

## WBSC EUROPE EC FALL MEETING

Sofia, Bulgaria  
November 18, 2022

### Attendance

Kruno Karin President; ("KK")	Ami Baran, Secretary General; ("AB")
Eddy Van Straelen, Treasurer; ("EvS")	Petr Ditrich, Vice President; ("PD")
Gabriel Waage, Vice President; ("GW")	François Collet, Member; ("FC")
Jürgen Elsishans, Member; ("JE")	Virmidas Neverauskas, Member; ("VN")
Youri Alkalay, Member; ("YA")	Mette Nissen Jakobsen, Member; ("MNJ")
Kristian Palvia, Member; ("KP")	Martina Lackner-Keil, Athletes Representative; ("MLK")
Lars Sundin, Legal Counsel; ("LS")	
Kristina Uroic, Corporate Activities Director; ("KU")	
Elda Ghilardi, Marketing and Communications Director ("EG")	
WBSC: Marco Ienna ("MI");	Victor Isola ("VI").

Notes by EG & KU

### **1. Welcome Quorum and President Opening**

KK: Welcome to Sofia. Thanks to YA for organizing. Welcome to the Board Martina. Thanks to Marco Ienna and Victor Isola from WBSC for being here and for the constant support.  
Invite to be united.

- **Funding:**

We will not receive any more funding for this year.  
We are expecting to receive € 4.500 for the ESCA Training Camp and € 7.000 for Baseball Winter League.

GW: **Update on WBSC meeting:**

LA28 is up to LOC organizers.  
Development proposal is under development.  
Baseball5 in Mexico.  
Bids.  
Good governance.

- **Travel agency concept for WBSC Europe:**

KK: WBSC Europe will hire someone to deal with different aspects of travel.

Two offers:

Marco from Italy – we tried this however, there were some issues.  
Sandro Romanic from Serbia – proposal for a fee, possible lower prices for flights  
Open to new proposal if some from the Board has an offer.  
We will invite them at their own expense to present to the Board the offers.

- **Continued suspension of Russia and Belarus Federations:**

AB: We received a letter from UKR, and BRS. If no decision, entries will be open to everyone.

MI: IOC did not lift the ban yet. General ban from WBSC is unlimited. No deadline.  
modified the Disciplinary By-Laws (article 5.1.). WBSC Europe is free to do it.

WBSC

Requests from UKR to ban RUS and BEL + membership

Open discussion:

AB: membership on WBSC so we cannot deal with that.

GW: Russians are banned to enter some EU countries. Some Federations already banned the countries from 2023. My proposal is to keep the ban.

PD: I do not see the situation changing.

VN: I believe Belarus is a different situation. I propose to have different approaches on RUS and BEL.

KK: different approach requested – we can separate the proposals per the request from BLR Federation and point raised by VN.

Proposal:

Until further decision made by the IOC and WBSC, we shall continue the suspension/ban of RUS (teams, coaches, officials) from all European competitions.

Decision:

11-0-1

**Proposal Approved**

Request from BLR: divide youth and adult competitions.

Open discussion:

MLK: what did other sports do?

GW: some banned both. Football didn't.

KP: I would not change the ban from last year.

GW: we need to protect our teams.

KK: Congress might change decision.

GW: I agree that Congress should approve the decisions.

Proposal:

Until further decision made by the IOC and WBSC, we shall continue the suspension/ban of BLR (teams, coaches, officials) from all European competitions.

Decision

10-1-1

**Proposal Approved**

**Action Item: Will be brought to the Congress with a request to approve the decision.**

• **Commission, Committee Budgets:**

KK: Our income is quite clear in general.

- Maybacks contract might bring in funds.
- We will need to see what the WBSC Development Budget will be for 2023.
- The Baseball and Softball Commissions should prepare a Budget and we would need to see if we can provide funds based on what we will be taking in and also hopefully from WBSC.

Discussion on EB Members being on Baseball or Softball Commissions:

- JE: I do not see why Executive Board Members cannot be on the BB or SB Commissions.
- PD: cannot understand why not.

- FC: Question: Are WBSC Board Members part of the commissions?  
[The question would be are WBSC EB Members also Division Members ]

MI: WBSC Board Members can be part of some commission. We have a Conflict-of-Interest Document.

- GW: WBSC has Baseball and Softball Divisions. WBSC Board Members can be part of appointed commissions. I wanted the Board members to be part of the Commission. I prepared the Code of Division to decide what is possible in the Commission. MLK – Athletes Representative – was invited to the Commission meeting.

AB:

Legal Commission stated in the last meeting that according to the Statutes (interpretation of the Statutes) it is clear that there is a specific clause enabling Executive Board members to be on the Baseball or Softball Commission. Being that there is a "specific" clause for that, the prior articles imply that the Executives are not part of the Baseball or Softball Commission unless appointed by special approval of the Executive Board and then in the capacity of an ex officio member. Suggested that we do this legally and by the Statutes and propose to appoint any of the EB Members to either the Baseball or Softball Commissions.

KK: We need to be united. We are WBSC Europe Board Members. We expect everyone to care about the sport, not just for baseball, softball or baseball5.

GW: Asia and America are not united. In Europe we wanted to be united to work better. We changed a lot in the last 20 years. We are uniting but we are different sports and communities.

KK: we are failing in getting together in some items. We need to change our attitude.

**Action items: Baseball Commission, Softball Commission & Committees shall prepare their budgets Before Christmas/December 25.**

## 2. Minutes

Proposal:

Approve the Minutes from the last meeting

Decision

12-0-0

**Proposal Approved**

## 3. WBSC Europe Secretary General:

AB:

- Apologize to EB on some miscommunication.
- Communications lacking on both sides. Please reply to messages and emails.
- Votes by email: they will continue, and are legal. Results are sent by email and minutes uploaded online.
- We need to ensure that all signed contracts be approved prior to them being delivered to the partners in the agreement.

**Action item: Create dates for a Monthly update.**

Registration:

- We shall be approved soon.

- Once we have registration, we will open the bank account.
- We need VAT and PIC number after registration.

#### **Consolidation of BS and SB regulations.**

**Action item: BB and SB technical committees need to work and see if there are possibilities of consolidating some of the parts in the Regulations. Deadline: before congress.**

#### **Hall of Fame**

- We would like to create the WBSC Europe Hall of Fame.

#### **By Laws Athletes Representative**

- Baseball will be elected at BECh 2023 in CZE.

FC: Does WBSC have an athlete representative?

MI: a nominated one but with no vote, same as virtual sports.

#### **Baseball and Softball Commission By Laws**

- GW submitted for review draft of these By laws. Some corrections are needed and comments from EB members. We will have final document ready for the EB to be brought up for a vote before the Congress.

**Action item: Legal commission to prepare final proposal for Baseball and Softball By Laws.**

#### **WBSC Europe Protocol**

- GW submitted for review draft of this document. EB members to comment and submit and will be brought up for a vote before the Congress.

**Action item: Legal commission to prepare final proposal for WBSC Europe Protocol**

#### **4. Finance:**

EvS:

- Apologies for be able to attend prior meetings.
- Budgets need to be created soon.
- Financial appendix can be changed at any time as it is the EB who can do this.
- Entry fees will start to come in.
- We need to know what transpired in the financials of the CEB

GW: No pay no play. We need to have a clear view before the Congress otherwise we need an investigation.

EvS: need to implement fees and penalties. There have been unpaid fees. Cash payment are not allowed unless very special circumstances. Loss on Baseball account.

JE: It is not a problem to take the respective paragraphs on fees out of the rules and into a separate appendix.

KK: The loss in baseball is because no senior ECh.

KK: In Baseball when umpires do not show up, the NFs should pay for the replacement.

#### **Proposal:**

Approve that we will have one joint financial appendix

#### **Decision**

12-0-0

Proposal Approved

**Action item: BB Commission to take out fees from competition regulation and be in the financial appendix**

Proposal:

Implement in all competitions the no pay no play rule and abide by all regulations.

Decision

12-0-0

Proposal Approved

**Action item: implement in all competitions no pay no play rules.**

Proposal:

The penalty for late payments. Minimum: €350.

Decision

12-0-0

Proposal Approved

**Action item: add to the financial appendix.**

Proposal:

Fee for umpires not showing up. Minimum €475.

Decision

12-0-0

Proposal Approved

**Action item: Fee for umpires not showing up. Minimum €475.**

JA: for some countries it is more difficult to pay in certain moments.

EvS: never once in 30 years, a team did not play for this reason. We are flexible.

Discussion on Fees and CEB Account:

FC: membership fee of €700 is high.

KK: before it was €350 for baseball and €350 for softball.

GW: WBSC Europe membership fee is a contribution from NFs.

EvS: no more provisional members. Before deciding what to do we need to see the CEB bookkeeping.

GW: We need to close this item before Congress. If the situation is not clear, we should start an investigation.

KU: I went through the invoices and sent it to CEB treasurer. He should go through it from December 1<sup>st</sup>.

KK: proposal to start investigation December 7, 2022.

**Action item: send notification to CEB Treasurer and CEB President.**

**Action item: start investigation on December 7, 2022.**

## 5. Information from VPs SOFTBALL

GW:

- 3 softball commission meeting during the year.
- Last one in person to evaluate the competitions. Board received several documents, evaluations so you have all the information.
  - Softball Europe Technical Director Report about 2022 Competitions was taken into account and will be presented at 2023 Congress
  - Softball Europe Director of umpires Report 2022 including proposed activity 2023 was taken into account and will be presented at 2023 Congress
  - Proposal for Fine - Netherlands uniform issue (see below vote on proposal)
  - Softball Europe Calendar 2023 – 2026 was taken into account. Bidding procedure for non allocated events will be reopened till February 8 and final SE Calendar 2023 – 2026 will be approved at the Congress.

**Proposal:**

Fine NED for violation of Regulations - wearing uniform without an emblem depicting their national origin: €500 fee.

**Decision**

11-0-1

**Proposal Approved**

**BASEBALL**

PD:

- Three meetings. All competitions were managed. Complicated year.
- Competition rules deadline at the end of the year.
- Not many bids this year, maybe for communications or for process.
- Bids deadline was extended until 17 of November.
- Frantisek Bunta is appointed to Competitions and Technical Committee.

*Discussion on local transportation regulations for participating teams at Baseball Tournaments*

FC: Propose that organizer do not need to take care of transportation. It is a huge burden to LOC and to align with softball regulations.

FE: I have a different view. Local transportation won't change the number of bids we receive.

FC: not connected to bids. It is just a burden for organizers.

YA: agree to remove transportation from LOC.

KK: LOC could set up agreements with hotels and set the transportation just for official hotels.

JE: some NFs already set their budget for the National teams with their NOC/ministry, and for them it would be impossible to add additional costs.

KP: since organizers are not set, budget will have to adapt anyway.

**Proposal:**

Remove LOC transportation obligation starting in 2023, except for the awarded tournaments CZE 2023 and ISR 2025.

**Decision**

10-1-1

**Proposal Approved**

*Discussion on process of awarding Competitions (Baseball and Softball)*

AB: Based on Baseball Europe Competition Regulations and past precedent the allocation of the tournaments are by the Executive Board as opposed to Softball Europe where it is by Congress.

GW: Statutes state Congress approves the allocation of the Tournaments.

KK: This was done in April 2022 and Israel was awarded the 2025 Baseball ECh.

Based on the precedents and problem of allocations in baseball the Executive Board will vote on Baseball events.

Proposal:

U-15 Baseball ECh to SVK

Decision

11-0-1

**Proposal Approved**

Proposal

U-23 Baseball ECh to AUT

Decision

11-0-1

**Proposal Approved**

Proposal

Champions Cup to NED

Decision

10-1-1

**Proposal Approved**

- 2023 ECh draw – 25 November in Prague, CZE.
- Winter League: support Spanish Federation in Nov. and support from WBSC.
- New appointments on Baseball Commission.
- KK: EB members cannot coach and neither can the Baseball commission members
- 

Proposal

Approve the new appointments on Baseball Commission.

- Frantisek Bunta – Chair Competition and Technical
- Makouchetchev Serge – Umpiring committee
- Zdenek Zidek – Umpiring Committee

Decision

11-0-1

**Proposal Approved**

## **BASEBALL5**

YA

- A small committee was formed
- Technical Regulations prepared.
- Time for Baseball5 to become a Commission.
- There is one bid to host the Senior Baseball5 ECh from Lithuania.

Proposal

Approve three members to Baseball5 Committee:

- Vladislav Beltic
- Arnoldas Neverauskas



Decision

12-0-0

Proposal Approved

Discussion on the announcement of the qualified teams for the U17 Baseball5 WC

KK: why did we publish that TUR and FRA qualified to the WBSC World Cup in Sofia, BUL?

EG: WBSC published it on their website ([news](#)).

17/11/2022

Out of the 14 National Teams participating, the senior sides of France and Lithuania finished ninth and 11th respectively in last week's Baseball5 World Cup in Mexico City. WBSC Europe is streaming all games of the U-17 Baseball5 European Championship through its YouTube channel.

Fourteen National Teams are participating in the inaugural U-17 Baseball5 European Championship at the Sofia Sports Hall, **Bulgaria**. The tournament will run through Saturday, 19 November. The top two finishers will qualify for the first WBSC Youth Baseball5 World Cup, scheduled for 2023.

MI: it needs to be same age category for funding. We will check and get back to you.

Proposal

Approve the bid from LTU for the 2023 Baseball5 European Championship.

Decision

11-0-1

Proposal Approved

**Special request : Support to UKR**

Support UKR in 2022:

€5k on baseball and €5k on softball, WBSC funded, LOC funded, IOC funded.

No fees

Request for UKR for more support for 2023.

GW: support from LOC was deep. No entry fee again.

Proposal

No entry fee for 2023

Decision

12-0-0

Proposal Approved

Proposal

No membership fee for 2023

Decision

12-0-0

Proposal Approved

END OF FIRST SESSION



## WBSC EUROPE EC FALL MEETING

Sofia, Bulgaria  
November 19, 2022

### Attendance

Kruno Karin President; ("KK")	Ami Baran, Secretary General; ("AB")
Eddy Van Straelen, Treasurer; ("EvS")	Petr Ditrich, Vice President; ("PD")
Gabriel Waage, Vice President; ("GW")	François Collet, Member; („FC“)
Jürgen Elsishans, Member („JE“)	Virmidas Neverauskas, Member; („VN“)
Youri Alkalay, Member; ("YA")	Mette Nissen Jakobsen, Member; ("MNJ")
Kristian Palvia, Member; ("KP")	Martina Lackner-Keil, Athletes Representative; („MLK“)

Lars Sundin, Legal Counsel; ("LS")  
Kristina Uroic, Corporate Activities Director; („KU“)  
Elda Ghilardi, Marketing and Communications Director („EG“)  
Jukka Ropponen, Head of Marketing Department („JR“)

WBSC: Marco Ienna („MI“); Victor Isola („VI“).

*Notes by EG & KU*

### **6. Marketing committee**

JR: Question to EB  
What are the goals of the WBSC Europe for marketing?  
VA: see something moving  
MLK: have marketing aligned on the three sports  
FC: agree  
YA: unify vision for WBSC Europe and fund.  
PD: help to LOCs.  
GW: develop our community outside and inside. Funds.  
KP: have one vision and look like.  
JE: same, sponsors and funds.  
MNJ: funds.  
KK: funds.

JR presents the new Branding concept.

- We have multiple brands which lose value of our main brand which is WBSC Europe
- The Baseball and Softball Europe "balls" show no connection to either the Continental or the Global Organization
- It looks like we have three different organizations
- Proposed for marketing reasons proper to unify our efforts under one logo – the Home plate  
JR showed the home plate version and discussion followed

### Discussion on the Branding Proposal:

- Need to take out the words World Baseball Softball Confederation and just use WBSC Europe and below in smaller print use the words Baseball Softball.
- Points made that maybe WBSC will not approve of this change

- JR mentions he has been in touch with Michael Schmidt and Richard Baker and they agreed on the concept of the change.
- GW this is a difficult change, because the community of softball has their Softball Europe logo and changing would mean to diminish the softball Europe brand.

#### Proposal

Accept the new brand concept from the presentation with all aspects accepted within the presentation.

#### Decision

8-2-2

Proposal Approved

**Action item: JR to send to the EB the "correction" of the wording, removing the words "World Baseball and Softball Confederation" with the shorter Europe version.  
AB will send to the EB for agreement of the new wording.**

## 7. Events

JE:

- Update on what has been accomplished.  
Bidding forms prepared.  
Need to continue the building of the Events Department structure.

**Action item: AB and JE will set up a meeting regarding the recommendation for the Events Department**

#### Discussion on streaming at games

JR:

- Regarding streaming of the games at the tournament, it can differ. It can be done only with one camera as well.

KP:

- We need to communicate with the Federations to see if we can educate the Federations in streaming the games.

**Action item: JR and EG will send a letter to the Federations to clarify about the requirements for Maybacks and the regular streaming at Events.**

**Action Item: JR and EG will send a letter to the Federations about possible education for streaming the games.**

#### Discussion on the International Transfers Document

KK:

- I prepared the draft document. I have implemented some of the FIFA, FIBA and IHF rules.

MI:

- WBSC is in a process of creating a new transfer document, so we can help regarding this. WBSCE can send us the document and our team can look in to it.

**Action Item: AB will send the proposed International Transfers draft document to MI of WBSC for evaluation and recommendations and in turn will send to the Events Department. JE will go through the document and put the final proposal to the EB at the Congress.**

GW:

- We are close to signing the agreement for the Masters tournament with the Spanish Federation and Massimo Romeo tournament with the Italian Federation.

## 8. Governance

MNJ:

- Presented the Terms of Reference and explained the plan until 2025
- Proposed to the EB the Governance Commission additional Members as follows:  
John Boyd (GBR)  
Bjørn Christian Thode (NOR)  
Elliot Fleys (FRA)  
There will be an additional independent member.

### Proposal

Accept the new members John Boyd, Bjorn Thode and Elliot Fleys.

### Decision

11-0-0

**Proposal Approved**

*Note: Brian Aron shall be the Legal Commission Responsible.*

### Proposal

Approve the Terms of Reference

### Decision

11-0-0

**Proposal Approved**

*Mette Nissen Jakobsen left the meeting due to her early flight. (10 EB members present)*

## 9. Development

KP:

- We have a Contract proposal from PONY League
- Little League has proposed to WBSC Europe an Agreement in which they would have exclusive rights for the youth events to them which means that no other contract could be signed with any other organization.

### Proposal

Approve the Contract with PONY League

### Decision

9-0-1

**Proposal Approved**

**Action Item: KP will explain to LL the situation and issue of exclusivity.**

### Extra point: Media: Maybacks

JR:

The deal is to split the revenue 50-50 with Maybacks.

MLK:

- If the Event will be put on Maybacks platform, would the Federations still be able to watch the streaming?

JR: Yes, WBSC Europe could still have the streaming

Proposal

Approve the contract with Maybacks.

Decision

10-0-0

**Proposal Approved**

Proposal

Propose to the National Federations the option to sign with Maybacks through WBSC Europe.

*Note: Federations would sign with WBSC Europe, and all the income would be on 50-25-25 percentage Approve the contract with Maybacks.*

Decision

10-0-0

**Proposal Approved**

## 10. Congress preparation

AB: Preparation of Congress Committee.

*Discussions and decisions for the Congress:*

- No ESF/CEB meetings however there will be Baseball and Softball Commissions meetings.
- Financial will be presented.
- Former Presidents shall be invited
- Invite North Macedonia and Montenegro (starting federations) to the Congress
- No issues with Kosovo coming to Congress in Serbia
- The EB Post Congress meeting will be Saturday afternoon. EB members can leave on Sunday.
- Protocol By Laws to be approved at next EB Meeting (Pre congress meeting)

Invitees:

- 6 WBSCE Softball Commission members
- 6 WBSCE Baseball Commission members
- WBSC President
- WBSC CEO
- WBSC SD Chair
- WBSC BD Chair

There will be other invitees after consultation with KK, EvS, PD and GW.

**Action item: EB Members will book their flights to the Congress and send the invoice to EvS.**

## 11. AOB

KK: We will conduct a EB meeting June 22-24 as MLB Europe have invited us to the MLB games in London.

AB:

Proposal

Submit proposal to add Baseball5 Commission with the addition of a Vice President of Baseball5

Decision

11-0-0

**Proposal Approved**

Proposal

Submit proposal that all Competition and other bids and will be decided by the Executive Board (re: Art 14)

Decision

11-0-0

**Proposal Approved**

Proposal

Submit proposal for the establishment of the Hall of Fame including By Laws.

Decision

10-0-1

**Proposal Approved**

JE: we will need new apparel for officials.

KK: please provide numbers as in quantity from both Baseball and Softball.

**Action item: JE will provide numbers for baseball and Mike Jennings for softball.**

*Final roundtable comments:*

MI: Thanks for having us. Great working environment and organization.

VI: Thanks for having us. Great work.

**EG: please use only WBSC Europe email.**

MLK: Thanks for having me. ESCA Camp great experience.

YA: pleasure to have you in Sofia.

PD: thanks for the hospitality to YA. Organize the work with AB.

JR: thanks for having me. Let's move forward.

GW: World Cups might be all in a row. WBSC Europe offered to help with promotion.

KK: Thanks to YA. Baseball5 was great. We needed to clear the table. We had a great meeting. We built a structure; I want to show at Congress. Please Commissions answer to your emails. I look forward to seeing you in Serbia.

X



Kruno Karin  
President

X



Ami Baran  
Secretary General