Champions.

Australia played a one-game exhibition against a United States team made up of military personnel at the 1956 Melbourne Olympics. The United States won in front of a crowd of over 100,000.

The National Team of Australia made its debut on the world stage during the 1978 World Championship in Italy.

The top-level of baseball in the country is the Australian Baseball League that played its inaugural season in 2010-2011.

In March 2014 Sydney hosted Major League regular-season games between the Los Angeles Dodgers and the Arizona Diamondbacks.

IN WBSC COMPETITIONS

WBSC WORLD RANKING: 7

PREMIER12 2015:

Australia makes its debut at the WBSC Premier12

Australia arrived as late as 1978 on the world stage, but it's the only nation outside the Americas or Asia to ever earn an Olympic medal. The Aussie earned silver in Athens in 2004. Australia eliminated a stellar Samurai Japan side in the semi-final, defeating Daisuke Matsuzaka 1-0, before losing the gold medal game to Cuba.

Australia won the Intercontinental Cup 1999



CANADA

THE MANAGER

Leo Earnest *Ernie* Whitt, born in 1952 in Detroit (Michigan, USA), has been the manager of the Canadian National Team since the 1999 Pan American Games.

"It is truly an honour to be asked to manage this team," commented Whitt. "Our staff is very pleased with the roster we've been able to put together. The intense and emotional environment that international baseball provides is something that I always look forward to and I know our players do as well."

Whitt was a Major League catcher in his playing days. The Toronto Blue Jays selected him at the expansion draft in 1977. Many consider Whitt the best Blue Jays catcher of all time. He published the autobiography 'Catch: A Major League Life'.

Larry Walker, a former National League MVP as a player, Denis Boucher, Tim Leper and Greg Hamilton complete the coaching staff.



PREMIER12 2019

Canada's 28-man roster for the WBSC Premier12 2019 includes nine players who participated in the inaugural edition in 2015: pitchers Phillippe Aumont, Chris Leroux, Dustin Molleken, Scott Richmond; infielder Jordan Lennerton; catchers Kellin Deglan, Dustin Houle and outfielders Rene Tosoni and Gareth Morgan.

Former American League MVP Justin Morneau dropped out because of an injury during training. His spot on the roster will go to Toronto Blue Jays 22-year old prospect Demi Orimoloye.

Canada will still count on 10 players with Major League Baseball experience: pitchers Philippe

Aumont, Chris Leroux, who also played in Japan for the Yakul Swallows, Adam Loewen, Scott Mathieson, currently on the NPB Yomiuri Giants roster in Japan, Dustin Molleken, who also played in Japan for the Nippon Ham Fighters, Scott Richmond, Rob Zastryzny and outfielders Dalton Pompey, Rene Tosoni and Michael Saunders, an All-Star in 2016.

Aumont, Leroux, Molleken, Richmond and Tosoni also helped Canada win a silver medal at the Pan Am Games 2019.

Catcher Dustin Houle, who plays for the New York Mets at the Minor League Double-A level, and third baseman Eric Wood, who played 78 games at Triple-A

level for the Pittsburgh Pirates and played in the Chinese Professional Baseball League in the past, were also on the Pan Am Games team.

Pitcher Will McAffer is trying to work his way to the top as a reliever in the Toronto Blue Jays organisation.

WED, 6 NOV 12.00

CANADA vs Cuba

THU, 7 NOV 19.00

Korea vs CANADA

FRI, 8 NOV 12.00

CANADA vs AUSTRALIA



THE HISTORY

Canada imported various bat and ball games from England - the American variant with four bases and nine players named baseball was introduced around 1860 in Southwestern Ontario. Local teams used to compete with their American neighbours.

William Silver Bill Phillips became the first Canadian Major League Baseball player when he made his debut for Cleveland in 1879.

Canada had 24 Minor League teams by 1913 and first tried to join the top level of baseball in 1877. The London Tecumsehs were refused admission to the National League because they refused to

stop playing exhibitions against local teams. The Montreal Expos joined the National League in 1969, one year before Canada joined the world stage as a national team at the Amateur World Series. The Toronto Blue Jays, who will later become the first Canadian team to win the World Series, joined the American League in 1977.

Canada was in fact amongst the five countries that supported Leslie Mann and USA about the idea of an International Baseball Federation during the 1936 Berlin Olympics. Canadian delegate John Leslie wrote the rules of the statutes of the newborn governing body in 1938.



**IN WBSC
COMPETITIONS**

WBSC WORLD RANKING: 10

PREMIER12 2015:

5 wins 0 losses in group A
Canada-Cuba 5-1
Canada-Puerto Rico 2-0
Canada-Chinese Taipei 9-8
Canada-Italy 4-0
Canada-Netherlands 3-1
PREMIER12 2015:
eliminated in quarterfinals
Mexico-Canada 4-3

The best results for Canada in the Baseball World Cup are back to back bronze medals in 2009 and 2011.

Canada won the 1991 U-18 Baseball World Cup, a tournament that the country hosted a record 13 times, the last one in 2017.



CUBA

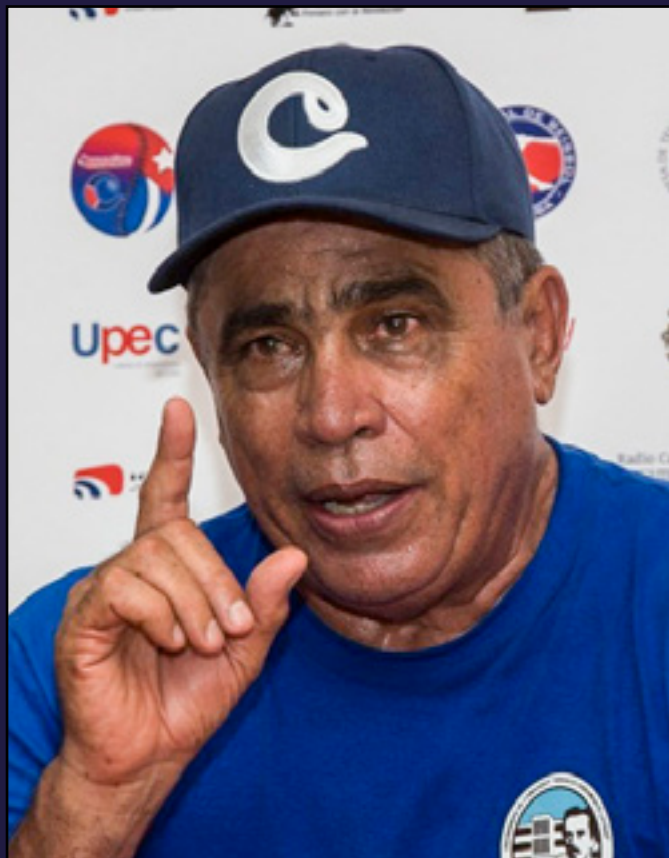
THE MANAGER

Miguel Borroto, the skipper of the Toros de Camaguey in the Serie Nacional, will manage Cuba. He replaced Rey Vicente Anglada after Cuba had a disappointing finish in the Pan Am Games this summer.

Borroto is an experienced coach who recently returned to his home soil after working overseas for over a decade. He coached in Livorno, Italy, in 2006 and 2007. He was later successful in the Mexican Baseball League with the Piratas de Campeche.

Miguel Borroto is aware of the difficulties that the Cuban national team has had in international competition lately and believes that discipline and properly managing the final innings will help improve results.

Borroto's coaching staff will include former super stars Omar Linares and Pedro Lazo. José Eulalio Hernández, Ricardo Eizmendiz and José Elósegui will be the other coaches.



PREMIER12 2019

Veteran slugger Alfredo Despaigne looks once again like the marquee player on the roster. He starred for the Fukuoka Soft-Bank Hawks during the Nippon Professional Baseball (NPB) season. Despaigne is a six-year NPB veteran and has enjoyed in 2019 his second 30-home run season. He hit so far over 150 home runs in Japan. Relief pitcher Livan Moinelo, infielder Yurisbel Gracial also played for Fukuoka in Japan. Ridel Martinez was on the roster of the Chunichi Dragons, another NPB team. He acted as the part-time closer.

Cuba in the Premier12 will count on a group of talented

national team rookies. Catcher Ariel Martinez, a 23-year old who signed in 2018 a development contract with the NPB Chunichi Dragons, will make a much anticipated debut for the national team. The other absolute beginners are 21-year old third baseman Pavel Quesada, former U-23 national team pitching star Andy Rodriguez and veteran pitchers Carlos Juan Viera and Frank Madan.

Frédérich Cépeda, an Olympic gold medalist and still one of the best hitters of Cuba's Serie Nacional, will make his comeback to the National Team at 39. Infielders Erisbel Arruebarrena, William Saavedra and Alexander

Ayala will also make their return.

The pitching staff relies a lot on Yosimar Cousín and Yariel Rodriguez, highly-touted prospects in their early twenties who are on the radar of professional scouts.

WED, 6 NOV 12.00

CANADA

VS

Cuba

THU, 7 NOV 12.00

AUSTRALIA

VS

Cuba

FRI, 8 NOV 19.00

Cuba

VS

Korea



THE HISTORY

Cuba is one of the founding members of the international baseball community. It was one of the countries that responded to the call that Leslie Mann, soon to be the first President of the International Baseball Federation, gave to the 21 nations participating in the 1936 Olympics. Cuba, together with USA, England, France, Canada and Hawaii, not yet a US territory, became a founding member of the International Baseball Federation in 1938.

Cuba hosted the Amateur World Series, later to be named Baseball World Cup, for five

consecutive editions from 1939 to 1943. Jaime Mariné, a colonel of the army and a former President of the Dirección Nacional de Deportes, succeeded Mann as the President of the International Federation.

The world governing body of baseball split into two different associations in the early 1970s. Manuel Gonzalez Guerra, a Member of the International Olympic Committee (IOC), led the unification into a sole Federation: AINBA (Asociación Internacional de Beisbol Amateur or International Amateur Baseball Association). Gonzalez Guerra was elected President in 1976.

IN WBSC COMPETITIONS

WBSC WORLD RANKING: 5

PREMIER12 2015:

3 wins 2 losses in group A
Canada-Cuba 5-1
Cuba-Netherlands 6-5
Puerto Rico-Cuba 7-8
Cuba-Chinese Taipei 1-4
Italy-Cuba 1-2
PREMIER12 2015:
eliminated in quarterfinals
Korea-Cuba 7-2

Cuba made history in Olympic Baseball, competing in the final of each edition and earning:
3 Olympic gold medals (1992, 1996, 2004)
2 Olympic silver medals (2000, 2008)

Cuba has actually dominated international baseball for decades. The number of trophies proves it:
25 World Cups
11 Intercontinental Cups
11 U-18 World Cups



KOREA

THE MANAGER

Kim Kyung-moon, born November 1958, led Korea to the Olympic gold medal in 2008.

He was a catcher in his playing days and excelled at defence. He won the Korean Series with the OB Bears.

He retired in 1991 and went to Atlanta, USA, to study the coaching style of Bobby Cox of the Atlanta Braves. He went back to Korea and coached the Samsung Lions and the Doosan Bears. He won the Korean Series 2005 as the manager of the Bears. Kim became the inaugural manager of the expansion team NC Dinos in 2013. He managed them to the franchise's first Korean Series in 2016

When KBO revealed the 28-man roster during a press conference at KBO headquarters in Seoul Kim said: "I'll trust my team. I believe they're all great players."

The coaching staff includes Choi Il Eon, Choi Won Ho, Jin Kabyong, Kim Jae Hyun and Lee Jong Yeol.



PREMIER12 2019

All the players on the roster perform in the Korean Baseball Organization (KBO), the top domestic professional league. It includes two-time KBO MVP Park Byungho, the 2019 home run king with 33, who will be the starting first baseman. The 2019 batting champion Yang Euiji (.354 batting average and .438 on-base percentage) is going to be the everyday catcher. Second baseman Park Min-woo, third baseman Choi Jung and shortstop Ha-sung Kim are also supposed to be everyday starters.

Veteran left-handed slugger Kim Hyun-soo, the inaugural Premier12 MVP, may play in the

outfield and as a designated hitter. He is the player with the most international experience. He was on the gold medal team at the 2008 Olympics and made the All-World Team at the 2009 World Baseball Classic. Kim Hyun-soo played for two different Major League Baseball organisations: the Baltimore Orioles and the Philadelphia Phillies.

The roster also includes left-hander Yang Hyeonjong, the pitcher with the best Earned Run Average (2.29). Kim Kwang-hyun, another left-hander, was a member of the team that won an Olympic gold medal in 2008. He enjoyed a 17-win season in 2019. The other two starters on the

roster are Cha Woo-chan and Lee Young-ha. The other nine pitchers play as relievers during the KBO season.

WED, 6 NOV 19.00

AUSTRALIA

VS

Korea

THU, 7 NOV 19.00

Korea

VS

CANADA

FRI, 8 NOV 19.00

Cuba

VS

Korea



THE HISTORY

The game of baseball was introduced to Korea at the end of the 19th century by American missionaries.

The game flourished during the period when Korea was under Japanese rule (1910-1945).

On December 1921, a team of American Major Leaguers stopped in Seoul during a tour of Asia and played against a Korean team assembled for the occasion.

Various Korean cities participated in the Japanese Intercity Baseball Tournament from 1927 to 1942. Seoul won the tournament in 1940 and 1942.

A Korea national team par-

ticipated for the first time in the Asia Baseball Championship in 1954. Korea made its debut on the world stage at the 1976 Baseball World Cup, then called Amateur World Series, in Colombia. The year after Korea won the Intercontinental Cup in Nicaragua.

Professional baseball began its successful history in the country in 1982, when six teams founded the Korea Baseball Championship. The championship developed into a 10-team Korea Baseball Organization (KBO), the most important professional sports league in the nation.

IN WBSC COMPETITIONS

WBSC WORLD RANKING: 3

PREMIER12 2015:

3 wins 2 losses in group B

Japan-Korea 5-0

Korea-Dominican Rep. 10-1

Korea Venezuela 13-2

Korea-Mexico 4-3

USA-Korea 3-2

PREMIER12 2015:

Champions

QUARTERFINAL

Korea-Cuba 7-2

SEMIFINAL Korea-Japan 4-3

FINAL Korea-USA 8-0

1 Olympic gold medal (2008)

1 Olympic bronze medal (2000)

1 World Cup

1 Intercontinental Cup

5 U-18 World Cups



**Download Official
Premier 12 Mobile App**



PRIZE MONEY DISTRIBUTION

*Over \$5 million in prize money to be awarded for Premier12 2019
This marks a 40% increase for the 2015 inaugural edition. WBSC
will introduce bonus money for each win and for winning the
opening round*

The World Baseball Softball Confederation (WBSC) will distribute a total amount of \$5.2 million USD in prize money for the second Premier12, marking a 40% increase over the inaugural edition of this major international baseball event in 2015.

As part of the new prize money structure, WBSC will be introducing a bonus system that rewards a team for each win and winning the opening round -- in addition to how a team places in the final standings.

"This Premier12 will be one of the top major international sports events of 2019 and one of the most important international baseball events in recent history, and the increase in prize money directly reflects this," said WBSC President Riccardo Fracari. "And with the introduction of bonus prize money for each game as well as winning the group stage, every game will count and be exciting to play and watch. The teams, players -- and their leagues and national federations -- are the main actors here, and it was a priority for WBSC to launch this new prize money structure and redistribute the revenue accordingly while helping to grow our sport globally."

TOP PRIZE, BONUSES AND WORLD RANKING POINTS

A top prize of \$1.5 million will be awarded to the winner of the 2019 WBSC Premier12, with all 12 National Teams guaranteed a minimum share of \$180,000 for their participation in the two-week, 32-game global

tournament. Teams advancing to the Super Round will receive a minimum of \$250,000.

In addition, a team will be awarded \$10,000 for every game won in the Opening Round and \$20,000 in the Super Round.

2019 WBSC PREMIER12 - PRIZE MONEY STRUCTURE (IN USD)

1st Place	\$1.5 million
2nd Place	\$750k
3rd Place	\$500k
4th Place	\$350k
5th Place	\$300k
6th Place	\$250k
7th-12th Place	\$180k

Each win in Opening Round	\$10k
Each win in Super Round	\$20k
1st Place in Opening Round	\$20k

Total: \$5,210,000

The Opening Round winners of Groups A, B and C will additionally receive \$20,000 in prize money.

As per WBSC guidelines, a minimum of 50 percent of a team's prize money is to be distributed equally among the players on the 28-man roster.

The 2019 WBSC Premier12 will also award the highest amount of world ranking points of any international baseball competition.

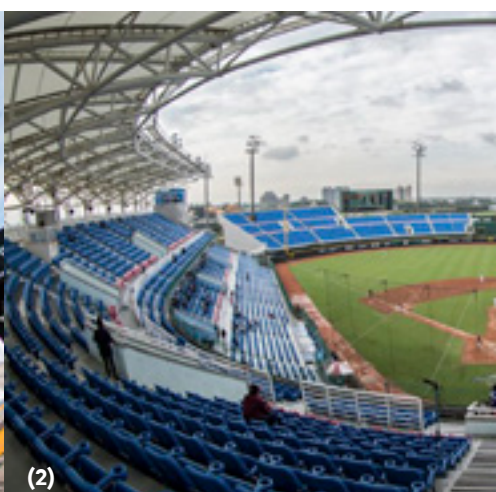




THE VENUES OF THE PREMIER12 2019



(1)



(2)



(4)



(5)

All of the six games scheduled in **group A** will be played at the *Estadio de Beisbol Charros de Jalisco* (1) in Zapopan, near Guadalajara in Mexico.

The stadium has a 16,500 seat capacity and was built for the 2011 Pan Am Games. The field size is 100.6 meters (330 feet) at the corners and 126.5 meters (415 feet) in center. The venue, designed also to host track and field events, opened on 19 October 2011.

The Charros de Jalisco, a club competing in the Winter Liga Mexicana del Pacifico, bought the stadium in 2014.

The stadium hosted group D of the opening round of the 2017 World Baseball Classic and the 2018 Caribbean Series.

Two cities and two different venues in Chinese Taipei will host the games played in **group B**.

Taoyuan *International Stadium* (2) will host two games.

The Taoyuan International Baseball Stadium is a multi-use stadium located in Taoyuan City. The stadium opened in 2010 and has a capacity of 20,000 spectators.

The field has a dimension of 100.6 metres (330 feet) in left, 121.9 metres (400 feet) in centre and 100.6 metres (330 feet) in right field.

Taichung *Intercontinental Stadium* (4) will host the other four games.

The stadium is located in Beitun District and officially opened on November 9, 2006, for the IBAF Intercontinental Cup. It replaced the antiquated Taichung Baseball Field.

The Intercontinental Stadium has a size of 99.1 metres (325 feet) in left, 121.9 metres (400 feet) in centre and 99.1 metres (325 feet) in right.

The stadium is also a venue for rock concerts and also hosted Zhang Yimou's *Turandot* at the Bird's Nest in 2010.

The *Gocheok Sky Dome* (5) in Seoul, Korea, will host the six games of **group C**.

The Dome is the home ballpark for the Kiwoom Heroes of the Korean Baseball Organization (KBO). The stadium opened on 15 September 2015 to replace the Dongdaemun Baseball Stadium. It has a capacity of 16,813 seats. In 2017 the *Sky Dome* hosted group A of the first round of



the World Baseball Classic.

The field measures 99 metres (325 feet) in left, 122 metres (400 feet) in centre and 99 metres (325 feet) in right. The playing surface is artificial turf.

The *Sky Dome* also serves as a concert venue, with a capacity of around 25,000.

Two different venues in Japan will host the games of the **super round** and the **finals**.

The *ZOZO Marine Stadium* (3) in Chiba City will host three games.

The stadium is the home field of the Chiba Lotte Marines of Nippon Professional Baseball (NPB). It opened on 13 April 1990 with a concert by popstar Madonna and has approximately a 30,000 people capacity.

The field measures 99.5 metres (326.4 feet) in left, 122 metres (400 feet) in centre and 99.5 metres (326.4 feet) in right. The outfield wall is 4 meters (13.1 feet) high.

The field of *ZOZO Marine stadium* was adapted to host the super round and the finals of the WBSC Softball World Cup 2018. The venue also hosts rugby games.

The *Tokyo Dome* (6) will host nine games of the super round and the finals.

Construction of the Dome began on May 16, 1985, and it opened on March 17, 1988. Its dome-shaped roof is an air-supported structure, a flexible membrane supported by slightly pressurising the inside of the stadium.

It was built on the site of the Velodrome, adjacent to the predecessor ballpark, Kōrakuen Stadium. It has a maximum total capacity of 57,000 depending on the configuration. The familiar nickname of the Dome is *The Big Egg*.

The playing surface is field-turf. The field size is 100.28 metres (329 feet) in left and right and 122 metres (400 feet) in centre.

The *Tokyo Dome* is the home field of the NPB Yomiuri Giants and has hosted the Premier12 2015 finals. It is the location of the Japanese Baseball Hall of Fame.

The Dome has hosted various Major League Baseball games and games of the 2017 World Baseball Classic. It has also hosted music concerts, basketball, American football and various combat sports events.





SSK THE OFFICIAL BALL OF THE PREMIER12 2019

WBSC announced the deal that expanded an already existing global partnership in July 2019. SSK President Kyoichi Sasaki: "It's a great honour and responsibility to be a unique part of the action."

The World Baseball Softball Confederation (WBSC) and the SSK Corporation, based in Osaka, Japan, announced in July 2018 a partnership expansion that made the iconic Japanese brand the Exclusive/Official Competition Ball and Kit Supplier of baseball's biggest upcoming international events through 2020. The deal includes the second edition of the Premier12 and the 2020 Olympic Games.

The agreement expanded upon WBSC and SSK's already existing global partnership.

Before the Premier12 2019 SSK President **Kyoichi Sasaki** commented: "It's a great honour and great responsibility for SSK to be a unique part of the action on the field, as the WBSC Premier12 will feature some of the most important international baseball games we have ever seen. We are confident the game ball and umpire kit will be of the highest quality possible for these elite baseball players and umpires in this major global competition."

"SSK's brand motto is 'Baseball, it's our game' and we strive to connect the world through the sport of baseball and help them achieve a better life," added Kyoichi Sasaki.

"SSK will be providing official competition balls to Baseball World Cups of all categories, from under-12 to professional - competitions that crown the best baseball country in the world.

SSK has been supporting WBSC with umpire gear and apparels for over 20 years, and through this agreement with WBSC, we aim to contribute to baseball's further development around the world."

The history of SSK began in 1946, when Kyozo Sasaki established a sporting goods shop in Shimogyo-ku, Kyoto. Sasaki Industry Co., Ltd started sportswear production in Takefu, Fukui Prefecture, in 1975. Kyoichi Sasaki took his position as President in 1990

SSK became an official sponsor of the world governing body of baseball (IBA, International Baseball Association) in 1993.

WBSC President Riccardo Fraccari welcomed the deal with these words: "Only an iconic and elite baseball brand like SSK could be trusted to fill this critical role during what will be some of the most impactful and most-watched international baseball events in history."





THE MAKING OF THE PREMIER12 TROPHY AND MEDALS

The Premier12 Trophy is made in polished solid silver 925/100. It is 750 millimetres (29,53 inches) tall, with special details in 24-carat gold. The base is decorated with flags of the participating national teams in silver and enamel glaze.

A wooden, customised trunk completes the trophy

The trophy, the medals that will go to the winners (gold), second place (silver) and third place (bronze) national teams and the MVP Award, were manufactured by Fratelli Pazzaglia from Pisa, Italy.

The history of Fratelli Pazzaglia dates back to 1960 when goldsmith Renzo Pazzaglia began dealing with repairs and creations of small jewels and the coinage of medals.

The company was born in 1976. Fratelli Pazzaglia began collaborations with local sculptors and grew rapidly producing medals, badges and crests for the Italian Navy.

In the 1990s Fratelli Pazzaglia participated in several exhibitions and developed internationally.

HOW TO WATCH

The inaugural WBSC Premier12 generated US\$131 million in brand exposure with a potential global broadcast reach of 253.7 million households, while overall attendance was 235,951 over 38 games.

The second edition of the global battle between the 12 best programmes of international baseball will air in the five Continents:

AMERICAS:

USA: NBC sports

LATIN AMERICA: Claro Sports (Argentina, Chile, Uruguay, Paraguay, Bolivia, Ecuador, Peru, Colombia, Venezuela, Panama, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Honduras, Dominican Republic, Guatemala and Mexico)

Mexico: TV Azteca

Puerto Rico: Telemundo

Dominican Republic: CDN Sports Max

Cuba: Tele Rebelde

Canada: TSN and CSN

Venezuela: La Tele Tuya, TVes

AFRICA:

Gametime.sport

ASIA:

Japan: TBS, TV Asahi, JSport and Sponavi

Korea: SBS

Taiwan: Videoland

EUROPE:

Regional (all Europe): Olympic Channel

Italy and Portugal: Eleven Sports

Netherlands: NOS

OCEANIA:

New Zealand: Sky Sports

Australia: Kayo Sports

PREMIER12 SOCIAL MEDIA



Twitter is the official social media partner of the **2019 WBSC PREMIER12**



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@BaseballCanada #P12FearTheLeaf



@HonkbalSoftbal #TeamKingdomNL



@CubanaBeisbol #CUBp12



@BeisbolPR #TodosConPR



@FedobeRD #DOMp12



@CPBL and @CTBA #相信中華



@SamuraiJapan_pr #侍ジャパン



@USABaseball #ForGlory



#KBO



@FEVEBEISBOL #PorTuSelección

English, Dutch/French,
Spanish (Global):
#Premier12

Japanese:
#プレミア12

Korean:
#프리미어12

Traditional Chinese:
#世界12強



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WBSC

BASEBALL
EUROPE/AFRICA QUALIFIER

TOKYO, HERE V



CB

THE QUALIFYING PROCESS TO TOKYO 2020

*Baseball will return to the Olympic Programme.
The hosts Japan and Israel have already quali-
fied, four spots are up for grabs*



The Premier12 2019 will potentially allocate two spots to the Tokyo 2020 Games. The top-two finishers amongst the national teams from the Asia/Oceania territory (excluding Japan, that has already qualified as the host nation) and the Americas at the

end of the Super Round will qualify for the six-team Olympic Baseball event.

If none of the teams from the Asia/Oceania Region qualifies for the Super Round, a three-team round-robin tournament will take place immedi-

Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games Men's Baseball Olympic Qualification Process

Ticket n°	Qualified country	How
1	Japan 	Host Country
2	Israel 	WBSC Europe/Africa Olympic Qualifier
3 & 4		WBSC Premier 12 ** <i>Mexico, Korea, Taiwan, Japan, 2-17 November 2019</i>
5		WBSC Americas Olympic Qualifier <i>Arizona, USA, March 2020</i>
6		WBSC Global Olympic Qualifier <i>Taipei City, Taiwan, March 2020</i>

** The highest placed team in the Super Round from the Americas and Asia/Oceania.

ately following the Opening Round of the Premier12 to determine the top Asia/Oceania team and thus assign a spot in the Olympic event.

If needed, the event would take place at Inter-continental Stadium Taichung, Taiwan, on 12, 13 and 14 November.

Japan is not the only national team already qualified. Israel won the Europe/Africa Qualifier, played in September in Parma and Bologna, Italy, and earned a historical Olympic spot.

Israel defeated Spain, 3-0, the Netherlands, 8-1, the hosts Italy, 8-2, and South Africa, 11-1 and suffered only one loss, 7-4 against the Czech Republic. Israel finished the six-team round-robin sharing a 4-1 record with the Netherlands, but qualified thanks to the win in the head to head game.

"What we did was huge," said infielder Danny Valencia at the end of the final game of the tournament against South Africa "It shouldn't go unnoticed."

Valencia celebrated his 35th birthday during the qualifier. His career as a player developed from 2010 to 2018 in the USA Major Leagues. He played 864 games for six different organisations and combined 96 home runs. The other players on Israel's roster saw Valencia as a mentor.

"It's really great to have a guy with so much MLB experience with us," explained catcher **Nick Rickels**, who hit home runs against European powerhouses the Netherlands and Italy.

"I just try to do my part," commented Valencia "I couldn't hope to be around a better group of guys. We worked really hard. The team preparation required a lot of work and time. We came here to perform a task, and we did it."

Most of the players on the Israel team were born and developed in the United States.

"We are all Israeli citizens," commented **Valencia**.

Rickels added: "We are all citizens, just like any other national team. We don't really discuss that amongst us."

The national teams from the Americas that are competing in the Premier12 2019 (USA, Mexico and the Dominican Republic in group A; Venezuela, Puerto Rico in group B; Cuba and Canada in group C) will have another chance to advance to the Tokyo 2020 Games in the Americas Qualifier, scheduled on March 2020 in Arizona, USA. Nicaragua and Colombia earned their spot through the Pan Am Games and will also participate in the Americas Qualifier.

The winner of this tournament will qualify for the 2020 Games, while second and third-place finishers will have one more chance.

Taichung, Chinese Taipei, will host the final Qualifier in April 2020.

The Netherlands, the second-placed national team in the Europe/Africa Qualifier, will join second and third-place finishers from the qualifier in the Americas. Two other national teams qualified from the Asia Baseball Championship - winners Chinese Taipei and third-placed China. Korea finished fourth and the Philippines fifth. Second placed Japan does not participate in the qualifiers having already claimed a host nation berth for Tokyo 2020. The other participant will be the winner of the Oceania Region Pre-Qualifier, which will take place in early 2020.

ABOUT WBSC



The World Baseball Softball Confederation (WBSC) is the world governing body of baseball and softball.

The WBSC is the result of a merger between the International Baseball Federation (IBAF) and the International Softball Federation (ISF).

Presidents Riccardo Fraccari (IBAF) and Don Porter (ISF) (5) announced the merger in April 2013 during a press conference in Tokyo. Fraccari and Porter sat on the Committee that picked the name of the new organisation. The World Baseball Softball Confederation was a legitimate compromise between the proposal by ISF (ICSB, International Confederation Softball Baseball) and IBAF (IBSF, International Baseball Softball Confederation).

The historic inaugural Congress of the WBSC took place in May 2014. Thomas Bach, the International Olympic Committee President, wrote in a message: "This historic inaugural Congress reflects the efforts and the changes of recent years...we are very pleased to see that the National Federations are following the updated structure and the new direction of the WBSC."

Leslie Mann (6), nicknamed "The Major", is the father of international baseball. A former MLB player, Mann dreamed about seeing baseball in the Olympics. The days of professional players in the Olympic Games were yet to come, so Mann put together two teams (World Champions and US Olympics) to play

a demonstration game at the 1936 Berlin Olympics. Mann himself umpired the game.

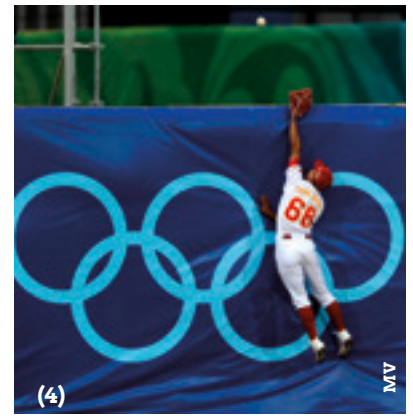
During the Games Mann proposed the idea of an International Baseball Federation to the delegates of the 21 participating Nations. He was representing USA, England, France, Canada, Cuba and Hawaii (not yet a US territory) responded with enthusiasm. The International Baseball Federation (IBF) was born in 1938. Mexico, Spain, Egypt, China, Japan, Peru, Philippines, Belgium, the Netherlands and Germany joined the founding Nations. Leslie Mann was elected the first President.

France, The Netherlands and Hawaii played during the Paris 1937 World Exhibition a tournament that went to the record books as the first ever international baseball event.

The IBF President became aware of the existence of a successful National Baseball Association in England, supported by businessman and philanthropist John Moores. He made contact with Moores through the US National League President John Heydler and agreed on selecting a USA National Team and travel to Europe for a five-game series.

Mann was disappointed by the result, England defeated the USA 4 games to 1, but was enthusiastic about the crowds that the games had attracted.

The series became The John Moores Trophy and would later be considered the first edition of the Amateur World Series, later to become the Baseball World Cup.



Jaime Mariné, the former President of the *Dirección Nacional de Deportes* in Cuba, succeeded Mann as the IBF President and took the Amateur World Series to his home country.

Mann lost interest in international baseball after the USA withdrew from the 1942 Amateur World Series. He died in 1962, mostly forgotten.

Jorge Reyes of Mexico succeeded Mariné in 1944 and changed the name of the organisation into FIBA, *Federación Internacional Beisbol Amateur*).

The Amateur World Series didn't become a real international tournament until 1969 when USA returned to the competition. The championship game that Cuba won against the United States was the peak of 15 years of activism that began in 1953 with the election of Carlos Zecca of Costa Rica as FIBA President. Baseball became a demonstration sport at the 1956 Olympics in Melbourne. Rod Dedeaux (8), who would become legendary as a coach in USA College Baseball, and Nobuo Fujita, the director of a six-team University League in Japan, started the USA vs Japan Collegiate All-Star Series that stands to this day.

Juan Isa of the Netherlands Antilles succeeded Zecca and helped the Amateur World Series become a World Championship. Italy and the Netherlands took Europe to the world stage in 1970 in Colombia. Canada also made its debut. Japan became the first Asian Country to participate in 1972 in Nicaragua.

Baseball also had two governing bodies acting at

the same time. A total of 27 Countries, representing three Continents, left FIBS in 1973 to join FEMBA (Federación Mundial de Béisbol Amateur). The two bodies would merge in 1976 in AINBA (*Asociación Internacional Béisbol Amateur*).

Baseball was ready to leave the Americas (3). Italy hosted the 1978 World Championship and AINBA took it to Japan in 1980. Korea hosted the tournament in 1982 and Korea became the first non-American country to win the Baseball World Championship.

International success was the key that opened the door to the Olympics. Baseball became a demonstration sport in the 1984 Games in Los Angeles (2) and went back with the same status in 1988 in Seoul. Baseball became a medal sport officially in Barcelona in 1992.

Robert Smith, USA (7), the President who led baseball into the Olympics changed the name of the world governing body into IBA, International Baseball Association.

Aldo Notari (9) of Italy succeeded Smith. He changed the name of the organisation to IBAF and re-named the World Championship IBAF World Cup before the 2001 edition, the first played by professional players.

Notari suffered the exclusion of baseball from the Olympic programme in 2005.

The merger between the International Federations that gave birth to WBSC was instrumental to bringing baseball and softball back to the Olympic Programme



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