

WBSC

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WBSC BASEBALL WORLD CUPS

TOURNAMENT REGULATIONS

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This is the WBSC Baseball World Cup Tournament Regulations, published by the World Baseball Softball Confederation (WBSC). Its application is compulsory in all competitions.

In the whole document everything that is written in masculine applies also to the feminine:

e.g.: he = she
his = her

Likewise, “competition”, “event” or “tournament” under this document is synonymous with Baseball 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.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

A. GENERAL NORMS.....	5
A1. PLAYERS ELIGIBILITY	5
A2. PROVISIONAL TEAM ROSTER - (PTR)	7
A3. FINAL TEAM ROSTER - (FTR).....	7
A4. PRE-TOURNAMENT TECHNICAL/ORGANISATIONAL MEETING	9
A5. DOPING CONTROL.....	9
A6. AWARDS.....	10
A7. INFRACTIONS AND FINES.....	12
A8. GAME SUSPENSIONS	15
B. COMPETITION ADMINISTRATION	16
B1. COMPETITION OFFICIALS	16
B2. OTHERS	20
B3. PROTESTS.....	21
B4. APPEALS.....	21
B5. DELIVERY OF NOTICES	22
B6. GAME PROTOCOL	22
B7. COMPETITION SYSTEM.....	25
C. TECHNICAL ASPECTS	27
C1. UNIFORMS.....	27
C2. COMPETITION VENUES	28
C3. GROUND RULES	28
C4. DUGOUT	29
C5. PRACTICE SCHEDULE	29
C6. STARTING LINE-UP	30
C7. PLAYING RULES AND PACE OF PLAY	30
C8. COMPETITION GAME SCHEDULE.....	33
C9. SUSPENDED GAMES	33
C10. HOME/VISITOR ASSIGNMENTS.....	33
C11. TIE BREAKING	33
C12. ALTERNATE DETERMINATION OF CHAMPION.....	37
D. RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE USE AND CARE OF PROPERTY AND INSTALLATIONS.....	38
E. OTHER MATTERS.....	39
E1. USE OF SOCIAL MEDIA.....	39
E2. BREAK BETWEEN INNINGS.....	39
E3. TEAM PRESENTATION	39
E4. MEDIA OBLIGATIONS	39
F. FINAL DISPOSITIONS	40



APPENDIX I: Opening & Closing Ceremonies Guidelines

APPENDIX II: Uniform Guidelines

APPENDIX III: List of WBSC Approved-Wood Bats

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 Baseball ("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 Baseball World Cup and a qualifier for one of these, including: U-23 Baseball World Cup; U-18 Baseball World Cup; U-15 Baseball World Cup; U-12 Baseball World Cup; Women's Baseball World Cup, Continental or Regional Games, or World or Regional Championships; or another Baseball competition sanctioned by the WBSC. A "competition" refers to a particular WBSC Competition that is being conducted under these Regulations.

A1. PLAYERS ELIGIBILITY

Nationality of Competitors

A1.1. All players in any WBSC official 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 at the same time may represent any one of them, as he may elect. However, after having represented one of them in a WBSC Competition, they may not represent another country or region unless they meet the conditions set forth in Reg. A1.4 that apply to persons who have changed their nationality or acquired a new nationality. (Note: the World Baseball Classic and other non-official invitational tournaments are considered exceptions to this rule).

A1.4. A competitor who has represented one country in a WBSC Competition and who has changed his nationality or acquired a new nationality shall not participate in any other WBSC Competition to represent his new country or region until three years have passed since the competitor last represented her/his former country. (Note: the World Baseball Classic and other non-official invitational tournaments are considered exceptions to this rule). This period may be reduced or even 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, a 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 recognized by the International Olympic Committee ("IOC"), a competitor may continue to represent the country or region to which they belong or belonged. However, they may, if preferred, choose to represent their country or be entered in the WBSC Competition by his 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 in those cases in which a competitor would be in a position to represent a country other than that of 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 competitors, including the duration of any waiting period.

A1.7. Should an eligibility violation occur, and a player be proven to be ineligible prior to any games 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 for his 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 by the National Federation, directly to the WBSC Executive Board for further action. In such a case the WBSC Executive Board is empowered to act.

A1.10. During a competition, a player, removed from the FTR for any eligibility violation, cannot be replaced by another player. A team can be penalized 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, the documentation and all the information regarding the violation in writing at the moment when filing the protest.

A1.12. Age limit for each WBSC Baseball World Cup is determined by the year in which they were born. Players must turn the minimum age for any given WBSC World Cup in the year in which the tournament takes place:

WBSC Baseball World Cups Players eligibility	U-12 (11-12 years old)	U-15 (13-15 years old)	U-18 (16-18 years old)	U-23 (18-23 years old)	Women's (16+ years old)
2023 edition	Born in 2011 and 2012	-	Born in 2007, 2006 and 2005	-	Born in 2007 and older
2024 edition	-	Born in 2011, 2010 and 2009	-	Born in 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005 and 2006	Born in 2008 and older
2025 edition	Born in 2013 and 2014	-	Born in 2009, 2008 and 2007	-	-
2026 edition	-	Born in 2013, 2012 and 2011	-	Born in 2008, 2007, 2006, 2005, 2004 and 2003	Born in 2010 and older

Provisional Members

A.1.13. 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 WBSC Competition.

- The provisions of Reg. A1. to A1.12 apply to a Provisional Member player, Club Team and National Team in a Regional Competition.
- A player who is a national of two or more countries/regions, one of which is a WBSC Provisional Member, may on evidence of nationality elect to represent either (i) a Provisional Member National Team or (ii) a Full Member National Team. Having done so, such a player can not represent any other National Team in the same Calendar Year.
- 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 (**PTR**), through the online platform: <http://my.wbsc.org>

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

A2.2 If a person named on a PTR becomes unavailable after the PTR deadline due to injury, sickness or any other reasons that is approved by WBSC, they may be replaced on that PTR. National Federations must obtain WBSC's approval in writing before making such changes. 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-fulfillment of the deadline to submit the documents mentioned under Reg. A2.1., the incomplete submission or lack of fulfillment 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. No later than ten (10) days prior to the beginning of the competition, all National Federations and/or Associate Members must communicate to the WBSC the Final Team Roster (**FTR**), through the online platform: <http://my.wbsc.org>

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

A3.2. During the Pre-Tournament Technical/Organisational Meeting, the Delegation Leader shall submit the following to the Technical Commission:

- a) A current valid passport ("Passport") for each player on the Final Team Roster (FTR) must be presented at the Tournament Technical Meeting. 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.

b) Upon arrival of player(s) in the host country the federation **MUST** present the valid passport(s) to the Technical Director for **official roster activation** of the player(s). Player(s) will not be allowed to play until the Technical Director has **approved passport validation**. Additional members of the Delegation such as Delegation Leader, Team Manager, Coaches, Trainers, etc. shall appear on the FTR but do not need to submit their Passport.

c) The name, room number (local address), e-mail and social media (i.e. WhatsApp) address and phone number of the Delegation Leader and Team Manager 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-Tournament Technical/Organisational Meeting, which notice of change must be in the hands of the Technical Director at the time of the Pre-Tournament 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 Team Delegations at WBSC Competitions vary in size depending on the age category and level. The specific number of Team Members for each Baseball World Cup is established in the following chart:

WBSC Baseball World Cups Official Team Delegation	U-12	U-15	U-18	U-23	Women's
Players	18 (15 min.)	20	20	24	20
Delegation Leader	1	1	1	1	1
Coaching Staff (including Manager)	3	4	4	4	4
Team Doctor/Physiotherapist	-	-	1	1	1
Official Team Delegation	22	25	26	30	26

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-fulfillment 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) fine per day until the problem is corrected.

A3.6 If more than 5 (five) players on FTR become unavailable after due to injury, sickness or any other reasons and if National Federation/Associate Member wishes to replace such player(s), the reasons for such unavailability must be communicated to WBSC in writing. WBSC will review the request and communicate if the request could be granted. Without WBSC's approval in writing, no changes are permitted.

A3.7 Once the player verification at Technical Meeting 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, Technical Director, Technical Commissioners, Scorers, Anti-Doping Commissioner 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, an information meeting will be held, to discuss all rules, technical, scheduling and organisational issues concerning the competition. The place, date and time of the meeting 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, the Director of Umpires (or their assistant assigned for the competition), the Scoring Director (or their assistant), the Anti-Doping Commissioner, a representative of the Local Organising Committee (LOC) and a representative of the WBSC Events Department. Relevant technical matters of the competition will be discussed in this meeting.

Note: All materials handed out at this meeting should be printed in English and 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 shall be as follows.

- a) Opening Round: at least one game from each group each day with two players selected per team. The intention in the Opening Round is to test each team at least once and preferably twice. However, such testing shall be limited to up to two (2) games per day.
- b) Super Round/Placement Round: two players per team may be selected from all Super Round, Placement Round and Medal Games.

A5.3. WBSC will appoint a WBSC Anti-Doping Commissioner to oversee the anti-doping program. The WBSC Anti-Doping Commissioner 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:

- At the end of the first half of the fourth innings the head DCO, the WBSC Anti-Doping Commissioner and one of the Technical Commissioners in charge of the game, 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.

- The Team Manager has to confirm to the TC that all players are at the game and if one is missing (for injury, sickness, etc...) why and where the player is (for Doping test reason).
- 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.
- A random selection process will be conducted for each team. This will include selection of reserve players in the event the original selected player/s are seriously injured during the game.
- If one player from each team is being 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.
- While a player may be subject to doping control on more than one occasion, the WBSC Anti-Doping Commissioner may ask for a redraw if the player has already been tested twice at the same competition.
- The selections will be marked on the starting line-up card, signed by the parties in attendance and given to the DCO.
- 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 Commissioner(s) assigned to the game and the Executive Director shall be informed immediately in case of 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 gets 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 Commissioner. The injured player may still be selected for a 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 who is injured or removed from the FTR 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 the Doping Control Station properly equipped and 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 U-12 and U-15 Baseball 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 the Official Delegation members (See A3.4. 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 of the competition shall be determined by *WBSC Official Rules of Baseball*. In case of a tie, the decision shall be based on the slugging average according to the *WBSC Official Rules of Baseball*.

A6.4. The pitcher with the best-earned run average and the pitcher with the best won and loss record of the series shall be determined in accordance with *WBSC Official Rules of Baseball*. If there is a tie for the title of most strikeouts by a pitcher, the ones with fewer innings pitched will win the award.

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

A6.6. In case there is a tie for 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 (rule 10).

A6.7. Determination of the awards mentioned under Reg. 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. The Scoring Director (or Coordinator) will deliver the name of the players mentioned in point A6.2 and A6.9 to WBSC during the Gold Medal Game.

A6. 9. All-World Team (one for each position, unless noted. No award handed out, to be announced through WBSC's media outlets only).

All-World Team
Best Starting Pitcher
Best Relief Pitcher
Catcher
First baseman
Second baseman
Third baseman
Shortstop
Outfielder (3)
Designated hitter

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

A7.1. Infraction of specific WBSC Tournament rules will automatically incur a fine in USD and will be invoiced to the National Federation in question upon the conclusion of the tournament. The violator will have two months from the date of notification to pay the fine or an amount incurred by said fine would be deducted from the participation deposit paid by the National Federation to WBSC Headquarters. Any appeal of a decision regarding a fine will be handled as per the section B4 of this document. While teams, players and federations will be notified about fines during the tournament by the Technical Director, the WBSC Headquarters will be responsible for ensuring that fines are paid in a timely fashion. It is ultimately the responsibility of the National Federations and/or Associate Members to ensure that these fines have been paid. Failure to do so will result in teams being unable to participate in the next international event, as well as additional fines being incurred. No team will be permitted to play in WBSC official events if outstanding fines have not been paid to the WBSC Headquarters.

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 \$1000
B Level	\$500 - \$999
C Level	\$100 - \$499

A level infractions:

A level is an infractions of rules that are considered crucial for competition success or that causes damage, harm, or serious negative effects on international baseball. 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 baseball;
- Physically aggressive behaviors or fighting;
- Illegal/corked bat;
- Non-presence of a team in the competition after confirming the participation;
- Intentional throwing at a batter; and
- Throwing equipment at or in the direction of an Umpire or TC.

B level infractions:

B level is an infraction of rules that are considered important for games operations and/or also is a behavior 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; and
- Ejection.

C level infractions:

C level is an infraction of logistical and/or routine rules in nature. The fine for a C level infraction is \$100 - \$99. 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 stadium use and maintenance;
- Failure by the LOC to meet the protection and security regulations of the team members in the playing field; and
- When non-authorized personnel enters/does not leave the dugout, or playing field after being instructed by an Umpire or TCs.

The following actions are non-exclusive examples of infractions, 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. An action may take place before, during or after a game, and the circumstances will be taken into account in rendering a fine or suspension. Depending upon the circumstances, an Umpire, TC, WBSC Executive Director or Technical Director may eject a team member for an A or B level infraction.

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 will be escorted from the dugout or playing field and ballpark by a TC that is not involved in the game in question, cannot return to the ballpark without the prior 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 they are ejected. In the youth categories (i.e., U-12, U-15 or U-18), 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 a game that would in the reasonable opinion of an Umpire, TC, WBSC Executive Director or Tournament Director result in ejection is suspended from their next game and must comply fully with the provisions of this paragraph as if they had been ejected during a game.

Infraction Level	Action	Fine	Suspension
C	Delay or absence in technical meeting or other required without prior notice	\$300	
C	Failure to follow Regulations concerning uniform colour, numbering related requirements	\$350	
C	Failure by the LOC to follow guidelines on stadium 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 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 baseball	\$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	Communication between dugout and stands during a game	\$500	
B	Inappropriate comments directed at an Umpire or TC	\$500	
B	Use of non-approved 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	Team personnel ejection (any delegation member)	\$600	
B	Failure by the LOC to provide adequate scorekeeping personnel and resources	\$650	
B	Actions during bench clearing (not physical violence)	\$650	0 to 3 games
B	Throwing equipment/debris onto the playing field from the dugout	\$700	0 to 6 games
B	Charging the mound	\$750	0 to 3 games
B	Not leaving dugout after ejection	\$800	1 to 3 games
B	Contacting an Umpire or TC	\$800	1 to 6 games
A	Verbal abuse or trending towards a WBSC Official a WBSC Official, player, coach, manager, spectator, or other persons involved at an event	Minimum of \$1,000	1 to 6 games
A	Throwing equipment in Umpire's direction	Minimum of \$1,000	1 to 6 games
A	Intentional throwing at a batter	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 baseball	Minimum of \$1,000	10 games
A	Non compliance with WBSC uniform advertising regulations	Minimum of \$1,500	
A	Threatening or engaging in physically aggressive behavior against or fighting with a WBSC Official, TC, Umpire, player, coach, manager, scorer, physio, spectator, 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	\$2,000	0 to 6 games
A	Any violation of ejection conditions	\$700	0 to 2 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

Note: The WBSC Executive Director has the ability to make additional decisions at his discretion.

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: damages caused by any member of a delegation leading to damage to the installation where they are housed, the competition facilities or transport units, or to any other area, will be the direct responsibility of the National Federation they represent. The hostcountry, 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, which will make the final decision.

A8. GAME SUSPENSIONS

A8.1. As a general rule, every game suspension (of players, coaches and other Team Delegation Members) is carried over from Opening Round to the Super Round in the same Tournament.

A8.2. 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.

A8.3. Game suspensions that have to be carried over to another Tournament must be served by the person concerned, regardless of whether the status of that person has changed in the meantime (e.g. from player to coach, staff member, etc.).

A8.4. Any suspended participant (i.e. player, coach, delegation member) is not allowed to enter an official tournament venue during the suspension period.

B. COMPETITION ADMINISTRATION

B1. COMPETITION OFFICIALS

WBSC Executive Director

B1.1. The WBSC Executive Director is the highest authority in all WBSC Competitions.

B1.2. The Responsibilities of the WBSC Executive Director, or in his absence his direct delegate or, in that person's absence, the Tournament Director, include the following:

- Enforce all WBSC Statutes, rules and regulations and all agreements between the WBSC, the National Federations and the LOC.
- Review final 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.
- Harmonize the interests represented by the WBSC, the LOC, the National Federations, Umpires and the Technical Commissioners working in the competition.
- Ensure that the Jury of Appeal is constituted to act if the situation arises.
- Ensure that the LOC facilitates and enforces all matters related to the rights and privileges of WBSC and competition sponsors regarding the competition.
- 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.
- Enforce the decision of a Jury of Appeal.
- Convene and chair along with the Technical Director at the Pre-Tournament Technical/Organisational Meeting before the competition.
- Act as the official WBSC spokesperson to all media.
- In the absence of the WBSC President, or of his specifically designated representative, represent the WBSC in all formal acts and presentations related to the competition.
- Inform the WBSC Executive Board about the matters regarding the competition organisation.
- Prepare the final official report for its consideration by the Executive Board.
- Take a final decision in regard to game schedule after consulting the Technical Director and LOC.
- Review and validate Tournament Official's daily assignments.

Technical Commission

B1.3. A Technical Commission will be appointed to work at least five (5) months prior to the competition. Its functions and responsibilities are the following:

- Supervise all technical aspects of the competition.
- Compile, verify and submit for the approval of the Executive Board all statistical data related to the competition.
- Control the eligibility and the credentials of the players.
- Inspect the playing fields and practice facilities for the competition.

- Interpret and enforce the Rules and Regulations.
- In the event of suspended games, the Technical Commission will propose the adjustment of the competition schedule in consultation with the WBSC Events Department. Any changes in the schedule require the final approval of the WBSC Executive Director.
- Receive and judge as first instance protests related to technical matters that come from participating teams.
- Rule as first instance in discipline cases in the dugout and on the playing field involving team members.

B1.4. 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 fulfillment of the Rules and Regulations.

B1.5 At games selected for doping controls, one of the Technical Commissioners appointed for the game shall participate in the selection of athletes 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.) If there is only one Technical Commissioner, then the selection process will be done in the Technical Commissioners area.

B1.6. The name(s) of the Technical Commissioner(s) assigned for each game shall be announced a day before the game. The LOC shall provide a Spanish-English translator at the disposal of the Technical Commission for each game. The Technical Commission Members will be seated in a reserved area behind home plate with good visibility and easy access to the playing field.

Technical Director

B1.7. The WBSC will appoint one Technical Director for each Competition.

B1.8. The responsibilities of the Technical Director include the following:

- Proceed to the final review and approval of competition and practice venues.
- Present all Technical Competition items at the Pre-Tournament Technical Meeting
- Assign the Technical Commission members to daily game supervision.
- Liaise with WBSC Office to confirm assignment of Technical Commissioners;
- Liaise with WBSC Events Department 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.
- Gather relevant statistical and game report information from Technical Commission members.
- 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.
- Chair the All-World Team selection meeting.

Jury of Appeal

B1.9. The Executive Director or his duly authorized delegate will appoint a Jury of Appeal comprising of the 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.

B1.10. The Jury of Appeal is the body of appeal for infractions, fines, judgments, or suspensions dictated by the Technical Commission in the Competition. It will have no application in the judgments dictated by the Technical Commission in cases related to the *WBSC Official Rules of Baseball*. Only the Technical Commission decisions that are not related to the Rules of the Game may be appealed in front of the Jury of Appeal.

Umpires

B1.11. The panel of Umpires shall consist of a number of WBSC International Umpires (recommended by the WBSC Baseball Umpire Director) and a sufficient number of local Umpires (recommended by the LOC and approved by WBSC) to make up the total number needed for the competition. All Umpires for the competition must be appointed by the WBSC Headquarters with the approval of the WBSC Executive Director.

B1.12. The WBSC will directly appoint the international Umpires to serve, considering the criteria of quality, experience and ability.

B1.13. After complete evaluations are conducted by the WBSC Umpire Director and input from the Umpires Commission, National Federations and/or Associated Members, Umpires selected by the WBSC to work in the tournament will be notified of their selection in a timely manner.

B1.14. All WBSC Umpires selected, including national Umpires, will have their cost of lodging, meals and per-diems covered.

B1.15. Each Umpire must make the commitment to stay for the whole duration of the competition, including the final phase if needed. Failure to abide by this rule by an Umpire from a participating country may result in a fine of up to US\$ 1,000 to the Umpire's National Federation, and/or a suspension of the individual from participation in WBSC events.

B1.16. Two Umpires of a same participating country may work together in a game. Every attempt will be made for Umpires, even host team country Umpires, not to be assigned to the games of their countries as on-field Umpires. 20-second clock operators are not subject to this regulation.

B1.17. At least three (3) Umpires will be assigned to each game.

B1.18. Game assignments for Umpires will be notified no less than 12 hours before game time of their respective assignments. No more than two days of assignments will be distributed at any time during the competition.

B1.19. At the beginning of the competition, an Umpire Pre-Tournament meeting will be conducted by the Umpire Director. 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 Director will chair this meeting.

B1.20. During the competition, the Umpire Director will complete Umpire Evaluations forms. The WBSC Umpire Director will be in contact with Technical Commissioners to seek their feedback on the Umpires officiating their games.

B1.21. After the completion of the Competition, the Director of Umpires will submit a complete report to the WBSC Executive Director.

Umpire Director

B1.22. The WBSC will appoint one member as Umpire Director in the Competition.

B1.23. The responsibilities of the Umpire Director include the following:

- Carry on the final inspection and approval of competition venues, determining the specific ground rules for each field of play.
- Present ground rules and any other pertaining items at the Pre-Tournament Technical/Organisational Meeting.
- Assign Umpire crews to daily games.
- Liaise with WBSC Event Staff to confirm assignment of Umpires;
- Liaise with tournament Umpires and TCs regarding game delays, rescheduling and cancellation, or any other matters that arise during the competition.
- Supervise and evaluate each Umpire during the competition, compiling information to present a final evaluation report after the tournament.
- Chair the Umpire tournament meetings before and during the tournament to review items associated with umpiring the competition.
- Oversee video review and game management clocks operation.

Scorers

B1.24. The board of Scorers shall consist of a sufficient number of both international and local scorers (recommended by the WBSC Scoring Director and appointed by the WBSC) to officially score and register each game officially, and produce a “live” online transmission of the play-by-play of each game on WBSC website under the supervision of the Competition Scoring Director and the Technical Director. All Scorers shall be appointed by the WBSC Headquarters.

B1.25. No later than ninety minutes (90) before the start of the game, the Technical Commissioner(s) shall obtain from each Team Manager a tentative line-up and then distribute it to LOC to make copies for the scorers and other appropriate individuals.

B1.26. Each game shall be recorded by two or more Scorers. It shall be the duty of the Scorer to compile the averages of defense and offense plays for all players of each team and provide a day-by-day account and circulate these statistics daily 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.

Scoring Director

B1.27. The WBSC will appoint one member as Scoring Director for the Competition.

B1.28. The responsibilities of the Scoring Director include the following:

- Carry on the final inspection and approval of scorers working spaces at the competition venues.
- Attend the Pre-Tournament Technical/Organisational Meeting to cover any items related to scoring, tie-breakers, etc. that may arise during the meeting.
- Assign Scorer's crews to daily games.

- Liaise with WBSC Event Staff to confirm assignments of Scorers.
- Liaise with tournament scorers regarding game delays, rescheduling and cancellation, or any other matters that arise during the competition.
- Supervise and evaluate each scorer during the competition, compiling information to present a final evaluation report after the competition.
- Chair the Scorers tournament meetings before and during the tournament to review items associated with scoring the competition.
- Provide statistical data to Technical Commission for the election of the All-World Team.
- Provide tie-breaker and/or statistical information to Tournament Director upon request.
- Provide list of Individual Award winners to Tournament Director upon completion of the games determining the calculation for the awards.

Anti-Doping Commissioner

B1.29. The Anti-Doping Commissioner appointed by the WBSC will oversee the anti-doping program at the competition. 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

Bat Boys/Girls

B2.1. For all games the bat boys/girls shall be furnished by the LOC. The bat boys/girls of each team shall be kept close to the dugout when the team is at bat. They must be at least 15 years-old, and they must wear uniforms and double-ear flap protective batting helmets. They must receive proper training on their functions and responsibilities from the LOC. Infractions may result in ejection of the bat boy/girl. Also, teams may bring their own bat boys/girls as long as they are in appropriate uniforms during games and teams are responsible for all associated costs.

Team Attachés/Interpreters

B2.2. The LOC will assign a person who speaks the language of the host country and Spanish or English to act as interpreter during the games. This person shall be permitted to sit in the team dugout of the team to which they are assigned. Note: If a coach for the team is also serving as an interpreter, the manager must let the home plate Umpire know about this at the pre-game meeting at home plate.

TV Cameramen and Photographers

B2.3. WBSC authorized TV cameramen and photographers who have been authorized by WBSC are allowed to be at restricted areas on the playing field during pre-game and post-game activities. They must always wear an official WBSC Media bib/vest as well as 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.

First Aid

B2.4. Medical and first aid attendance shall be available all the time during the competition and 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 ambulance and doctor on call.

B3. PROTESTS

B3.1. When a protest is made by a Team Manager over a suspected misapplication or misinterpretation of *WBSC Official Rules of Baseball*, it shall be presented to the Home plate Umpire according to the *WBSC Official Rules of Baseball*. When such protest is made, the Home plate Umpire shall stop the game, inform the Team Manager of the opposing team, the Technical Commissioner(s) assigned to work that game, and the audience that a protest has been filed.

B3.2. The manager or acting manager shall notify the Home Plate Umpire, before the next play, that he is protesting a misapplication or misinterpretation of *WBSC Official Rules of Baseball*. He must tell the Umpire what rule he is protesting. The Home Plate Umpire will then notify the Technical Commissioners assigned to that game. If the game has video review in place, they will notify the Video Review Official working that game for assistance. The Umpires will then rule on the protest. If the game does NOT have video review in place, then the Technical Commissioners and the Umpires will get together and render a ruling. In both instances, the Umpires and the Technical Commissioners may contact the Technical Director and the Umpire Director to let them know of the protest. The presentation of a protest will incur a cost of \$200 USD to be directly deducted from the National Federation's participation guarantee fee. If the protest occurs on the game-ending play, the desire to submit a protest must be announced by the Team Manager to the Home Plate Umpire or the Technical Commissioner(s) assigned to the game. They will inform the opposing team and the other necessary parties that a protest has been filed. After consultation a decision will be taken immediately by the Technical Commissioner(s) assigned to work that game. The opposing team must wait for the decision before they leave the playing field.

B3.3. Any decision of the Technical Commissioner(s) regarding the *WBSC Official Rules of Baseball* is final and not subject to appeal.

B3.4. When a participating Delegation protests the participation of any athlete; the protest shall be presented to the Technical Commission of the Competition prior to the conclusion of the competition.

B3.5. 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 that state for it and the due dispositions that supposedly apply to it.

B4. APPEALS

B4.1. Only a Technical Commission decision that is not related to the *WBSC Official Rules of Baseball* may be appealed to a Jury of Appeal. Technical Commission's decisions related to the rules of the game are final and they can only appeal other items not related to game rules.

B4.2. The appeal brief shall be forwarded to a member of the Jury of Appeal, accompanied by a copy of the judgment being appealed and supporting materials. The presentation of an appeal will incur a cost of \$100 USD to be deducted from the National Federation's participation guarantee fee.

B4.3. The time limit to present an appeal is three (3) hours after having received the notification of the judgment to be appealed. An appeal may be amended only before the Jury starts its deliberations, which will be so notified to the parties involved by the Jury. There may not be a further appeal by any person from any situation where the subject of the appeal has been considered and decided by the Jury.

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 for it to consider. Each appellant or person involved may be represented by one person. The Jury 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 to the Jury, the Jury 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, knowing that the decision of the Jury of Appeal 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 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 by email with a fine(s) or suspension to the interested parties with acknowledgement of receipt within 24 hours after the incident occurred, making evident the time of delivery for the latter purposes of appealing. If delivered in person, an official WBSC form provided by the Technical Director shall be duly signed by the parties involved.

B6. GAME PROTOCOL

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

- The competition anthem supplied from the WBSC Headquarters shall be played to indicate the start of the ceremony and shall continue to be played in the background during the introductions.
- Before the game begins, the Public Address Announcer will first call the visiting team (manager and coaches first, then the players in the starting lineup by name, the pitcher in the bullpen and the rest of the roster) on to the field, followed by the home team and then the Umpires. The teams shall line up along the foul line, while the Umpires stand at home plate.
- When the teams are lined up, the flag of each country shall be displayed next to its own team with the WBSC flag centered in the middle. All flags shall look impeccable for a first-class presentation.
- A 45-60 second version of the national anthems of the two teams, as approved by the WBSC, 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, eating and drinking.

- Music and sound effects should 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 game starts, time shall be made available for any prize-giving, special recognition or announcement of special guests.
- 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. Opening ceremony

B6.2.1 Opening ceremony shall take place 45-60 minutes before the beginning of the first game as follows:

- a) Parade and presentation of all teams participating in the competition (can be limited to an official representation of the team). Each team shall carry its own flag and a member of the organisation shall carry a sign with the name of the country.
- b) Parade and presentation (non-nominal) of the competition Officials (can be limited to a representation with at least one per estate).
- c) Raising of the WBSC flag.
- d) Athletes' oath. A player of the local team shall proceed on behalf of all the participating athletes. The text of the oath which cannot be modified under any circumstances, shall be as follows: «*On behalf of all the players I vow to take part in (full name of the competition including its ordinal number) in accordance with its rules, accepting all decisions made by the Umpires and officials and in competing with all our strength to win through sportsmanship for the glory of international Baseball and the honour of our teams*».
- e) Umpires' oath. An Umpire of the crew assigned to the competition shall proceed on behalf of all the officiating Umpires. The text of the oath which cannot be modified under any circumstances, shall be as follows: «*In the name of all the Umpires and officials, I swear that we shall officiate in <ordinal number> WBSC <age category> Baseball World Cup with complete impartiality, respecting and abiding by the rules which govern it in the true spirit of sportsmanship*».
- f) Competition inaugural declaration. The WBSC President, and in his absence his representative, declares the competition opened with the following words: «*In the city of... (name of the city), in... (name of the country), today... (day, month, year), on behalf of the World Baseball Softball Confederation, I have the honor to declare the (full name of the competition including its ordinal number) open*». If the Head of State or Prime Minister of the host country personally attends the ceremony, and the WBSC President or his representative consider it appropriate under the circumstances, this latter can invite the former to pronounce the competition inaugural declaration, in which case the following protocol shall be followed: the WBSC President or his representative shall publicly address the Head of State or the Prime Minister with the following words: «*Mr. ... (or Mrs, or his/her corresponding title) on behalf of the World Baseball Softball Confederation I have the honor to invite you to declare this competition open*». Then, the first authority shall pronounce the following words: «*In the city of... (name of the city), in... (name of the country), today... (day, month, year), I declare the (full name of the competition including its ordinal number) open*».
- g) Further to the inaugural declaration, the national anthem of the host country shall be played and, at the end of which the Ceremony shall be over.

B6.2.2. The Organising Committee may plan to insert as a part of the Opening Ceremony a sports, cultural or artistic show which shall take place after the parade of participants. In any case this part shall not exceed more than ten (10) minutes and shall first be approved by the WBSC, as indicated in the Competitions General Rules.

B6.2.3. If the Organising Committee plans to hold a first pitch ceremony before the first game of the competition, then the throw corresponds to the WBSC President or his representative according to the following protocol:

The WBSC President or his representative, accompanied by the President of the Organising Committee and the Head of Protocol of the WBSC shall enter the field and proceed to the mound. Once there, the WBSC President shall receive from the hands of the Organising Committee's President, the glove and the ball to throw. The catcher of the local team and the chief Umpire shall be standing at the home-plate, both in position. The chief Umpire shall shout «play ball!» and the WBSC President shall throw the ball to the catcher. When the latter receives the ball the chief Umpire shall shout «strike!».

If a high authority of the host country or a world personality takes part in this competition, and the WBSC President or his representative consider it convenient under such circumstances to invite him to throw the first pitch, the protocol previously defined shall be followed. The WBSC President or his representative shall hand the glove and the ball to the personality to allow him to throw.

NOTE: Further details about the Opening Ceremony can be found in the *Appendix I: WBSC World Cup Ceremonies' Guidelines*.

B 6.3. Closing ceremony

B 6.3.1 After the end of the Gold Medal Game, the awards shall be prepared, and a closing ceremony will take place as follows:

- a) Parade of the teams classified in the first three places of the competition (only official delegation in full uniform). A member of the organisation shall carry a sign with the name of the country. The players of the other teams who shall receive individual awards shall also parade in a single group. The WBSC flag, carried by members of the Organising Committee shall open the parade. During the duration of the Ceremony, the WBSC flag shall be raised in a place of honor.
- b) The distribution of the trophies shall end with the national anthem of the winning country, at the same time as the flag is being raised to the honor mast.
- c) Then, the President of the Organising Committee shall hand the WBSC flag to the WBSC President or to his representative who, in his turn, shall give it to the President of the National Federation who shall host the next championship.
- d) Acknowledgements and competition closing statement. The WBSC President and in his absence his representative, shall thank and declare the competition closed with the following words: «*On behalf of the World Baseball Softball Confederation, and particularly on behalf of all the participants, I wish to express our gratefulness to the Federation (full name of the host national Federation) and to the Organising Committee of this competition. We particularly thank all the volunteers for their collaboration, since without their participation, it would not have been possible to run the competition. We also wish to thank the authorities accompanying us for their help given to the Organising Committee and to our sport, and to all of you who represent the esteemed nation of (name of the host country). Last, allow me on behalf of the World Baseball Softball Confederation to officially declare the... (full name of the competition, including its ordinal number) closed. Thank you very much*».

B 6.3.2 The Local Organising Committee may plan to insert as a part of the Closing Ceremony a sport, cultural or artistic show, which shall take place before the parade of participants for the

awards. In any case this part shall not exceed more than ten (10) minutes and shall first be approved by the WBSC as indicated in the Competitions General Rules.

B 6.3.3 In some competitions, whenever it is convenient for the WBSC and/or Local Organising Committee's interest, in a common agreement of both parties which shall be explicitly included in the competition contract, the Opening and/or Closing Ceremonies may be reduced or shortened with the suppression of some items. If there is no indication in the contract to this regard, the Ceremony shall take place as stated in these Rules.

Further details about the Closing Ceremony can be found in the *Appendix I: WBSC World Cup Ceremonies Guidelines*.

B7. COMPETITION SYSTEM

6-Team Format (Two stage World Cup)

Group Stage – Two (2) groups of six (6) teams

Opening Round – single round robin

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 two teams will earn a spot in the Finals.

Finals – One (1) group of six (6) teams

Opening Round – single round robin

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

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

12-Team Format

Opening Round

Two (2) groups of six (6) Teams (1, 2), will play all vs. all, with the top three (3) teams from each group advancing to the Super Round. In case of a tie, see tie-breaking system. Bottom three (3) teams from each group will go to the Placement Round.

Super Round

The top three (3) teams from one group (1, 2), will play all vs. all against the top three (3) teams from the other group.

At the end of this round, the 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).

Ex: Team A, Team B and Team C qualified for the Super Round and 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.

Placement Round



The bottom three (3) teams from one group after the Opening Round will play all vs. all 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).

Ex: Team D, Team E and Team F went to play Placement Round and A, B, C advanced 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.

Finals

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

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

C. TECHNICAL ASPECTS

C1. UNIFORMS

C1.1. The Home Team shall have preference to wear the colours of their national uniform, and the Visiting Team shall wear a colour that cannot get confused with the other one. The final decision on the colours to be worn by each Team on each game will be made at the Pre-Tournament Technical/Organisational Meeting. The home team shall wear a light color (i.e.: white, gray) uniform top and the Visiting team a dark color uniform top. There will be no changes allowed to the established uniforms without prior approval of the Technical Commission. If a team requests a change to uniform color, the said request must be submitted in writing to the Technical Commission, and the Technical Commission will also communicate to the team its decision (whether approved or disapproved) in writing.

C1.2. All players and uniformed coaches must wear a specified and different number on the back of the uniform. Each uniformed individual must keep the same number during the competition. The numbers cannot be changed during the competition unless exceptional circumstances justifying such changes arise. In any case no numbers can be changed on the uniforms without the previous approval by the Technical Commissioners of the game. If any changes to uniform numbers are approved, then Technical commissioners of the game will hand in both teams in writing such notice prior to the start of the game. Uniform numbers must be whole numbers chosen from 0 to 99.

C1.3. The participants shall fulfil the following regulations with regard to the trademark of the manufacturers and the advertising on the uniforms and material (refer to Appendix II). These items will be checked by members of the Technical Commission upon arrival of that team in the host country. A designated time and location will be determined to check all the following items:

a) Manufacturer trademark

The manufacturer trademark, i.e. indication of the name, a design, a trademark, a logo or any other distinguishing mark of the manufacturer of the item ("trademark"), may only appear once on each item and should not exceed the following sizes:

- One Identification of the Manufacturer per clothing item will be permitted, to a maximum size of 30cm² (11.81in²);
- One additional Product Technology Identification will be permitted per clothing item up to a maximum size of 10cm² (3.93in²);
- Uniform and any kind of clothing: One identification of the manufacturer per item will be permitted, to a maximum size of 30cm² (11.81in²);
- Shoes: All footwear items may carry the trademark as generally used on products sold through the retail trade during the period of 6 months prior to the competition;
- Equipment of play: May carry the Identification as generally used on products sold through the retail trade during the period of 6 months prior to the tournament;
- Bag: The manufacturer trademark should not exceed 10% of the total surface area of the item and in any case up to a maximum of 60cm² (23.6 in²);
- Socks, Helmet, Hat, Towel: One identification of the manufacturer per item will be permitted, to a maximum size of 10cm² (3.94 in²);
- Batting glove and wrist band: One identification of the manufacturer per item will be permitted, to a maximum size of 8cm² (3.15 in²);
- Belt: One identification of the manufacturer per item will be permitted, to a maximum size of 6cm² (2.36 in²); and
- Eyewear: May carry the Identification of the Manufacturer as generally used on

products sold through the retail trade during the period of 6 months or more prior to the competition, with the identifications permitted on the lenses, so long as such identifications are tone-on-tone, engraved into the lens, and is not deemed conspicuous by the WBSC.

b) Advertising

Advertising is allowed on the uniforms per the *WBSC Uniform Guidelines (Appendix II)*, with the following restrictions:

- Any kind of religious, political or racial advertising is banned, as well as any other advertising, that which may be considered as contrary to the image of WBSC is banned.
- For team sponsor/advertising, just one and only the same design or sponsor name or logo may appear on all the uniform and accessories unless otherwise approved by WBSC;
- Shirt: up to 120 cm² on the left sleeve. The right sleeve is reserved for the WBSC advertising.
- No advertising is allowed either in the chest or in the back.
- Jacket: up to 120 cm² on the left sleeve. The right sleeve is reserved for the WBSC advertising.
- No advertising is allowed either in the chest or in the back.
- Helmet: Reserved for the WBSC advertising;
- Other clothing or items: not authorized.
- The design and/or name of the advertising or sponsor to appear on the uniform, or any other authorized accessory, should be reported to the WBSC at latest forty five days (45) prior to the beginning of the competition and must be authorized by the WBSC in writing. Non-authorized advertising may not be allowed and subject to removal.

Further details about the uniforms can be found in the *Appendix II: WBSC World Cup Uniform Guidelines*.

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.

Refer to the *WBSC Official Rules of Baseball* to see specific field dimensions for U-12 Baseball World Cups and Women's Baseball World Cup.

C3. GROUND RULES

C3.1. Ground rules related to the competition venue(s) will be proposed by the LOC before the start of the competition and approved by the Technical Director and Umpire Director. These rules shall be printed in both English, Spanish and the language of the host country and distributed to all Team Managers and Umpires and discussed thoroughly at the Pre-tournament Technical/Organisational Meeting. In addition, copies of the Ground Rules shall be posted in both dugouts of all competition venues. Ground rules shall be prepared by the LOC prior to the arrival

of the Technical Director and Umpire Director and shall be completed after their site inspection before the Pre-tournament Technical/Organisational Meeting.

C4. DUGOUT

C4.1. The designation and assignment of clubhouses and dugouts shall be made by WBSC without regard to which team shall be the home team. WBSC will confirm the clubhouse designation at the Pre-Tournament Technical/Organisational Meeting.

C4.2. Only essential accredited personnel (uniformed players and coaches, translators, training staff, security personnel and/or delegation leader) will be allowed to stay in the dugout. The maximum amount of people allowed in the dugout will vary based on each WBSC Baseball World Cup. The maximum amount of team members allowed in the dugout for each WBSC World Cup is established in the chart below. There are no exceptions to this rule. It shall be the responsibility of the Technical Commissioners assigned to the game to make sure that unauthorized persons do not occupy the dugout and that all the authorized persons stay inside the dugout or are placed in alternative locations during the game. More than this number of people in the dugout will not be permitted, and teams in violation of this rule subject themselves to fines from the Technical Commission.

WBSC Baseball World Cup	Max. number of Members allowed in dugout
U-12	30
U-15	30
U-18	30
U-23	35
Women's	30

NOTE: all members shall be accredited and properly uniformed in order to be allowed in the dugout.

C4.3. No communication between any personnel in the dugout and those outside the playing field or in the stands should take place during the games. The communication with bullpens is allowed and is not subject to this rule.

C5. PRACTICE SCHEDULE

Pre-Tournament Official Practice

C5.1. The LOC in conjunction with WBSC Event Staff, shall set up a Pre-Tournament schedule for all teams. Each team shall have a two-hour session at least once at the competition venue. If more than one competition venue is to be used, teams will be assigned to respective timeframes by WBSC. Assignments and schedule shall be made available to the teams prior to their arrival at the competition.

Pre-Game Practice

C5.2. The WBSC Event Department shall determine the site(s) of practice together with the LOC and Technical Commission. Refer to *WBSC Official Rules of Baseball* for exact time allotments at each WBSC Baseball World Cup.

C5.3. Note that while batting practice prior to the game is for a set number of minutes, it certainly can be less if a team desires. This does not, however, mean that the other team can hit for a longer period of time. Moreover, teams are not permitted to stretch, warm up, or be near the batting cage until BP for the other team is over. Teams should warm-up in an area outside the baseball field during this time. If no viable warm-up area exists (this will be the discretion of the Technical Commissioner), then teams are permitted to go to the far right or left field area during BP to warm-up during the other teams batting practice time. Should they do so, teams should provide someone to protect the players from getting hit baseballs during the batting practice time. The Technical Commissioner will be on site to assist with any difficulties during this time.

C6. STARTING LINE-UP

C6.1. Team Managers shall compulsorily present a tentative line-up card to the Technical Commissioner(s) ninety (90) minutes before the scheduled start of the game. This line-up is for information purposes only and whether the games are televised or not shall be duly communicated from the WBSC staff onsite in advance. This line-up shall include first and last names, uniform number, and field position of each player in the starting batting order and the pitcher. All other players on the approved roster (FTR) will be considered as possible substitutes for all the games and their first and last name, uniform number and field position must also be clearly included in the line-up. The official line-up card will be given to the Home-plate Umpire at the meeting at home-plate immediately prior to the start of the game. A copy of the official line-up card shall be given to the opposite Team Manager, the Scorer(s) and Technical Commissioner(s) in charge of the game. The preliminary line-up is an important document and should not be misused. If there are changes between the preliminary and starting lineup, it must be announced directly to the Technical Commissioner in charge of the game and to the opposing team. An injury or other extraordinary reason should be the only reason for changes in the preliminary lineup. Abuses in this regard will not be viewed lightly and are subject to fines from the Technical Director.

C6.2. Each team manager or delegated team official shall inform WBSC Media Department within one (1) hour after the conclusion of the previous day's game or games, the name of the starting pitcher for the next game. The change of such announcement shall not be permitted without valid reason and WBSC's approval must be obtained. Failure to do so may subject a team or teams in question to disciplines and fines by WBSC. A public announcement shall be made by WBSC for the relevant teams together. Following WBSC's official announcement or two (2) hours after the conclusion of the game, whichever comes first, teams can communicate their next game's starting pitcher to press and social media.

C7. PLAYING RULES AND PACE OF PLAY

WBSC Official Rules of Baseball

C7.1. All games will be played under the event year of the *WBSC Official Rules of Baseball* and the WBSC Umpire Manual Procedures and Interpretations unless noted in this section.

Run difference Rule

C7.2. Refer to the *WBSC Official Rules of Baseball* Appendix I to see specific tournament ruling on Run Difference Regulations.

WBSC Exceptions to the Official Rules of Baseball

C7.3. The need to speed-up the play of international competition games must be constantly stressed to the Umpires, Team Managers and Coaches, and the following rules 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. (Note: refer to *WBSC Official Rules of Baseball* Rule 5.1).

b) The 20-second clock rule for the pitcher must be enforced at all time during the game (without runners on base). Teams shall be directed to have a catcher ready to warm-up the pitcher as soon as an inning is completed.

NOTES:

- There will not be a pitching clock enforced at U-12 Baseball World Cups; and
- 20-second clock rules will be in effect at U-15, U-18, U-23 and Women's Baseball World Cups.

c) The pitcher shall complete the allowed warm-up pitches between innings (refer to Appendix I for the number that apply at each specific Tournament) and the Home-plate Umpire shall ensure that the pitches are thrown without undue delay. The between innings clock will be activated once the pitcher on defense crosses the foul line in route to the dugout. If a team fails to complete the warm-up pitches in the allotted length of time, the Umpire may terminate them and call "Play Ball". If the game is televised live, the Umpire Director will confirm the number of pitches and/or duration of warm-up pitches between innings.

NOTES:

- Five (5) warm-up pitches between innings allowed at U-12 Baseball World Cup; and
- Ninety (90) seconds **OR** a maximum of eight (8) warm-up pitches within the ninety (90) seconds between innings allowed at U-15, U-18, U-23 and Women's Baseball World Cups.

d) When a batter hits a home run, members of his team shall not be allowed to touch the hitter until he has passed the home plate. Failure to observe this rule will result in a warning to the Team Manager and if it occurs again the Team will be fined, and the Team Manager shall be ejected from the game.

e) Pitching substitutions shall be limited to the allotted ninety (90) seconds for all games. The pitching change clock will be activated once the substitute pitcher steps onto the warning track coming from the bullpen. If a pitcher fails to complete the warm-up pitches within the ninety (90) seconds, the Umpire may terminate them and call "Play Ball". If the game is televised live, the Umpire Director will confirm the number of pitches and/or duration of warm-up pitches.

f) WBSC World Cups or Events do not follow the three (3) batters minimum rule. Pitchers entering the game at a WBSC World Cup must face a minimum of one (1) batter.

g) Teams are allowed a maximum of 3 "offensive meetings" per game. An "offensive meeting" shall be charged any time a Coach delays the game for any length of time to talk with an offensive player; whether it is the hitter, a base-runner, an on-deck batter going to the plate, or to another Coach. If the game goes to the extra innings, "offensive meetings" not done during the game will not be accumulated and only one additional "offensive meeting" shall be permitted for each three (3) extra innings. Failure to observe this rule will result in a warning to the Team Manager and if it occurs again the Team will be fined and the Team Manager shall be ejected from the game. No offensive trip will be charged if the offense discusses strategy during a delay for which they are not responsible (e.g. trip to the mound, injury, player change, etc.) proving they cause no further delay.

h) The “between innings infield clean-up” shall take place after the bottom of 4th inning (for seven-inning games) and will be limited to a maximum of five (5) minutes during the competition.

i) Collision Rule

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

1. When there is a collision between a runner and a fielder who clearly is in possession of the ball, the Umpire shall judge:

- I. 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);
- II. 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
- III. 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 the 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 the plate.
 - If the flagrant or malicious contact by the runner was before the runner’s touching the plate, the runner shall be declared out and also ejected from the contest. 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.
2. If the defensive player blocks the plate or base line clearly without possession of the ball, obstruction shall be called. The Umpire shall point and call, “That’s obstruction.” The Umpire shall let the play continue until all play has ceased, call time and award any bases that are justified in Rule 2 of the *WBSC Official Rules of Baseball*. The obstructed runner is awarded at least one base beyond the base last touched legally before the obstruction.
- If the base runner collides flagrantly, the runner shall be declared safe on the obstruction, but will be ejected from the contest. The ball is dead.
 - If the runner’s path to the base is blocked and all stipulations above are fulfilled, it is considered unavoidable contact.

j) Refer to the *WBSC Official Rules of Baseball* to see specific tournament ruling on Extra-Inning Regulations.

C7.4. No Courtesy Runners are permitted in the competition.

C7.5 Refer to the *WBSC Official Rules of Baseball* to see specific tournament ruling on Bats.

C7.6 Refer to the *WBSC Official Rules of Baseball* to see specific tournament ruling on Pitch Counts.

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 in conjunction with the LOC and all stakeholders. Nevertheless, if during the competition there are uniform seen 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 Director and WBSC Events Department to the WBSC Executive Director, who is the only person entitled to sanction an amendment. The new game schedule shall officially be approved in writing by the Executive Director before being released to all participants.

C9. SUSPENDED GAMES

Refer to the *WBSC Official Rules of Baseball* to see Suspended Games Regulations.

C10. HOME/VISITOR ASSIGNMENTS

C10.1. Opening Round Home and Visitor game assignments are decided by WBSC 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 in Super Round / Placement Round games and in Finals shall be done in the following order:

1. Based on the standings of the Opening Round. Teams with higher seed after the Opening Round will be home team (i.e. 1st from A vs 2nd from B, then 1st from A will be home team).
2. By the drawing of lots if the seeding after the Opening Round is equal (i.e. 1st from pool A vs 1st from pool B).

C11. TIE BREAKING

All ties after the Opening Round will be settled as follows (in order):

The standing of the teams after the round robin shall be according to the win-loss record of all the games played. All ties after Opening Round, Super Round and Finals 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:

1. The team that won the game(s) between the teams tied shall be given the higher position.
2. 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 team with the highest TQB will be placed in the first spot. 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 three teams from highest to lowest placing.

3. The team that has the best Earned Runs Team's Quality Balance (ER-TQB).
4. Highest batting average in games between the teams tied.
5. 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 A - Team B 5 - 4 (8 1/3 innings)

Game 2: Team C - Team A 2 - 0 (8 2/3 innings)

Game 3: Team B - Team C 6 - 2 (8 1/3 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	17.33	0.2885	6	17.66	0.3396	-0.0512
B	10	17.33	0.5769	7	17.33	0.4038	0.1731
C	4	17.66	0.2264	6	17.33	0.3462	-0.1197

Team B: 10 runs scored in 17.33 offensive innings = 0.5769; 7 runs allowed in 17.33 defensive innings = 0.4038 TQB = 0.1731

Team A: 5 runs scored in 17.33 offensive innings = 0.2885; 6 runs allowed in 17.66 defensive innings = 0.3396 TQB = -0.0512

Team C: 4 runs scored in 17.66 offensive innings = 0.2264; 6 runs allowed in 17.33 defensive innings = 0.3462 TQB = -0.1197

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 A - Team B 7 - 4 (8 1/3 innings), in earned runs 3 - 4

Game 2: Team B - Team C 7 - 4 (8 1/3 innings), in earned runs 5 - 2

Game 3: Team C - Team A 7 - 4 (8 1/3 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	17	0.6471	11	17	0.6471	0.0000
B	11	17	0.6471	11	17	0.6471	0.0000
C	11	17	0.6471	11	17	0.6471	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	17	0.2353	9	17	0.5294	-0.2941
B	9	17	0.5294	5	17	0.2941	0.2353
C	7	17	0.4118	6	17	0.3529	0.0588

Team B: 9 ERuns scored in 17 offensive innings = 0.529; 5 ERuns allowed in 17 defensive innings = 0.294 TQB = 0.235

Team C: 7 ERuns scored in 17 offensive innings = 0.412; 6 ERuns allowed in 17 defensive innings = 0.353 TQB = 0.059

Team A: 4 ERuns scored in 17 offensive innings = 0.235; 9 ERuns allowed in 17 defensive innings = 0.381 TQB = -0.294

Scenario 5:

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

Standings after single round robin:

Team A 2 Won, 2 Lost *

Team B 2 Won, 2 Lost *

Team C 2 Won, 2 Lost * **

Team D 2 Won, 2 Lost * **

Team E 2 Won, 2 Lost *

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

Criterion 2: Team B has the highest TQB of all five teams, therefore is placed in 1st place, followed by Team A in 2nd place. Criterion 3 will then need to be calculated to determine 3rd and 4th place between Team C and Team D. Team E is placed in 5th place.

Team	Runs Scored	Offens. Innings	Ratio	Runs Allowed	Def. Innings	Ratio	TQB
A	16	35.66	0.4486	12	35.33	0.3396	0.1090
B	18	35.33	0.5094	13	35.66	0.3645	0.1449
C	12	35.33	0.3396	12	35.33	0.3396	0.0000
D	13	35.33	0.3679	19	35.33	0.5377	-0.1698
E	11	35.33	0.3113	14	35.33	0.3962	-0.0849

Team B: 18 Runs scored in 35.33 offensive innings = 0.5094; 13 Runs allowed in 35.66 defensive innings = 0.3645 TQB = 0.1449

Team A: 16 Runs scored in 35.66 offensive innings = 0.4486; 12 Runs allowed in 35.33 defensive innings = 0.3396 TQB = 0.1090

Team C: 12 Runs scored in 35.33 offensive innings = 0.3396; 12 Runs allowed in 35.33 defensive innings = 0.3396 TQB = 0.0000

Team D: 13 Runs scored in 35.33 offensive innings = 0.3679; 19 Runs allowed in 35.33 defensive innings = 0.5377 TQB = -0.1698

Team E: 11 Runs scored in 35.33 offensive innings = 0.3113; 14 Runs allowed in 35.33 defensive innings = 0.3962 TQB = -0.0849

C12. ALTERNATE DETERMINATION OF CHAMPION

C12.1. In case of extreme weather conditions or any other reasons that prevent the completion of the Super Round and/or Finals, play proceeds as follows:

- An extra day will be used to permit the top finishers from each of the Opening Round groups to play a game or games to determine the title.
- If extreme weather or other conditions disrupt the competition before completion, all efforts will be made to determine a champion by playing only the game(s) which remain to determine the title. If a decision regarding a final placement must be made without playing a game, the TQB tie breaking criteria from C-11 shall apply. If teams in question have played different amount of games or if they have not played each other, the equal amount of games played for the teams tied (including those teams with a potential tie if they would have won the remaining games) counting from the beginning of the competition shall be used to calculate TQB and the final placement shall be determined accordingly (if same TQB, ER-TQB shall be used). The same procedure will be followed for subsequent positions if necessary.

D. RESPONSIBILITY 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) A LOC representative and one person from each team will inspect the accommodation upon arrival of each team and prepare a written inspection report which shall be kept by the LOC with a copy to the WBSC Office.
- b) A clearance certificate or a bill for proven damages or disappearances of property will be prepared by the LOC (in writing) at the end of the competition and submitted to the Delegation Leader of each non-local participating team before leaving the city.
- c) A certificate in writing will 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.
- d) A written invoice for damages or disappearance of property 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 fulfill the stipulations of this Regulation 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 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 your team staff is in the stands during the entire duration of the game, such person may use electronic devices but not to communicate with team members in the dugout or on the playing field. However, the use of electronic device is prohibited when in and close to dugouts. Before and after a game, 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 game) to social media during the games.

E2. BREAK BETWEEN INNINGS

The amount of time between innings shall be ninety (90) seconds or as set otherwise for each game by WBSC, which shall provide that information to the Technical Commission. The Technical Commission shall communicate to the Umpires and both teams accordingly. The home plate Umpire will instruct the catcher to throw to second base thirty (30) seconds before the conclusion of a between-inning break. After signaling "one more pitch," the home 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. TEAM PRESENTATION

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

E4. MEDIA OBLIGATIONS

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

F. FINAL DISPOSITIONS

F1. The Hosting Agreement signed between the WBSC and the LOC establishes the rules and the general norms under which the competition shall be conducted, as well as the obligations and responsibilities of each of the parties. This document serves as a non-restrictive complement to said Agreement.

F2. 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 this document. In any aspects where there is no mutual agreement, the WBSC Executive Director will be the final authority.

F3. Any unforeseen circumstances which arise and are not specified in the WBSC Tournament Regulations, then the WBSC Statutes, Disciplinary Rules, Code of Ethics, Protocol, Sanction Procedure and International Game Rules and other WBSC official documents as well as the *WBSC Official Rules of Baseball* will serve as the primary source of guidance for all WBSC Tournament Officials and will be interpreted and applied by the WBSC Executive Director.

APPENDIX I: Opening & Closing Ceremonies Guidelines

APPENDIX II: Uniform Guidelines

APPENDIX III: [List of WBSC Approved-Wood Bats](#)



Avenue Général-Guisan, 45
CH-1009 Pully | Switzerland
T: +41 21 318 8240 | M: office@wbsc.org

WBSC.ORG **@WBSC**