

The background of the cover features a series of curved, parallel lines in shades of blue and grey, creating a sense of motion and depth. The WBSC logo is prominently displayed in the center, with the letters in a bold, gold-colored font. Below the logo is a red swoosh that underlines the text.

WBSC

WORLD
BASEBALL SOFTBALL
CONFEDERATION

Game Time!

WBSC World Rankings Guidelines

Revised July, 2025

Table of Contents

Table of Contents

1.	<i>How to use this document</i>	1
2.	<i>Legislative Provisions</i>	2
3.	<i>Overview & History</i>	3
4.	<i>Methodologies</i>	3
4.1.	Key Factors	4
4.1.1.	Maximum Points & Points allocated to last place	4
4.1.2.	Point Differential Formula	4
4.1.3.	Team Quality Bonus & Top 12 Bonus (Top 6 Bonus)	5
4.1.4.	Maximum Points Reductions	6
4.1.5.	Four-Year Cycle	7
4.1.6.	Exemption to the Four-Year-Cycle	7
4.2.	Event Categories	7
4.2.1.	Top Level World Events	8
4.2.2.	Age Group World Cups	8
4.2.3.	Major Multi-Sport Events & Adult Continental Championships	8
4.2.4.	Minor Multi-Sport Events & Official Continental Events	9
4.2.5.	Regional Events & Non-World Cup Qualifiers	9
4.2.6.	Age Group World Cups & Premier12 Qualifiers	9
4.2.7.	Head-to-Head Friendlies	10
4.3.	One Stage vs. Two Stage World Cups	10
4.3.1.	One Stage World Cups	10
4.3.2.	Two Stage World Cups	11

APPENDIX A: MEN'S BASEBALLWORLD RANKING METHODOLOGY

APPENDIX B: WOMEN'S BASEBALLWORLD RANKING METHODOLOGY

APPENDIX C: MEN'S SOFTBALLWORLD RANKING METHODOLOGY

APPENDIX D: WOMEN'S SOFTBALLWORLD RANKING METHODOLOGY

APPENDIX E: BASEBALL5 WORLD RANKING METHODOLOGY

APPENDIX F: LIST OF WBSC SANCTIONED EVENTS



1. How to use this document

BASEBALL (MEN)	BASEBALL (WOMEN)	SOFTBALL (WOMEN)	SOFTBALL (MEN)	BASEBALL5 (COED)
1 JPN 4179	1 JPN 1355	1 USA 4288	1 ARG 3722	1 CUB 2055
2 TPE 3819	2 TPE 1097	2 JPN 2697	2 CAN ▲1 2954	2 TPE 1679
3 USA ▲2 3449	3 CAN 1029	3 TPE ▲3 2502	3 JPN ▼1 2909	3 FRA 1650
4 KOR ▼1 3428	4 USA 1015	4 CAN ▼1 2342	4 AUS 2864	4 JPN 1635
5 MEX ▼1 3273	5 VEN 900	5 PUR 2330	5 USA ▲2 2655	5 VEN 1370
6 VEN ▲1 2723	6 DOM 717	6 MEX ▼2 1927	6 CZE ▼1 2221	6 RSA 1286
7 NED ▲1 2468	7 CUB 520	7 CZE ▲4 1789	7 NZL ▼1 1934	7 LTU 1213
8 CUB ▲1 2246	8 AUS 509	8 ITA ▼1 1776	8 VEN ▲1 1877	8 TUN 1174
9 DOM ▼3 1894	9 PUR 371	9 AUS ▼1 1529	9 CUB ▲3 1807	9 KEN 1046
10 AUS 1889	10 KOR 364	10 NED 1498	10 MEX ▼2 1322	10 ITA 819
11 COL 1669	11 HKG 256	11 ESP ▲6 936	11 DEN ▼1 1069	11 MEX 807
12 PAN ▲1 1529	12 MEX 160	12 ISR ▲8 844	12 RSA ▼1 1004	12 KOR 781

[Example] Top 12 ranked countries in January 2023

The primary function of this document is to provide a clear guide to understanding the founding concepts that are the basis of the World Rankings and to provide clear information on how the World Rankings are generated.

The first part highlights some legislative provisions taken from the World Baseball Softball Confederation (WBSC) Statutes and Regulations, that will help clarify specific terminologies and responsibilities, as well as provide some historic context about the implementation of the World Rankings for all the disciplines.

The second part is fully dedicated to the technical aspects of the World Rankings, in response to the questions on how countries earn ranking points, which events count for the rankings, how long the earned points continue to support a team’s ranking and much more.

In conclusion, the world rankings methodologies for Baseball Men, Baseball Women, Softball Men, Softball Women and Baseball5 can be found in the appendixes section.

2. Legislative Provisions

Article 4 of the WBSC Statutes cites that one of the objectives of the WBSC relates to establishing, calculating, and promoting the World Rankings for Baseball/Softball and all related disciplines and formats at different levels, including for all international, continental, regional and sub-regional competitions.

It is important to note that only WBSC sanctioned competitions and events can be considered for ranking points distribution. In this regard, the WBSC Statutes defines the international play as “Any International Baseball/Softball competition, match, game, tournament between teams and/or clubs that come under the jurisdiction and/or auspices of one or more Member Federations and/or comprising of one or more players that come under the jurisdiction and/or auspices of one or more Member Federations, falls under the jurisdiction of the World Baseball Softball Confederation (WBSC) and shall be subject to the Statutes, Code of the Divisions, By-Laws, Rules and Regulations as established by the World Baseball Softball Confederation (WBSC).”

It also clarifies which organizations are entitled to select the national teams for international play. “World Baseball Softball Confederation (WBSC) Full Members are the only authorities in each country to select their National Team and have the exclusive right to represent the country or territory name, flag and colours.”

Furthermore, the World Baseball Softball Confederation (WBSC) Sanction Regulations define and regulate other important key concepts within the broader World Rankings environment, such as:

“International Competition” means that a Baseball/Softball/Baseball5 competition shall be considered an international competition and come under the jurisdiction of World Baseball Softball Confederation (WBSC) when the competition features any of the following:

- National Team vs. National Team
- National Team vs. Club
- Club vs. Club

“National Team” refers to a selection of players who share the same nationality and are assembled under the authority of their respective National Federation – and/or in partnership with World Baseball Softball Confederation (WBSC) Associate Members, if applicable – to represent their nation/territory in sanctioned international competitions.

3. Overview & History

In 2009, the world governing body for baseball, IBAF, published for the first time the men's baseball world ranking which focused on the results in international competitions of the men's adult national teams of the member nations over a four-year cycle. While the women's baseball rankings were first launched in 2012.

Following the merger of IBAF and the ISF (former international governing body for softball), the WBSC published in 2016 the world rankings for women's and men's softball disciplines, which tracked the performance of each country's National Team in the Softball World Cups, including age group and top-tier levels, over a three-year period.

In 2019, the baseball and softball world rankings methodologies were aligned and since then all the rankings are based on a four-year cycle.

In January 2023, the first ever Baseball5 World Ranking was also launched, which considered the results of the first ever Baseball5 World Cup as well as all its continental qualifiers.

NOTE: With the launch of the WBSC Premier12 (in 2015), the top 12 teams in the men's baseball ranking on 31 December of the previous year, earn the invitation to participate in this flagship event that takes place every four years.

4. Methodologies

The ranking methodologies outline the rules for calculating and managing rankings across all disciplines. These documents categorize events and specify how points are awarded to participating teams based on their tournament or game performance.

Higher-ranked events are associated with a higher number of ranking points, like in the case of the "Top Level World Events", while the participation in the "Head-to-Head Friendlies" confers the least number of points.

The official ranking methodologies are always available on the WBSC website (wbsc.org) and they are also in the appendixes of this document.



4.1. Key Factors

The following important points will help you have a clear understanding of the ranking methodologies :

4.1.1. Maximum Points & Points allocated to last place

While for some event categories the maximum number of points is fixed, in the majority of cases the maximum number of points allocated by one event varies and is connected to a number of different factors.

The importance of defining the maximum points allocated to the winner of one event is pivotal to also calculate the points to be awarded to all participating teams.

First and foremost, the minimum points, awarded to the last placed team, are exactly 10% of the maximum points (eventually rounded up, no decimal permitted). Secondly, the maximum points and the minimum points form the base of the formula to calculate the points to be allocated to all other teams.

4.1.2. Point Differential Formula

The formula to calculate a tournament point differential, which defines the gap between every team based on the final standings, takes into account the maximum points and the minimum points, as mentioned above, as well as the total number of participating teams.

However the following applies to one-stage and two-stage events or tournaments:

One Stage Events:

$$\frac{(\text{Maximum Points}) - (\text{Minimum Points})}{(\text{N}^{\circ} \text{ of Teams in Tournament}) - 1}$$

Using the Men’s Softball World Cup as an example:

Max Points: 1.200 + 180* (*bonus, not included in the formula)

Min Points: 120

$$\frac{(1.200) - (120)}{(12) - 1} = \frac{1.080}{11} = 98,18 \text{ points between each team}$$

1st Place: 1.200 + 180 bonus



2nd Place: 1.102
3rd Place: 1.004 etc...

Two Stage Events:

$$\frac{(\text{Maximum Points}) - (\text{Minimum Points})}{(\text{N}^{\circ} \text{ of Teams in Each Group Stage}) + (\text{N}^{\circ} \text{ of Teams in Final Stage}) - 1}$$

Using the Women’s Softball World Cup as an example:

Max Points: 1.200 + 180* (*bonus, not included in the formula)
Min Points: 120

$$\frac{1.200 - 120}{6 + 8 - 1} = \frac{1.080}{13} = 83,08 \text{ points between each team}$$

Group Stage – 6 teams per group	Final Stage – 8 teams
1 st Place: 535	1 st Place: 665 + 180 bonus
2 nd Place: 452	2 nd Place: 581
3 rd Place: 369	3 rd Place: 498
4 th Place: 286	4 th Place: 415
5 th Place: 203	5 th Place: 332
6 th Place: 120	6 th Place: 249
	7 th Place: 166
	8 th Place: 83

NOTE: Decimal numbers (i.e. 78,**82**) have been eliminated from the rankings and all numbers are eventually rounded-up. However, to calculate the points to be allocated to all participating teams the interval is rounded-up to the second decimal (i.e. 81,818181 becomes 81,82)

4.1.3. Team Quality Bonus & Top 12 Bonus (Top 6 Bonus)

The Team Quality Bonus is a parameter used to define the maximum points allocated by one event that takes into account the number of participating teams and their respective World Ranking placements at 31 December of the previous year.

The Top 12 Bonus, if applicable, gives bonus points to events with teams in the Top 12 of the World Ranking on 31 December of the previous year. However, for the Women's Baseball Ranking a Top-6 Bonus is applied.

Taking as an example a Women's Softball Continental Championship (maximum points between 500 and 200) in which eight national teams take part and their world ranking positions on 31 December of the previous year are the following: 2nd, 5th, 11th, 16th, 24th, 34th, 48th and 72nd:

Team Quality Bonus:

2nd = 50 pts

5th = 50 pts

11th = 50 pts

16th = 25 pts

24th = 25 pts

34th = 10 pts

48th = 5 pts

72nd = 5 pts

220 pts

Top 12 Bonus:

3 Top-12 teams = 50 pts extra

Max points = 220 + 50 = 270 pts

Min points = 27 pts

4.1.4. Maximum Points Reductions

Whenever the total number of participating teams in one event is lower than five, the maximum points calculated using the above formula, will be reduced as follows:

- 5 or more participants : 100 % of the maximum points.
- 4 participants : 80 % of the maximum points.
- 3 participants : 60 % of the maximum points.
- 2 participants : 30 % of the maximum points.

NOTE: Only in the case of Continental Championships that serve as qualifiers for a World Cup, a 30% reduction of the maximum score is applied if only two teams participate. In all other cases, for ranking purposes, an event with only two teams will be considered a direct friendly match.

4.1.5. Four-Year Cycle

The ranking points earned by any national team remain in the World Ranking for exactly four years, which means that in the case of a rankings update of 31 December of any year, the points taken into account are the ones related to events that took place in the current plus the past three years.

Examples:

- A rankings update at 31.12.2022: all the points between 1.1.19 and 31.12.2022.
- A rankings update at 6.6.2023: all the points between 7.6.2019 and 6.6.2023.

4.1.6. Exemption to the Four-Year-Cycle

In principle, one edition of any event must always be present in the World Rankings of the respective discipline at any given time. If an event is staged within four calendar years of the previous edition, the points from the immediately previous edition will be removed from the ranking as soon as the next edition is played.

However, for the "Top Level World Events" and "Age Group World Cups" that are scheduled to be staged every two years (i.e. U-12 Baseball World Cup, Baseball5 World Cup etc.), two editions of each event must be present in the World Rankings at any given time. In these cases, when a new edition is staged, the points from the oldest edition (i.e., the one held four years before) will be removed and replaced by the new results.

For "Top Level World Events, Age Group World Cups and Major Multi-Sport Events & Continental Championships" (see 4.2.1, 4.2.2 and 4.2.3) staged later than four years after the previous edition, the points from the earlier edition will be managed as follows:

- If the event is scheduled within the four-year cycle but postponed, the points will remain in the rankings until the next edition is played.
- If the event is not scheduled in the four-year cycle but will take place later in that calendar year (eg, a tournament takes place on 20-26.01.2022 and the "next edition" is held on 12.18.10.2026, the tournament points will remain until the "next edition" is played.
- If the event is not scheduled within the four-year cycle, the points from the event will expire after four years.

4.2 Event Categories

All Baseball, Softball and Baseball5 events involving National Teams taking place globally are categorised based on their relevance from a sporting, historic and the overall attention generated.

All events within the same category award a pre-set number of ranking points to the participating teams based on their performance. In some cases, like in the Top Tier Events and the World Cups, the amount of points is fixed, while in many other cases the number of points to be awarded is not, even though it must be within defined gaps, like for the Continental Championships (maximum 500 – minimum 200 pts) or the Minor Multi Sport Events and others (maximum 100 pts).

4.2.1. Top Level World Events

This category is dedicated to the top World Baseball Softball Confederation (WBSC) sanctioned events for adult official national teams, such as:

- Baseball5 World Cup
- Men's Softball World Cup,
- Premier12.
- Women's Baseball World Cup,
- Women's Softball World Cup, and
- World Baseball Classic

Being the top ranked category, it confers the maximum number of points in each respective discipline, between 1200 and 1000 points to the winner.

4.2.2. Age Group World Cups

This category includes all World Cup events that are not top-level adult competitions. Events for older age groups (such as U-23) are worth more points, while events for younger age groups (such as U-12) are worth fewer points. This category covers the U-12, U-15, U-18, U-23 Baseball and Softball World Cups as well as the Youth Baseball5 World Cup.

4.2.3. Major Multi-Sport Events & Adult Continental Championships

Under this category fall two different types of events:

- **Major Multi-Sport Events:** like the Olympic Games, the Pan Am Games and the Asian Games, flagship events with global or continental importance above and beyond the baseball/softball community.
- **Adult Continental Championships:** all adult competitions managed by the WBSC continental associations that confer a continental title, such as the European Women's Softball Championship or the Baseball Asia Cup, to name a few.

4.2.4 Minor Multi-Sport Events & Official Continental Events

This category includes baseball, softball, and Baseball5 events organised either as part of multi-sport events managed by regional organisations or directly by continental associations and their subdivisions. These events are exclusively for adult national teams and do not award a World or Continental Title to the winner.

- **Official Continental Events:** These events are organised by continental associations or their subdivisions to promote competition among member nations within a specific region. They do not award a World or Continental Title, (Examples: South American Baseball Championship, South-East Asia Cup etc..).
- **Minor Multi-Sport Events:** This subcategory includes events that are part of multi-sport competitions organised by regional organizations, where baseball, softball, and/or Baseball5 are part of the official programme (Examples: Central American & Caribbean Games and Pacific Mini Games)

4.2.5. Regional Events & Non-World Cup Qualifiers

This category encompasses baseball, softball, and Baseball5 events organised by national federations, private organizations, or other local entities. These events are also limited to adult national teams and do not award a World or Continental Title to the winner.

Examples include the Haarlem Baseball Week, the Triple Play Balkan Open, and qualifiers for the Central American and Caribbean Games.

4.2.6. Age Group World Cups & Premier12 Qualifiers:

Herein all the continental qualifiers for the World Cups of all respective age groups and the Premier12 Qualifiers. Similar to the World Cups, the maximum points of each event is higher for the older age groups, and lower for the younger ones.

Examples include the U-12 Baseball World Cup European Qualifier, the U-23 Men's Softball World Cup Asia qualifier, the Junior Baseball5 Africa Qualifier, to name a few.

4.2.7. Head-to-Head Friendlies:

“Head-to-Head Friendlies” are international games played between national teams outside of an organised tournament or games between national teams played during a tournament in which not all the participating teams are adult national teams.

NOTE: For Baseball and Softball ranking purposes, only games played between official adult national teams are considered, whereas for Baseball5 also games played between national teams of the same age group are considered. Hence, in order to award points the two opposing teams must be of the same age group (i.e. both U-18 mixed teams).

Typical examples of games played outside of an organised tournament and/or friendly series between two adult national teams are the Samurai Japan Baseball Series or Japan All-Star Softball Series (JPN vs USA, while tournaments in which not all participating teams are adult national teams are those events in which adult national teams play against club teams, B teams (not the official adult national team) and / or junior teams (example: U-18, U-23 etc..).

An example of tournaments in which not all the participating teams are normally adult national teams are the Canada Cup (Adult Women’s Softball) or Zeister Slot Tournament (Adult Men's Softball). In such cases, points are awarded according to the Head-to-Head Friendlies ranking methodology of the discipline being played, only for the games between adult national teams.

NOTE: In some cases, depending on the edition, one event is played by adult official national teams only and in other editions NOT only by adult official national teams, like in the case of the Baseball Haarlem Week. Therefore, points are either awarded as an Official Continental & Regional Events (only adult official national teams) or as Head-to-Head Friendlies (NOT only adult official national teams)

4.3 One Stage vs. Two Stage World Cups

Starting in 2023, some World Cups have been divided into two stages to better accommodate scheduling and competition formats.

4.3.1. One Stage World Cups

The standard format where all participating teams compete within the same year. This format is designed for simplicity and efficiency, with all matches, from group stages to finals, being held in a single event.

From a ranking perspective, Ranking Points are awarded to all participating teams at the end of the event, based on their final standings.

4.3.2. Two Stage World Cups

A new format introduced in 2023, where the competition is split into two distinct phases:

Group Stage (Year 1): All participating teams are divided into groups and compete within their groups. The matches are held in the first year, determining which teams will qualify for the Final Stage.

Final Stage (Year 2): Only the teams that advance from the Group Stage participate in the Final Stage, held in the following year.

In this format, Ranking Points are distributed at the conclusion of each stage. Points are awarded to teams based on their performance in the Group Stage and again at the end of the Final Stage, providing incremental recognition for their achievements in both phases.