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WBSC

WORLD
BASEBALL SOFTBALL
CONFEDERATION

Game Time!

Softball Division Board Meeting

By videoconference
6th September 2022

Minutes

WBSC Softball Division Board Meeting

By videoconference
6th September 2022

AGENDA

- 1) Welcome
- 2) Roll call
- 3) Chairperson's Address
- 4) Softball events – General Overview 2022 – 2026
- 5) Open bids
- 6) Update on the U-23 Men's Softball World Cup
- 7) Any other business
- 8) Adjournment

ATTENDANCE

From the WBSC Executive Board:

President: Mr. Riccardo Fraccari
 Member At-Large: Mr. Gabriel Waage

From the WBSC Softball Division Board:

Chair: Mr. Craig Cress
 Vice Chair: Dato' (Ms.) Beng Choo Low
 Vice Chair: Ms. María Soto
 Continental VP– Africa: Mr. Felix Okuye
 Continental VP– Americas: Mr. Tommy Velázquez
 Continental VP– Asia: Mr. Xu Yang
 Continental VP– Europe: Mr. Krunoslav Karin
 Continental VP– Oceania: Mr. Rex Capil
 Member At-Large: Ms. Taeko Utsugi
 Member At-Large: Ms. Mette Nissen Jakobsen
 Athletes' Rep. – Men's Softball: Mr. Bruno Motroni
 Athletes' Rep. – Women's Softball: Ms. Erika Polidori

Excused:

Member At-Large: Mr. Chong Hoon Lee

In attendance, also:

Mr. Michael Schmidt, Executive Director
 Ms. Akiko Ito, Japanese interpreter
 Staff of the Continental VP– Asia, Mr. Xu Yang
 Staff of the Member At-Large, Mr. Chong Hoon Lee

WBSC Staff Members:

Mr. Richard Baker (Media & Communication)
 Mr. Victor Isola (Executive Assistant to the President)

1. WELCOME

- 1.1 Chair Cress called to order this 6th September 2022, WBSC Softball Division Board Meeting at 13:00 (Lausanne time). He welcomed all the attendees and outlined the matters as listed on the Agenda for discussion in this Meeting.

2. ROLL CALL

- 2.1 WBSC Executive Director Schmidt completed the Roll Call as per the attendance list above and confirmed that there was a quorum for this Meeting to proceed.

3. CHAIRPERSON'S ADDRESS

- 3.1 Chair Cress stated that this was the first meeting of the Softball Division after the elections held at the IV WBSC Ordinary Congress on 4-5th July 2022 in Taipei City, TPE. He said that the events are the core asset of the WBSC, and softball must be able to make the softball events sustainable.
- 3.2 President Fraccari said that after the pandemic, the sport-world has changed as revenue streams and resources were badly affected and WBSC needed to keep analysing the WBSC tournaments and events to cut costs and financial responsibilities for the Local Organising Committees (LOCs) to more bids and hosts.
- 3.3 Chair Cress added that this Board must contact potential LOCs to organise softball events and explain to them the benefits for host cities and LOCs. and legacy that may be built from hosting WBSC events.
- 3.4 Executive Director Schmidt highlighted that softball events for 2023 were still open for bids as shown in the chart in para 5 of these Minutes. He stated there was urgency to find organisers for these events in order to communicate the dates to the Continental Associations to give them time to organise the respective continental World Cup qualifiers.
- 3.5 Ms. Low expressed her concern about the very packed global softball calendar at the Asia continental level due to the large number of softball events to be held at both continental and world levels.

4. SOFTBALL EVENTS – GENERAL OVERVIEW 2022 – 2026

- 4.1 The members were presented with the General Overview of the Softball calendar for 2022 – 2026 as set out in para 6 in these Minutes. Mr. Waage noted the alternative host solution in place of Argentina for the U-23 Men's Softball World

Cup, and added that Argentina may wish to consider hosting the U-18 Men Softball in 2023 in place of the U-23 tournament. He reminded that in 2023, the first Slowpitch World Cup was also scheduled to be held, with the host and dates to be determined.

- 4.2 President Fraccari said he was not sure if Argentina could commit to host the U-18 in 2023 as it was a different age group and year. He requested Chair Cress and Ms. Soto to check with the President of the Argentina Softball Federation, Mr. Jacinto Cipriota, if there was interest in this proposal for Argentina to host the 2023 U-18 Men Softball World Cup.
- 4.3 Mr. Karin asked if there was any proposal for softball to be included in the 2026 Mediterranean Games. There was some discussion on the matter, with the feasibility and options to be looked into and discussed with the LOC concerned.
- 4.4 President Fraccari reported that the WBSC LA28 campaign was continuing in a positive way with several meetings between the Organising Committee and various stakeholders, including MLB. Ms. Polidori asked how the Athletes Commission could assist to strengthen the campaign. Chair Cress replied that it was very important that the athletes make themselves available and send signals on social media and in interviews in favour of inclusion in the Olympic Games and thanked Ms. Polidori for her presence at the World Games and contribution which had an extremely remarkable impact. Mr. Baker said he will contact the Athletes Commission Members to coordinate the messages. Executive Director Schmidt added that timing was essential and that in the responses given to LA28, it was reported that there has been significant rise in interest in the Softball World Cups. Ms. Utsugi supported by informing that in Japan, there was also increase in interest and following in softball.
- 4.5 Chair Cress and President Fraccari stated that it was necessary to further analyse thoroughly events cost to make the softball events more sustainable
- 4.6 Ms. Low asked when the Slowpitch World Cup was scheduled to take place in 2023 and Executive Director Schmidt replied it was planned for end of the year (2023).
- 4.7 Mr. Xu Yang asked if the Group Stages of the World Cups meant that there had to be several hosts for each of the Groups. Executive Director Schmidt replied that it was not necessary and that one or more or all the Group Stages could be awarded to the same host/LOC. President Fraccari stressed that the Group Stage was to add flexibility to hosting options.
- 4.8 Mr. Xu Yang also asked if softball was still being considered by the IWGA for the World Games. Chair Cress replied that it could be looked into that any support locally by the Chinese Softball Federation as the National Federation (as the next edition will be in Chengdu, China) would be useful.

5. OPEN BIDS

- 5.1 Chair Cress presented the following document for the Members consideration and discussion. He pointed out that a significant number of the Softball World Cups were still open for bids.

SOFTBALL EVENTS	2023	2024	2025	2026	# TEAMS	COMP. DAYS	# VENUES	Quota
U-12 WC			OPEN BID		8	5	1	Africa (1), Americas (2), Asia (2), Europe (1), Oceania (1), Wild Card/Host (1)
U-15 Women's WC	JPN				12	9	3	Africa (1), Americas (4), Asia (2), Europe (2), Oceania (2), Wild Card (1)
U-18 Women's WC - Stage I Group A		OPEN BID			6	4	1	Africa (2), Americas (5), Asia (3), Europe (3), Oceania (2), Wild Card/Host (3)
U-18 Women's WC - Stage I Group B		OPEN BID			6	4	1	
U-18 Women's WC - Stage I Group C		OPEN BID			6	4	1	
U-18 Women's WC - Final Stage			OPEN BID		8	5	1	Top 2 teams from each Stage-I group + 2 wild cards
Women's WC - Stage I Group A	ITA			OPEN BID	6	4	1	Africa (2), Americas (5), Asia (3), Europe (3), Oceania (2), Wild Card/Host (3)
Women's WC - Stage I Group B	IRL			OPEN BID	6	4	1	
Women's WC - Stage I Group C	ESP			OPEN BID	6	4	1	
Women's WC - Final Stage		ITA			8	5	1	Top 2 teams from each Stage-I group + 2 wild cards
U-18 Men's WC	OPEN BID				12	9	2	Africa (1), Americas (4), Asia (2), Europe (2), Oceania (2), Wild Card/Host (1)
U-23 Men's WC				OPEN BID	12	9	2	Africa (1), Americas (4), Asia (2), Europe (2), Oceania (2), Wild Card (1)
Men's WC - Stage I Group A		CAN/CZE			6	4	1	Africa (2), Americas (5), Asia (3), Europe (3), Oceania (2), Wild Card/Host (3)
Men's WC - Stage I Group B		OPEN BID			6	4	1	
Men's WC - Stage I Group C		OPEN BID			6	4	1	
Men's WC			CAN/CZE		8	5	1	Top 2 teams from each Stage-I group + 2 wild cards

6. UPDATE ON THE U-23 MEN'S SOFTBALL WORLD CUP

- 6.1 Chair Cress informed that Argentina, due to the current inflation and economic crisis in Argentina, had informed that it was no longer able to organise the U-23 Men Softball World Cup this year (2022) and that WBSC was seeking alternative organisers, but there was no confirmation as yet at this stage.
- 6.2 Executive Director Schmidt said that WBSC was in discussion with possible hosts to organise the event in December 2022, and would keep Members and participating teams informed as soon as possible when a host and dates were confirmed.
- 6.3 Ms. Soto said that she agreed for the event to be postponed to December to allow the teams more time.

7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- 7.1 There was no other matter brought up.

8. ADJOURNMENT

- 8.1 Chair Cress thanked all who attended the Meeting. He also thanked the WBSC staff for their efforts in ensuring the success of the meeting.
- 8.2 There being no other matters, the Meeting adjourned at 14:20 with a vote of thanks to the Chair. [End]

These Minutes, originating from the WBSC Softball Division Board Meeting held by videoconference on 6th September 2022, are formally confirmed as correct by:

Day _____ Month _____ Year _____

City _____

Signed by _____
Craig Cress
Chair

Signed by _____
Beng Choo Low
Vice Chair