

Integrity Unit Annual Report 2024

WBSC

WORLD
BASEBALL SOFTBALL
CONFEDERATION

Game Time!

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Chapter 1

Annual Review

In 2024, the WBSC Integrity Unit continued its mission to uphold and safeguard the integrity of baseball /softball worldwide. Encouragingly, integrity standards across our sport have continued to improve, with several key developments and achievements marking a strong year of progress.

A noticeable rise in the number of reports received—despite many cases falling outside the direct jurisdiction of the WBSC—suggests growing awareness and increased sensitivity within the baseball/softball community around integrity-related matters. This is a positive indicator that our collective efforts to foster a culture of responsibility and transparency are bearing fruit.

Throughout the year, we actively reviewed existing Rules and Regulations, addressing potential gaps and ensuring they remain fit for purpose. This included amendments to the Statutes and By-laws, aimed at strengthening leadership structures and clarifying the procedures for the election of Athlete Representatives.

Several new policies and systems were introduced, including a Contract Management System (CMS), new Athlete Transfer Rules, and enhanced data protection measures. Our collaboration with key external stakeholders remained strong, particularly with organisations such as the International Testing Agency (ITA), SportRadar, and the Green Future Project (GFP), reinforcing efforts to monitor athletes, competitions, and organisational integrity.



We were also proud to be recognised once again among the top ten best-performing International Federations in the ASOIF Governance Review, maintaining our position at the top of Group A2—an endorsement of our continued commitment to good governance.

On the educational front, the Integrity Unit delivered regular Anti-Doping webinars and in-person Safeguarding education to officials and coaches during major events. Educational guidelines were also widely distributed to support the wider sporting community.

Looking ahead, with the LA28 Olympic Games on the horizon, the WBSC Integrity Unit remains committed to advancing both internally and externally. We will continue to support our Continental Associations and Member Federations, with the shared goal of protecting our athletes and strengthening the integrity of our sport across all levels.

Riccardo Fraccari
WBSC President

Chapter 2

Anti-Doping

Refer to the [WBSC Annual Anti-Doping Report 2024](#).



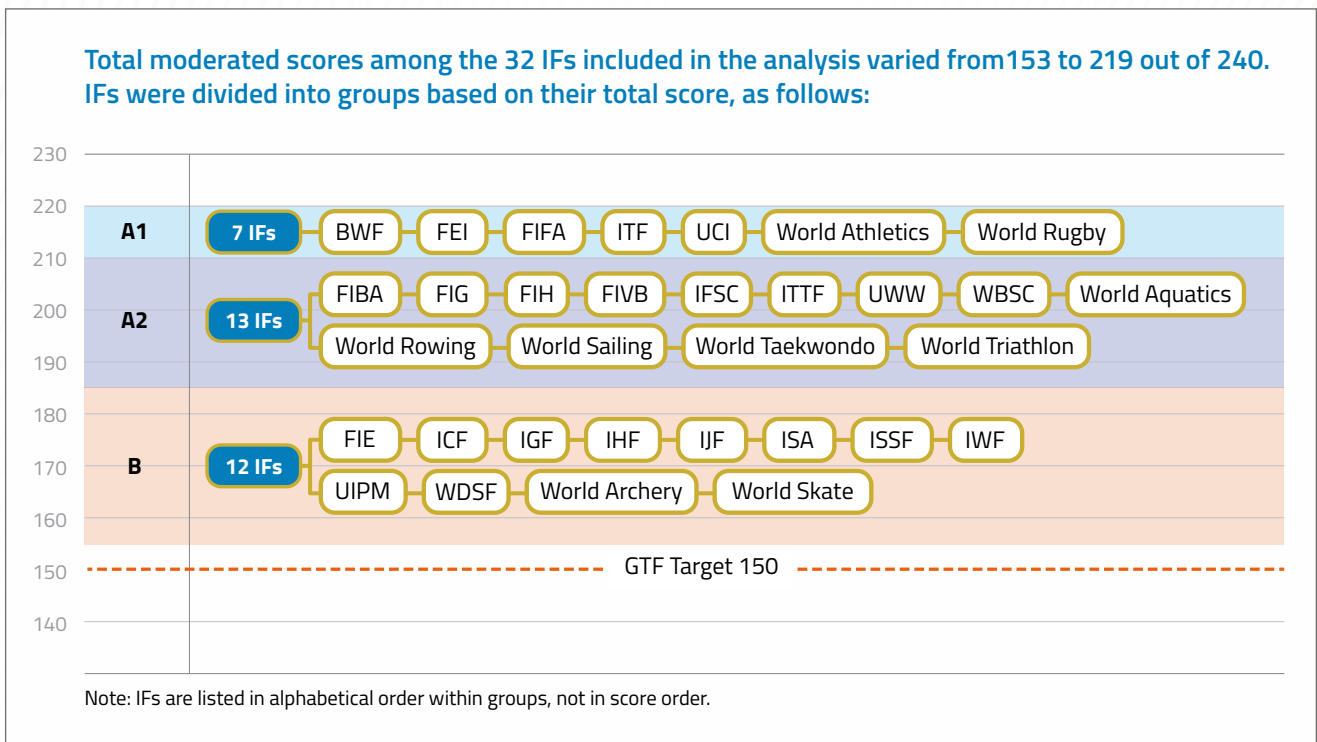
Chapter 3

Governance

Background

Governance ensures organisations are credible, accountable, and effective in serving their stakeholders. For International Sport Federations (IF) like the WBSC, good governance protects integrity, promotes transparency, and fosters a culture of accountability.

ASOIF Governance Review



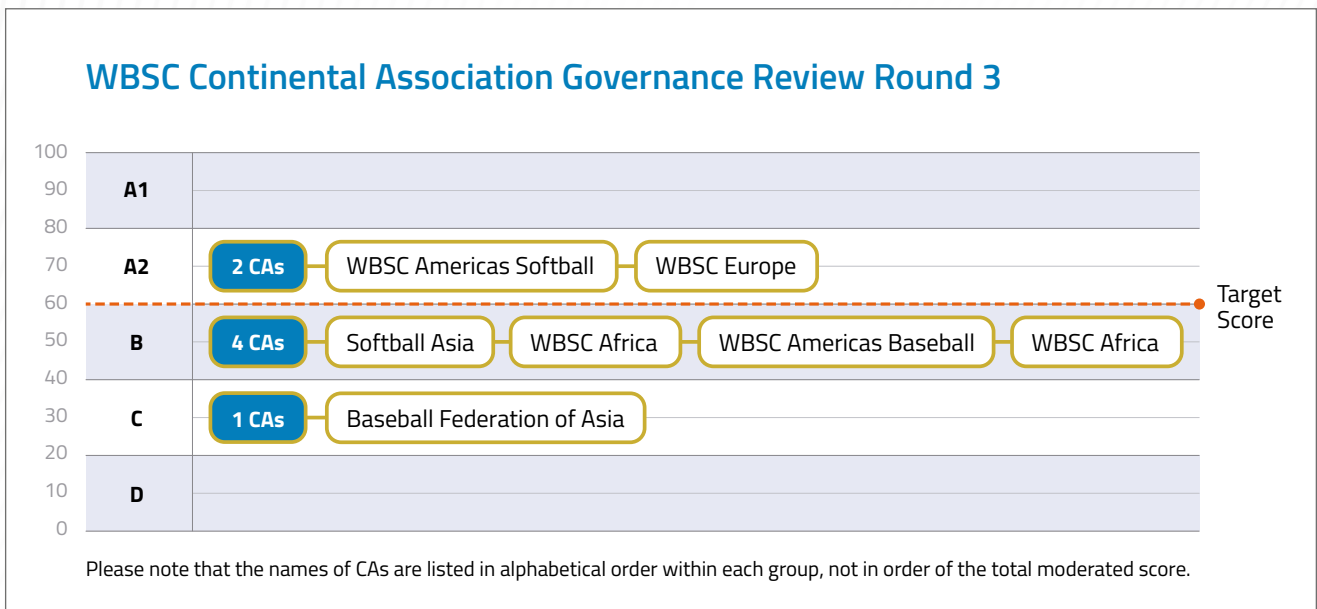
ASOIF Governance Task Force, *Progressing Towards Better International Federation Governance*, June 2024, p.9

In 2023/24, WBSC participated in the Fifth Review of International Federation Governance, conducted by the ASOIF Governance Task Force. As part of this process, WBSC conducted a gap analysis to better define its strategic directions and goals. As a result, WBSC was once again placed in Group A2, achieving the highest score among IFs with similar staff numbers and the second-highest among those with comparable revenue.

Additionally, WBSC was recognised among the 10 best-performing IFs for 15 out of 40 indicators. Further details will be available in the next Governance Report, set for publication in early 2026.

For more information, please refer to the report published by the ASOIF ([here](#)).

Continental Association Governance Review



WBSC Governance Report 2023/24, p.4

The table above presents the results of the latest Continental Association (CA) Governance Review, highlighting the current standing of each CA. As part of its commitment to continuous improvement, WBSC has adjusted the timeline for its CA Governance Review.

Originally planned for the second half of 2024, Round 4 of the review will now take place in the second half of 2025 to better align with the event calendar and allow more time for the Continental Associations to implement projects. The plan is to launch the project in August and publish the result in early 2026.

The next WBSC Governance Report, set for publication in early 2026, will provide updates on the ASOIF 5th Review of International Federation Governance (published in 2024), the results of Round 4 of the WBSC Continental Association Governance Review, and findings from a new National Federation Survey.

Chapter 4

Manipulation

Prevention of the Manipulation of Competitions Rules

The WBSC Prevention of the Manipulation of Competitions (PMC) Rules align with the Olympic Agenda 2020+5. To strengthen its purpose and be in line with the Olympic Charter, the rules have been enforced in the WBSC Statutes at the same level as WADA Code. The rules are available in the WBSC IU website – [Documents & Regulations](#).

Sportradar – Universal Fraud Detection System (UFDS)

Sportradar Integrity Services has monitored and conducted manual coverage checks during the following 2024 WBSC tournaments to detect any suspicious betting and potential match-fixing activities.

- Premier12
- U-23 Baseball World Cup
- U-15 Baseball World Cup
- Women’s Baseball World Cup – Final stage
- Women’s Softball World Cup – Final stage
- U-18 Women’s Softball World Cup – All group stages
- Men’s Softball World Cup – All group stages
- Baseball5 World Cup

No suspicious activity was detected when bookmakers were available.

Case Report – Competition Manipulation

There were no cases reported for competition manipulation in the year 2024.

Case Report – Illegal Betting

There were no cases reported for illegal betting for the year 2024.

Ongoing Sanctions - Competition Manipulation

One case is still under ongoing sanctions for competition manipulation - [case report](#).

Future Development

- In 2025, new PMC Ambassadors will be appointed by the WBSC and the IOC to represent our Sport for the Prevention of the Manipulation of Competitions.
- Sportradar will provide bet monitoring & detection for the following competition in 2025:
 - Baseball Champions League - Americas
 - U-12 Baseball World Cup
 - U-18 Baseball World Cup
 - U-18 Women's Softball World Cup – Final stage
 - Men's Softball World Cup – Final stage
 - Youth Baseball5 World Cup
 - World Games



Chapter 5

Safeguarding

Background Check

In alignment with the U.S. Center for SafeSport policy aimed at safeguarding minor athletes, the WBSC implemented background screening measures for the WBSC U-18 Women's Softball World Cup – Group C, held in Dallas, TX, USA.

As part of this process, all appointed officials and staff in this event were required to complete a WBSC-developed self-declaration form as a preliminary step in the background check procedure.

Case Report – Harassment and Abuse

There were five cases on harassment and abuse reported for the year 2024, four of which occurred during the WBSC World Cups. Each report was promptly addressed in coordination with the involved parties and resolved with the following actions:

- Revocation of the individual's accreditation for the event;
- Mandatory safeguarding education, training, or recertification for the team involved; and
- Notification of relevant authorities or organisations within the appropriate jurisdiction.

Following the confidentiality policy, the WBSC IU is not revealing more details on these cases.

Future Development

- Continuation of #Safecall Guidelines to be distributed to educate group of people with different roles within the WBSC Event
- Monitoring of online abuse
- Extension of Background checks on all appointments of officials and staff
- Development of new campaign video targeting youth

Chapter 6

Sustainability

In an ever-evolving world, the importance of sustainable practices has become paramount. The WBSC is committed to promoting environmental responsibility through impactful initiatives and strategic partnerships. WBSC continues to drive positive environmental change while reducing its carbon footprint. These efforts underscore a steadfast commitment to a more sustainable future for generations to come.

Green Future Project (GFP)

With the continuation of the partnership with Green Future Project (GFP), the WBSC has been supporting the following environmental projects across three different continents:

- Regeneration of mangrove ecosystems in Madagascar
- Protection of biodiverse reserves (Canandé and Narupa) in Ecuador
- Development of wind farm and solar farm projects in India

Refer to the [WBSC Impact Report 2024](#).

Refer to the [Carbon Footprint Report 2024](#).

