

The background of the entire page features a series of curved, parallel lines in shades of dark blue, maroon, and grey, creating a sense of motion and depth. The WBSC logo is centered in the upper half of the page.

**WBSC**

WORLD  
**BASEBALL SOFTBALL**  
CONFEDERATION

*Game Time!*

**PREVENTION  
OF THE MANIPULATION  
OF COMPETITIONS  
RULES**

# **PREVENTION OF THE MANIPULATION OF COMPETITIONS RULES**

This Rule came into force on 28 June 2021.

Replacing the Sport Betting By-Laws by this Rule was approved by the WBSC Executive Board on 25 February 2022.

Latest update on 24 May 2023.

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# CHAPTER 1      GENERAL ASSESSMENTS

## Article 1      Preamble

1.1      Acknowledging the danger to sports integrity from the manipulation of sports competitions, the WBSC restates their commitment to safeguarding the integrity of sport, including the protection of clean athletes and competitions as stated in Olympic Agenda 2020 and the Olympic Agenda 2020+5.

1.2      Due to the complex nature of this threat, the WBSC recognises that they cannot tackle this threat alone, and hence cooperation with public authorities, in particular law enforcement and sports betting entities, is crucial.

1.3      The WBSC declares their commitment to support the integrity of sport and fight against the manipulation of competitions by adhering to the standards set out in the Olympic Movement Code on the Prevention of the Manipulation of Competitions, to those of the WBSC and by requiring their members to do likewise.

## Article 2      Application and Scope

2.1      It shall be the personal responsibility of every Participant to make oneself aware of these Rules including, without limitation, what conduct constitutes a violation of these Rules and to comply with those requirements.

2.2      Participants should also be aware that conduct prohibited under these Rules may also constitute a criminal offence and/or a breach of other applicable laws and regulations including other regulations of the WBSC or multi-sport games regulations.

2.3      Participants must comply with all applicable laws and regulations at all times

## Article 3      Definitions

3.1      “Benefit” means the direct or indirect receipt or provision of money or the equivalent such as, but not limited to, bribes, gains, gifts and other advantages including, without limitation, winnings and/or potential winnings as a result of a wager; the foregoing shall not include official prize money, appearance fees or payments to be made under sponsorship or other contracts. Sporting advantage is also a benefit.

3.2 “Competition” means any sports competition, tournament, match or event, organised in accordance with the rules of the WBSC or its affiliated members (including national sports federations of National Olympic Committee), or, where appropriate, in accordance with the rules of any other competent sports organisation.

3.3 “Inside Information” means information relating to any competition that a person possesses by virtue of his or her position in relation to a sport or competition, excluding any information already published or common knowledge, easily accessible to interested members of the public or disclosed in accordance with the rules and regulations governing the relevant Competition.

3.4 “Participant” means any natural or legal person belonging to one of the following categories:

3.4.1 “Athlete” means any person or group of persons, competing or accredited to compete in a competition;

3.4.2 “Athlete Support Personnel” means any coach, trainer, manager, agent, team staff, team official, medical or paramedical personnel working with or treating athletes participating in or preparing for competitions, and all other persons working with the athletes;

3.4.3 “Official” means any person who is the owner of, a shareholder in, an executive or a staff member of the entities which organise and/or promote competitions, as well as umpires, jury members and any other accredited or engaged persons. The term also covers the executives, staff of WBSC and staff and volunteers of Local Organising Committee, or where appropriate, other competent sports organisation or club that recognises the competition.

3.5 “Sports Betting, Bet or Betting” means any wager of a stake of monetary value in the expectation of a prize of monetary value, subject to a future and uncertain occurrence related to a competition.

## Article 4 Violations

The following conduct as defined in this Article constitutes a violation of this Rule:

4.1 Betting in relation:

4.1.1 to the Participant’s sport; and

- 4.1.2 to any event of a multisport Competition in which they are accredited to participate.

## 4.2 Manipulation of competitions

- 4.2.1 International arrangement: An intentional arrangement, act or omission aimed at an improper alteration of the result or the course of a sports competition in order to remove all or part of the unpredictable nature of the sports competition with a view to obtaining an undue Benefit for oneself and/or for others.
- 4.2.2 Corrupt conduct: Providing requesting, receiving, seeking, or accepting a Benefit related to the manipulation of a competition or any other form of corruption.

## 4.3 Inside information

- 4.3.1 Using Inside Information for the purposes of Betting, any form of manipulation of competitions or any other corrupt purposes whether by the Participant or via another person and/or entity.
- 4.3.2 Disclosing Inside Information to any person and/or entity, with or without Benefit, where the Participant knew or should have known that such disclosure might lead to the information being used for the purposes of Betting, any form of manipulation of competitions or any other corrupt purposes.
- 4.3.3 Giving and/or receiving a Benefit for the provision of Inside Information regardless of whether any Inside Information is actually provided.

## 4.4 Failure to report and reporting mechanism

- 4.4.1 Failing to report to the WBSC concerned or a relevant disclosure/reporting mechanism or authority, at the first available opportunity, full details of any approaches or invitations received by the Participant to engage in conduct or incidents that could amount to a violation of these Rules.
- 4.4.2 Failing to report to the WBSC concerned or a relevant disclosure/reporting mechanism or authority, at the first available opportunity, full details of any incident, fact or matter that comes to the attention of the Participant (or of which they ought to have been reasonably aware) including approaches or invitations that have been received by another Participant to engage in conduct that could amount to a violation of this Rule.



- 4.4.3 All reporting should be sent to [confidential.wbssc@protonmail.com](mailto:confidential.wbssc@protonmail.com) or to the IOC's Integrity and Compliance Hotline available at: [www.olympic.org/integrityhotline](http://www.olympic.org/integrityhotline).

#### 4.5 Failure to cooperate

- 4.5.1 Failing to cooperate with any investigation carried out by the WBSC in relation to a possible breach of these Rules, including, without limitation, failing to provide accurately, completely and without undue delay any information and/or documentation and/or access or assistance requested by the WBSC as part of such investigation.
- 4.5.2 Obstructing or delaying any investigation that may be carried out by the WBSC in relation to a possible violation of these Rules, including without limitation concealing, tampering with or destroying any documentation or other information that may be relevant to the investigation.

### Article 5 Determination of Violation

5.1 For the determination of whether a violation has been committed, the following are not relevant:

- 5.1.1 Whether or not the Participant is participating in the Competition concerned;
- 5.1.2 The outcome of the Competition on which the Bet was made or intended to be made;
- 5.1.3 Whether or not any Benefit or other consideration was actually given or received;
- 5.1.4 The nature of outcome of the Bet;
- 5.1.5 Whether or not the Participant's effort or performance in the Competition concerned were (or could be expected to be) affected by the acts or omission in question;
- 5.1.6 Whether or not the result of the Competition concerned was (or could be expected to be) affected by the acts or omission in question;

5.1.7 Whether or not the manipulation included a violation of a technical rule of the WBSC;

5.1.8 Whether or not the competition was attended by the competent national or international representative of the WBSC.

5.2 Any form of aid, abetment or attempt by a Participant that could culminate in a violation of these Rules shall be treated as if a violation had been committed, whether or not such an act in fact resulted in a violation and/or whether that violation was committed deliberately or negligently.

## **CHAPTER 2 DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURE**

### **Article 6 Investigations**

6.1 The Participant who is alleged to have committed a violation of these Rules must be informed of the alleged violations that have been committed, details of the alleged acts and/or omissions, and the range of possible sanctions.

6.2 Notice to a Participant may be accomplished by delivery of the notice to the Member Federation concerned. The Member Federation shall be responsible for immediately communicating the notice to the Participant

6.3 Upon request by the WBSC, the concerned Participant must provide any information which the WBSC considers may be relevant to investigate the alleged violation, within a reasonable time frame, including but not limited to records relating to the alleged violation (such as betting account numbers and information, itemised telephone bills, bank statements, internet service records, computers, hard drives and other electronic information storage devices), and/or a statement setting out the relevant facts and circumstances around the alleged violation.

6.4 Where, following investigation, the WBSC decides to charge a Participant with a violation of these Rules, the WBSC Single Point of Contact (SPOC) shall transfer any such matter to the WBSC Executive Board for determination in accordance with the WBSC Disciplinary By-Laws.

6.5 The WBSC shall coordinate with the law enforcement authorities' investigations on the same facts in cooperation with the IOC OM Unit PMC.



## Article 7 Rights of the Concerned Person

In all procedures linked to violations of the present Rules, the following rights must be respected:

- 7.1 The right to be informed of the charges;
- 7.2 The right to a fair, timely and impartial hearing either by appearing personally in front of the WBSC and/or submitting a defence in writing; and
- 7.3 The right to be accompanied and/or represented.

## **Article 8      Burden and Standard of Proof**

8.1      The WBSC shall have the burden of establishing that a violation has been committed. The standard of proof in all matters under this Rule shall be whether the Sport Organisation or other prosecuting authority has proved a violation to the comfortable satisfaction of the WBSC Executive Board, a standard which is greater than the mere balance of probability but less than proof beyond a reasonable doubt.

## **Article 9      Admissibility of Evidence**

9.1      The Disciplinary Body shall review any evidence and facts submitted, including but not limited to, admissions, evidence of third parties, witness statements, betting monitoring reports, expert reports, documentary evidence and other analytical information.

## **Article 10     Confidentiality**

10.1     The principle of confidentiality must be strictly respected by the WBSC during all the procedure; information should only be exchanged with entities on a need-to-know basis. Confidentiality must also be strictly respected by any person concerned by the procedure until there is public disclosure of the case.

## **Article 11     Safe Reporting Mechanism**

11.1     The WBSC shall ensure that an appropriate and safe reporting mechanism is available and that this is duly made known to athletes, athletes support personnel and officials. The WBSC shall ensure that the information received is promptly transmitted in a secure and confidential manner to the organisations having competence/jurisdiction to handle the case.

## **Article 12     Appeals**

12.1     All appeals shall be treated in line with the WBSC Disciplinary By-Laws

12.2     The general procedure of the appeal framework including provisions such as, but not limited to, the time limit for filing an appeal and the notification procedure for the appeal shall be in line with the WBSC Disciplinary By-Laws

## CHAPTER 3 WBSC SANCTIONS

### Article 13 Provisional Measures

13.1 The WBSC may impose provisional measures, including a provisional suspension, on the participant where there is a particular risk to the reputation of the sport, while ensuring respect for Articles 6 to 12 of these Rules.

13.2 Where a provisional measure is imposed, this shall be taken into consideration in the determination of any sanction which may ultimately be imposed.

13.2.1 Examples of other provisional measures may include the decision to video record a competition, the decision to change the umpires or judges just prior to the commencement of a competition etc.

### Article 14 Sanctions

14.1 Where it is determined that a violation has been committed, the WBSC shall impose an appropriate sanction upon the Participant from the range of permissible sanctions, which may range from a minimum of a warning to a maximum of life ban.

14.1.1 The WBSC Executive Board may consult the IOC Guidelines for Sport Organisations on the Sanctioning of Competition Manipulation.

14.2 When determining the appropriate sanctions applicable, the WBSC shall take into consideration all aggravating and mitigating circumstances and shall detail the effect of such circumstances on the final sanction in the written decision.

14.3 Substantial assistance provided by a Participant that results in the discovery or establishment of an offence by another Participant or Participants may reduce any sanction applied under these Rules.

14.4 If a Participant violates any prohibition on participation in a Competition imposed in accordance with these Rules, such Participant shall be disqualified immediately from the relevant Competition and the period of ineligibility originally imposed in accordance with these Rules shall recommence from the date of such violation.

14.5 These Rules shall continue to apply to any ineligible Participant and any violation committed during a period of ineligibility shall be treated as a distinct violation and separate proceedings may be brought against the Participant in accordance with these Rules.

## Article 15 Reinstatement

15.1 Once the period of the Participant's ineligibility has expired, they will become automatically re-eligible to participate in WBSC Events provided that they have:

- 15.1.1 completed to WBSC's satisfaction any official integrity education imposed on them as a sanction by the WBSC Executive Board;
- 15.1.2 has paid, in full, any fine imposed under these Rules and/or any order of costs made against them by the WBSC Executive Board; and
- 15.1.3 has agreed to subject themselves to any reasonable and proportionate monitoring of their future activities in connection with WBSC Events as the WBSC may reasonably consider necessary given the nature and scope of the violation that they have committed.

## Article 16 Mutual Recognition and Globalisation of Sanctions

16.1 Subject to the right of appeal, any decision issued in compliance with these Rules by any other Sporting Organisation will be recognised and respected by the WBSC.

16.2 The WBSC shall recognise and respect the decision(s) made by any court of competent jurisdiction which is not a Sporting Organisation as defined under these Rules.

16.3 A multisport events organiser's disciplinary body's decision does not prevent the WBSC from imposing its own sanction.

16.4 The WBSC extends the sanctions imposed by a National Member Federation (NF) to all other NFs.

16.5 The WBSC could take on jurisdiction on a national or continental level case should the NF or Continental Association (CA) does not act timely or should the credibility of the decision imposed by the NF or CA is questioned.

## Article 17 Implementation

17.1 Pursuant to Rule 1.4 of the Olympic Charter, all Sports Organisations bound by the Olympic Charter agree to respect these Rules. The WBSC is bound by the Olympic Charter and therefore agrees to respect these Rules.

17.2 The WBSC commits to the implementation of the present Rules within its own jurisdiction.

17.3 The WBSC is responsible for carrying out regular and continuous awareness raising initiatives.