



WBSC Member Development Report 2023

The WBSC Development Strategy focuses mainly on four specific areas which are: ATHLETES – COACHES – MANAGEMENT – PROMOTION & SCHOOLS. Within these areas there are several detailed projects which can be adjusted to each Continental Association (CA) or National Federation (NF) to satisfy individual needs.

Within the WBSC global development policy, starting in 2023, a different procedural strategy was adopted by entrusting the specific development activities directly to the CAs. This surely gives them more responsibility, but at the same time allows them to make targeted choices based on direct knowledge of the needs of their affiliates.

The total contribution to the CAs of \$ 219.500 represents the 70% of the entire WBSC budget for members development, which amounts to \$ 313.000. In addition to this, the remaining 30%, equal to \$ 93.500, will continue to be managed directly by the WBSC for projects or other activities deemed useful for the promotion and growth of its members' development for sporting activities.

In order to determine the amount to be allocated to each CA, the WBSC has implemented a system that considers various parameters such as the number of recognised active NFs within the Continent, the number of Senior and Youth Continental Tournaments organised, the existence of Development and Integrity Officers and the level of good governance of the Organisation. Furthermore, the procedure foresees a fixed quota which is granted to each CA, regardless of the score obtained in the areas of evaluation listed. The application of these requirements determined the following results for the year 2023:

- WBSC AFRICA = \$ 27.000
- WBSC AMERICAS BASEBALL = \$ 28.000
- WBSC AMERICAS SOFTBALL = \$ 30.000
- BASEBALL FEDERATION of ASIA = \$ 24.000
- SOFTBALL ASIA = \$ 21.000
- WBSC EUROPE = \$ 66.000
- WBSC OCEANIA = \$ 23.500

These amounts were transferred to the CAs on two different times. The first half was assigned in the month of June 2023 and the remaining amount, after the presentation to the WBSC of a report giving detailed information on how it was spent, was allocated in the month of November. In short, below we list some data relating to the use of these funds.

WBSC AFRICA – The funds allocated were mainly used for the organisation of the Youth Baseball5 World Cup Qualifier. This included aid for the accommodation of some National Teams that had major needs, the payment related to the expenses for the Tournament Officials and the competition balls. Other amounts were used to support the NF from Cape Verde in setting up Baseball5 playing fields and organising Baseball and Softball Umpire and Scorer Clinics in order to increase the number and improve their technical level.

WBSC AMERICAS BASEBALL – This CA used these funds mainly to support National Tournaments and Baseball5 activity for the Bolivian Baseball and Softball Federation, Venezuelan Baseball Federation, Perú Baseball Federation, Nicaragua Baseball Federation and Aruba Baseball Federation. Other amounts were used for umpire and scorer clinics in favor of the National Baseball Federations of Salvador, Guatemala and Curacao.

WBSC AMERICAS SOFTBALL – The amount allocated to this CA will be used for the improvement of the office technical equipment and the distribution to various NFs of the Continent of “Starter Kits” containing specific softball equipment for young children.

BASEBALL FEDERATION of ASIA – The funds were spent on numerous initiatives. Various contributions were given for the organisation of events such as: Thailand for the 2023 East Asian Cup and Hong Kong China for the 2023 BFA Women’s Baseball Championship. Other amounts were utilised to improve the BFA official website and to cover some administrative and meeting costs.

SOFTBALL ASIA – The expenses covered by this CA are mainly related to supporting the organisation of the Co-ed Slow Pitch Softball Asia Cup 2023 and for the organisation of Umpire licensing seminars in Korea, Taiwan and China.

WBSC EUROPE – The funds allocated were used mainly to support some affiliated NFs, such as Austria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, France, Germany, Poland, Sweden, Turkey and Ukraine for specific development projects mainly related to school programs, technical seminars and youth activities. Other amounts were utilised to support Continental Youth Tournaments such as EMRYT, ESBCA Training Camp, Winter League activity and Baseball for Blind.

OCEANIA – This CA used its funds mainly to cover administrative costs and to support some expenses related to Qualification events held in American Samoa, Australia and Guam. Other costs are in the process of being covered and are mainly related to the support of specific Baseball5 programs in Fiji, Guam, Palau, FSM, New Zealand and CNMI. Contributions for Regional Baseball and Softball Academies and technical development courses will be allocated.

Regarding the amount of \$ 93.500, which is related to the 30% of the budget that is managed directly by the WBSC, various specific projects have been supported. The major attention is focused on the following:

WBSC – OLYMPAFRICA BASEBALL5 PROJECT – This activity, organised in cooperation with OlympAfrica, involves seven African NFs which develop a

specific Baseball5 project with the participation of approximately 1200 children. The goal is to expand it to other NFs during the upcoming year.

LICENSING PROGRAM – This specific project is being developed for Coaches, Umpires, Technical Commissioners and Scorers worldwide. It is meant to build a pool of International Officials licensed according to the WBSC standards from which to choose for World Cups and National/Continental development programs.

ORIENTATION SEMINAR for AFRICAN LEADERS – The WBSC Africa leaders asked for a seminar in order to improve the general management of their Association and that of their member Federations. The WBSC is in the process of determining the specific topics to focus on and during the first month of 2024 an online instructional session will be held.

BASEBALL for BLIND – The WBSC is supporting several development initiatives related to this activity by undertaking various requests advanced by the WBSC Paralympic Commission. One project that the WBSC is following closely is the support to the Chinese Baseball Association that aims to spread Baseball for Blind across the Country. As part of this plan, the WBSC through its Associated Member “AIBxC” has donated four started kits and has invited two Chinese Coaches in Bologna, Italy, to attend a clinic before the European Blind Baseball Championship.

JORDAN REFUGEE CAMP – This initiative, started a few years ago, has implemented its activity related to Baseball5. For the time being the WBSC has invested in coaches and equipment and hopefully in the future these costs will be covered by donations and other various contributions.