

WBSC

WORLD
BASEBALL SOFTBALL
CONFEDERATION

Game Time!

WBSC SOFTBALL WORLD CUPS

TOURNAMENT REGULATIONS

WBSC.ORG

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These are the WBSC Softball World Cup Tournament Regulations published by the World Baseball Softball Confederation (WBSC). Its application is mandatory in all competitions.

In the whole document, everything written in masculine also applies to the feminine.

e.g.: he = she

his = her

Likewise, “competition”, “event” or “tournament” under this document is synonymous with Softball World Cup.

The WBSC Tournament Regulations are provided in both English and Spanish, should there be any inconsistency or conflict between the English or Spanish version of this document the English version shall prevail.

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A. GENERAL NORMS

These Tournament Regulations ("Regulations", each a "Reg.") are adopted by the WBSC and enforced by the WBSC Executive Board and the responsible persons named herein. They supplement the *Official Rules of Softball 2026-2029* ("Rules"). In the event of an inconsistency between a Rule, Regulation or the WBSC Statutes, or an interpretation of or a dispute in the application of one of these, the WBSC Executive Director or his delegate will issue a ruling.

As used in these Regulations, a "WBSC Competition" is a WBSC Softball World Cup and a qualifier for one of these, including the Olympics; Women's Softball World Cup; Men's Softball World Cup; U-23 Men's Softball World Cup; U-18 Women's Softball World Cup; U-18 Men's Softball World Cup; U-15 Women's Softball World Cup; Continental or Regional Games, or World or Regional Championships; or another Softball competition sanctioned by the WBSC. A "competition" refers to a particular WBSC Competition that is being conducted under these Regulations.

Every notice given under these Regulations before, during or after a competition ("Notice") is to be made by e-mail or first-class post according to contact information held by the WBSC in connection with that competition. Every Notice is deemed effective if given by e-mail on the day and time sent or if by first-class post two (2) business days after posting.

A1 PLAYERS ELIGIBILITY

A1.1 All players in a WBSC Competition ("competitor" or "player") must be a national of the country, territory or region of the National Federation that is entering them.

A1.2 All disputes relating to the determination of the country which a competitor may represent in a WBSC Competition shall be resolved by the WBSC Executive Board.

A1.3 A competitor who is a national of two or more countries or at the same time may represent any one of them, as they may elect. However, after having represented one of them in a WBSC Competition, the competitor may not represent another country unless they meet the conditions outlined in Reg. A1.4 that apply to persons who have changed their nationality or acquired a new nationality. (Note: a non-official Competition may be considered exceptions to this rule).

A1.4 A competitor who has represented one country in a WBSC Competition and who has changed their nationality or acquired a new nationality shall not participate in any WBSC Competition to represent their new country or region until three calendar years have passed since the competitor last represented their former country. (Note: a non-official WBSC Competition may be considered an exception to this rule). This period may be reduced or cancelled with the agreement of both National Federations and the approval of the WBSC Executive Board.

A1.5 If an associated state, province or overseas department, country or colony acquires independence, if a country becomes incorporated within another country by reason of a change of border or if a new National Olympic Committee ("NOC") is recognised by the International Olympic Committee, a competitor may continue to represent the country to which they belong or belonged. However, they may, if preferred, choose to represent their country or be entered in the WBSC Competition by their new Federation or NOC if one exists. This particular choice may only be made once.

A1.6 In all cases not expressly addressed in this Reg. A1, in particular, where a competitor would be in a position to represent a country other than that in which they are a national or have a choice as to the country they intend to represent, the WBSC Executive Board may take all decisions of a general or individual nature, and, in particular, issue specific requirements relating to nationality, citizenship, domicile or residence of the competitor, including the duration of any waiting period.

A1.7 Should an eligibility violation occur, and a player is proven to be ineligible prior to any game being played, they are automatically removed from their team's Final Team Roster ("FTR") and will not be allowed to participate in that competition. The Technical Commission of the competition will notify the WBSC Executive Board for further action.

A1.8 Should an eligibility violation be discovered during a competition and after the player has played in one or more games, they are automatically removed from the FTR and any game in which they actually played shall be considered a forfeited game by their team. The team shall continue to play in the competition and the infraction shall be reported by the Technical Commission of the competition to the WBSC Executive Board for further action.

A1.9 Should a violation of eligibility be discovered after the competition, the case can be submitted by the WBSC Technical Commission or the National Federation directly to the WBSC Executive Board for further action. In such a case, the Executive Board is empowered to act.

A1.10 During a competition, a player removed from the FTR for an eligibility violation cannot be replaced by another player. A team can be penalised for an eligibility violation only if a player has actually played in a game.

A1.11 In any case, it is the obligation of the team or the National Federation officially protesting the ineligibility of a player to produce valid proof, documentation and all information regarding the violation in writing at the moment when filing the protest.

A1.12 Tournament Regulations Appendix I sets forth specific tournament age eligibility.

A.1.13 Provisional Members

A National Team from a WBSC Provisional Member may participate only in a WBSC Regional or Continental level competition ("Regional Competition") but not in a World Cup, the Olympic Games, or any qualification events to the World Cups and the Olympic Games.

- a) The provisions of Regs. A1. to A1.12 apply to a WBSC Provisional Member player, Club Team and National Team in a Regional Competition.
- b) A player who is a national of two or more countries, one of which is a WBSC Provisional Member, may on evidence of nationality elect to represent either (i) a WBSC Provisional Member National Team or (ii) a Full WBSC Member National Team. Having done so, such a player can not represent any other National Team in the same calendar year.
- c) If a player that played for a WBSC Provisional Member National Team wishes to change and play for the National Team of a full WBSC Member, or vice versa, the player requires written permission to do so from the WBSC Provisional Member, the WBSC Member and the WBSC.

A2 PROVISIONAL TEAM ROSTER (PTR)

A2.1 No later than thirty (30) calendar days prior to the beginning of the competition, all participating National Federations must communicate to the WBSC the Provisional (maximum 45 players) Team Roster, including coaches and staff ("PTR"), through the online platform: <http://my.wbcs.org> and the following information must be uploaded:

- Name;
- Lastname;
- Date of Birth;
- Identification Document Number;
- Identification Document Expiration Date;
- Government Issued ID or Passport Copy (in JPEG file); and
- Headshot (WxH of 600x800px, ratio of 3:4, in JPEG file).

Note: User ID and Password are communicated to all National Federations from WBSC Headquarters.

A2.2 If a person named on a PTR becomes unavailable after the deadline due to injury, sickness or any other reasons that are approved by WBSC, they may be replaced on that PTR. A National Federation must obtain WBSC written approval before making such a change. If for a medical reason, a medical certificate in English or Spanish language must accompany the request when submitted to the WBSC. Failure to report and obtain WBSC approval will result in the ineligibility of that person from the competition.

A2.3 The non-fulfilment of the deadline to submit the documents mentioned under point A2.1., the incomplete submission or lack of fulfilment of any of the sections shall be sanctioned with a USD one hundred (100) fine per day until the problem is corrected.

A3 FINAL TEAM ROSTER (FTR)

A3.1 At latest ten (10) days prior to the beginning of a competition, all National Federations must communicate to the WBSC and the Local Organising Committee ("LOC") the FTR players with the full name and designation of each person i.e., player (maximum of 16), coach, manager, physio, scorer, media officer, interpreter and delegation

leader (comprising collectively the "delegation" or "team") through the online platform <http://my.wbsc.org> and the following information must be uploaded:

- Name;
- Lastname;
- Preferred Name;
- Preferred Lastname;
- Date of Birth;
- Identification Document Number;
- Identification Document Expiration Date;
- Government Issued ID or Passport Copy (in JPEG file);
- Headshot (WxH of 600x800px, ratio of 3:4, in JPEG file);
- Uniform Number; and
- Position, Height, Throw/Bat (for players only).

A3.2 Following the team's arrival in the country hosting the competition and before the Pre-Tournament Technical/Organisational Meeting, the delegation leader shall submit the following to the Technical Commission:

- a) A valid and current passport ("Passport") for each player for verification by the Technical Commission for official roster activation of the player(s). If a player(s) has not arrived in the host country the federation could present a copy of the player(s) passport for roster registration purpose only. Other members of the Delegation shall be named on the FTR but do not need to submit their Passports; and
- b) The name, room number (local address), e-mail and social media (i.e., WhatsApp) address and phone number (of the delegation leader, head coach and media officer of each Delegation.

A3.3 A maximum of 5 (five) players are allowed to be replaced on the FTR. The WBSC must be informed in writing of such changes at any moment up to and including the start of the Pre-Competition Technical/ Organisational Meeting, which notice of change must be in the hands of the Technical Director at the time of the Pre-Competition Technical/Organisational Meeting. If for any reason, previously known and accepted by the WBSC, a team arrives in the country later, the Delegation Leader must ensure that the Technical Director gets these documents promptly upon the team's arrival. Those 5 (five) players may come from either inside or outside the PTR.

A3.4 Official Delegation – Refer to Appendix I to see specific competition delegation numbers.

Note: National Federations may request to bring extra personnel in addition to the Official Team Delegation Members set. The LOC may assist finding appropriate accommodation and food upon request. Team delegations are responsible to cover all the associated costs of extra personnel.

A3.5 The non-fulfilment of the deadline to submit the documents required under Reg. A3.1., the incomplete submission or lack of fulfilment of any of Reg. A3 shall be sanctioned with a non-appealable fine of USD five hundred (500) per day until the problem is corrected.

A3.6 Once the player verification is over, no changes to the FTR will be permitted for the duration of the competition. Copies of the FTR shall be provided to each Delegation Leader, Tournament Director, Technical Commissioner, Scorer, Anti-Doping Officer and Media before the start of the competition.

A4 PRE-TOURNAMENT TECHNICAL/ORGANISATIONAL MEETING

A4.1 On the day before the start of the competition (or at most on the same day in the morning when the competition starts with one game only, scheduled to start not before 17:30), an information meeting will be held to discuss all rules, technical, scheduling and organisational issues concerning the competition. The meeting location, date and time will be made available to the teams as soon as possible.

A4.2 The Pre-Tournament Technical/Organisational Meeting will be chaired by the Tournament Director accompanied by the Technical Director, Umpire in Chief (or their assistant assigned for the competition), the Scoring Director (or their assistant), the Anti-Doping Officer, a representative of the Local Organising Committee LOC and a representative of the WBSC Events Department. The following items will be discussed in this meeting. Relevant technical matters of the competition will be discussed in this meeting.

Note: Any material shared for this meeting, printed or digital, should be in English and/or Spanish at a minimum. Attendance at this meeting and the receipt of materials signifies the understanding and acceptance by each delegation and its members of all conditions, requirements, Rules and Regulations.

A5 DOPING CONTROL

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

A5.2 During the competition, the frequency of doping controls will be decided by the WBSC.

A5.3 The WBSC will appoint a WBSC Anti-Doping Officer to oversee the anti-doping programme. The WBSC Anti-Doping Officer may vary the test distribution in consultation with the head Doping Control Officer ("DCO").

A5.4 For games in which doping controls will be conducted, the following procedures shall be followed.

- a) At the end of the first half of the fourth inning, the head DCO, the WBSC Anti-Doping Officer and one of the Technical Commissioners in charge of the game (if requested), with a copy of the starting line-up cards, shall meet in the Doping Control Station. The DCO will have a copy of the FTR for the selection process.

Note: In the continuous development of the fight against doping and in trying to make everything in line with international guidelines, the WBSC outsources its anti-doping

services and is committed to secrecy and data protection as required by WADA (World Anti-Doping Agency). In this sense, the WBSC recommends the minimum involvement of the WBSC Family and the WBSC Officials to ensure the best execution of the sample collection. However, as indicated, where specifically requested, collaboration between the parties involved is required.

- b) The head coach must confirm to the TC that all players are at the game, if one is missing (for injury, sickness, etc.), and why and where the player is (for Doping test reasons).
- c) The DCO will provide a random system. In the case of no available system, player names or numbers will be written on pieces of paper and cut up.
- d) A random selection process will be conducted for each team. This will include the selection of reserve players in the event the original selected player is seriously injured during the game.
- e) If one player from each team is selected, all players will be included in the draw and one reserve player selected. If two players from each team are being tested, the first selection will be from the starting line-up card and the second from the FTR. The reserve selections will be made from the FTR.
- f) While a player may be subject to doping control on more than one occasion, the WBSC Anti-Doping Officer may ask for a redraw if the player has already been tested twice at the same competition.
- g) The selections will be marked on the line-up card, signed by the parties in attendance and given to the DCO.
- h) The names of the selected players shall not be communicated to the teams before the end of the game.

A5.5 Players must stay at the field for the duration of the game. The Technical Commissioners assigned to the game and the Executive Director (or Tournament Director in his absence) shall be informed immediately in case a player needs to be absent from the field or tournament at any time through ejection or another reason.

A5.6 If a selected player is seriously injured and needs to be immediately hospitalised, the reserve player selected from the same team shall be tested instead. In such a case, medical evidence on the serious status of the injury must be given to the WBSC Anti-Doping Officer. The injured player may still be selected for doping control by WBSC once they have recovered. For example, a player is hurt before the doping procedure on a Monday and goes to the hospital. On Tuesday, the player is taken off the roster but is still in the country at the hotel or at the game. That player is still eligible to be tested just as the rest of the players on the FTR are eligible to be tested. In short, any player on the FTR who is injured is still subject to the same drug testing procedures as the rest of the team.

A5.7 Any player on the FTR not present at the game may be selected for doping control, whether still in the host city or not.

A5.8 The LOC is responsible for ensuring that the Doping Control Station is properly equipped, ready for use and maintained in a suitable manner at all times.

A5.9 Doping control will take place at all WBSC Competitions and age categories except at U-15 Softball World Cups.

A6 AWARDS

A6.1 Team Awards

Position	Award
First	Gold Medal + World Championship Trophy
Second	Silver Medal
Third	Bronze Medal

The total number of Medals will be the number of Delegation members (See Appendix I for details).

A6.2 Individual Awards

Individual Awards	Award
Leading hitter	Trophy
Pitcher with best earned run average	Trophy
Pitcher with best win - loss average	Trophy
Most runs batted in	Trophy
Most home runs	Trophy
Most stolen bases	Trophy
Most runs scored	Trophy
Outstanding defensive player	Trophy
Most valuable player	Trophy

A6.3 The leading hitter candidate of the competition must have a minimum of 2.1 times at bat multiplied by the total number of games played by their team. In case of a tie, the decision shall be based on the highest slugging average.

A6.4 The candidates for the pitcher with the best earned run average and the pitcher with the best win-loss record must have pitched a minimum of 2.33 innings multiplied by the games played by their team. In case of a tie, the pitcher who has pitched more innings shall win the award.

A6.5 If there is a tie for the title of most home runs and/or most runs batted in, the player with the fewest number of plate appearances minus the number of BBs minus the number of HBP will win the award based on the formula $HR / RBI \text{ leader} = PA - (BB + HBP)$.

A6.6 In case there is a tie for the title of most runs scored and most stolen bases, the award shall go to the player with the fewest plate appearances and the one with the best average based on the times they tried to steal and the number of times they successfully stole a base.

A6.7 Determination of the awards mentioned under Regs. A6.3, A6.4, A6.5 and A6.6 shall be based on the statistics at the end of the day before the Gold Medal Game. The name of the player and the assigned award(s) will be delivered to WBSC during the Gold Medal Game to organise the closing ceremony.

A6.8 The Most Valuable Player ("MVP"), the Outstanding Defensive Player and the All-World Team players shall be selected by the Technical Commission of the competition and members of the WBSC Media Department. A WBSC official will deliver the name of the MVP player to WBSC during the Gold Medal Game.

A6.9 All-World Team

No award is handed out but is to be announced through WBSC media outlets only.

Note: One for each position, unless noted.

All-World Team
Pitcher
Catcher
First Base
Second Base
Third Base
Shortstop
Outfielders (3) / (4 - Slow Pitch)
Designated Player / (Extra Player - Slow Pitch)

A6.10 Reallocation of Medals

The WBSC is taking every possible step to ensure fair competition and to recognise the achievements of players whose results are obtained in a clean, honest and unbiased manner. The document defining the procedures that will be followed for the Reallocation of Medals can be found in the documents section on the WBSC website.

A7 INFRACTIONS AND FINES

A6.1 Scope

- An action by a person named on an FTR that constitutes an infraction may take place before, during or after a game, or away from the ballpark during a competition. Such an infraction will lead to the imposition of a fine and/or suspension.
- Under these Regulations and Rules 3.1.2 and 3.1.7, a manager/head coach, coach, or a player or coach acting as a manager/head coach, is responsible for the actions of every person on an FTR before, during or after a game and at and away from the ballpark during a competition. It will be an infraction under these Regulations and a violation of Rules 3.1.2 and 3.1.7, or a violation giving rise to a Disciplinary Action under the Disciplinary By-Laws, to cause, encourage, facilitate or further an act, fail to prevent an act or fail to take reasonable steps to prevent any person on an FTR from

doing an act that is or would be an infraction under these Regulations or a violation of a Rule.

- c) An infraction of a Rule will lead to an Effect as provided for in the Rules. An infraction of a Regulation will automatically incur a fine in USD and may incur a suspension or other sanction. A fine or suspension may be assessed on one or more persons named on an FTR or a team. A fine will be invoiced to the National Federation in question upon the conclusion of the competition. Any appeal will be handled as per Reg. B4. Delegations and National Federations will be notified about an infraction, fine and suspension by notice under Reg. B.5.1 during the competition or as soon thereafter as possible. It is the responsibility of the National Federation involved to ensure that a fine is paid and that a suspension is honoured. Failure to do so will result in a National Federation's team or the individual involved being unable to participate in a WBSC Competition, as well as additional fines being imposed and the National Federation being deemed not to be in Good Standing.
- d) An act or omission that takes place during a competition that constitutes an infraction may be identified or confirmed during or after that competition by corroborated personal statements, audio or video recordings or referral to the WBSC Executive Director by an Umpire, Umpire in Chief, Technical Director, Technical Commissioner, from that competition. Any such identified or confirmed infraction will result in a fine or suspension or may, under Reg. A7.1 e), result in a Disciplinary Action.
- e) Notwithstanding any provision of the WBSC Statutes, a By-Law, these Regulations or the Rules, the Executive Board acting by the Executive Director reserves the right, having considered all relevant facts and with Notice to all concerned, to commence a Disciplinary Action leading to a Sanction in lieu of the imposition of a fine and/or a suspension for an infraction that involved intentional, serious, unethical, improper, illegal or unreasonable behaviour, or causes serious injury to a person or damage to property, which infraction occurred before, during or after a game or away from the ballpark during a competition.

A7.2 The following is the list of infraction levels and associated fines and suspensions. A suspension can be given for a period of time or a number of games, or both.

Infraction Levels	Associated fines (USD)
A Level	a minimum of \$1,000
B Level	\$500 - \$999
C Level	\$100 - \$499

a) A Level Infractions

A level is an infraction that is considered crucial for competition success or that causes damage, harm or serious negative effects on international Softball. The fine for an A level infraction is a minimum of \$1000 and carries the possibility of a suspension or, as provided for in Reg. A7.3, a further sanction. The following are examples of A level infractions:

- Not leaving the dugout, playing field and ballpark promptly after ejection;

- Any form of communication during a game between stands and a dugout, playing field or bullpen by any means detected either during or after a game, whether or not after an ejection;
- Foreign substance/doctored softball;
- Physically aggressive behaviour or fighting;
- Altered bat;
- Non-presence of a team in the competition after confirming participation;
- Intentional throwing at a batter; and
- Throwing equipment at or in direction of an Umpire or TC.

b) B Level Infractions

B level is an infraction that is considered important for game operations and/or also is a behaviour that is considered unsportsmanlike. The fine for a B level infraction is \$500 - \$999. The following are examples of B level infractions:

- Inappropriate comments directed at an Umpire or TC;
- Contacting an Umpire or TC; and
- Ejection.

c) C Level Infractions

C level is an infraction of a logistical and/or routine nature. The fine for a C-level infraction is \$100 - \$499. The following are examples of C level infractions:

- delay or absence in the technical meeting without prior notice;
- failure to follow regulations concerning uniform colour and related Regulations;
- failure by the LOC to follow guidelines on competition venue use and maintenance;
- failure by the LOC to notify all Participants regarding the ground rules at each competition venue;
- failure by the LOC to meet the protection and security regulations of team members on the playing field; and
- when non-authorized personnel enters/does not leave the dugout or playing field after being instructed by an Umpire or TC.

The following actions are non-exclusive examples of infractions, actions, fines and suspensions. These serve as guidelines for the fines and/or suspensions that the Technical Director and the WBSC Executive Director will impose. The fact that an action is not listed below does not mean that it is not an infraction or otherwise capable of resulting in a fine or suspension. For the avoidance of doubt, a single act, omission or incident may under the circumstances result in multiple infractions, and two or more acts, omissions or incidents, whether or not related, may result in two or more incidents, each with a fine or a fine and a suspension.

The circumstances involving an action will be taken into account in imposing an infraction, a fine and/or a suspension. Depending upon the circumstances, an Umpire, TC, WBSC Executive Director or Technical Director may eject or suspend a team member for an A or B-level infraction and impose a fine.

During a game, a person ejected from a game must leave the dugout, playing field and ballpark promptly (within 5 minutes) and unless selected for doping testing remain so removed until two hours after the game in which they were involved ends. A person that is ejected or sanctioned cannot return to the competition venue while the suspension is in place without the prior written consent of the WBSC Executive Director or the Tournament Director and cannot engage in any form of communication, directly or indirectly, with any team member during the time that he/she is ejected or suspended for. In the youth categories (i.e., U15 or U18, ejected players are required to stay with their coach (or designated team official) in the team area, at whatever location the player is required to go. i.e., locker room. A team member that engages in an action before or after a game or away from the competition venue during the competition that would in the reasonable opinion of an Umpire, TC, WBSC Executive Director or Tournament Director constitute an infraction resulting in ejection is suspended from their next game and fined, must comply fully with the provisions of this paragraph as if they had been ejected during a game.

Level	Action	Fine	Suspension
C	Delay or absence in technical or other required meeting without prior notice	\$300	
C	Failure to follow Regulations concerning uniform colour, numbering and related requirements	\$350	
C	Failure by the host to follow guidelines on competition venue use and maintenance	\$350	
C	Failure by the LOC to notify all participants regarding the ground rules at each competition site	\$350	
C	Failure by the LOC to meet the protection and security regulations of the players in the playing field	\$400	
C	Failure by the LOC to adhere to the Technical Commission guidelines regarding the scheduling of games	\$400	
C	Failure to submit starting line-up card in time	\$450	
C	Failure by the LOC to use the WBSC official softball	\$450	
C	Prolonged arguing or foul language or gesture(s)	\$500	
C	Non-authorized personnel enters/does not leave the dugout or playing field after being instructed by an Umpire or TC	\$500	
B	Inappropriate comments or verbal abuse directed toward any tournament participant (i.e. team member, official, staff, spectators, etc.)	\$500	
B	Use of an illegal bat	\$500	
B	Violently throwing equipment	\$500	
B	Inappropriate gestures at an Umpire or TC	\$500	
B	Restrained from confronting Umpire, TC, coach, manager, scorer or player	\$500	
B	Actions causing benches to empty	\$600	
B	Ejection	\$600	0 to 1 game
B	Failure by the LOC to provide adequate scorekeeping personnel and resources	\$650	

Level	Action	Fine	Suspension
B	Actions during bench clearing (not physical violence)	Minimum of \$650	0 to 3 games
B	Throwing equipment/debris onto the playing field from the dugout	\$700	0 to 2 games
B	Breach of confidence of an appeal submitted to a Jury of Appeal, the appeal bundle, hearing communications or deliberations	\$800	1 to 6 games
A	Delegation leader, coach or manager not controlling their team before, during or after a game and while at the ballpark that results in an "A" or "B" infraction	Minimum of \$2,000	3 games to suspension of one year
A	Any violation of ejection conditions	\$700	0 to 2 games
A	Charging the pitching circle	\$750	0 to 3 games
A	Contacting an Umpire or TC	\$800	1 to 6 games
A	Fighting (each fight)	Minimum of \$1000	3 to 8 games
A	Not leaving the dugout, playing field and ballpark promptly after ejection	Minimum of \$1,000	3 to 8 games
A	Any form of communication during a game between stands and a dugout, playing field or bullpen by any means that is detected either during or after a game, whether or not after an ejection	Minimum of \$1,000	4 to 8 games
A	Throwing equipment at or in the direction of an Umpire or TC	Minimum of \$1,000	1 to 6 games
A	Use of altered bat	Minimum of \$1,000	7 to 8 games
A	Foreign substance/doctored softball	Minimum of \$1,000	10 games
A	Intentional throwing at a batter	Minimum of \$1,000	1 to 6 games
A	Threatening or engaging in physically aggressive behaviour against, or fighting, with a WBSC Official, TC, Umpire, player, coach, manager, scorer, physio or a fan, or other persons involved in a game	Minimum of \$2,000	3 games to suspension of up to two years
A	Causing a forfeit game	Minimum of \$1,000	0 to 6 games
A	Players' eligibility violation (i.e. age, nationality, gender etc..)	Minimum of \$10,000	8 games to suspension of up to four years to the athlete and possible suspension for the entire NF for WBSC events for up to 2 years

A7.3 If a team member intentionally, recklessly or wilfully commits an A level infraction or encourages another person to commit an A level infraction, the Technical Director and the WBSC Executive Director may impose a fine, penalty and/or suspension beyond those stated in Reg. A7.2 they find appropriate and justified. Any appeal of the decision will be taken up by the Jury of Appeal.

A7.4 Conduct on or off the field by any member of a delegation leading to damage to the installation where they are housed, competition facilities, transport units or to other area will be the direct responsibility of the National Federation they represent. The WBSC, host country, LOC and/or Organising Committee shall not be responsible for the financial situation of any Delegation member. The WBSC Executive Director may impose any fine, penalty or sanction that he finds appropriate and justified. Any appeal of the decision will be taken up by the Jury of Appeal.

A7.5 Any suspension imposed in terms of games in relation to an ejection, infraction or any violation pronounced on any Team Delegation Member outside of a Tournament or not served during an official WBSC Event for which they were intended (elimination or the last game in the Tournament) are carried over to the National Team's next official game.

A7.6 When an infraction, fine or suspension is to be imposed, the Technical Director, in cooperation with WBSC Headquarters, will deliver by Notice the decision citing the person involved, the action constituting an infraction and any fine or suspension ("Decision"). Notice of a Decision will be given to the National Federation and the person(s) involved (a) if at a competition within 24 hours after the incident occurred or was identified and confirmed or (b) if after a competition as soon thereafter as possible, in both instances setting forth the deadline for the purpose of an appeal under Reg. B.4. The Decision shall be duly signed by the Technical Director and other parties involved. As stated under "General Norms" All such notices and communications shall be deemed to have been duly given at the time the email is sent; delivered by hand, if personally delivered; or two Business Days after being deposited in the mail, postage prepaid, if mailed.

B COMPETITION ADMINISTRATION

B1 COMPETITION OFFICIALS

B1.1 WBSC Executive Director

The WBSC Executive Director is the highest authority in all WBSC Competitions. The Responsibilities of the WBSC Executive Director, or in his absence the Tournament Director, include the following:

- a) Enforce all WBSC Statutes, Rules and Regulations, and agreements between the WBSC, the National Federations and the LOC;
- b) Review arrangements with the LOC Chairperson for the organisation of the competition, which include all logistical aspects such as accommodation, transportation, protocol, etc. and all related aspects;
- c) Harmonise the interests represented by the WBSC, the LOC, the National Federations, Umpires and the Technical Commissioners working in the competition;

- d) Ensure that the Jury of Appeal is constituted and empowered to act if the situation arises;
- e) Ensure that the LOC facilitates and enforces all matters related to the rights and privileges of WBSC and competition sponsors regarding the competition;
- f) Other than hearings conducted by or decisions taken by a Jury of Appeal, arbitrate and have final authority in making a decision regarding any disputes that cannot be resolved by negotiations among any or all of the groups or organisations involved in the competition;
- g) Enforce the decision of a Jury of Appeal;
- h) Convene and chair with the Technical Director the Pre-Tournament Technical/Organisational Meeting;
- i) Act as the official WBSC spokesperson to all media;
- j) In the absence of the WBSC President or his specifically designated representative, represent the WBSC in all formal acts and presentations related to the competition;
- k) Inform the WBSC Executive Board about the matters regarding the competition organisation;
- l) Prepare the final official report for consideration by the Executive Board;
- m) Take a final decision in regard to the game schedule after consulting the Technical Director and LOC; and
- n) During or after a Competition, cooperate with the Technical Director, Umpire in Chief, Umpires and Technical Commissioners to identify or confirm infractions that occur or occurred in a Competition and recommend the imposition of fines and suspensions.

B1.2 Technical Commission

A Technical Commission, recommended by the WBSC Technical Director, will be appointed by the WBSC with the approval of the WBSC Executive Director. Its functions and responsibilities are the following:

- a) Supervise all technical aspects of the competition;
- b) Compile, verify and submit to the WBSC all technical related data of the competition;
- c) Control the eligibility and the credentials of the players;
- d) Inspect the playing fields and practice facilities for the competition;
- e) Interpret and enforce Rules and Regulations;
- f) In the event of suspended games, the Technical Commission will propose the adjustment of the competition schedule in consultation with the WBSC Event Department. Any changes in the schedule require the final approval of the WBSC Executive Director or Tournament Director;
- g) Receive and judge as first instance protests related to technical matters from teams;
- h) Rule as the first instance in discipline cases or infractions in the dugout and on the playing field involving team members; and

- i) During or after a Competition, cooperate with the Technical Director, Umpire in Chief, Umpires, other Technical Commissioners and the WBSC Tournament Director to identify or confirm infractions that occur or occurred in a Competition and recommend the imposition of fines and suspensions.

At least one international member of the Technical Commission for the competition must be present at each game to supervise all technical aspects of the game and the fulfilment of the Rules and Regulations.

At games selected for doping controls, one Technical Commissioner appointed for the game may be requested to participate in the selection of players for doping control. This will occur at the end of the first half of the fourth inning in the Doping Control Station (unless another location is agreed).

B1.3 Technical Director

The WBSC will appoint one Technical Director for each Competition. The responsibilities of the Technical Director include the following:

- a) Assign the Technical Commission members to daily game supervision;
- b) Liaise with WBSC and Technical Commission members regarding game delays, rescheduling and cancellation to submit jointly a proposal to the WBSC Executive Director / Tournament Director, who is charged with making the final decision;
- c) Gather relevant statistical and game report information from Technical Commission members;
- d) Chair the meetings of the Technical Commission to review issues associated with technical areas of competition, and with the Executive Director to determine actions related to infractions, discipline or protests;
- e) Proceed to the final review and approval of competition and practice venues;
- f) Chair the All-World Team and MVP selection meeting; and
- g) During or after a Competition, cooperate with the Tournament Director, Umpires and Technical Commissioners to identify or confirm infractions that occur or occurred in a competition and recommend the imposition of fines and suspensions.

B1.4 Jury of Appeal

The Executive Director or his duly authorised WBSC delegate will appoint a Jury of Appeal comprising of a chairman and two (2) other members. Each member must be independent and free from any conflicts of interest with respect to any matter arising thereunder, including the appealing National Federation and the person(s) involved.

The Jury of Appeal is the body of appeal for infractions, fines, judgments or suspensions dictated by the Technical Commission occurring during a competition. It will have no application in the judgments dictated by the Technical Commission in cases related to the Rules or a Disciplinary Action under the Disciplinary By-Laws. Only Technical Commission decisions that are not related to the Rules may be appealed in front of the Jury of Appeal.

B1.5 Umpires

All Umpires for the competition, recommended by the WBSC Softball Umpire Commission, must be appointed by the WBSC with the approval of the WBSC Executive Director. The umpires' functions and responsibilities are listed on Appendix 5 of the *WBSC Official Rules of Softball*.

Two (2) Umpires from the same participating country may work together in a game, but an Umpire shall not be allowed to take part as Plate Umpire in a game in which National Team of their country is playing. Every attempt will be made for Umpires, even host team country Umpires, not to be assigned to work their home country games if possible. Game Management Clock or Umpire Video Review operators are not subject to this regulation. A least four (4) Umpires shall be assigned to each game. (Exception – At least 3 Umpires shall be assigned to U-15 Women's World Cup and U-18 Men's and Women's World Cups. At least 2 Umpires shall be assigned to the Coed Slow Pitch World Cup)

At the beginning of the competition, an Umpire Pre-Tournament meeting will be conducted by the Umpire in Chief. The Executive Director, the Technical Director, a representative of the LOC and other selected WBSC staff may be requested to attend this meeting. During the competition, a daily umpire meeting may be held as required. The Umpire in Chief will chair this meeting.

B1.6 Umpire in Chief

The WBSC, with the approval of the Chair of the WBSC Softball Umpire Commission, will appoint one member as Umpire in Chief ("Umpire in Chief" or "UIC") for the competition. The responsibilities of the Umpire in Chief include the following.

- a) Carry on the final inspection and approval of competition venues, determining the specific ground rules for each field of play;
- b) Present ground rules and any other pertaining items at the Pre-Tournament Technical/Organisational Meeting;
- c) Assign Assistant Umpire in Chief (when applicable) and Umpire crews to daily games;
- d) Liaise with the WBSC to confirm assignments of Umpires;
- e) Liaise with Umpires and TCs regarding game delays, rescheduling, cancellations, and any other matters that arise during the competition;
- f) Supervise and evaluate each Umpire during the competition, compiling information to present a final evaluation report after the tournament;
- g) Chair the Umpire tournament meetings before and during the tournament to review items associated with umpiring the competition;
- h) Oversee video review and game management clocks operation; and
- i) Provide rule clarifications when:
 - a team seeks clarification over a suspected misapplication or misinterpretation of a Rule or the eligibility of a player on an FTR, it must be made to the Plate Umpire;
 - "TIME OUT" will be called and the Umpires will quickly consult and try to resolve this;

- the UIC will go to the fence and discuss the issue with the Umpires and/or the teams; and
 - the UIC will present their decision to the Plate Umpire, who will relay this to the teams.
- j) After the completion of the competition, the Umpire in Chief will submit a complete report to the WBSC Executive Director.

B1.7 Scorers

The board of Scorers shall consist of a sufficient number of scorers (recommended by the WBSC Scoring Director and appointed by the WBSC) to officially score and register each game and produce a “live” online transmission of the play-by-play of each game on WBSC platforms. The scorers’ functions and responsibilities are listed on Appendix 6 of the *WBSC Official Rules of Softball*.

Each game shall be recorded by two or more Scorers. At the end of each game, the Scorer(s) shall give game results (box-score) to each Delegation, the Tournament Director, the Technical Commission members and members of the Media. It shall be the duty of the Scorer to compile the averages of defence and offense plays for all players and provide a day-by-day account and circulate these statistics daily to all the above-mentioned persons within 24 hours after the game. At the end of the competition, in accordance with what has been established, the Scorer(s) shall indicate the name(s) of the players who have excelled individually.

B1.8 Scoring Director

The WBSC will appoint one Scoring Director for the competition. The responsibilities of the Scoring Director include the following.

- a) Carry on the final inspection and approval of Scorers working spaces at the competition venues;
- b) Attend the Pre-Tournament Technical / Organisational Meeting to cover any items related to scoring, tiebreakers, etc., that may arise;
- c) Assign Scorer crews to daily games;
- d) Liaise with the WBSC Event Staff to confirm assignments of Scorers;
- e) Liaise with competition scorers regarding game delays, rescheduling and cancellation, or any other matters that arise during the competition;
- f) Supervise and evaluate each Scorer during the competition, compiling information to present a final evaluation report after the competition;
- g) Chair the Scorers meetings before and during the competition to review items associated with scoring the competition;
- h) Provide tiebreaker and/or statistical information to the Tournament Director upon request; and
- i) Provide list of Individual Award winners to Tournament Director upon completion of the games determining the calculation for the awards.

B1.9 Anti-Doping Officer

The Anti-Doping Officer appointed by the WBSC will oversee the competition anti-doping programme. This will include ensuring that the facilities for doping control are secure and appropriate, overseeing the doping control process, including player selection, notification and the sample collection process, and making decisions on any issues arising during this process.

B2 OTHERS

B2.1 Bat Boys/Girls

For all games, the bat boys/girls shall be furnished by the LOC. The bat boys/girls of each team shall remain in the dugout at all times except for when they are collecting a bat. They must be at least 13 years old and wear uniforms and double-ear flap protective batting helmets. They are to receive proper training on their functions and responsibilities from the LOC. Infractions may result in the ejection of the bat boy/girl. A team can bring its own bat boys/girls as long as they are at least 13 years old and are in appropriate uniforms and protective gear during games, and the teams are responsible for all associated costs.

B2.2 Team Attachés/Interpreters

The LOC will assign a person who speaks the language of the host country and English, Spanish or the language of the team to act as an interpreter during the games. This person shall be permitted to sit in the team dugout to which they are assigned.

Note: If a coach is also serving as an interpreter, the head coach must let the Plate Umpire know about this at the pre-game home plate meeting.

B2.3 TV Cameramen and Photographers

WBSC authorised TV cameramen and photographers are allowed to be in restricted areas on the playing field during pre-game and post-game activities. They must always wear an official vest and their accreditation in order to access the corresponding areas. During the game, when the game is not in play, WBSC approved TV cameramen may also be on the playing field provided that they will not interfere with any aspect of the operation of the game.

B2.4 First Aid

Medical and first aid attendance shall be available all the time during the competition and practices (on-site for competition, on-call for practices). LOC is responsible to make sure adequate staff and facilities are assigned to the competition. Adequate staff and facilities are defined as having present a certified first aid attendant with an ambulance and doctor on call.

B3 PROTEST

B3.1 If the clarification in B1.6.i) results in a protest being made or if a protest is made, the Plate Umpire shall stop the game, and inform the head coach of the opposing team,

the Technical Commissioners assigned to work that game and the audience that a protest has been filed. Other than as set forth in this Reg. B3.2, Rules 1.2.9 to 1.2.14 govern protests. The protest shall be presented in written form within ten (10) minutes after it was announced to the Plate Umpire, indicating the number(s) of the Rule(s) involved to the Technical Commissioners assigned to the game, who must immediately take a decision. The presentation of a protest will incur a non-refundable cost of USD 200 to be deducted directly from the National Federation's guarantee fee. If the protest occurs on the game-ending play, the desire to submit a protest must be announced by the head coach or the delegation leader to the Technical Commissioners assigned to the game. They will inform the opposing team, the Umpires and the other necessary parties that a protest has been filed. After consultation with the Umpires, a decision will be taken immediately by the Technical Commissioners assigned to work that game. The opposing team must wait for the decision before they leave the playing field.

B3.2 Any decision of a Technical Commissioner(s) regarding the Rules is final and not subject to appeal.

B3.3 When a delegation protests the participation of any player, the protest shall be presented to the Technical Commission of the competition prior to the conclusion of the competition.

B3.4 If the protest does not refer to an action of the game, it must be submitted in writing to the Technical Commission, explaining the reasons for it and the outcomes that apply.

B4 APPEALS

B4.1 An appeal may be filed only as provided for in these Regulations. No appeal may be made from a level C infraction or the minimum stated fine or suspension for a level A or B infraction.

B4.2 The appeal, with a clear statement of the grounds on which the appeal is based and all supporting materials ("appeal brief"), must be in writing and served by Notice to the Jury of Appeal (to the WBSC Office), accompanied by a copy of the Decision. The presentation of an appeal will incur a non-refundable cost of USD 100 to be deducted directly from the National Federation's guarantee fee on the day of the receipt of the appeal brief or if necessary invoiced to the National Federation in question. Appeal briefs are confidential to the WBSC, the Jury of Appeal and the parties involved.

B4.3 The time limit to present an appeal brief (a) if during a competition is three (3) hours or (b) if after a competition has ended is 48 hours, which periods start from the delivery of a Notice of a Decision under Reg. A7.5. An appeal brief may be amended only before the Jury of Appeal starts its deliberations, which time will be notified to the parties involved. An untimely appeal or a frivolous or vexatious appeal will be dismissed with no opportunity to resubmit the appeal. A materially misleading or incomplete appeal brief will be dismissed as an invalid appeal if the deficiencies that are notified to the person making the appeal by the Jury of Appeal are not corrected within a stated period of time to cure.

B4.4 Every appellant or the person that is the subject of or involved with the appeal has the right to present materials and statements to the Jury of Appeal for it to consider. Each appellant or person involved may be represented by one person. The Jury of Appeal may take statements, interview persons or review video or audio footage to help it consider the matter and render its decision. Once the appeal has been presented, the Jury of Appeal will meet, consider the matter and render a decision.

B4.5 A Jury of Appeal may reject an appeal in part or whole and will issue a written statement of its findings, which is, save for manifest error, final and not subject to further appeal. The Jury of Appeal may order a different penalty or increase or decrease a fine or suspension or outcome from that to which the appeal was made.

B4.6 In the event of an appeal involving the suspension of a player, coach or manager, a decision will be taken within three (3) hours of receiving the appeal, knowing that the decision could have a bearing on any subsequent games in the competition. For all other matters, a decision will be rendered within 24 hours.

B4.7 Notwithstanding any provision of these Regulations, a player, coach or manager who is suspended for one game or more must sit out the next scheduled game to allow the Jury of Appeal to complete its process and ensure due process.

B5 DELIVERY OF NOTICES

B5.1 The Technical Director, in cooperation with WBSC Headquarters, will deliver the written decision with a fine(s) or suspension to the interested parties, by "Notice" as outlined in the general norms making evident the time of delivery for the latter purposes of appealing.

B6 GAME PROTOCOL

B6.1 The following ceremony shall be used before and during all matches:

- a) The competition song/music supplied by the WBSC Headquarters shall be played to indicate the start of the ceremony and continue to be played in the background during the introductions;
- b) Before the game begins, the speaker first calls the visiting team players in the starting line-up first, then the rest of the roster and the coaching staff on to the field, followed by the home team and then the Umpires. The teams shall line up in a straight line from the pitcher's plate to first and third base, while the Umpires stand at home plate;
- c) WBSC will provide pre-approved 45-60 second versions of the national anthems of the two teams, which shall be played with the teams, and Umpires lined up. During the national anthems, those involved must show a respectful posture with hats removed and refrain from talking, laughing, spitting, exercising, eating and drinking;
- d) Music and sound effects shall be used prior to, during and after each game in order to enhance a sense of cultural diversity and international competition. After the anthems

and before the match starts, time shall be made available for any prize-giving, special recognition or announcement of special guests; and

- e) Only uniformed members of the team delegations are permitted on the field during the pre-game ceremony. Non-uniformed personnel must stay in dugouts or their designated seats.

B6.2 Demonstrations

Any type of demonstration by a team before, during or following a game must be managed in accordance with *WBSC World Cup Ceremony Guidelines* and its Appendices.

B6.3 Ceremonies

For information with regards to Opening, Closing and/or Ticket Punched Ceremonies refer to *WBSC World Cup Ceremony Guidelines* and its Appendices.

Note: Only uniformed members of the team delegations are permitted on the field during the ceremonies. Non-uniformed personnel must stay in dugouts or their designated area.

B7 COMPETITION SYSTEM

For all formats, where two or more teams are tied the tie-breaking system in Reg. C11 applies.

B7.1 6-Team Format (two stage World Cup: Group Stage – 3 groups of 6)

a) Opening Round

One (1) group of six (6) teams will play all other teams once in a single round robin format. At the completion of all single round robin games, the top four (4) teams in the final standings will qualify for the play-offs.

b) Play-offs

The top two teams of the Opening Round play each other for a ticket to the Finals. The loser of the first playoff game will play against the winner of the game between the third (3rd) and fourth (4th) place teams for the second spot in the Finals.

The play-offs open with an elimination game between the third (3rd) and fourth (4th) place teams of the opening round; the loser is fourth (4th) overall in the group final standings.

The second game of the play-offs is between the first (1st) and second (2nd) place teams of the opening round, with the winner earning the first available ticket to the Finals.

The third game of the play-offs is the Repechage Game between the winner of the first game (3 vs 4) and the loser of the second game (1 vs 2); the winner of the Repechage Game is placed 2nd overall in the group final standings earning the second available ticket to the Finals. The loser of the Repechage Game is placed 3rd overall in the group final standings.

B7.2 8-Team Format

a) Opening Round

Two (2) groups of four (4) teams (groups 1 and 2) will play all other teams in their group in a round robin format. The top two (2) teams from each group advance to the Super Round. The bottom two (2) teams from each group will go to the Placement Round.

b) Super Round

The top two (2) teams from each group (1 and 2) will play a game against the top two (2) teams in the other group in a round robin format.

At the end of this round, the top four (4) teams to play in the Finals will be determined based upon the results of the Opening Round between the two (2) qualified teams as well as the Super Round games (one game from the Opening Round and two games from the Super Round).

c) Placement Round

The bottom two (2) teams from one group after the Opening Round will play a game against the bottom two (2) teams from the other group.

At the end of this round, the standings among the four (4) teams will be determined based upon the results of the Opening Round between the two teams that went to the Placement Round as well as the Placement Round games (one game from the Opening Round and two games from Placement Round).

d) Finals

The teams will play in the Final Round in the following manner:

- 1st and 2nd place teams after the Super Round play the Gold Medal Game; and
- 3rd and 4th place teams after the Super Round play the Bronze Medal Game.

B7.3 12-Team Format

a) Opening Round

Two (2) groups of six (6) teams (groups 1 and 2) will play all other teams in their group in a round robin format. The top three (3) teams from each group advance to the Super Round. The bottom three (3) teams from each group will go to the Placement Round.

b) Super Round

The top three (3) teams from each group (1 and 2) will play a game against the top three (3) teams in the other group in a round robin format.

At the end of this round, the top four (4) teams to play in the Finals will be determined based upon the results of the Opening Round between the three (3) qualified teams as well as the Super Round games (two games from the Opening Round and three games from the Super Round).

Example: Team A, team B and team C qualified for the Super Round, and teams D, E, F were eliminated after the Opening Round. For team A, the records of A vs B and A vs C will count as well as the three (3) games from the Super Round; however, the records of A vs D, A vs E and A vs F will not count.

c) Placement Round

The bottom three (3) teams from one group after the Opening Round will play a game against the bottom three (3) teams from the other group.

At the end of this round, the standings among the six (6) teams will be determined based upon the results of the Opening Round between the three teams that went to the Placement Round as well as the Placement Round games (two games from Opening Round and three games from Placement Round).

Example: Team D, team E and team F went to play Placement Round, and teams A, B, and C advance to the Super Round. For team D, the records of D vs E and D vs F will count as well as three (3) games from the Placement Round; however, the records of D vs A, D vs B and D vs C will not count.

d) Finals

The teams will play in the Final Round in the following manner:

- 1st and 2nd place teams after the Super Round play the Gold Medal Game; and
- 3rd and 4th place teams after the Super Round play the Bronze Medal Game.

C TECHNICAL ASPECTS

C1 UNIFORMS

C1.1 The home team shall have preference to wear the colours of their uniform, and the Visiting Team shall wear a colour that cannot be confused with the other one. The home team shall wear a dark/contrast colour (i.e., navy, dark red, dark green, dark orange, black or grey) uniform top and the visiting team a white/light colour uniform top (i.e., white, white pinstripe or light grey). The final decision on the colours to be worn by each team for each game will be made at the Pre-Tournament Technical/ Organisational Meeting. There will be no changes allowed to the established uniforms without prior approval from the Technical Commission. If any team requests a change to uniform colour, the request must be submitted in writing to the Technical Commission, which will communicate its decision in writing to the team (whether approved or disapproved). Numbers must be a solid contrasting colour that is clearly visible.

C1.2 A player must wear a specified number on the front and the back of their uniform shirt, different from other team members. Each player must keep the same number during the competition. The numbers cannot be changed during the competition unless exceptional circumstances justifying such changes arise, which requires prior written approval by the Technical Commissioners of the game. If any changes to uniform numbers are approved, the Technical Commissioners of the game will give written notice to both teams prior to the start of the game. Uniform numbers must be whole numbers chosen from 1 to 99. The number displayed on the front of the uniform shirt shall be 7.62cm (3") high. If a player does not have the number on the front of the uniform shirt, the team shall be fined - see A7 - Infraction level C.

C1.3 Players and coaches uniform design and appearance must comply with Rules 2.5 and 2.6 of the *WBSC Official Rules of Softball* and the *WBSC Softball World Cup Uniform Guidelines*. Uniforms will be checked by members of the Technical Commission upon arrival of that team in the host country.

Note: Uniform design must be shared with the WBSC for approval no later than sixty (60) days prior to the event. Non-authorized emblems, logos and/or marks will not be allowed and subject to removal.

C1.4 Team members shall comply with the following with regard to caps.

- a) Ball caps must be alike, are mandatory for all male players and must be worn properly.
- b) Caps, visors, and headbands are optional for female players and players are free to choose which of these they wish to wear (can be mixed). They all must be of the same colour and style and must match the team's uniform colours.
- c) Plastic or hard visors are not allowed.
- d) Should a defensive player wear an approved helmet of the same colour as the team uniform cap, they will not be required to wear a cap.

Note: A team member in uniform may, for religious reasons, wear a specific head covering that does not conform to the Rules and this Reg. C1.4 without penalty.

C1.5 A player may wear one or two warming sleeves (compression) provided that each is of the same one solid colour that is a team uniform colour and that colour matches all other undershirts worn by any player on that team.

C1.6 Coaches who enter the playing field at any time must wear the same uniform or official team apparel. This can be in any combination as long as it is official national team apparel and has been approved by the WBSC (i.e., regular team uniforms, identical jackets or tracksuits, identical shirt and trousers or shorts, or a combination of trousers and shorts). All must be in team uniform colours.

Note: Approval regarding official team apparel must be presented to the Technical Commission at the Pre-Tournament Technical/Organisational Meeting. If a coach chooses to wear a cap, it must conform to Rule 2.6 and Reg. C1.4.

C2 COMPETITION VENUES

C2.1 All competition facilities shall fulfil the requirements established by the WBSC and will be subject to inspections by WBSC representatives to verify their use during WBSC Competitions.

C3 GROUND RULES

C3.1 Ground rules related to competition venue(s) shall be prepared by the LOC prior to the arrival of the Technical Director and UIC, completed after the site inspection and approved by the Technical Director before the Pre-tournament Technical/Organisational Meeting. These rules shall be printed in English, Spanish and the language of the host

country and distributed to all teams, TCs and Umpires and discussed thoroughly at the Pre-Tournament Technical/Organisational Meeting. Copies of the ground rules shall be posted in both dugouts of all competition sites.

C4 DUGOUT

C4.1 For all games, the home team will be located in the third base dugout and the visiting team in the first base dugout.

C4.2 Only uniformed or professionally attired team members named on the FTR, translators and bat boys/girls (together, "accredited personnel") will be allowed to stay in the dugout. The maximum amount of people allowed in the dugout is twenty-four (24). There will be no exceptions to this rule. It shall be the responsibility of the Technical Commissioners assigned to the game to make sure that unauthorised persons do not enter or occupy the dugout and that accredited personnel stay inside the dugout during the game. More than this number of people in the dugout will not be permitted, and teams in violation of this subject themselves to a fine under Reg. C7.

C4.3 No communication between any person in the dugout and those outside the playing field or in the stands shall take place during the games, save for communications with bullpens. A violation of this is actionable per Regs. A7.2 and A7.3.

C5 PRACTICE SCHEDULE

C5.1 Pre- Competition Practice

The LOC, in conjunction with the WBSC Event Staff, shall set up a pre-competition schedule for all teams. Each team shall receive a minimum of 90 minutes, as long as no unforeseen conditions prevent the use of the fields. If more than one competition venue is to be used, teams will be assigned to respective timeframes in accordance with their arrival time where applicable. Assignments and schedules shall be made available to the teams prior to their arrival at the competition, preferably by the end of the previous day.

C5.2 Pre-Game Practice

The Technical Director, Tournament Director and the LOC shall determine the practice site(s) and times.

C5.3 Pre-Game and Post-Game Procedure

The general pre-game and post-game procedures shown below will be used to develop pre-game and post-game procedures on an event by event and venue-by-venue basis, adjusting the times based on the characteristics of each hosting venue (i.e., single vs. two warm-up venues, playing field ("FOP") interviews available, etc.).

a) Pre-Game

Prior to Game	Activity	Location
Team Decision 150 mins	Team arrives at warm-up venue no earlier than 2.5 hours prior to game start	Participants drop off/ Warm-up area based on each LOC
Team Decision 120 mins	Team commences warm up no earlier than 2 hours before game start	home team on Field A visiting team on Field B
90 mins	Team submits starting line-up to TC and collects game ball	Warm-up area competition management room
60-45 mins	Teams leave warm-up area for the competition venue	
40-35 mins	Team moves to changing room	Competition venue
35-30 mins	Team leaves changing room and moves to dugouts	Dugouts
30-25 mins	Visiting team "Infield" warm-up.	FOP
25-20 mins	Home team "Infield" warm-up.	FOP
30 - 20 mins	Umpires check team equipment – 1st day mandatory, random checks thereafter	FOP - dugouts
20 mins	Teams must be in dugouts	FOP
15 mins	Home Plate Meeting with Umpires. Starting Line-up cards presented to Plate Umpire and confirmed. Return game balls	Home plate
15-14 mins	Return to dugouts	
14-11 mins	Visiting team introduction for 3 mins	1st and 3rd base foul lines
11-8 mins	Home team introduction for 3 mins	
8-7 mins	Umpire introductions	Home plate
7-4 mins	National Anthems (visiting team first then home team)	Pitcher's plate to first or third base
4-2 mins	First pitch ceremony (if applicable). Home team catcher to receive pitch	Teams stand on first and third base foul lines
3-2 mins	Return to dugouts	
2-1 min	Home team takes field/calling defensive line-up/pitcher warm-up	FOP
0 min	Game starts	FOP

b) After Game

After Game	Activity	Location
1mins	Team equipment in dugout	
1-10 mins	Athletes move through FOP Mix Zone to dugout. Losing team first, then winning team	FOP Mix Zone
11-15 mins	Collect and move all equipment from dugout to changing room after FOP Mix Zone	FOP → Changing room
16-25 mins	Athletes move through the Press Mix Zones. Losing team first	FOP → Changing room
25 mins	Some team members are requested to go to Press Conference	Press Conference Centre
26-30 mins	Team departs venue	Main Entrance

All teams will be dropped off at the designated venue location according to the transportation schedule. The team will be met by the transportation host who will direct the team to the training site fields. The LOC will also ensure that the team is picked up and transferred to the competition site on time.

Team members must wear their accreditation to gain access to the venue. Without accreditation, immediate access may not be granted. Accreditation passes must be carried at all times.

C5.4 While practice prior to a game is for a set number of minutes, it can be less if a team desires or circumstances require. This does not, however, mean that the other team can practice for a longer period of time. Moreover, teams are not permitted to stretch or warm-up until practice for the other team is over. Teams should warm-up in an area outside the playing field during this time. The Technical Commissioner will be on site to assist with any difficulties during this time.

C5.5 Each team may have a five (5) minute warm-up on the diamond before the first game of the competition. The Technical Commissioners assigned to the game will decide and inform each team accordingly if, due to unforeseen delays, the warm-up must be skipped in order to begin the game on schedule, which will be the priority at all times. The home team has the last warm-up.

C6 STARTING LINE-UP

C6.1 The head coach/coach must present the completed line-up card to the Technical Commissioner(s) at least ninety (90) minutes before the game's scheduled start. The line-up card must be signed by the head coach and include each player's name, uniform number and field position in the starting batting order, the pitcher and the names and uniform numbers of each substitute. A copy of the line-up card shall be given to the opposite team's head coach, the Scorer(s) and Technical Commissioner(s) in charge of the game at the pre-game meeting. If there are changes in the line-up card, they must be announced to the Plate Umpire, the TC and the opposing team during the pre-game meeting. An injury or other extraordinary reason should be the only reason for changes in

the line-up. Abuses in this regard will not be viewed lightly and are subject to fines from the Technical Director. After the line-up cards are exchanged and confirmed, they become official and changes thereafter are deemed to be substitutions.

C7 PLAYING RULES AND PACE OF PLAY

C7.1 Official Rules of Softball

All games will be played under the *Official Rules of Softball*, approved *WBSC Technical Bulletins* and the *Softball Umpire Case Book* procedures and interpretations unless noted in this section unless noted in this section and regulations, including Appendix 1

C7.2 Bats

- a) Each team must have their bats checked by the Umpires prior to the start of their first game and thereafter, if necessary, in the competition. A bat must be on the *WBSC Softball Bat Approved List*, and have the current WBSC Certified stamp or former ISF 2005 logo on the bat. A bat compression test machine shall be present and all bats must pass the WBSC Softball compression standard. Failure to meet any of the criteria above will result in the bat being an illegal bat and not being permitted for use at the competition. Bats approved for use will be marked, and any bat used that is not so marked will be considered an illegal bat.
- b) Bats taken off the *WBSC Softball Bat Approved List* because the manufacturer leaves the programme or withdraws are still legal for five (5) years after withdrawal by the manufacturer, provided the bat still meets the bat standards set out in Reg. C7.2 (a).
- c) With respect to two piece bats:
 - manufacturers must demonstrate that the interchangeable bat fails in a safe manner i.e., visible damage before the locking feature fails; and
 - bat components must be designed in a way to prevent uncertified equipment alterations. The current WBSC Certified stamp or former ISF 2005 logo must appear on either the handle or the barrel.
- d) Bats with identifying marks and/or logo of the original manufacturer may be used in any WBSC Competition. The original manufacturing mark and/or logo shall not represent more than ten (10) percent of the equipment.

C7.3 Protective Equipment

- a) Helmets are mandatory on offence for batters, on-deck batters, batter-runners, runners, youth age players who coach in the first and third base coaches' box, and youth age representatives that participate as a bat boy/girl while on the field or in the dugout. All other equipment must adhere to the specifications as set in the Rules.
- b) There shall be no equipment laying on the ground that may obstruct playing of the game or present a hazard for players and umpires. Teams will be responsible to keep all equipment inside the dugout and may be subject to fines if warned by an Umpire and fail to act.
- c) The double base shall be used in all WBSC Competitions.

d) Refer to the *WBSC Softball Video Review Regulations*.

Note: Video Review is mandatory for all senior-level WBSC Softball World Cups (Men's and Women's) and Olympic Games, while it is strongly recommended for Major Multi Sport Games (i.e. Pan American Games, Asian Games etc.) and all other age categories (U-23 Men's U-18 Men's and Women's, and U-15 Women's).

C7.4 Run Ahead Rule

A game must be called a regulation game if one team leads the other by fifteen (15) runs or more after three (3) innings, ten (10) runs or more after four (4) innings, or seven (7) runs or more after five (5) innings have been played. Both the visiting team and the home team must complete the same number of innings at bat unless the home team leads by the required number of runs, at which time the game ends. The run ahead rule will not be in effect for the Medal Games.

C7.5 Exceptions to the Rules

The need to speed-up the play of international competition games must be constantly stressed to the Umpires, TCs and teams, and the following must be constantly enforced in an effort to keep the game moving quickly.

- a) In the event of inclement weather or other unforeseen conditions, the Technical Commissioners assigned to the game will have the responsibility of determining the start of a game.
- b) Warm-up Pitches - five (5) warm-up pitches in both halves of the first inning and three (3) warm-up pitches thereafter. New pitchers are allowed five (5) warm-up pitches. The Umpire can limit to one (1) warm-up pitch if they do not send out a warm-up catcher immediately.
- c) A defensive team has only three (3) charged defensive conferences in a seven-inning game.
 - Charged defensive conferences are accumulative and do not start over when a new pitcher enters the game.
 - Charged defensive conferences not taken in the seven innings do not carry forward to extra-inning games.
 - There is only one charged defensive conference for every extra inning in an extra-innings game. A charged defensive conference not taken in an extra-inning of a game may not be carried over to any subsequent extra inning.
 - A charged defensive conference ends when the defensive team member crosses the foul line returning to the dugout or a fielder returns to the field.
 - A conference includes players in the field leaving their position and going to the dugout for instructions, regardless of whether or not 'TIME' has been requested.
- d) Teams are allowed a maximum of one (1) offensive charged conference per inning. Only one charged conference per inning is permitted. This includes batter, runner, on-deck batter and the coaches amongst themselves.
- e) Twenty-Second (20) Clock Rule

The following procedures apply for the use of the twenty-Second (20) clocks ("clocks") at the competition.

1. The clocks will be placed on the playing field where they can be easily viewed by team members, Umpires, TCs and spectators. One clock will be on or near the scoreboard in the outfield so as to be visible to the batter and the plate umpire. The other(s) clock shall be placed on the outside of the playing field to either the right or left of home plate so as to be visible to the pitcher and one more of the base Umpires.
2. The clock will be managed by an Umpire not involved in the game or a trained volunteer assigned by the UIC.
3. The twenty (20) second clock will begin:
 - when the Plate Umpire signals and says "PLAY BALL";
 - when a new batter is in the batter's box, the pitcher has possession of the ball in the pitching circle and the catcher and Umpires are in position, the Plate Umpire shall signal with a chopping motion to begin the clock;
 - when after a pitch, the catcher is in a position to return the ball to the pitcher;
 - when the Plate Umpire indicates "PLAY BALL" after the batter leaves the batter's box as a result of one of the Exceptions listed below. The Plate Umpire shall indicate "PLAY BALL" once all play has ceased, the batter is in or near the batter's box, the pitcher has possession of the ball in the pitching circle or the catcher is in a position to return the ball to the pitcher. The Plate Umpire shall signal with a chopping motion to begin the clock. This includes a foul ball, a dead ball being called or "TIME" being called, even if the batter does not leave the batter's box;
 - on a passed ball, once all play has ceased, the batter is in or near the batter's box, the pitcher has possession of the ball in the pitching circle or the catcher is in a position to return the ball to the pitcher, the Plate Umpire shall signal with a chopping motion to begin the clock;
 - when there is no longer an opportunity for a play or attempted play by the catcher, all runners have returned to their base, the batter is in or near the batter's box, the pitcher has possession of the ball in the pitching circle or the catcher is in a position to return the ball to the pitcher, the Plate Umpire shall signal with a chopping motion to begin the clock; and
 - on a checked swing, once all play has ceased, the batter is in or near the batter's box, the pitcher has possession of the ball in the pitching circle or the catcher is in a position to return the ball to the pitcher, the Plate Umpire shall signal with a chopping motion to begin the clock.

The pitcher has twenty (20) seconds to begin his wind-up after the clock begins. If the twenty (20) seconds expire prior to the pitcher starting the pitch wind-up, the ball shall be declared dead and a ball award to the batter. The pitch starts when the pitcher begins any motion that is part of the wind-up. The Umpire responsible for pitcher clock violation administration (normally the 2nd base umpire) shall call and signal "DEAD BALL", point to the pitcher with an open hand and say, "CLOCK VIOLATION". The Plate Umpire shall award the batter a ball and give the new count.

Once the clock has started, the batter has ten (10) seconds to enter the batter's box. They must keep one foot in the batter's box between pitches, and a failure to do so shall result in a strike being called on the batter. The batter may only step out of the batter's box with both feet in the following circumstances:

- when the ball is hit;
- on a swing, provided it is the momentum of the swing that takes them out of the batter's box;
- if forced out of the batter's box to avoid a pitch;
- on a wild pitch;
- on an attempted play at home plate or by the catcher on an advancing runner or by any player;
- if time has been called, or the plate umpire leaves his position to perform other duties not directly connected with the calling of plays;
- if the pitcher leaves the pitching circle; or
- on a 3-ball count that the batter thinks the pitch was a ball.

A delay of game caused by the failure of the batter to keep one foot in the batter's box between pitches will result in the ball being declared dead and a strike awarded against the batter. The Plate umpire shall call and signal "DEAD BALL", point to the batter's box and say "BATTER'S BOX VIOLATION", award a strike on the batter and give the new count.

If time is called during the twenty (20) second time period, the clock will be paused and the time recommences at the point where it stopped after the Plate Umpire is sure the batter and pitcher are ready. The Plate Umpire will indicate "PLAY BALL" and the clock will restart.

No time shall be granted in the last five (5) seconds of the twenty (20) second clock run down. If time should be inadvertently granted, the clock shall be reset to twenty (20) seconds.

The calling of or the failure to call a clock violation or a batter's box violation by an Umpire is not subject to appeal or protest.

f) Collision Rule

The WBSC is concerned about unnecessary and violent collisions, primarily with the catcher at home plate and infielders at all bases. The intent of this rule is to encourage base runners and defensive players to avoid collisions whenever possible.

When there is a collision between a runner and a fielder who clearly is in possession of the ball, the Umpire involved in or closest to the play shall judge:

- whether the collision by the runner was avoidable (could the runner have reached the plate without colliding) or unavoidable (the runner's path to the plate was blocked);
- whether the runner actually was attempting to reach the plate or attempting to dislodge the ball from the fielder. Contact above the waist shall be judged by the Umpire as an attempt by the runner to dislodge the ball; or
- whether the runner was using flagrant contact to maliciously dislodge the ball.

PENALTY:

- If the runner attempted to dislodge the ball, the runner shall be declared out even if the fielder loses possession of the ball. The ball is dead, and all other base runners shall return to the last base touched at the time of the interference.
- If the fielder blocks the path of the base runner to home plate, the runner may make contact, slide into or collide with a fielder as long as the runner is making a legitimate attempt to reach home plate.
- If the flagrant or malicious contact by the runner occurred before the runner touched home plate, the runner shall be declared out and ejected from the game. The ball shall be declared dead immediately. All other base runners shall return to the bases they occupied at the time of the pitch.
- If the contact was after a preceding runner had touched home plate, the preceding runner will be ruled safe, the ball becomes dead immediately and all other base runners will return to the base they had last touched prior to the contact.
- If the runner is safe and the collision is malicious, the runner shall be ruled safe and ejected from the game.

If the defensive player blocks the plate or base line clearly without possession of the ball, obstruction shall be called. The Umpire shall signal and say, "OBSTRUCTION." The Umpire shall let the play continue until all play has ceased, call time and award any bases that are justified in Rule 5.10.2. The obstructed runner will be awarded the bases or bases they would have reached in the Umpire's judgement had there been no obstruction.

PENALTY:

- If the base runner collides flagrantly, the runner shall be declared safe on the obstruction but will be ejected from the game. The ball is dead.
- If the offensive player, defensive player and ball arrive at the contact point at the same time, it is not considered to be either obstruction or interference. If the contact is flagrant, it is considered unsportsmanlike and the offending player should be ejected.

g) Tiebreaker

In accordance with Rule 1.2.4, if the game remains tied after the completion of seven (7) innings, the following procedures will be implemented during extra innings.

- Each team will begin the eighth (8th) inning (and any subsequent necessary extra innings) with the player scheduled to bat ninth in that respective half-inning placed on second base as a runner, with no outs.
- The batting line-up will continue as in any other inning. For example, if the 7th inning ends with the #8 batter having the last plate appearance, the 8th inning begins with the #9 batter at-bat and the runner on second base is the #8 batter in the line-up. The runner can be substituted in accordance with the Substitution Rules.
- With the exception of beginning such half-innings with a runner on second base with no one out, all other Rules and Regulations remain in effect during extra innings required to determine a winner.

- The system of the visiting team hitting in the top of the inning and the home team hitting in the bottom of the inning (if needed) will remain in effect until a winner is determined.

C8 COMPETITION GAME SCHEDULE

C8.1 Once the competition game schedule has been approved by the WBSC, it becomes inviolable and can only be amended further to a new decision of the WBSC Executive Director, who is the only person entitled to sanction an amendment, after consultation with the LOC and all stakeholders. Nevertheless, if during the competition there are unforeseen and valid reasons requiring amendment to the schedule would be necessary, changes to the game schedule could be done through a joint proposal of the Technical Commission and WBSC Events Department to the WBSC Executive Director or the Tournament Director in his absence. The new game schedule shall officially be approved in writing by the Executive Director or the Tournament Director, before being released to all participants.

C9 SUSPENDED GAMES

In case a game is stopped because of weather, curfew or other reason, the following will apply.

C9.1 Before a game becomes a regulation game, it is not an official game and shall be resumed at the exact point of suspension. All games must go at least seven (7) innings, except if forfeited or ended by the Run Ahead Rule.

C9.2 After it becomes a regulation game, it is ruled a complete game.

C9.3 In the advent of adverse weather conditions, the Technical Commissioners and UIC, in conjunction with the Plate Umpire, shall decide whether a game shall be:

a) In the case of a game that has not started:

- commenced, with particular attention being given to an impending storm and for both teams to have equal innings of playing conditions, or
- delayed, with any such game being rescheduled at a later time and/or date.

b) In the case of a game that has commenced:

- suspended for a short period of time (up to a maximum of three (3) hours), or
- deferred for a long period of time (in excess of three (3) hours), with particular attention being given to both teams to have equal innings of playing conditions.

A game will be resumed after a suspension or deferral at the exact point where the game was interrupted as long as the event schedule and time remaining allow. The scheduling of the completion of a suspended game shall be given priority by the Technical Commission in order to complete it as soon as possible.

C9.4 All suspended, tied or games not played shall be re-scheduled by the Technical Commission and the WBSC Office to resume them following the suspension order, if applicable. The new schedule must be approved under Reg. C8.1.

C9.5 If there are difficulties concerning the closing date of the competition, only the games necessary to establish the final positions of the first three teams will be rescheduled. No team shall be asked to play more than two games on the same day unless the case is warranted by exceptional circumstances and agreed by both teams affected by this measure. If the exceptional circumstances persist and any of the involved teams refuse to play two games on the same day, the WBSC Executive Director has the authority officially to determine whether they must play or not, and the team or teams will be obligated to do it if the decision requires this. If the team or teams do not agree to play, they will lose the game by forfeit (failure to appear) and a sanction will result.

C9.6 If a play is in progress at the moment of a failure of the field's lighting system and additional play is impossible, the game is considered suspended. When the lights are restored, the game shall continue in the same situation that existed at the beginning of the play which was interrupted due to lack of lighting.

C10 HOME TEAM / VISITING TEAM ASSIGNMENTS

C10.1 Opening Round home and visitor game assignments are decided once all participating countries are known. An attempt is made to ensure the number of home and visitor games is as equitable as possible.

C10.2 Establishing home and visitor teams for the Medal Games shall be done based on the standings of the Round Robin. Teams with higher seeds after the Round Robin will be the home team.

C10.3 In the event that a team from any round game plays back-to-back games (doubleheader), every effort will be made for the team to keep the dugout utilised in the previous game

C11 STANDINGS & TIE BREAKING

C11.1 The standing of the teams after any round shall be according to the win-loss record of all the games played in the latest round.

C11.2 Should all games of any round have been played according to the game schedule, all ties after any round shall be settled in the order of the following list. That is, if criteria (1) does not break the tie, then it is no longer considered the criteria capable of breaking the tie, and the next criteria (2) will be used. This logic continues through the list, in order, until the tie is broken:

a) Win-loss records in games between the teams tied.

Note: If two teams are tied, the team that won their game shall be placed in the higher position. If three or more teams are tied, the team(s) that has(have) a better win-loss record between the tied teams will be placed in the higher position(s).

b) Team's Quality Balance (TQB) and win-loss records in games between the teams tied.

Note: If three or more teams are tied and when criterion 1 does not break a tie, the teams will be ranked according to the TQB (highest to lowest). The TQB is calculated as follows: (runs scored / innings played at bat) – (runs allowed / innings playing on defence). For a three-way tie and when the TQB is needed to break the tie, the TQB will place all tied teams from highest to lowest placing.

c) Best Earned Runs Team's Quality Balance (ER-TQB) in games between the teams tied.

d) Highest batting average in games between the teams tied.

e) Tie breaking procedure as per Rule C12.3.

f) A coin flip.

Five examples of the application of the Tie Breaker Criteria

Scenario 1

Game 1: Team A – Team B 5 – 4
Game 2: Team D – Team E 9 – 1

Standings after single round robin:

Team A 3 Won, 1 Lost *
Team B 3 Won, 1 Lost *
Team C 2 Won, 2 Lost
Team D 1 Won, 3 Lost *
Team E 1 Won, 3 Lost **

* Criterion 1: Team A finishes higher than Team B, because of the result of game 1.

** Criterion 1: Team D finishes higher than Team E, because of the result of game 2.

Scenario 2

Game 1: Team B – Team A 4 – 5 (6 1/3 innings)
Game 2: Team A – Team C 0 – 2 (7 innings)
Game 3: Team C – Team B 2 – 6 (7 innings)

Standings after single round robin:

Team A 3 Won, 1 Lost *
Team B 3 Won, 1 Lost *
Team C 3 Won, 1 Lost *

* Criterion 1: No decision between any of the teams A, B and C.

Criterion 2: Team B has the highest TQB, followed by Team A and Team C. Therefore, Team B is 1st place, Team A is 2nd place and Team C is 3rd place.

Team	Runs Scored	Offens. Innings	Ratio	Runs Allowed	Def. Innings	Ratio	TQB
A	5	13.33	0.3759	6	13	0.4615	-0.0856
B	10	13	0.7692	7	13.33	0.5263	0.2429
C	4	13	0.3077	6	13	0.4615	-0.1538

Team B: 10 runs scored in 13 offensive innings = 0.7692; 7 runs allowed in 13.33 defensive innings = 0.45263 TQB = 0.2429

Team A: 5 runs scored in 13.33 offensive innings = 0.3759; 6 runs allowed in 13 defensive innings = 0.4615 TQB = -0.0856

Team C: 4 runs scored in 13 offensive innings = 0.3077; 6 runs allowed in 13 defensive innings = 0.4615 TQB = -0.1538

Scenario 3

Game 1:	Team C - Team D	4 - 3
Game 2:	Team C - Team E	8 - 5
Game 3:	Team D - Team E	3 - 7

Standings after Super Round:

Team A	5 Won, 0 Lost
Team B	3 Won, 2 Lost
Team C	2 Won, 3 Lost *
Team D	2 Won, 3 Lost *
Team E	2 Won, 3 Lost *
Team F	1 Won, 4 Lost

* Criterion 1: Based on the games played between teams C, D and E, team C won both games (record of 2-0), team E has one win one loss (1-1), and team D lost both games (0-2). Therefore this 3-team tie can be broken with criterion 1 as Team C won the games between the 3 teams. C is placed 3rd, E is 4th place and D is 5th place in this scenario.

Scenario 4

Game 1:	Team C - Team D	7 - 2
Game 2:	Team C - Team E	4 - 1
Game 3:	Team C - Team F	1 - 4
Game 4:	Team D - Team E	0 - 3
Game 5:	Team D - Team F	3 - 1
Game 6:	Team E - Team F	8 - 5

Standings after single round robin:

Team A	4 Won, 1 Lost
Team B	3 Won, 2 Lost
Team C	2 Won, 3 Lost *
Team D	2 Won, 3 Lost *
Team E	2 Won, 3 Lost *
Team F	2 Won, 3 Lost *

* Criterion 1: Based on the games played between teams C, D, E and F, team C and E won two games and lost one (record of 2-1), while team D and F have one win and two losses (1-2). Therefore, the 4-team tie-break is reduced to two 2-team-tie-breaks, one for the first two ranks and the other for the last two ranks. Team C is placed 3rd, having won game 2 (C vs E) and Team E is in 4th place; Team D is in 5th place, having won game 4 (D vs F) and Team F is in 6th place in this scenario.

Scenario 5

Game 1: Team A - Team B 7 - 4 (7 innings), in earned runs 3 - 4
 Game 2: Team B - Team C 7 - 4 (7 innings), in earned runs 5 - 2
 Game 3: Team C - Team A 7 - 4 (7 innings), in earned runs 5 - 1

Standings after single round robin:

Team A 3 Won, 1 Lost *
 Team B 3 Won, 1 Lost * **
 Team C 3 Won, 1 Lost * **

* Criterion 1: No decision between any of the teams A, B and C.

Criterion 2: No decision between any of the teams A, B and C.

Team	Runs Scored	Offens. Innings	Ratio	Runs Allowed	Def. Innings	Ratio	TQB
A	11	14	0.7857	11	14	0.7857	0.0000
B	11	14	0.7857	11	14	0.7857	0.0000
C	11	14	0.7857	11	14	0.7857	0.0000

Criterion 3: Team B finishes higher than Team C and Team A because of the TQB in games 1, 2 and 3.

Team	Earned Runs Scored	Offens. Innings	Ratio	Earned Runs Allowed	Def. Innings	Ratio	ER-TQB
A	4	14	0.2857	9	14	0.6429	-0.3571
B	9	14	0.6429	5	14	0.3571	0.2857
C	7	14	0.5000	6	14	0.4286	0.0714

Team B: 9 ERuns scored in 14 offensive innings = 0.6429; 5 ERuns allowed in 14 defensive innings = 0.3571 TQB = 0.2857

Team C: 7 ERuns scored in 14 offensive innings = 0.5000; 6 ERuns allowed in 14 defensive innings = 0.4286 TQB = 0.0714

Team A: 4 ERuns scored in 14 offensive innings = 0.2857; 9 ERuns allowed in 14 defensive innings = 0.6429 TQB = -0.3571

C11.3 In the event that NOT all games in a round have been played according to the game schedule, the following criteria apply to create the final standing of the round, in order:

a) Win-loss records considering all the games played in the latest round.

- b) Where the games in common exist between tied teams, tie breaking procedure will follow the criteria listed under C11.2 until the tie is broken.
- c) Where no games in common exist, or where games in common played are unequal, tie breaking procedure is done according to the Team's Quality Balance (TQB) between the teams with the same win-loss record considering all the games played in the latest round. The teams will be ranked based on TQB. The TQB is calculated as follows: (runs scored / innings played at bat) – (runs allowed / innings playing on defence).
- d) Best Earned Runs Team's Quality Balance (ER-TQB) between the teams with the same win-loss record considering all the games played in the latest round.
- e) Highest batting average of the teams with the same win-loss record considering all the games played in the latest round.
- f) A coin flip.

Two Examples of the application of the criteria to break a tie in case not all games of the round robin could be played.

Scenario 1

Game 1:	Team A – Team B	2 – 5 (7 innings)
Game 2:	Team D – Team C	6 – 3 (6 innings)
Game 3:	Team E – Team F	4 – 1 (6 innings)
Game 4:	Team A – Team C	1 – 5 (7 innings)
Game 5:	Team E – Team B	0 – 2 (7 innings)
Game 6:	Team F – Team D	0 – 3 (7 innings)
Game 7:	Team B – Team D	2 – 5 (7 innings)
Game 8:	Team C – Team E	4 – 2 (7 innings)
Game 9:	Team F – Team A	3 – 1 (7 innings)
Game 10:	Team A – Team C	4 – 6 (7 innings)
Game 11:	Team B – Team F	6 – 0 (7 innings)

Standings after single round robin:

Team A	0 Won, 4 Lost *
Team B	3 Won, 1 Lost**
Team C	3 Won, 1 Lost **
Team D	3 Won, 0 Lost*
Team E	1 Won, 2 Lost *
Team F	1 Won, 3 Lost *

* Criterion 1: Team D wins the group, followed in order by B and C (to break this tie see below), Team E, Team F and Team A.
 Criterion 2: No decision between any of the teams B and C.

Team	Runs Scored	Offens. Innings	Ratio	Runs Allowed	Def. Innings	Ratio	TQB
B	15	28	0.5357	7	28	0.2500	+0.2857
C	19	28	0.6786	13	27	0.4815	+0.1971

*Criterion 3: Team B finishes higher than Team C because of the TQB in games 1, 2,4,5,7,8, 10 and 11.

Scenario 2

Game 1:	Team A – Team B	7 – 5 (6 innings)
Game 2:	Team D – Team C	6 – 3 (6 innings)
Game 3:	Team E – Team F	4 – 1 (6 innings)
Game 4:	Team A – Team C	2 – 8 (7 innings)
Game 5:	Team E – Team B	0 – 2 (7 innings)
Game 6:	Team F – Team D	1 – 5 (7 innings)
Game 7:	Team B – Team D	1 – 4 (7 innings)
Game 8:	Team C – Team E	2 – 3 (7 innings)
Game 9:	Team F – Team A	5 – 7 (7 innings)

Standings after single round robin:

Team A	2 Won, 1 Lost *
Team B	1 Won, 2 Lost**
Team C	1 Won, 2 Lost **
Team D	3 Won, 0 Lost
Team E	2 Won, 1 Lost *
Team F	0 Won, 3 Lost

Criterion 1: No decision between any of the teams B and C, and between A and E.

Criterion 2: No decision between any of the teams B and C, and between A and E.

Team	Runs Scored	Offens. Innings	Ratio	Runs Allowed	Def. Innings	Ratio	TQB
A	16	20	0.8000	18	21	0.8571	-0.0571
E	7	20	0.3500	6	21	0.2381	+0.1119

*Criterion 3: Team E finishes higher than Team A because of the TQB in games 1, 3,4,5,8 and 9.

Team	Runs Scored	Offens. Innings	Ratio	Runs Allowed	Def. Innings	Ratio	TQB
B	8	21	0.3810	11	20	0.5500	-0.1690
C	13	21	0.6190	11	20	0.5500	+0.0690

*Criterion 3: Team C finishes higher than Team B because of the TQB in games 1, 2,4,5,7 and 8.

C12 ALTERNATE DETERMINATION OF CHAMPION

In case of extreme weather conditions or any other reasons that prevent the completion of any round including the Finals, play proceeds as follows:

C12.1 Six (6) Teams in one (1) group events

Should the Technical Director and the Tournament Director, after consultation with the Local Organising Committee, verify the impossibility to play all the games in accordance with the event calendar, the following applies (in order):

a) Opening Round

- Each team must play at least three (3) games in the round robin before any further procedure to determine a standings considering the results in the event can be applied;
- If one or more teams have not played at least (3) games in the round robin, the final standing will be determined in accordance with the WBSC World Ranking at 31 December of the previous year.
- If all teams have played at least three (3) games, to create a group standing all teams will be ranked according to the tie breaking procedure as per Rule C11.3.
- All efforts will be made to complete the round robin by playing only the game(s) which remain to determine the top three teams.

b) Play-offs:

- Cancel the play-offs and confirm the results on the opening round to create the final group standing.
- Should the play-offs not be played in its entirety, the games played until the moment of stoppage will count for the standings (i.e. Should Repechage Game between the winner of the first game of the play-offs (3 vs 4) and the loser of the second game of the play-offs (1 vs 2) not be played and cancelled, the final standings will take into account the results of the games played in the play offs. With the winner of game one being the winner of the group, followed by the loser of game one, the winner of game 2, the loser of game 2 etc.. Same applies in case also the second game of the play-offs (1 vs 2) cannot be played and is cancelled.

C12.2 Twelve (12) Teams in two (2) groups events

Should the Technical Director and the Tournament Director, after consultation with the Local Organising Committee, verify the impossibility to play all the games in accordance with the event calendar, the following applies (in order):

a) Opening Round

- Each team must play at least three (3) games in the Opening Round before any further procedure to determine a group standing considering the results in the event can be applied;
- If one or more teams have not played at least (3) games in the Opening Round, the final standing will be determined in accordance with the WBSC World Ranking at 31 December of the previous year.
- If all teams have played at least three (3) games, to create a group standing all teams will be ranked according to the tie breaking procedure as per Rule C12.3.
- All efforts will be made to complete the Opening Round by playing only the game(s) which remain to determine the top two teams in each group.

b) Super Round / Placement Round:

- Cancel the remaining Super Round and Placement Round game(s) and have the top teams in each group to compete for the gold medal and the second place teams to compete for the bronze medal.

- All efforts will be made to complete the Super Round by playing only the game(s) which remain to determine the top four teams.
- To create a group standing all teams will be ranked according to the tie breaking procedure as per Rule C12.3.

c) Finals

If the gold medal and / or bronze medal game cannot be played the winner will be decided based on the following criteria, in order:

- Win and Loss record in the latest round.
- Head-to-head;
- Tie breaking procedure as per Rule C12.3

D FOR THE USE AND CARE OF PROPERTY AND INSTALLATIONS

D1 Teams are responsible for the damages to or disappearance of property in the places where they will be accommodated during the competition. The following procedures will be applied.

- a) Each team is requested to inspect the accommodation upon arrival and, if applicable, prepare a written inspection report highlighting any broken item or missing parts from the premises at OTD disposal (i.e. rooms, common areas, restaurant etc..) which shall be sent to the LOC with a copy to the WBSC Office, within forty-eight hours from arrival
- b) Each team may request to the LOC a certificate in writing to certify that the LOC does not have any claim for damages or disappearance of property against the team or any of its members and that it does not know of the existence of any claim against the team.
- c) Should any damage or disappearance of property be registered by the LOC, a written invoice will specify the damages claimed, the disappeared article(s), name and address of the affected person(s) and amount of the claimed compensation, with supporting documentation when available.

D2 In the event of a claim for damages and/or disappearance of property against a team, the LOC and the WBSC will conduct a complete investigation of the events and propose the corresponding steps to be taken.

D3 Failure to fulfil the stipulations of this Regulation (within forty-eight hours from the end of the competition) shall mean that the LOC loses the right to make any claim for damages or disappearance of property against any offending team and the WBSC.

E OTHER MATTERS

E1 USE OF ELECTRONIC DEVICES

Electronic communications by cell phone, laptop, tablet, video camera, walkie-talkie or other devices between any person in a dugout, on the playing field or in a bullpen and any other person in the stands or outside these areas during a game is forbidden.

This does not apply to the following.

- a) Use of phone/cell phone to communicate between dugout and bullpen if not adjacent and there is no internal line. However, such a device must be approved by the WBSC in advance.
- b) Videotaping will be allowed in designated areas. Each team is allowed one video camera with a tripod and may record games only for training purposes with the following requirements:
 - the cameras need to be set up in designated areas not less than 25' to the left and right of centre field or at any location at the venue approved by WBSC, but cannot interfere with spectators or games in progress;
 - computers and other electronic equipment may be used except for immediate transmission of information to the playing teams; and
 - no videotaping will be allowed behind home plate between 1st to 3rd base, including from spectators seating areas.

During a game, no electronic devices, microphones or cameras are permitted in the dugout, bullpens or on the playing field without the prior written approval of the WBSC. Such approval must be obtained before using any electronic equipment during a game.

E2 USE OF SOCIAL MEDIA

The use of social media by Participants is not allowed during the games. If any violation is detected, the individual(s) and National Federation(s) in question will subject themselves to fines, sanctions and penalties by WBSC. If team staff is in the stands during the entire duration of the game, such person may use an electronic device but not to communicate with team members in the dugout or on the playing field. The use of electronic devices is prohibited when in and close to dugouts. Before and after a game, the use of such electronic devices is allowed. Fans can follow the official online play-by-play, live stream and/or @WBSC. Press officers stationed in designated press zones are encouraged to share posts (no video footage of the game) on social media during the games.

E3 BREAK BETWEEN INNINGS

E3.1 The amount of time between innings shall be set at sixty (60) seconds unless stated otherwise by WBSC, in which case the Tournament Director shall inform the Technical Commission accordingly. The Technical Commission shall communicate to the Umpires and both teams if any special requests have been granted. Umpires shall keep between-inning timings on the field. After signalling "ONE MORE PITCH," the Plate Umpire shall

actively call the leadoff batter to approach home plate and enter the batter's box. The goal is to have the first pitch delivered immediately after the inning break concludes.

E3.2 Health and Safety – Heat-related issue

If deemed necessary by the Tournament Director, in consultation with relevant personnel, the WBSC may adjust the game schedule and in-between inning timing in the event of weather-related issues or other circumstances, in order to ensure fair and safe competition. This includes, but is not limited to, adjustments to inning breaks.

E4 NO SMOKING, SMOKELESS TOBACCO OR DRINKING ALCOHOL

No team member is permitted to smoke tobacco in any form, smoking or chewing, including vaping and e-cigarettes, or drink alcohol, in places that are visible to the public, including audiences on media outlets such as TV, social media and internet streaming, etc. It is the responsibility of the Delegation leader to ensure such smoking or drinking is not seen by the public as long as they are in competition venues and practice facilities as well as other competition official activities. Any violation will be taken seriously, and violators would be subject to disciplinary action as WBSC may deem appropriate. The use of smokeless tobacco is prohibited for team members during televised interviews or appearances. While spectators are permitted into the competition venue, the Delegation leader must ensure that such tobacco or alcohol products (including tobacco tins or packages) are not visible to the audience.

E5 TEAM PRESENTATION

All team members must at all times wear game uniforms or non-uniform official apparel provided by their team or National Federation (team apparel"). In particular, players, coaches and managers must wear game uniforms or team apparel when participating in official activities (e.g., games, ceremonies or any other events as requested by WBSC). Persons other than players, coaches and managers in the dugout during games must wear team apparel. All delegation members must be mindful of how their teams are presented and perceived and must maintain professional attire at all times at the venues.

E6 MEDIA OBLIGATIONS

On game and workout days, players, and coaches shall be present at media interviews and press conferences if requested by the WBSC or its partners. All players, and coaches must go through the mixed zones at each venue, if any. All Delegation members shall cooperate on all other media opportunities reasonably requested by the WBSC or its partners and wear game uniforms or official team apparel at press conferences and other media appearances if requested by WBSC.

F FINAL DISPOSITIONS

F1 During the course of a competition, the WBSC Executive Director, the Technical Director and the LOC shall have the authority to jointly make decisions on any point not specifically covered in the Rules or these Regulations, according to each competition.

F2 Any unforeseen circumstances which arise and are not specified in the Rules or these Regulations, the WBSC Statutes, Disciplinary By-Laws, Ethics By-Laws, Protocols, Sanction Procedure and International Game Rules and other WBSC official documents, will serve as the primary source of guidance for all WBSC Competition officials and will be interpreted and applied by the WBSC Executive Director.

APPENDIX I	Specific Regulations for Each WBSC Softball World Cup
APPENDIX II	World Cup Ceremonies Guidelines
APPENDIX III	Uniform Guidelines
APPENDIX IV	WBSC Certified Bat List
APPENDIX V	Video Review Guidelines

Refer to the WBSC Website for the latest information:

<https://www.wbsc.org/en/disciplines/softball>



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