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WBSC

WORLD
BASEBALL SOFTBALL
CONFEDERATION

Game Time!

Softball Division Board Meeting

By videoconference
2nd December 2022

Minutes

WBSC Softball Division Board Meeting

By videoconference
2nd December 2022

AGENDA

- 1) Welcome
- 2) Roll call
- 3) Approval of the Minutes of the Softball Division meetings held by videoconference on 6th September and 5th October 2022
- 4) Any matters arising from the minutes
- 5) Chairperson's Address
- 6) Open discussion on the bids for the U-23 Men's Softball World Cup 2023
- 7) Open discussion on the bids for the Men's Softball World Cup 2024-2025
- 8) Any other business
- 9) Adjournment

ATTENDANCE

From the WBSC Executive Board:

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
Member At-Large:	Mr. Chong Hoon Lee
Athletes' Rep. – Men's Softball:	Mr. Václav Svoboda
Athletes' Rep. – Women's Softball:	Ms. María Soto

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. Joan García (Event Department)
 Mr. Victor Isola (Executive Assistant to the President)

1. **WELCOME**

- 1.1 Chair Cress called to order this 2nd December 2022, WBSC Softball Division Board Meeting at 8:00 (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.
- 2.2 Mr. Capil asked for clarification of Mr. Waage's presence in terms of voting rights and Mr. Schmidt clarified that he was participating as an observer but without the right to vote.

3) **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE SOFTBALL DIVISION MEETINGS HELD BY VIDEOCONFERENCE ON 6TH SEPTEMBER AND 5TH OCTOBER 2022**

- 3.1 Chair Cress informed that the Minutes of the meetings held on 6th September and 5th October 2022, by videoconference, were sent earlier to all Division Board Members and there was no request for amendments received by the WBSC Office.

PROPOSAL:

To consider and approve the Minutes of the WBSC Softball Division Board meeting held on 6th September 2022, by videoconference, as proposed by Mr. Capil and seconded by Ms. Nissen Jakobsen.

DECISION

The WBSC Softball Division Board unanimously approved the Minutes of the meeting held on 6th September 2022, by videoconference.

PROPOSAL:

To consider and approve the Minutes of the WBSC Softball Division Board meeting held on 5th October 2022, by videoconference, as proposed by Mr. Capil and seconded by Ms. Nissen Jakobsen.

DECISION

The WBSC Softball Division Board unanimously approved the Minutes of the meeting held on 5th October 2022, by videoconference.

4) ANY MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

- 4.1 There were no matters arising brought up.

5) CHAIRPERSON'S ADDRESS

- 5.1 Chair Cress opened the discussion explaining that the Office prepared a comparison table and related documents (which were sent to the Softball Division Board members prior to this meeting) of the three bids received to host the U23 Men's Softball World Cup, namely, from the respective Softball National Federations of New Zealand, Dominican Republic and Argentina to assist the Softball Division Board members in their evaluation and discussion. He informed that the recommendation of the Softball Division Board would be tabled to the WBSC Executive Board for consideration and final approval.
- 5.2 Mr. García presented the documents prepared to the Softball Division Board members.

6) OPEN DISCUSSION ON THE BIDS FOR THE U-23 MEN'S SOFTBALL WORLD CUP 2023

- 6.1 Mr. García shared on the screen the comparison table between the three bids received (namely, from New Zealand, Dominican Republic, and Argentina) for the U-23 Men's Softball World Cup 2023.
- 6.2 Chair Cress opened the floor for discussion.
- 6.3 Ms. Low sought clarification on the New Zealand's proposal to host the tournament in 2024. She reminded the Board members that at the online Softball Division Board Meeting held on 5th October 2022, the Softball Division Board had approved and decided (by a majority) the postponement of the U-23 Men's Softball World Cup 2022 to 2023. As such, she pointed out that the New Zealand bid to host that tournament in 2024 was not in compliance with that Board decision.
- 6.4 Mr. Schmidt confirmed that Softball Division Board decision. He stated that there were two bids for 2023 for the Board's consideration.
- 6.5 On the premise of that Board decision made on 5th October 2022, Chair Cress sought clarification from the Board members that everyone agreed to consider only the bids of 2023. All other Board members agreed except Mr. Velázquez who also added that if the New Zealand bid were to be considered, the age of eligibility of the athletes should also be discussed and considered again. Chair Cress then proceeded with further discussion and consideration and proceeded with only the two 2023 proposals, namely from Argentina and Dominican Republic and there was open

discussion amongst the Board members.

- 6.6 Ms. Low asked if there were any major differences to consider between the Argentina and Dominican Republic bids and Mr. Schmidt clarified that the two bids were generally similar, with guarantees and letters of support from their respective governments.

PROPOSAL:

To consider and approve the following:

- a) The bid by New Zealand to host the U-23 Men's Softball World Cup in 2024 be excluded from further discussion and consideration.
- b) Whether to award the hosting of U-23 Men's Softball World Cup 2023 to Dominican Republic Softball NF or Argentina Softball NF.

DECISION

After discussion, the WBSC Softball Division Board approved, by a majority, the following:

- a) The bid by New Zealand to host the U-23 Men's Softball World Cup in 2024 be excluded from further discussion and consideration.*
- b) By a majority of 7 for Dominican Republic and 5 for Argentina, to award the hosting of U-23 Men's Softball World Cup 2023 to Dominican Republic Softball National Federation.*
(Note: Chair Cress abstained from the vote)

[NOTE: After the Board meeting, the National Federation of DOM withdrew their bid to host and the WBSC awarded the hosting of the WBSC U23 Men Softball World Cup 2023 to Parana, Argentina as it was the only other bid]

- 6.6 Chair Cress requested the Board members to consider the age eligibility of the athletes for the U-23 Men's Softball World Cup in 2023.

PROPOSAL:

To consider and approve that the age eligibility for the athletes for the U-23 Men's Softball World Cup 2023 remain as that for the tournament in 2021.

DECISION

The WBSC Softball Division Board approved (by majority) that the age eligibility for the athletes for the U-23 Men's Softball World Cup 2023 remain as that for the tournament in 2021.

7) **OPEN DISCUSSION ON THE BIDS FOR THE MEN'S SOFTBALL WORLD CUP 2024-2025**

- 7.1 Mr. García shared on the screen the comparison table of the two bids (namely, from the respective Softball National Federations of Canada and Czech Republic) for the Men's Softball World Cup 2024 (Group Stage) and 2025 (Final Stage). He stated that both bids presented were to host both the 2024 Group Stage and the 2025 Final Stage. He confirmed that both bids met the WBSC bidding and hosting requirements.
- 7.2 Chair Cress opened the floor for discussion. It was noted that there were three Group Stage tournaments but only two bids. Mr. Karin asked whether the Group Stage that did not have a bid was still open for bids. Mr. Schmidt confirmed that the Group Stage tournament that did not have any host was still open for bids.

PROPOSAL:

To consider and decide whether to award the hosting of the Men's Softball World Cup 2024 Group stage and 2025 Final Stage to Canada Softball or Czech Republic Softball.

DECISION

The WBSC Softball Division Board approved (by majority) that the hosting of the Men's Softball World Cup 2024 Group stage and 2025 Final Stage be awarded to Canada Softball National Federation.

8. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

- 8.1 Mr. Schmidt brought for discussion the challenges in getting participating teams from some of the continents for the U-12 Mixed Softball World Cup as it is not an age-group category they are focusing on. He requested the Board members to consider whether it would be more practical and cost saving to suspend the U-12 Mixed Softball World Cup effect 2023 until further notice, when there was more interest.
- 8.2 Most of the Board members stated agreement with the proposal to suspend that tournament.

PROPOSAL:

To consider and approve the temporary suspension of the U-12 Mixed Softball World Cup with effect from 2023 until further notice.

DECISION

The WBSC Softball Division Board unanimously approved the temporary suspension of the U-12 Mixed Softball World Cup with effect from 2023 until further notice.

9. ADJOURNMENT

- 9.1 Chair Cress thanked all who attended the Meeting. He also thanked the WBSC staff for their efforts in ensuring the success of the meeting.
- 9.2 There being no other matters, the Meeting adjourned at 8:45 with a vote of thanks to the Chair. [End]

These Minutes, originating from the WBSC Softball Division Board Meeting held by videoconference on 2nd December 2022, are formally confirmed as correct by:

Day _____ Month _____ Year _____

City _____

Signed by _____
Craig Cress
Chair

Signed by _____
Beng Choo Low
Vice Chair