

The background of the cover features a series of curved, parallel lines in shades of blue, purple, and grey, creating a sense of motion and depth. The WBSC logo is centered in the upper half of the image.

**WBSC**

WORLD  
**BASEBALL SOFTBALL**  
CONFEDERATION

*Game Time!*

**INTEGRITY UNIT  
ANNUAL REPORT  
2022**

# **INTEGRITY UNIT ANNUAL REPORT 2022**

25 May 2023

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# CHAPTER 1 ANNUAL REVIEW

Since the formation in 2020, the WBSC Integrity Unit (IU) have seen an exponential growth in two years of operation. Aligned with IOC's Olympic Agenda 2020+5, IOC's Basic Universal Principles of Good Governance (BUPGG) and ASOIF Governance Task Force (GTF) Recommendations, the WBSC IU dedicated the first few months of operation to fully understand rooms for improvement.

While keeping anti-doping as a key priority, the WBSC IU investigated on how other sport communities and other governments were responding to non-doping threats, such as competition manipulation, illegal betting, harassment and abuse, corruption, poor governance and poor sustainability. Then, we tailored a response that would suit baseball/softball community and our needs.

To build stronger and independently operational unit, the WBSC appointed dedicated staff to be in charge of various topic within the IU, formed an Integrity Commission (former Ethics Commission) composed by a majority of independent experts on the field, and built a [Strategic Plan](#) to step-by-step reach the set goals. A new [Integrity Code](#) was launched to replace the previous Ethics Code, while continuously reviewing existing By-laws, Rules and Policies.

Especially in 2022, the WBSC has proved its positive progress in transparency, good governance and protecting clean and safe sport through [ASOIF Governance Review](#). The WBSC was the highest-ranked International Federation among ASOIF Associate Members reaching the A2 group by scoring above average for an IF of its size and resources.

This remarkable achievement was a collective work that was done behind the scene by the WBSC Office, WBSC Commissions and our key partners:

- [ITA](#) to address intelligent-testing and to run an independent Anti-Doping Programme with the needed expertise;
- [Sportradar](#) for Prevention of Competition Manipulation through bet monitoring system;
- [VIRTUS](#) for better inclusion and accessibility of intellectual impaired athletes.

Through this report, you will find more details of activities and performance of WBSC IU for the year 2022.

Moving forward, the WBSC IU is looking forward to putting more resources into our initiatives, supporting and providing guidance to Continental Associations, Member Federations and athletes for consistent and effective approach to integrity matters. The WBSC IU will continuously drive for growth and sustainable development of our sport.

## CHAPTER 2 ANTI-DOPING

Refer to the [WBSC Annual Anti-Doping Report 2022](#).

## CHAPTER 3 GOVERNANCE

Refer to the [WBSC Governance Report 2022](#).

## CHAPTER 4 MANIPULATION

### Background

With collaboration of the IOC Olympic Movement Unit on the Prevention of the Manipulation of Competition, the WBSC IU and the four “[Believe in Sport](#)” Ambassadors have been actively campaigning the importance of preventing competition manipulation in our sport since 2021. A dedicated [PMC Rules](#) was established, and a [two-part series of webinars](#) were organised to raise awareness of this matter for athletes, officials and staff attending WBSC Events.

### Sportradar – Universal Fraud Detection System (UFDS)

The WBSC signed two-year partnership with Sportradar Integrity Services to overview each WBSC international competition for any suspicious betting and potential match fixing activities – [Article](#).

Following WBSC World Cups have been monitored in 2022 by Sportradar’s Universal Fraud Detection System (UFDS), and no cases were detected for manipulation.

- U-18 Baseball World Cup
- U-23 Baseball World Cup
- Men’s Softball World Cup

### Case Report – Competition Manipulation

There were total of 2 cases reported for competition manipulation for the year 2022. Reports concerned were followed up directly with parties involved, while details other than what is already on public are to be remained confidential.

- 1 case was reported through WBSC hotline, which turns out to be a false report;
- 1 case was reported through the International Olympic Committee (IOC) via their Integrity Betting Intelligence System (IBIS) for a national case involving a member of National Federation – related [article](#) and its [final result](#).

### Case Report – Illegal Betting

There were no cases reported for illegal betting for the year 2022.

### Future Development

- With continuation of the agreement with Sportradar, following competitions will be monitored in 2023 for competition manipulation:
  - U-23 Men's Softball World Cup
  - Women's Baseball World cup
  - U-18 Baseball World Cup
  - U-18 Men's Softball World Cup
  - Women's Softball World Cup
  - U-15 Women's Softball World Cup
- Organise a joint workshop with Sportradar, involving all WBSC Staff for more details on betting and match fixing.

## CHAPTER 5 SAFEGUARDING

### Background

Following the recommendation from Olympic Agenda 2020+5, and [IOC's Consensus Statement on harassment and abuse in sport](#), the WBSC has developed a framework to better support and protect people involved in Baseball/ Softball community from harassment and abuse. While constantly Collaborating with WBSC Athletes' Commission for [#Safecall Campaign](#) initiative, the video was played on outfield screen for the entire duration of the WBSC tournament period – [Article](#).

### Safeguarding Officer

From the beginning of September 2021, the WBSC IU registered two athletes from the WBSC Athletes' Commission and its liaison to the [IOC's certification programme for Safeguarding in Sport](#). Upon 200hrs of study and exam, all three received final certification in September 2022. Continuously, the WBSC has been appointing dedicated safeguarding officer for each world cup in 2022.

## Safeguarding Strategy

As part of the certification programme, a [Safeguarding Strategy](#) has been developed and presented to the WBSC Athletes' Commission for an approval. Upon feedback from the athletes, a short presentation was delivered to all WBSC Staff on importance of Safeguarding from Harassment and Abuse and its upcoming plan based on the Safeguarding Strategy approved.

## Background Check

With initiative by the local organising committee, USA Baseball, US Center for SafeSport and USOPC, thorough background check has taken place for all coaches and officials for an event which took place in USA—WBSC U-18 Baseball World Cup. All participating teams, including athletes and coaches were briefed on raising awareness of harassment and abuse. Appointed officials, including umpires, scorers and technical commissioners were guided to safeguard themselves and minor athletes for protection.

## Case Report – Harassment and Abuse

There were total of four cases on harassment and abuse reported for the year 2022. While details of each case remains confidential, below is their status and its consequences:

- 1 open case for further investigation;
- 1 open case for further internal procedure;
- 1 closed case which the WBSC IU provided necessary guidance while being reviewed by the respective organisation with governmental jurisdiction. Consequently, a formal internal hearing took place, the perpetrator stepped down from the position, and the organisation reported a new preventive measures.
- 1 closed case which the WBSC IU provided necessary guidance while being handled directly by the Safeguarding Officer on-site. Several interviews took place, while providing additional support required for the victim and a warning for the perpetrator.

## Future Development

- Based on approved Safeguarding Strategy, #SafeCall Guidelines to be published aiming to educate group of people with different roles within the WBSC Event:
  - Athletes
  - Coaches, Managers, Team Doctors
  - Officials, Staff
  - Safeguarding Officer
- Online / Offline educational workshop for each team, officials, staff involved at WBSC Event;
- Restructure of current Rules and Policies with inclusion of child protection and e-Sport;



- Involvement of newly certified Safeguarding Officers at WBSC Events; and
- Development of new campaign video involving new Athlete Representatives

## CHAPTER 6 SUSTAINABILITY

### Background

After all the efforts the WBSC made in 2019/2020 to build its [Home Plate Sustainable HQ](#) in Pully, Switzerland and after signing the UNFCCC Sport for Climate Action Framework in 2021, the WBSC took a step forward in 2022 by releasing the [WBSC Sustainability Strategy](#), aligned with the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

### Green Future Project (GFP) and Pilio

In September 2022, the WBSC contacted “Green Future Project (GFP)” and “Pilio” to implement its Sustainability Strategy. Through a several consultation process, the WBSC decided to circulate a questionnaires among its workforce in order to a) estimate their carbon footprint; b) understand their interest on environmental sustainability issues. Upon unanimous interest and positive feedback, a detailed research was done to collect GHG data and a plan proposal was done for offsetting carbon emissions in the following years

### Sustainable Trophies

The WBSC through a partnership with Leverade as the [WBSC's NFT and Trophies Awards Partner](#), has embraced digital trophies, recognising them as a sustainable alternative to physical medals.

The production of physical medals and trophies involves using various materials such as metals, plastics, and wood, as well as transportation, which contributes to carbon emissions and environmental degradation. With that in mind, digital trophies have emerged as a promising and environmentally friendly alternative to reward athletes for their achievements.

This industry can lead the way toward a better, greener future for generations to come.

### Sustainable Investments

The WBSC for its investments has chosen a sustainable and reliable Swiss wealth manager. Our Swiss wealth manager invests in companies that are transforming their business models to ensure their alignment with, and ongoing profitability in, a decarbonizing world. Meanwhile, its new Natural Capital strategy focuses on investing in companies that protect and leverage the regenerative power of nature, upon which over 50% of our economy depends.



## CHAPTER 7 OTHERS

### VIRTUS – IF for Intellectual Impairment

The WBSC signed MOU with a global organisation that governs elite sport for athletes with intellectual impairment—VIRTUS—for a collaboration to help provide access to Baseball/Softball for more members of society - [Article](#). The WBSC Paralympic Commission listed among their objectives of the Strategic Plan 2022-2028, the creation of a Baseball5 version for athletes with an intellectual impairment.