

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

WBSC

WORLD
BASEBALL SOFTBALL
CONFEDERATION

Game Time!

Executive Board 25th Meeting

By videoconference
6th September 2023

Minutes

WBSC Executive Board 25th Meeting

By videoconference

6th September 2023

AGENDA

- 1) Welcome
- 2) Roll call
- 3) To consider and approve the Minutes of the WBSC Executive Board Meeting held on 24th March 2023 by videoconference
- 4) Any matters arising from the Minutes
- 5) President's Address
- 6) To consider and approve the review of the WBSC Statutes
- 7) To consider and approve prospective new Members and to consider the review of existing Members
- 8) Any other business
- 9) Adjournment

ATTENDANCE

Present (13/16):

President:	Mr. Riccardo Fraccari
Vice President:	Mr. Willi Kaltschmitt
Vice President:	Mr. Luís Mejía
Executive VP – Baseball:	Mr. Jeffrey Koo Jr.
Executive VP – Softball:	Mr. Craig Cress
Secretary General:	Dato' (Ms.) Beng Choo Low
Treasurer:	Mr. Angelo Vicini
Member At-Large:	Mr. Ronald Finlay
Member At-Large:	Mr. Paul Seiler
Member At-Large:	Ms. Taeko Utsugi
Member At-Large:	Mr. Gabriel Waage
Athletes' Rep. – Baseball:	Mr. Randolph Oduber
Athletes' Rep. – Baseball:	Ms. Ayako Rokkaku

Excused:

Vice President:	Ms. Beatrice Allen
Athletes' Rep. – Softball:	Mr. Cole Evans
Athletes' Rep. – Softball:	Ms. Monica Abbott

Baseball Division:

Vice Chair:	Mr. Brayan Minniti
Continental VP Africa:	Mr. Albert Frimpong
Continental VP Americas:	Ms. Aracelis Leon
Continental VP Asia:	Mr. Masatake Yamanaka
Continental VP Europe:	Mr. Krunoslav Karin
Continental VP Oceania:	Mr. Vaughan Wyber
Member At-Large:	Mr. Xu Chen
Member At-Large:	Mr. Jimmy Char
Member At-Large:	Mr. Petr Ditrich

Excused:

Athletes' Rep. – Baseball:	Mr. Timothy Atherton
Athletes' Rep. – Baseball:	Ms. Wing Ki MUI

Softball Division:

Continental VP Americas:	Mr. Tommy Velazquez
Continental VP Asia:	Mr. Xu Yang
Continental VP Oceania:	Mr. Rex Capil
Member At-Large:	Ms. Mette Nissen Jakobsen

Excused:

Vice Chair:	Ms. Maria Soto
Continental VP Africa:	Mr. Felix Okuye

Member At-Large:
Athletes' Rep. – Softball:

Mr. Chong Hoon Lee
Mr. Vaclav Svoboda

In attendance, also:

Mr. Michael Schmidt, Executive Director
Ms. Karen Gaunt, Member of the WBSC Legal Commission
Mr. Vincenzo La Rocca, Member of the WBSC Legal Commission
Ms. Akiko Ito, Japanese interpreter
Mr. Chris (Chien Fan) Day, Chinese interpreter
Ms. Vivien Campos, WBSC interpreter

WBSC Staff Members:

Mr. Marco Ienna (COO)
Mr. Richard Baker (Media & Communications Director)
Mr. Victor Isola (Executive Assistant to the President)
Ms. Yoori Jung (Protocol Department)

1. **WELCOME**

- 1.1 President Fraccari called to order this 6th September 2023, WBSC Executive Board (EB) Meeting at 13:00 (Lausanne time). He welcomed all the attendees and outlined the matters as listed on the Agenda for discussion in this Meeting.

2. **ROLL CALL**

- 2.1 Secretary General Low completed the Roll Call as per the attendance list above and confirmed that there was a quorum for this Meeting to proceed.

3. **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

- 3.1 Secretary General Low informed that the Minutes of the 24th WBSC EB meeting held on 24th March 2023 by videoconference were sent earlier to all EB Members and the requests for amendments received by the WBSC Office were applied. There were no requests from the EB members at the Meeting for any amendments.

PROPOSAL:

To consider and approve the Minutes of the 24th WBSC Executive Board meeting held on 24th March 2023 by videoconference.

DECISION

The WBSC Executive Board unanimously approved the Minutes of the 24th WBSC Executive Board meeting held on 24th March 2023 by videoconference.

4. **ANY MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

- 4.1 There were no matters arising brought up.

5. **PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS**

- 5.1 President Fraccari acknowledged that there were many international tournaments and institutional events this year (2023), both at WBSC World Cups level as well as continental level non-stop since this March. He stated that the very busy calendar started with the World Baseball Classic, which was a great success and demonstration of the popularity of our sport, and also a good opportunity for Major League Baseball (MLB) which allowed its top players to participate and realise the importance of internationalising our sport and the prestige of representing respective national teams.

5.2 President Fraccari stated new disciplines and new products launched are progressing well and there will be a lot of “first-ever” this year:

- Baseball Champions League**
 The first and only club-level baseball tournament in the world, which would see its launch in an inauguration event in Merida, Mexico, from 28th September to 1st October 2023. 4 teams from Cuba, Mexico, American Association of Professional Baseball, and Colombia would participate.
- Youth Baseball5 World Cup**
 After the huge success of the inaugural Senior Baseball5 World Cup, we would see a new generation of athletes competing in Ankara, Türkiye, on 10-15th October 2023, with the dream of reaching the Youth Olympic Games of Dakar 2026.
- CoEd Slow Pitch Softball World Cup**
 The Slow Pitch Softball community will have a World Cup finally and a lot of excitement has been shared already on social media platforms.
- Olympic Esports Week**
 The in-person eSports event held in Singapore which saw again our International Federation demonstrating ourselves as the leader in this sector, showing up to 85% of the global viewers via our WBSC eBASEBALL™: POWER PROS.

Numbers of online finals viewership (Youtube)	
Zwift X Cycling	12K
Triathlon X Zwift	12K
NBA 2K23	14K
Chess	16K
VR Table Tennis	16K
Tennis Clash	18K
Virtual Regatta	18K
Archery Tic Tac Bow	20K
Gran Turismo	23K
Opening Ceremony	25K
Virtual Taekwondo	27K
Rocket League	28K
Shooting X Fortnite	30K
Just Dance	37K
Street Fighter	38K
eBaseball Power Pros	1.9M

5.3 He indicated that the WBSC was not only managing to resume international

activities but also launching new products and properties to add to our assets and offerings to give more possibilities to the movement and Members of the WBSC.

- 5.4 He emphasised that the institutional events are also at the heart of the WBSC, reporting the WBSC has been recognised as an ASOIF Associate Member through a vote during the ASOIF General Assembly held in Lausanne on 31st May 2023. He continued by stating that this demonstrates the trust that we were able to build in the sport community in the past years. He stated that we are working hard to capitalise on this momentum leading up to the IOC Session on 15-17th October 2023 in Mumbai which is expected to announce the Final Sport Programme for the Games of LA28.
- 5.5 He stated that WBSC has been fully committed to be in the sport programme of LA28 Olympic Games and our discussions with the IOC and the OCOG (Olympic Games Organizing Committee) were going well and positive. He applauded the tremendous support of all our major professional leagues, in particular MLB.
- 5.6 He also reported that LA28 went to Oklahoma for a site inspection dedicated to Softball and Mr. Cress was in attendance there.
 - 5.6.1 Mr. Cress explained that it was a positive visit to show our sport for LA28.
 - 5.6.2 Mr. Seiler added the MLB and MLB Players Association have given the best to show support to be part of the Olympic Programme.
 - 5.6.3 Mr. Kaltschmitt also shared positive views on being part of LA28.
- 5.7 President Fraccari thanked everyone for their amazing support and efforts stating that all the success and achievements we have today is the result of the dedicated determined hard work achieved together.

6. TO CONSIDER AND APPROVE THE REVIEW OF THE WBSC STATUTES

- 6.1 President Fraccari reflected on the progress of the WBSC:
 - 6.1.1 The merger 10 years ago of the IBAF (International Baseball Federation) - ISF (International Softball Federation), with the agreement and drafting of a constitution and the 1st WBSC Congress in 2014 in Hammamet Tunisia to approve it.
 - 6.1.2 The hard work and efforts continued over the years with constant reviews to become stronger and more competitive as an established IOC and internationally recognised International Federation (IF), including re-branding with new logos, slogan, vision, mission and values, which has resulted in our exponential growth.

- 6.1.3 The establishment of a permanent headquarter-office in our own building, and the building of our own profitable products, assets and properties with a vision and mission for long term sustainability, including financially and resources-based as well as be attractive to partners and sponsors.
- 6.1.4 With our 10th anniversary, it was time for WBSC to reflect and review for total unity within by bringing together the two divisions, Baseball and Softball, into one main governing Executive Board, bringing on board the continental representatives and modernizing our Statutes.
- 6.2 WBSC Legal Commission Chair, Mr. Finlay, presented the proposed amendments to the WBSC Statutes, which he stated had been sent to all EB Members prior to this Meeting:
- 6.2.1 He informed that the WBSC Legal Commission team and the WBSC management team have been working over the past months to put together the proposed amendments to the WBSC Statutes.
- 6.2.2 He stated that with the trust built over the years since the merger, the proposed amended WBSC Statutes would be a move forward to truly unify the organization with the removal of the two Divisions and the respective Codes, and for Baseball and Softball as a single governance unit under one main Executive Board. Baseball and Softball would be structured as respective WBSC Commissions.
- 6.2.3 The new main Executive Board would include the following:
- An Executive Vice President for Baseball, who will chair the Baseball Commission.
 - An executive Vice President for Softball, who will chair the Softball Commission.
 - Three (3) Members-at-Large representing Baseball.
 - Three (3) Members-at-Large representing Softball.
 - Five (5) Continental Representatives representing Baseball.
 - Five (5) Continental Representatives representing Softball.
- 6.2.4 The process would be as follows:
- The EB would recommend the proposed amendments to the WBSC Statutes to a Congress for approval.
 - The Congress would be a virtual Congress to be held in written form on 06 December 2023.
 - The approved amendments to the WBSC Statutes would take effect upon approval.
- 6.3 President Fraccari thanked Mr Finlay and the WBSC Legal Commission members, as well as all who had worked hard to put together the proposed amendments. He

stated that true unity would make WBSC even more relevant as a stronger single governing organization. He added that the continental representation in the main board would also be an asset and lead to greater collaboration and cooperation to further strengthen the organizations.

PROPOSAL:

To consider and approve the recommendation that the amendments to the WBSC Statutes (as per **Attachment 1**), as proposed by Mr. Kaltschmitt and seconded by Mr. Seiler, be tabled to the WBCS Virtual Congress to be held in written form on 06 December 2023 for consideration and ratification.

DECISION

*The WBSC Executive Board unanimously approved the recommendation that the amendments to the WBSC Statutes (as per **Attachment 1**) be tabled to the WBCS Virtual Congress to be held in written form on 06 December 2023 for consideration and ratification.*

6.4 Mr. Schmidt informed that the process for the WBSC Virtual Congress to be held in written form on 6 December 2023 would be as follows:

- 13th September 2023: Announcement of the Congress to the WBSC Members;
- 27th September 2023: WBSC to send out the proposal of the amendments to the WBSC Statutes to the Members;
- 27th November 2023: Electronic (email) votes will open;
- 6th December: voting closing / announcement of the results. This is also the official date of the Congress.

7. TO CONSIDER AND APPROVE PROSPECTIVE NEW MEMBERS AND TO CONSIDER THE REVIEW OF EXISTING MEMBERS

7.1 Mr. Schmidt presented the application for Full Membership from Cambodia Softball Federation and reported that the relevant documents were submitted and checked by the WBSC Secretariat.

PROPOSAL:

To consider and approve the new Cambodia Baseball Softball National Federation as a WBSC Full Member and to submit such approval for ratification at the next WBSC Congress, as proposed by Mr. Vicini and seconded by Mr. Cress.

DECISION

The WBSC Executive Board unanimously approved the new Cambodia Baseball Softball Federation as a WBSC Full Member and to submit such approval for ratification at the next

WBSC Congress.

- 7.2 Mr. Schmidt presented the application for Full Membership from Syria Baseball Softball Federation and reported that the necessary documents were submitted and checked by the WBSC Secretariat.

PROPOSAL:

To consider and approve the new Syria Baseball Softball National Federation as a WBSC Full Member and to submit such approval for ratification at the next WBSC Congress, as proposed by Mr. Kaltschmitt and seconded by Mr. Finlay.

DECISION

The WBSC Executive Board unanimously approved the new Syria Baseball Softball Federation as a WBSC Full Member and to submit such approval for ratification at the next WBSC Congress.

- 7.3 Mr. Schmidt presented the application for Associate Membership from Alternative Baseball Organization Inc. and reported that the necessary documents were submitted and checked by the WBSC Secretariat. He explained that this organisation is a non-profit organisation for people with disabilities and they are very enthusiastic about developing Youth Baseball⁵ amongst the mentally disabled.

PROPOSAL:

To consider and approve the application of the Alternative Baseball as a WBSC Associate Member, as proposed by Mr. Finlay and seconded by Mr. Cress.

DECISION

The WBSC Executive Board unanimously approved the application of the Alternative Baseball as a WBSC Associate Member.

- 7.4 Mr. Schmidt presented the application of dismissal for Republic of Congo as its National Olympic Committee (NOC) / Government did not recognise them and that they owe substantial amounts of debts to WBSC.

PROPOSAL:

To consider and approve the dismissal of the membership of the WBSC Member of Republic of Congo Baseball Softball National Federation, and to submit such approval for ratification at the next WBSC Congress, as proposed by Mr. Koo and seconded by Mr. Finlay.

DECISION

The WBSC Executive Board unanimously approved the dismissal of the membership of the Republic of Congo Baseball Softball National Federation and to submit such approval for ratification at the next WBSC Congress.

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

8.1 Mr. Schmidt presented the request from the Italian NF for a change of nationality of a baseball athlete, Mr. Federico Robles, from Argentina to Italy. The WBSC received a letter from the Argentinian NF with conditional consent saying that they agree on the change of the athlete's nationality only for a limited period, requesting such athlete returns to Argentina in 2024.

8.1.1 President Fraccari explained that according to the Olympic Charter Bye-law to Rule 41, athletes who have represented a country in world or regional championships recognised by the relevant IF, and who have changed their nationality or acquired a new nationality, may compete to represent their new country provided that at least three years have passed since the athletes last represented their former country.

8.1.2 Ms. Low acknowledged that it is difficult to approve the conditional agreement which is against the Olympic Charter.

8.1.3 Mr. Waage agreed that this is against the Olympic Charter and proposed to refuse the request.

PROPOSAL:

To consider and decide on the application for the change of nationality of Mr. Federico Robles from Argentina to Italy.

DECISION

The WBSC Executive Board unanimously rejected the application for the change of nationality of Mr. Federico Robles from Argentina to Italy.

9. ADJOURNMENT

9.1 President Fraccari thanked all who attended the Meeting. He also thanked the WBSC staff and the interpreter for their efforts in ensuring the success of the meeting.

- 9.2 There being no other matters, the Meeting adjourned at 14:00 with a vote of thanks to the Chair. [End]

These Minutes, originating from the WBSC Executive Board Meeting held by videoconference on 6th September 2023, are formally confirmed as correct by:

Day _____ Month _____ Year _____

City _____

Signed by _____
Riccardo Fraccari
President

Signed by _____
Beng Choo Low
Secretary General