WBSC

WORLD
BASEBALL SOFTBALL
CONFEDERATION

Game Time!

Executive Board
30th Meeting

Pully - Lausanne
2nd October 2024

WBSC
WORLD
BASEBALL SOFTBALL
CONFEDERATION
Game Time!

Minutes

***

WBSC Executive Board
30th Meeting

Pully - Switzerland

2nd October 2024

AGENDA

1) Welcome

2) Roll call

3) To consider and approve the Minutes of the WBSC Executive Board Meeting held on 11th May 2024 in Pully, Switzerland

4) Any matters arising from the Minutes

5) President's Address

6) To consider and approve the proposed changes to the Premier12 – 2027 edition

7) To consider and approve the awarding of the hosting rights for the 2025 Youth Baseball5 World Cup and the 2025 and 2027 U-18 Baseball World Cups

8) To consider and approve the amendments to the WBSC By-Laws (Elections, Commissions, Protocol)

9) To receive the Report from the Treasurer on the 2023 Profit &Loss Statement

10) Any other business

11) Adjournment of Meeting

****

ATTENDANCE

Present (13/16):

President:	Mr. Riccardo Fraccari
Vice President:	Mr. Luís Mejía
Vice President:	Mr. Willi Kaltschmitt
Vice President:	Ms. Beatrice Allen
Executive VP – Softball:	Mr. Craig Cress
Executive VP – Baseball:	Mr. Jeffrey Koo Jr.
Secretary General:	Dato' (Ms.) Beng Choo Low
Treasurer:	Mr. Angelo Vicini
Member At-Large:	Mr. Ronald Finlay
Member At-Large:	Ms. Taeko Utsugi
Member At-Large:	Mr. Gabriel Waage
Athletes' Rep. – Baseball:	Ms. Ayako Rokkaku
Athletes' Rep. – Baseball:	Mr. Randolph Oduber

Excused:

Member At-Large:	Mr. Paul Seiler
Athletes' Rep. – Softball:	Mr. Cole Evans
Athletes' Rep. – Softball:	Ms. Monica Abbott

In attendance, also:

Mr. Michael Schmidt, Executive Director
Ms. Karen Gaunt, Member of the WBSC Legal Commission
Mr. Vincenzo La Rocca, Member of the WBSC Legal Commission
Ms. Akiko Ito, Japanese interpreter
Mr. Chris (Chien Fan) Day
Ms. Vivien Campos, WBSC interpreter

WBSC Staff Members:

Mr. Marco Ienna (COO)
Mr. Richard Baker (Media & Communications Department)
Ms. Carine Esoua (Integrity Unit)
Mr. Joan Garcia (Events Department)
Mr. Victor Isola (Executive Assistant to the President)
Ms. Yoori Jung (Protocol Department)
Ms. Mara Hidalgo (Apprentice)

****

1. WELCOME

1.1 President Fraccari called to order this 2nd October 2024 WBSC Executive Board (EB) Meeting at 11:00 (Lausanne time). He welcomed all the attendees and outlined the matters as listed on the agenda for discussion in this Meeting.

2. ROLL CALL

2.1 Secretary General Low completed the Roll Call as per the attendance list above and confirmed that there was a quorum for this Meeting to proceed.

3. TO CONSIDER AND APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE WBSC EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING HELD ON 4TH APRIL 2024 (BY VIDEOCONFERENCE)

3.1 Secretary General Low informed that the Minutes of the 29th WBSC EB meeting held on 11th May 2024 by videoconference were sent earlier to all EB Members and the requests for amendments received by the WBSC Office were applied. There were no requests from the EB members at the Meeting for any amendments.

PROPOSAL:
To consider and approve the Minutes of the 29th WBSC Executive Board meeting held on 11th May 2024 in Pully, Switzerland as proposed by Mr. Kaltschmitt and seconded by Mr. Waage.

DECISION

The WBSC Executive Board unanimously approved the Minutes of the 29th WBSC Executive Board meeting held on 11th May 2024 in Pully, Switzerland.

4. ANY MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

4.1 There were no matters arising from the Minutes of the Meeting brought up.

5. PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

5.1 President Fraccari highlighted the busy schedule and numerous events that the WBSC managed during a busy eventful summer. He noted that there were 13 international tournaments, emphasising the importance of evaluating tournament structures as they approach the completion of the World Cup cycle, which will culminate in two World Cups in 2025. He stated that once this cycle concludes,

there would be an opportunity to assess the processes and review the tournaments, particularly the softball events, as regards the new World Cup Group Stages format being implemented.

5.2 He then invited Mr. Cress to provide additional insights into this review process. Mr. Cress responded by acknowledging the completion of various Softball tournament cycles, including the Women's in 2024 and Women's U-18 events in 2025. He said that valuable data and insights from these tournaments have been gathered to facilitate discussions on improvements later in the year or early next year. Mr. Cress expressed his excitement about the upcoming discussions, having attended 6 of the 7 softball events, where he observed both the strengths and challenges faced during the tournaments.

5.3 President Fraccari elaborated on the necessity of adapting tournament structures, particularly in light of the economic considerations facing local organising committees on rising costs to host. He explained that the decision to split certain events was made to provide more opportunities and alleviate the burden of hosting for these tournaments. He stressed the importance of regularly updating tournament formats based on the current economic landscape and the evolving needs of the sport.

5.4 He also highlighted the successful conclusion of the 2nd WBSC Blind Baseball International Cup held in Great Britain, which showcased the sport's growth to include para sports. He mentioned the expansion of baseball into new areas, including Baseball5 and eBaseball, as well as the initiative for blind baseball was important to demonstrate WBSC's commitment to reaching diverse athletes and audiences to ensure that our Sport remain relevant and accessible to all.

5.5 Mr. Ienna then reported on the WBSC's efforts to for inclusion and recognition for Blind Baseball by the International Paralympic Committee (IPC). He conveyed optimism with the formation of a dedicated working group within the Paralympic Commission, which was working diligently to address challenges related to the para-discipline. He detailed the presence of key IPC figures at the recent Blind Baseball International Cup, including the Director General of Virtus, a founding member of the IPC, and the chair of the IPC classification commission. Mr. Ienna expressed hope that these efforts could lead to recognition of the WBSC as a member of the IPC by next year.

5.6 Returning to broader organisational matters, President Fraccari pointed out that the Olympic Movement was currently in a transition period with the upcoming election of a new IOC President. He noted the importance of this leadership change which could influence the Olympic program and future events.

5.7 Mr. Mejia addressed regional challenges, highlighting issues related to the Pan American Games, which faced venue changes and organisational complications. He

informed that the elections for leadership positions within the Pan-American organisation were set to take place that afternoon and expressed confidence that these transitions would be managed effectively.

5.8 Mr. Kaltschmitt spoke of the difficulties Baseball faced in relation to the Pan American Games and emphasised the need for continued engagement with regional directors to advocate for Baseball·Softball·Baseball5's inclusion in youth tournaments. He underscored the significance of Baseball5, especially in light of the agreement with Major League Baseball (MLB), as well as Baseball5's potential with its inclusion in the Youth Olympic Games 2026 in Dakar.

5.9 President Fraccari concluded by reiterating the importance of these discussions and the ongoing efforts to expand the reach of our Sport, noting that the upcoming months would be filled with significant events, including the Baseball5 World Cup and the Premier12, is the latter being WBSC's flagship event. He emphasised the need for unity and collaboration among all stakeholders to navigate the challenges ahead and maximise the opportunities for the Sport on the global stage.

6. TO CONSIDER AND APPROVE THE PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE PREMIER12

6.1 President Fraccari pointed out the success of previous editions of the Premier12 and the need to review and make proposed adjustments before the next edition, starting from 2025. He stated that a number of National Federations (NFs) had proposed for an increase in the number of participating teams due to the success of the event and their wish for an opportunity to participate in the Premier12. He said that WBSC had discussed the potential change with Dentsu, and WBSC and WBSC's marketing partners had conducted a financial analysis of the proposed new format to reach more new markets.

6.2 Executive Director Mr. Schmidt elaborated on the proposal, highlighting the following:

- The top 12 ranked teams by the end of 2025 would automatically qualify for the main event in 2027.

- In 2026, two qualifying tournaments would be held for the teams ranked 13 to 18 as of 31st December 2025, along with two wildcard teams (possible hosts). The wildcards could include countries not ranked in the top 20 but showed interest in hosting, otherwise, all teams ranked from 13 to 20 would play in the qualifier(s).

- The qualifiers would be two short tournaments with four teams in each, (round robin with three tournament days) and the top two teams from each

qualifier would qualify to play in the Premier12 main event.

- The 2027 Premier12 would then feature 16 teams in four groups of four teams each, with additional countries possibly hosting group stages.

- The tournament would still be called Premier12, as the top 12 teams would directly qualify for the next edition.

6.3 Mr. Koo expressed his strong belief that China's involvement was crucial to expanding Baseball as he highlighted the rapid growth of Baseball in China, noting that the country has gone from 300 teams at the beginning of the year to over 1,200 teams by October 2024, thanks in part to the support of the Chinese Government leadership, especially President Xi Jinping.

6.4 President Fraccari agreed with Mr. Koo, sharing his positive experiences from his recent visit to China for the U-23 Baseball World Cup in Shaoxing. He saw for himself the remarkable growing enthusiasm for Baseball in the country and emphasised the potential and importance of China's inclusion in the Premier12 through wildcard opportunities, if necessary.

6.5 Mr. Kaltschmitt added that China's role in Baseball's development is not only crucial for the sport's growth but also vital in maintaining Baseball's place in the Olympic program beyond the Los Angeles 2028 Games. He believes that China's influence with the International Olympic Committee (IOC) could help secure Baseball's future as an official Olympic sport.

6.6 Mr. Day echoed his agreement that China's involvement in hosting events such as the Premier12 would further elevate the sport's profile in the country and create valuable commercial opportunities for the WBSC. He also highlighted the importance of seizing the moment, as other team sports in China were facing challenges.

6.7 President Fraccari then noted that despite MLB's efforts to expand into China, the WBSC appeared to have achieved greater inroads through its partnerships with Chinese authorities, further underscoring the value of maintaining strong ties with China.

6.8 Mr. Waage expressed his support for expanding the Premier12 to 16 teams, noting the increasing global exposure that would come with it and to further enhance the tournament's marketability.

6.9 Secretary General Low strongly endorsed the proposal, emphasising that China was keen to build on the momentum of China's "fresh and new" team sport success from the U-23 Baseball World Cup. She noted that new cities such as Shenzhen and Shanghai were eager to host Baseball events and that the WBSC should tap-in

on this growing interest.

6.10 Finally, Mr. Oduber gave positive feedback on the organisation of the U-23 Baseball World Cup in China, noting that the services and support given by China to the players and coaches were exceptional. He asked whether the name "Premier12" would be changed due to the increase in the number of teams, to which President Fraccari responded that WBSC's commercial and marketing agencies had advised against changing the name, as the top 12 ranked teams would still qualify directly for future editions.

PROPOSAL:
To consider and approve the expansion of the Premier12 tournament from 12 to 16 teams for the 2027 edition, including two qualifiers with teams ranked 13 to 18 and two wildcards, as proposed by Mr. Koo and seconded by Mr. Kaltschmitt.

DECISION

The WBSC Executive Board unanimously approved the expansion of the Premier12 tournament from 12 to 16 teams for the 2027 edition, upon the following terms:

The top 12 ranked teams by the end of 2025 would automatically qualify for the main event in 2027.

In 2026, two qualifying tournaments would be held for the teams ranked 13 to 18, along with 2 wildcard teams. The wildcards could include countries not ranked in the top 20 but showed interest in hosting, otherwise, all teams ranked from 13 to 20 would play in the qualifier(s).

The qualifiers would be short tournaments with 4 teams in each, (round robin with 3 tournament days) and the top 2 teams from each qualifier would qualify to play in the main Premier12 event.

The 2027 Premier12 would then feature 16 teams in 4 groups of 4 teams each.

The tournament would still be called Premier12, as the top 12 teams would directly qualify for the next edition.

7. TO CONSIDER AND APPROVE THE AWARDING OF THE HOSTING RIGHTS FOR THE 2025 YOUTH BASEBALL5 WORLD CUP AND THE 2025 AND 2027 U-18 BASEBALL WORLD CUPS

7.1 Expansion of both the Youth Baseball5 and Baseball5 World Cups formats, starting from 2025.

7.1.1 Mr. Schmidt presented a proposal to increase the number of teams from 12 to 14 or 16 for both the Youth Baseball5 and Baseball World Cups, starting from 2025, and stated that it would not involve incurring additional costs for the local organising committee.

7.1.2 He explained that by implementing a new format featuring two group stages, the tournament could be condensed from 6 to 4 days while still allowing each team to play at least 7 to 8 games, depending on their progression in the tournament.

Comparison of 12 – 14 -16 Teams Format

	12 Teams	14 Teams	16Teams
• Athletes	96	112	128
• Delegations	120	140	160
• Tournament Days	6	6	4
• Number of Games	50	63	58
• Games per Team	8/9	9/10	7/8
• Hotel Nights (Team)*	576	672	576
• Hotel Nights (WBSC)*	218	242	218

* *All formats are based on 2 tournament venues*

7.1.3 President Fraccari highlighted the significance of Baseball5's growth, particularly in countries in Africa, as well as in China and Bhutan, and with other newer smaller National, which were developing the discipline because of its low cost and was "easy to play anywhere". He emphasised that Baseball5 could serve as a vital tool for engaging newer and smaller nations in Baseball and Softball and enhance their connection to the sport.

7.1.4 Secretary General Low expressed support for the initiative, noting that Baseball5 provides opportunities for smaller countries to participate and develop interest in Baseball and Softball.

7.1.5 Mr. Vicini also advocated for the 16-team format, stating it would allow for greater participation from more countries and reiterating that the proposed format would not result in extra costs for local organisers.

PROPOSAL 1:
To consider and approve the expand the participation in both the Youth Baseball5 and Baseball5 World Cups from 12 to 16 teams, starting from 2025, allowing for greater inclusivity and opportunity for member nations, as proposed by Mr. Vicini and seconded by Mr. Cress.

DECISION 1

The WBSC Executive Board unanimously approved the expansion of both the Youth Baseball5 and Baseball5 World Cups from 12 to 16 teams, starting from 2025, supporting the initiative to enhance participation and engagement in Baseball-Softball-Baseball5.

7.2 <u>The Awarding of the Hosting Rights for the 2025 and 2027 U-18 Baseball World Cups</u>

7.2.1 President Fraccari informed that initially, WBSC received 2 bids for the hosting rights for the 2025 Under-18 Baseball World Cup, namely, from Japan and China.

7.2.2 Mr. Schmidt informed that the WBSC Office had been in discussions with both Japan (in Naha City in Okinawa) and China (in Pingtan, Fuzhou) on their respective bids, which met WBSC's requirements, and that they were willing to consider the following:

7.2.2 Japan was prepared to proceed to host the 2025 U-18 Baseball World Cup in Naha City in Okinawa.

7.2.2 China was prepared to defer the hosting to the 2027 U-18 Baseball World Cup edition, and as part of this proposal-agreement, China requested for a wild card entry to participate in the 2025 U-18 World Cup as they did not participate in the qualifier for the 2025 World Cup in view of their making an earlier bid for 2025 edition with a host card entry.

7.2.2 After discussion, the WBSC Executive Board Members agreed to the above Japan and China proposal – agreement.

PROPOSAL 2:
To award the hosting rights for the 2025 U-18 Baseball World Cup to Japan (in Naha City in Okinawa) and the 2027 U-18 Baseball World Cup to China (in Pingtan, Fuzhou), with China being granted a wild card to participate in the 2025 edition of that World Cup, as proposed by Mr. Cress and seconded by Mr. Vicini.

DECISION 2

The WBSC Executive Board unanimously approved the awarding of the hosting rights for the 2025 U-18 Baseball World Cup to Japan (in Naha City in Okinawa) and the 2027 U-18 Baseball World Cup to China (in Pingtan, Fuzhou), with China being granted a wild card to participate in the 2025 edition of that World Cup,

7.3 The Awarding of the Hosting Rights for the 2025 Youth Baseball World Cup

7.3.1 President Fraccari informed that initially, WBSC received 2 bids for the hosting rights for the 2025 Youth Baseball5 World Cup, namely, from Mexico and Italy.

7.3.1 Mr. Schmidt informed that the WBSC Office had been in discussions with both Mexico and Italy on their respective bids, which met the WBSC basic requirements, and that they were willing to consider the following:

7.3.1 Mexico was prepared to proceed to host the 2025 Youth Baseball5 World Cup in Mexico (city to be determined later).

7.3.1 Italy withdrew their bid to host the 2025 Youth Baseball5 World Cup and was willing to consider hosting the 2026 Baseball5 (Open) World Cup to enable them more time to organize the event.

7.3.1 After discussion, the WBSC Executive Board Members agreed to the above Mexico and Italy proposal – agreement.

PROPOSAL 3:
To award the hosting rights for the 2025 Youth Baseball5 World Cup to Mexico and the 2026 Baseball5 World Cup to Italy, proposed by Cress and seconded by Kaltschmitt.

DECISION 3

The WBSC Executive Board unanimously approved the awarding of the hosting rights for the 2025 Youth Baseball5 World Cup to Mexico and the 2026 Baseball5 World Cup to Italy.

8. TO CONSIDER AND APPROVE THE AMENDMENTS TO THE WBSC BY-LAWS (ELECTIONS, COMMISSIONS, PROTOCOL)

Mr. Finlay presented the proposed amendments and changes requiring approval by the WBSC Executive Board Members, focusing on 3 sets of Bylaws:

- The Commissions By-laws; and
- The Protocol By-laws; and
- The Elections By-Laws; and

Mr. Finlay highlighted the following proposed changes and amendments.

8.1 The Commissions By-Laws: the establishment of the following new commissions:

8.1.1 Baseball Commission: To replace the former Baseball Division Board.

8.1.2 Softball Commission: To replace the former Softball Division Board.

8.1.3 Baseball Pro Leagues Commission: To be established following discussions between the WBSC Executive Board Members with the representatives of MLB (Major League Baseball), NPB (Nippon Professional Baseball), KBO (Korea Baseball Organization), and CPBL (Chinese Professional Baseball League) in May 2024 at the WBSC Headquarters.

8.1.4 Athletes Commission: To comprise of 8 Athletes' Representative-Members, namely, to include:
- 2 representatives from the WBSC Executive Board (Baseball) and 2 representatives from the Baseball Commission (total 4 from Baseball); and
- 2 representatives from the WBSC Executive Board (Softball) and 2 representatives from the Softball Commission (total 4 from Softball).

8.1.5 Legal Commission: All members of the Legal Commission must be independent and cannot hold roles within the WBSC Community.

8.1.6 Baseball Pro Leagues Commission: New provisions-articles to allow for the establishment of the professional baseball leagues Commission membership, subject to WBSC Executive Board approval.

8.2 Protocol By-laws: technical and consequential amendments to remove references to the respective Baseball and Softball divisions and replace them with references to the respective Continental Representatives.

8.3 Elections By-laws:

8.3.1 Amendments and changes to remove of respective Baseball and Softball Division Boards embracing the new structure of the WBSC Executive Board, and the introduction of new campaigning rules and regulations.

8.3.1 National Federations encouraged to establish respecticve Athletes Commissions; or if they do not have such a Commission, to least appoint respective Athletes Representatives.

8.3.1 Athletes would be elected at the elective Congress rather than being ratified.

8.3.1 4 Athletes' Representative to be elected (and not ratified as previously) during the WBSC Elective Congress: 1 each for Women's Baseball, Men's Baseball, Women's softball, and Men's softball.

8.3.1 Voting procedures to include advance nominations and paper votes brought

by the National Federation representatives to the Elective Congress. The aim is to ensure that athletes are elected by their athletes-peers, as proposed by the Athletes' Commission at the WBSC Executive Board Meeting held on 11th May 2024. Mr. Finlay stated that the next WBSC Elective Congress would occur at the end of 2025 and that there would be ample time for National Federations to understand the new process for nominations and voting for Athletes' Representatives.

PROPOSAL 1:
To consider and approve the amendments to the WBSC Election By-Laws as per the Attachment, as proposed by Mr. Finlay and seconded by Mr. Vicini.

DECISION 1
The WBSC Executive Board unanimously approved the amendments to the WBSC Elections By-Laws as per the Attachment A.

PROPOSAL 2:
To consider and approve the amendments to the WBSC Commissions By-Laws as per the Attachment, as proposed by Mr. Finlay and seconded by Mr. Vicini.

DECISION 2
The WBSC Executive Board unanimously approved the amendments to the WBSC Commissions By-Laws as per the Attachment A.

PROPOSAL 3:
To consider and approve the amendments to the WBSC Protocol By-Laws as per the Attachment, as proposed by Mr. Finlay and seconded by Ms. Allen.

DECISION 3
The WBSC Executive Board unanimously approved the amendments to the WBSC Protocol By-Laws as per the Attachment B.

9. REPORT FROM THE TREASURER ON THE 2023 PROFIT &LOSS STATEMENT

9.1 Mr. Vicini presented a comprehensive overview of WBSC's financial performance for 2023, providing detailed insights into both income and expenditure.

For the 2023 profit and loss statement:

- Income: CHF 10,905,000
- Expenses: CHF 8,735,000
- EBITDA: CHF 2,170,100
- (Earnings before Interests, Taxes, Depreciations and Amortizations)
- Surplus: CHF 105,000 (~$125,000 USD)
- Total Net Funds (Total Assets less Total Liabilities) as at 31st December 2023: Slight increase in value from CHF 15,171,135 (2022) to CHF 15,233,689 (2023).

9.2 Mr. Vicini emphasised the importance of being cautious with expenses and selectively activating new projects, especially during ongoing negotiations for media rights and the current global economic situation.

9.3 The external auditors "Fibexa SA" reviewed the financial statements, confirming the financial documents were in compliance with Swiss law.

9.4 Mr. Vicini also provided an update on the WBSC's investment in Teammate, a sports apparel and equipment company that started operations in 2017. He reported that Teammate's growth has been promising, with turnover increasing steadily each year. In 2023, the company reported a turnover of €2,435,000 and a profit of €463,000 (~$500,000 USD). However, some cash flow challenges were noted, which were being addressed in collaboration with the company.

9.5 Mr. Kaltschmitt expressed concerns about exchange rate fluctuations and their effect on WBSC's financial reports, particularly the exchange adjustments. Mr. Vicini reiterated that while exchange rate variations could present a challenge, WBSC has taken steps to mitigate risks through its agreement with "Corpay". Additionally, he explained that WBSC maintained significant USD reserves to cover its regular payments in US dollars, further reducing the potential impact of exchange rate changes.

9.6 Secretary General Low queried as to whether there was any concern about the high costs associated with WBSC's commercial projects in view of the significant expenditure in the light of total expenditure outlined on page 2 of the financial documents. Mr. Vicini clarified that these expenses primarily related to financial support provided to Base, which had struggled with its own funding. He reassured the WBSC Executive Board that recovery of these funds was anticipated by the end of 2024, marking a positive outlook for future financial reports.

9.7 President Fraccari reinforced the need for caution and conservative spending, particularly during this period of renegotiating major contracts, such as media rights deals. He underscored the importance of rebuilding the WBSC's reserve funds to pre-pandemic levels to ensure long-term financial security.

9.8 Mr. Vicini requested approval for the 2023 WBSC Profit & Loss Statement to be presented to the next WBSC Congress in 2025 for final approval as audited.

PROPOSAL:
To consider and approve the 2023 WBSC Profit and Loss Statement as audited as per Attachment B, and to recommend it to be presented to the next WBSC Congress in 2025 for final approval, as proposed by Mr. Vicini and seconded by Mr. Finlay

DECISION
The WBSC Executive Board unanimously approved for the 2023 WBSC Profit and Loss Statement as audited as per Attachment B and to recommend it to be presented to the next WBSC Congress in 2025 for final approval.

10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

10.1 Communication with WBSC Africa and Dakar YOG 2026 OCYOG

10.1.1. President Fraccari raised the issue of communications with the Continental Association of Africa and he asked Ms. Allen to address the matter with Mr. Vicini.

10.1.2. Mr. Vicini explained that over a year ago, WBSC had sent an official letter to Mr. Frimpong, President of the Continental Association of Africa (WBSC Africa), explaining the resignation of the Senegalese Federation President and the difficulties in contacting the Senegal NOC and government authorities. Mr. Frimpong had responded that he was unable to make any progress with the Senegal NOC. Despite this, WBSC continued working to establish contacts, eventually launching a Baseball5 project for Dakar 2026, which was discussed with WBSC Africa.

10.1.3. Mr. Vicini also mentioned that President Fraccari was invited to meet with the Senegalese Minister of Sports and the Dakar 2026 OCYOG (Organising Committee Youth Olympic Games), which appeared to have caused some concern within WBSC Africa, particularly as the talks were held with international bodies and not the continental organisation.

10.1.4. President Fraccari added that he was invited to discuss matters with the Dakar 2026 OCYOG concerning Baseball5, included as a medal sport at the event. He suggested that Ms. Allen and Mr. Vicini further discuss the situation to clarify misunderstandings and ensure WBSC's projects in Africa move forward smoothly.

10.2 Uganda National Federation

10.2.1. Mr. Ienna provided an update of the situation as regards the Uganda National Federation, where the President of the Federation was suspended, and elections are pending. He reported as follows:

- On 23rd August, WBSC issued a preliminary suspension to the Ugandan Federation, giving them 21 days to appeal to the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS).

- The Federation did not appeal, and the deadline to conduct a proper election was 22nd February 2025, six months from the suspension notice.

- On 28th October, the former president of the Ugandan Federation, Mr. Kasozi, held an informal meeting with Federation members. The members expressed concerns about not receiving clarification from the National Council on the steps required to regain full membership and proceed with elections. Mr. Kasozi proposed forming an election commission from within the membership to organise the upcoming elections.

- The next step for WBSC was to appoint 2 members to oversee the election process and be present during the election, which must occur before 22nd February 2025.

10.2.2. President Fraccari proposed that Ms. Allen and Mr. La Rocca (a member of the WBSC Legal Commission) be appointed to supervise the election. He further proposed allowing the WBSC office to manage the necessary arrangements the election process.

PROPOSAL:
To appoint Ms. Allen and Mr. La Rocca to oversee the elections for the new Board for the Uganda National Federation and to authorise the WBSC office to coordinate the necessary arrangements for the election, as proposed by President Fraccari and seconded by Mr. Vicini.

DECISION

The WBSC Executive Board unanimously approved the appointment of Ms. Allen and Mr. La Rocca to oversee the elections for the elections of the new Board for the Uganda National Federation and authorised the WBSC office to coordinate the necessary arrangements for election.

10.3 WBSC Continental Governance Review

10.3.1. President Fraccari informed that WBSC would not conduct the continental governance review in 2024, nor will it issue a new continental governance questionnaire within this year. As such, he stated that the results from the previous Continental Governance Review (2023), would be used for the 2025 WBSC allocation to the respective Continental Associations, and that such decision would be communicated to all Continental Associations shortly.

10.4 New and Dismissal of WBSC Memberships

10.4.1 Mr. Schmidt provided the following updates for approval of new WBSC membership and for dismissal of WBSC membership:

10.4.2 Tchad Baseball and Softball has sent in the application documents to become a full WBSC member for baseball and softball. He reported that all the necessary documents, including the necessary National Olympic Committee recognition, had been received by the WBSC Office.

10.4.3 Mariana Softball for consideration for dismissal as a WBSC member as they were not active and there was no report from them on activities and communication. He stated that the Continental Association, WBSC Oceania, agreed to their dismissal as they also had no report on any softball activity by that National Federation.

PROPOSAL 1:
To accept Tchad Baseball·Softball National Federation as a new full WBSC member for baseball and softball with immediate effect, and to recommend it at the next WBSC Congress in 2025 for final ratification, as proposed by Mr. Cress and seconded by Mr. Finlay.

DECISION 1
The WBSC Executive Board unanimously approved Tchad Baseball Softball National Federation as a new full WBSC Member for baseball and softball with immediate effect, and to recommend it at the next WBSC Congress in 2025 for final ratification.

PROPOSAL 2:
To dismiss the Mariana Softball National Federation as a WBSC member, and to recommend it at the next WBSC Congress in 2025 for final ratification, as proposed by Mr. Cress and seconded by Mr. Finlay.

DECISION 2

The WBSC Executive Board unanimously approved the dismissal of the Mariana Softball National Federation as a WBSC member with immediate effect and to recommend it at the next WBSC Congress in 2025 for final ratification.

10.5 Transfer of Athletes-Players Nationality

10.5.1 Mr. Schmidt presented the following 2 applications and supporting documents for the request of transfer of the following 2 athletes-players' nationality from Netherlands to Curacao:

- Mr. Kevin Carl Michael Josephina; and.
- Mr. Mike Groen; and.

10.5.2 Both were from the Netherlands to Curaçao. He reported that the WBSC Office had checked the applications and necessary documents and found them to be in order and that both National Federations had consented to the transfer requested.

PROPOSAL 1:
To consider and approve the transfer of the player nationality of Mr. Kevin Carl Michael Josephina from the Netherlands to Curaçao.

DECISION 1

The WBSC Executive Board unanimously approved the transfer of the player nationality of Mr. Kevin Carl Michael Josephina from the Netherlands to Curaçao.

PROPOSAL 2:
To consider and approve the transfer of the player nationality of Mr. Mike Groen from the Netherlands to Curaçao.

DECISION 2

The WBSC Executive Board unanimously approved the transfer of the player nationality of Mr. Mike Groen from the Netherlands to Curaçao.

10.6 Summary of the Meeting

10.6.1 Mr. Kaltschmitt summarised the Meeting.

10.6.2 The growth of Baseball/Softball globally, emphasising the success of recent

events.

10.6.3 The WBSC Executive Board approved the following:

- The expansion of the Premier12 tournament from 12 teams to 16 teams, starting from 2025.
- To Japan, the hosting rights of the 2025 U-18 Baseball World Cup and to China, the 2027 U-18 baseball World Cup, with China being granted a wild card entry to participate in the 2025 edition of that World Cup.
- The expansion of both the Youth Baseball5 and Baseball5 World Cups from 12 to 16 teams, starting from 2025.
- To Mexico, the hosting rights of the 2025 Youth Baseball 5 World Cup and to Italy, the 2026 Baseball5 World Cup.
- The amendments and changes to the WBSC Commissions By-Laws, Protocol By-Laws and Elections By-Laws, with significant key amendments and changes.
- The 2023 WBSC Profit and Loss Statement as audited and confirmed as being in compliance with Swiss law.
- The appointment of Ms. Allen and Mr. La Rocca to oversee elections of the new Board of the Uganda National Federation (NF) to address the situation within the Uganda NF.
- The approval of Tchad Baseball-Softball as a new full WBSC Member and the dismissal of Marianna Softball as a WBSC Member.
- The approval of 2 players' nationality.

10.6.4 Overall, the meeting was productive, reflecting well on the WBSC organisation, and its management and administration.

11. ADJOURNMENT OF THE MEETING

11.1 President Fraccari thanked all who attended the Meeting. He also thanked the WBSC staff and the interpreter for their efforts in ensuring the success of the meeting.

11.2 The WBSC Executive Board Members thanked the Executive Director and his team

at the WBSC Office for managing and coordinating all the necessary documents and information, which ensured the success of this Meeting.

11.3 There being no other matters, the Meeting adjourned at 13:40 with a vote of thanks to the Chair. [End]

****

These Minutes, originating from the WBSC Executive Board Meeting held by videoconference, on 2nd October 2024, are formally confirmed as correct by:

Day _____ Month _____ Year _____

City _____

Signed by _____
Riccardo Fraccari
President

Signed by _____
Beng Choo Low
Secretary General