

The background of the entire page is a light gray gradient. A large, dark blue curved shape sweeps from the top left towards the center. Within this blue shape, there are numerous thin, parallel lines in a lighter blue and maroon color, 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!

**CODE OF THE
DIVISIONS**



THE CODE OF THE DIVISIONS

Pursuant to Article 12.1 of the WBSC Statutes

This is the latest version containing all the modifications and amendments to the WBSC Code of the Divisions, the story of which is:

First approved by the WBSC Executive Board held in Rome, Italy, on 25th February 2017 and ratified by the WBSC Extraordinary Congress held in Gaborone, Botswana, on 13th October 2017.
Further amendments approved by the WBSC Extraordinary Congress held on 18th December 2021.

INDEX

CHAPTER 1 –	GENERAL PRINCIPLES	4
ARTICLE 1.	NAME AND FOUNDING PURPOSE	4
CHAPTER 2 –	ORGANISATION OF THE DIVISIONS	5
ARTICLE 2.	ORGANISATION OF THE DIVISIONS	5
ARTICLE 3.	THE WBSC DIVISION BIENNIAL MEETINGS	5
ARTICLE 4.	THE DIVISION BOARDS	6
ARTICLE 5.	THE DIVISION BOARD MEMBERS	9
CHAPTER 3 –	APPLICATION OF THE CODE IN SPORTS LIFE	10
ARTICLE 6.	THE CODE AND THE TOURNAMENT REGULATIONS	10
ARTICLE 7.	DISPUTES	10
ARTICLE 8.	DOPING CONTROL	10
CHAPTER 4 –	FINAL DISPOSITIONS	11
ARTICLE 9.	COPYRIGHTS OF THIS CODE AND TOURNAMENT REGULATIONS	11

CHAPTER 1 – GENERAL PRINCIPLES

ARTICLE 1. NAME AND FOUNDING PURPOSE

1.1 Under Article 1 of the WBSC Statutes, the World Baseball Softball Confederation, hereinafter referred to as “WBSC” or the “Confederation”, is the only recognised International Governing Body for the Sport of Baseball/Softball and all disciplines thereof, legally established in accordance with its own Statutes as well as Swiss Civil Code and it shall be in charge of all Baseball/Softball activities in all categories thereof in all the countries and territories of the world which accept its Statutes, By-Laws, Rules and Regulations.

1.2 Pursuant to Article 12.1 of the WBSC Statutes, WBSC has created the WBSC Baseball Division (the “WBSC-BD” or “Baseball Division”) and the WBSC Softball Division (the “WBSC-SD” or “Softball Division”), hereinafter referred to as the “Divisions”, for the sole purpose of and to be responsible for the technical rules and competitions, the supervision and the organisation of Baseball and Softball respectively, and to manage the same under the authority of the WBSC.

1.3 The Divisions shall be governed by the WBSC Statutes, By Laws, Rules and Regulations, this Code of the Divisions and all categories thereof which shall be in full compliance with the WBSC Statutes, Code of the Divisions, By Laws, Rules and Regulations and the International Olympic Committee Charter.

1.4 The Divisions are ruled by the Code of the Divisions, which is in full compliance with the WBSC Statutes and the International Olympic Committee Charter.

1.5 The WBSC membership is governed by Articles 6, 7, 8 and 10 of the WBSC Statutes and pursuant thereto, the Divisions are constituted by those WBSC Members which govern, organise, promote and/or develop Baseball and/or Softball in their respective country or territory.

CHAPTER 2 – ORGANISATION OF THE DIVISIONS

ARTICLE 2. ORGANISATION OF THE DIVISIONS

2.1 The Divisions shall be managed and administered in the following manner:

- a) their Biennial Meetings of the respective Members;
- b) their respective Division Boards;

ARTICLE 3. THE WBSC DIVISION BIENNIAL MEETINGS

3.1 The Division Biennial Meetings shall be the highest authority of the Divisions and shall have the power to decide upon any matters relating to this Code provided always that all such decisions shall be in compliance with and in harmony with the WBSC Statutes, Code of the Divisions, By Laws, Rules and Regulations.

3.2 Each Division Biennial Meeting shall consist of the following:

- a) one (1) delegate for each Division Member in Good Standing who has been accepted by the WBSC as an Accredited Delegate under Article 13.2 of the WBSC Statutes, which shall apply as applicable under this Code. Each such delegate shall have one (1) vote. Division Members not in Good Standing shall have the right to attend and speak but no right to vote. All Accredited Delegates must be a Member of the Board of a Member Federation authorised in writing by that Member Federation; nevertheless, subject to the prior approval of the Executive Board, a diplomat from the corresponding country or territory of a member of the WBSC may be appointed as a Delegate for a Congress held in the country or territory in which he/she is accredited.
- b) all officers of the Division Boards, who have the right to speak but no right to vote.
- c) the WBSC President and all others whose attendance is authorised by the WBSC Executive Board who have the right to speak but no right to vote.

3.3 The Chairman of each Division shall control the conduct of the respective Biennial Meeting ("Chair"). Should the Chair, for any reason be unavailable, then the Vice Chairman shall preside and should the Vice Chairman for any reason be unavailable, one of the Members At-Large according to the Protocol Order shall preside and thereafter alternating between them if the Chairman is again not available, or if no Member At-Large is available then the WBSC Executive Board shall appoint one of the WBSC Executive Board officers to serve as Chair thereof.

3.4 The Division Biennial Meetings shall be held not more than three (3) days before the WBSC Congress, every second calendar year, in the odd numbered year (commencing in 2017, in exactly the first and the third year of the four-year Olympic cycle) and at a time and in a place determined by the WBSC Executive Board, which shall always be invited and represented in all Division Biennial Meetings.

3.5 The Chairman of each Division shall give written notice of the respective Division Biennial Meeting at least three (3) months prior to the fixed date of the Meeting to all Division Members and to the WBSC President. Also the agenda for the Meeting and any reports as in Article 4.7 and

together with all duly submitted motions and applications shall be sent at least one (1) month prior to the date fixed for the Meeting.

3.6 Each Biennial Meeting has a quorum if more than one-half of the eligible voting delegates of Division Members are represented. If within a reasonable period after the designated start time for a Biennial Meeting the Chairman has conducted the Roll Call and established that a quorum is not present, any duly summoned Biennial Meeting may, nevertheless, act as it goes along with the affirmative vote of at least an absolute majority of the votes constituting the normal quorum in the WBSC Division.

3.7 Each Division Board shall propose the order of business upon approval of the Biennial Meeting.

3.8 The functions and responsibilities of the Biennial Meetings shall be:

- a) To elect the Chairman, the Vice Chairman and the Members-at-Large of each Division in accordance with the WBSC Election By-Laws.
- b) To ratify the Continental Representatives of each Division Board who shall be elected at the meetings of each of the Continents prior to the Biennial Meetings in accordance with the WBSC Elections By-Laws.
- c) To consider and decide on such matters and resolutions put forward to the Biennial Meetings for discussion and decision and subject always to compliance with the WBSC Statutes, Code of the Divisions, By Laws, Rules and Regulations.
- d) Any and all the attributions of reference established by this Code of the Divisions or by the WBSC Statutes, By-Laws, Rules and Regulations.

ARTICLE 4. THE DIVISION BOARDS

4.1 The Division Boards shall each comprise of the following officers:

- a) a Chairman (also Executive Vice President for his/her respective Division and therefore member of the WBSC Executive Board);
- b) two (2) Vice Chairmen;
- c) three (3) Members At-Large;
- d) one (1) Athletes' Representative each for Men's Baseball and Women's Baseball from each gender in the Baseball Division and one (1) Athletes' Representative each for Men's Softball and Women's Softball from each gender in the Softball Division;
- e) a Continental Representative for each of the five (5) regions of Africa, Americas, Asia, Europe and Oceania;
- f) a Division Director, without vote and not mandatory.

4.2 The officers of the Division Boards shall be elected as follows and in accordance with the WBSC Election By-Laws:

4.2.1 The Chairman, the Vice Chairmen, and the Members-at-Large shall be elected by the Division Members at their Biennial Meeting every four (4) years;

4.2.2 The Continental Representatives shall be elected by the WBSC Division Members of Good

Standing of each of the Continents at a meeting to be held prior to the date of the Biennial Meeting where an election of the Chairman is held; the President of each Continental Association or his substitute shall be ratified by the Biennial Meeting as Continental Vice President for that area of the world in accordance with the WBSC Election By-Laws; and

4.2.3 The respective Athletes' Representatives for Men's Baseball and Women's Baseball and for Men's Softball and Women's Softball shall be elected every four (4) years by the respective athletes of that discipline at such Baseball/Softball competitions as may be decided by the Division Boards and under the supervision of the WBSC Executive Board.

4.3 Decisions of the Division Boards shall be by simple majority and in the case of a tie the Chairmen shall have a casting vote. Voting may be conducted remotely, such as by phone, facsimile or other means, including signed circular resolutions and other electronic means.

4.4 The Division Boards shall ensure that all actions and decisions of the Biennial Meetings and Division Boards shall be in compliance with and in harmony with the WBSC Statutes, Code of the Divisions, By Laws, Rules and Regulations.

4.5 All the members of the Division Boards elected by the Biennial Meetings must be from different Member Federations, Associations or Organisations of the WBSC.

4.6 Where a Division Board member has been absent from two (2) consecutive meetings without reasons acceptable to the respective Division Board, his or her position as member shall be forfeited. The Division Board may then fill the vacancy in accordance with the WBSC Election By-Laws.

4.7 The rights and duties of each Division Board shall include the following:

- a) To discuss and decide on all matters assigned to it by the respective Biennial Meeting, the WBSC Congress or the WBSC Executive Board.
- b) To interpret and enforce this Code and ensure that such interpretation and enforcement is in compliance with and in harmony with the WBSC Statutes, Code of the Divisions, By-Laws, Rules and Regulations.
- c) To do everything possible to maintain harmony between its Division Members and to decide without prejudice on each dispute that might occur between or amongst them.
- d) To organise and control all competitions under the jurisdiction of each Division, including to decide on and publish regulations for the competitions and also to determine the dates and sites upon final approval of the WBSC Executive Board.
- e) To approve and compile and keep up-to-date Baseball/Softball records achieved in competitions under the jurisdiction of each Division.
- f) To provide a written report of the activities to every and each Biennial Meeting and WBSC Congress.
- g) To ensure that the decisions of a Biennial Meeting, WBSC Congress and WBSC Executive Board are timely and properly implemented.
- h) To take all other actions as required or necessitated by this Code, the WBSC Statutes, By-Laws, Rules and Regulations or as may be directed by the WBSC Congress or WBSC Executive Board.

4.8 Except for the Athletes Representatives, officers of the Division Boards shall not participate or otherwise be involved in competitions as an athlete, manager, coach, technical official, umpire

or scorer.

4.9 The Division Boards shall operate as follows:

- a) The Division Boards shall meet at least once every calendar year, which, during a year in which a WBSC Congress is held, may or may not be during the WBSC Congress.
- b) The meetings of the Division Boards may take place in whole or in part via electronic means (a "Meeting").
- c) Unless the Division Boards shall approve a meeting on short notice ("Extraordinary Meeting"), notice must be given not less than sixty (60) calendar days before a meeting of the Division Boards, with a request for items or information for the agenda.
- d) Any matter to be discussed at a Meeting other than an extraordinary Meeting must be received by the respective Chairman and the WBSC President at least twenty-one (21) calendar days before the Meeting.
- e) The Chairmen shall publish a written notice of such Meetings confirming the date, time, and location of the meeting, and provide agenda items and supporting documentation not less than fourteen (14) calendar days prior to each Meeting. Once a final written notice of a Meeting has been made, the Meeting may only be cancelled by majority vote of the Division Board.
- f) The Chairmen of the Divisions shall preside at every Division Board meeting. Should the Chair, for any reason be unavailable, then the Vice Chairmen according to the Protocol Order shall preside and should the Vice Chairmen for any reason be unavailable, one of the Members At-Large according to the Protocol Order shall preside and thereafter alternating between them if the Chairman is again not available.
- g) The quorum shall be constituted with the concurrence of at least seven (7) of its officers. In the absence of a quorum, the Division Boards, duly convened, may nevertheless proceed to discuss the matters on the agenda.
- h) The Chairman shall be responsible of drawing the minutes of the Meeting of the Division Board, provide draft minutes within twenty (20) calendar days after the Meeting and publish them within thirty (30) calendar days to every Division Member and to the WBSC President.
- i) At every Meeting of the Division Board, each officer of the Division Board shall declare any conflict of interest involving any matter on the agenda or otherwise discussed at the Meeting, which conflict(s) shall be recorded in the minutes. An officer of the Division Board may, with the prior written consent of the Division Board, participate in a Meeting not called as a fully electronic meeting of the Division Board and be present by telephonic or other means of electronic communication as long as all participants can be clearly heard. An officer of the Division Board attending a Meeting in this way shall be deemed to be present and this will not count as an absence.
- j) No officer of the Division Board shall attend by or give a proxy to another person and no vote shall be taken by or opinion expressed by proxy.
- k) A resolution shall be validly passed if adopted by a majority of members of the Division Board present and voting.
- l) Unless otherwise agreed by the Meeting of the Division Board in question, the minutes of that meeting, in whole or in part, shall be public.
- m) Notwithstanding the above, an officer of the Division Board may request that the Division Board meet on an expedited basis provided that more than two-thirds (2/3) of the members

agree in writing to hold such a meeting (“Special Committee Meeting”). The procedures in this Article, which apply to regular Meetings, shall apply to every Special Committee Meeting, but the notice and distribution requirements may be waived by vote of the Division Board.

ARTICLE 5. THE DIVISION BOARD MEMBERS

5.1 Pertaining to the Chairman:

The Chairman of each Division shall serve as the Executive Vice President (either for Baseball or for Softball) in the WBSC Executive Board under the WBSC Statutes and is the legal representative of the Division (in case the Chairman already covers a position within the WBSC Executive Board, the Division Board will appoint by vote of majority another of its members as per Article 14.1.b and 14.1.c of the WBSC Statutes). His or her duties and responsibilities are:

- a) To officially represent the Division in accordance with what is stated in this Code.
- b) To summon and preside the Biennial Meetings and meetings of the respective Division Board and to sign the corresponding minutes.
- c) To manage and supervise the executions of the decisions of the Biennial Meetings and the Division Board and to present to them such reports as may be requested.
- d) To propose to the Division Board the appointment of the Tournament Director and the Jury of Appeal for the either Baseball or Softball competitions under the jurisdiction of the respective Division and under the final approval of the WBSC Executive Board.
- e) To propose to the Division Board the appointment of the Chairmen of the Division Commissions and all their members.
- f) To carry out such duties and responsibilities that this Code, the WBSC Statutes, By-Laws, Rules and Regulations, the Division Board and the WBSC Executive Board shall entrust upon him or her.
- g) To ensure the compliance of the Division and in harmony with this Code, the WBSC Statutes, By-Laws, Rules and Regulations.

5.2 Pertaining to the Vice Chairmen:

The Division Board shall assign such duties and functions as may deem appropriate to the Vice Chairmen of each Division.

5.3 Pertaining to the Members At-Large:

The Division Board shall assign such duties and functions as may deem appropriate to the Members At-Large of each Division.

5.4 Pertaining to the Continental Representatives:

Each of the Continental Representatives is the legal representative of his or her respective Continent in the Division and they shall carry out the duties and responsibilities set up by this Code, the WBSC Statutes, By-Laws, Rules and Regulations and that the Division Boards and the WBSC Executive Board shall entrust upon him or her and in accordance with the WBSC Statutes, By-Laws, Rules and Regulations and this Code.

5.5 Pertaining to the Athletes' Representatives:

The Athletes' Representatives are the legal representatives of the athletes in the Divisions. Their duties and responsibilities are to be the athletes voice in all matters in the Divisions and the Division Boards and carry out such duties and responsibilities that this Code, the WBSC Statutes, By-Laws, Rules and Regulations, the Division Boards and the WBSC Executive Board shall entrust upon them.

CHAPTER 3 – APPLICATION OF THE CODE IN SPORTS LIFE

ARTICLE 6. THE CODE AND THE TOURNAMENT REGULATIONS

6.1 Each Division shall make such Tournament Rules and Regulations for all disciplines of Baseball/Softball to govern, manage and administer all qualification and technical aspects of Baseball/Softball competitions under the jurisdiction of each Division.

6.2 The jurisdiction to consider, interpret, or resolve any dispute, interpretation or matter arising under these Tournament Rules and Regulations is vested in the Division Board.

6.3 The Division Board shall ensure that all such Tournament Rules and Regulations are in compliance with and in harmony with this Code, the WBSC Statutes, By-Laws, Rules and Regulations and are ratified by the WBSC Executive Board.

ARTICLE 7. DISPUTES

7.1 All disputes arising from any matter under this Code and any Tournament Rules and Regulations shall be dealt with in accordance with the Disciplinary By-Laws under the WBSC Statutes.

ARTICLE 8. DOPING CONTROL

8.1 All matters pertaining to doping testing and anti-doping matters shall be dealt with in accordance with the WBSC Anti-Doping Rules and the WADA Code.

CHAPTER 4 – FINAL DISPOSITIONS

ARTICLE 9. COPYRIGHTS OF THIS CODE AND TOURNAMENT REGULATIONS

9.1 All Tournament Rules and Regulations and all publications promulgated by the Divisions shall be published in the official languages of the Divisions solely for the benefit of WBSC Members. They may be reprinted or translated by Members for the use of those Members only, with the understanding that in all cases where the translated text differs in interpretation, the English version shall be accepted. All copyrights of this Code and Tournament Rules and Regulations shall remain and be the sole right and property of the WBSC.

9.2 All persons other than WBSC Members wishing to publish the Code or any Tournament Rules and Regulations must first obtain the permission of the respective Division.