

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

**WBSC**

WORLD  
**BASEBALL SOFTBALL**  
CONFEDERATION

*Game Time!*

# **Baseball Division Board Meeting**

By videoconference  
9th November 2022

# Minutes

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## WBSC Baseball Division Board Meeting

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By videoconference

9<sup>th</sup> November 2022

## **AGENDA**

- 1) Welcome
- 2) Roll call
- 3) Chairperson Division's Address
- 4) Baseball events – General Overview 2022 – 2026
- 5) Open bids
- 6) Baseball World Cup requirements review
- 7) Any other business
- 8) Adjournment

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## **ATTENDANCE**

### **From the WBSC Softball Division Board:**

Chair:	Mr. Riccardo Fraccari
Vice Chair:	Mr. Jeffrey Jr. Koo
Vice Chair:	Mr. Bryan Minniti
Continental VP– Africa:	Mr. Albert K. Frimpong
Continental VP– Americas:	Ms. Aracelis León
Continental VP– Asia:	Mr. Masatake Yamanaka
Continental VP– Europe:	Mr. Krunoslav Karin
Member At-Large:	Mr. Xu Chen
Member At-Large:	Mr. Jimmy Char
Member At-Large:	Mr. Petr Ditrich
Athletes' Rep. – Men's Baseball:	Mr. Randolph Oduber

### **Excused:**

Continental VP– Oceania:	Mr. Laurent Cassier
Athletes' Rep. – Women's Baseball:	Ms. Ashley Stephenson

### **In attendance, also:**

Mr. Angelo Vicini, WBSC Treasurer  
 Mr. Michael Schmidt, Executive Director  
 Staff of the Continental VP– Asia, Mr. Masatake Yamanaka, Ms. Hiroko Yamada  
 Staff of the Member At-Large, Mr. Xu Chen, Mr. Dingfeng

### **WBSC Staff Members:**

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

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## **1. WELCOME**

- 1.1 Chair Fraccari called to order this 9<sup>th</sup> November 2022, WBSC Baseball Division Board Meeting at 9:00 (Mexico City 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 Staff Isola completed the Roll Call as per the attendance list above and confirmed that there was a quorum for this Meeting to proceed.

## **3. CHAIRPERSON DIVISION'S ADDRESS**

- 3.1 Chair Fraccari started saying it is the first Baseball Division Board Meeting after the last Ordinary Elective Congress held in Chinese Taipei on 4-5<sup>th</sup> July and he congratulated again all the members for having been elected. Chair Fraccari informed that to complete this election process, WBSC is now running the elections of the Athletes Representatives under the new approved structure and more inclusive and democratic election process; the voting closed only few hours ago and we are now waiting for the review of the Legal Commission and for the members to confirm their final acceptance. The 8 members will then meet on 14<sup>th</sup> November to decide who will be in the WBSC Executive Board and who will represent the athletes in the Division Boards. On 16<sup>th</sup> November we will call an Extraordinary Congress to ratify the election that will be finally announced on 25<sup>th</sup> November.
- 3.2 Chair Fraccari continued saying that after the successful delivery of the Tokyo Olympics in 2021, this year was very busy and full of tournaments (9 international events); next year will be even busier with 13 international tournaments and institutional events including the IOC Session that will announce the Final Sport Programme for the Games of LA2028.
- 3.3 Chair Fraccari reported on the LA28 campaign saying the discussions with the IOC and the OCOG are going very well. WBSC is now in the short list together with other 8 Sports (breaking, motorsport, squash, karate, kickboxing, flag football, lacrosse and cricket); WBSC submitted the RFI (Request For Information) to the LA28 Organising Committee presenting all the requested information in a very professional way and in October we had also the call with LA28 Organising Committee to present our proposal and the MLB was also present to support our candidature.
- 3.4 Chair Fraccari informed he was in Mexico City for the historical first edition of the Baseball5 World Cup in one of the most iconic squares of the American Continent: Zocalo. He stressed he could not imagine a better place for celebrating this special moment that could also be available on WBSC media platforms and channels and

social media. He reminded everybody that the WBSC launched Baseball5 in November 2017 with an event in Cuba and despite the pandemic, already over 100 countries have had some B5 experience, activities, or activations since 2018; the first edition of the Youth Baseball5 World Cup is due to take place in 2023 and Baseball5 will also make its debut in the Youth Olympic Games at Dakar 2026. He added that Baseball5 is the first team sport created for mixed-gender competition and thanks to its unique accessibility is perceived as an opportunity for many countries with very less resources to be allocated into sport, and areas where our sport has never been prominent such as Africa and Middle East. Baseball5 has been recently confirmed on the programme of the sixth Asian Indoor & Martial Arts Games in 2023 as well as the ANOCA Beach Games in Tunisia next year; furthermore, ANOCA is evaluating the opportunity to have this discipline in the official programme of the next edition of the African Youth Games. Finally, he gave some highlights of this first edition of the senior Baseball5 World Cup:

3.4.1 Twelve teams are participating:

- Group A: Cuba, Hong Kong, Japan, Lithuania, Mexico, and South Africa
- Group B: Chinese Taipei, France, Kenya, Korea, Tunisia, and Venezuela

3.4.2 The tournament includes 50 games.

3.4.3 There are seven fields of play, four of which are open to the public to play on.

3.4.4 Tunisia is playing in its first ever WBSC World Cup - the 79th nation/territory (the ninth from Africa) to feature in WBSC World Cup history.

3.4.5 Total number of athletes is 96.

3.4.6 Number of accredited media is 107.

3.4.7 Number of spectator seats 4,000 (2,000 each court).

3.5 Chair Fraccari continued saying that, after two long and difficult years of global pandemic, we resumed our operations with a very busy tournament schedule, but the pandemic is still present in our world because changed drastically our lives. We need to have this in mind and reshape the future of our organisation embracing and anticipating new trends to guarantee the sustainability of the WBSC and diversify the income of the WBSC to guarantee our financial self-sustainability. In this sense, since last year WBSC has initiated a lot of new projects such as the planning for a Baseball Champions League and the development of our digital assets like the Non-Fungible Tokens (NFT), the Metaverse, the increase of our presence in new youth focused social media platforms and, above all, the release of our eSports Strategy which is composed of 3 pillars: Mobile Games (BB & SB), Console Games (Konami partnership & OVS) and Virtual Reality (Virtual Cup). Especially for the mobile game, which has per target the mass participation, we need the help of all our members to spread the voice and help us promoting them. This is an opportunity for all our NFs to have a new source of revenue, but we need a collective effort to be able to maximise the potential of this project.



- 3.6 Chair Fraccari asked everybody to reflect on the future of WBSC tournaments and on the need to reshape them from many perspectives: make them more appetible for potential organisers, make them more sustainable reducing costs and attracting sponsors and investors for the benefit of the WBSC and its hosts, and by making a global analysis of our international calendar to ensure a balanced and profitable model.
- 3.7 Mr. Karin intervened to say that the Baseball5 World Cup is a great success, with audiences and demonstrating it can be a big show. Also, he added that Baseball5 can give an opportunity to countries not too strong in baseball and softball to participate at a high level.
- 3.8 Mr. Vicini reinforced the concept that it is paramount to reflect on the future of WBSC tournaments and to reshape them in favour of resources and sustainability for both WBSC and the LOCs.

#### **4. BASEBALL EVENTS – GENERAL OVERVIEW 2022 – 2026**

- 4.1 Mr. García described the file shared and the general overview of events 2022 – 2026. He started giving a report on the event celebrated in 2022, all with Covid-19 pandemic protocols applied and hopefully not necessary anymore in the next future. Then he continued outlining the program of the 13 events of 2023, without however possibly counting the Baseball Champions League.
- 4.2 Mr. García then explained the classification process at the continental level for the world championships and pointed out that the effort to maintain this international calendar (world and continental) is high, also because after the pandemic the cost of flights has increased, the amount of itinerary possibilities has decreased, and the visa process is taking longer.

#### **5. OPEN BIDS**

- 5.1 Mr. García described the file shared and world cups that are still open and don't have an organiser.
- 5.2 Mr. Xu Chen took the floor and expressed the interest of China Baseball National Federation to bid for the 2024 U-23 Baseball World Cup.
- 5.3 Mr. Yamanaka took the floor and expressed the interest of Japan Baseball National Federation to bid for the 2023 Women's Baseball World Cup first stage and the 2025 U-18 Baseball World Cup.
- 5.4 Ms. León congratulated the WBSC for the work done for the Baseball5 World Cup

and said that the WBSC is carrying out events that are inspiring for all continents and members. She then stressed that Venezuela is ready to return to organising events, such as a 2023 Women's Baseball World Cup first stage in the State of La Guaira.

## **6. BASEBALL WORLD CUP REQUIREMENTS REVIEW**

- 6.1 Mr. García described the file shared and world cups requirements. He expressed the need to reflect on these points and try to be as flexible as possible to allow for the best possible collaboration with the LOCs.
- 6.2 Chair Fraccari informed that he would like to create a working group to analyse WBSC baseball tournaments and study their sustainability.
- 6.3 Mr. Frimpong highlighted the opportunity and results African members are having with Baseball5.

## **7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

- 7.1 There was no other matter brought up.

## **8. ADJOURNMENT**

- 8.1 Chair Fraccari thanked all who attended the Meeting. He also thanked the WBSC staff and the interpreter for their efforts in ensuring the success of the meeting.
- 8.2 There being no other matters, the Meeting adjourned at 9:50 with a vote of thanks to the Chair. [End]

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*These Minutes, originating from the WBSC Baseball Division Board Meeting held by videoconference on 9th November 2022, are formally confirmed as correct by:*

Day \_\_\_\_\_ Month \_\_\_\_\_ Year \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

Signed by \_\_\_\_\_  
Riccardo Fraccari  
Chair

Signed by \_\_\_\_\_  
Jeffrey Jr. Koo  
Vice Chair