

WBSC EUROPE BASEBALL COMPETITION RULES

Main changes in competition rules 2023

1. WBSC EUROPE BASEBALL COMPETITIONS

From 2023 the content of this article is transferred to the document “WBSC Europe Hosting Bid Outline”.

2. BIDDING PROCEDURES FOR THE WBSC EUROPE BASEBALL COMPETITIONS

- a. From 2023 the content of this article is transferred to the document “WBSC Europe Hosting Bid Outline”.

Change - the rule about providing transportation before and during the tournament is changing.

3. FINANCIAL OBLIGATIONS OF THE ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

If not otherwise foreseen in the specific competition rules, the financial obligations of the Organizing Committee (LOC) are as follows:

- a. Assume the costs for travel and hotel of the Technical Commissioner-Controller to inspect the playing grounds where the European competition will be held.
- b. Assume the financial conditions relative to accommodation, food and local transportation necessary for all assigned umpires and scorekeepers, to and from all games. The accommodation and meals for umpires will be paid for a period beginning one day prior to the competition and including one day after its conclusion. Each umpire will receive 9 (nine) Euro for each playing day as indemnity.
- c. Assume the cost of the financial conditions relative to: accommodation, food and local transportation at all time, as stipulated for each WBSC Europe
- d. Baseball competition for Technical Commissioner(s) who carry out functions at the competition for a period beginning one day prior to the start of the competition and including one day after its conclusion. The Technical Delegate shall arrive one day before the scheduled date of the technical meeting. The Technical Commissioner(s) and the umpires will be lodged separated from the participating teams.
- e. To provide local transportation for each delegation from the hotel to and from all games and the pre-competition practice (art. 13, g, l) as long as the distance is not more than 30 km one-way.

If organizers decide to play at two or more locations, the transport between those facilities and the hotels is to be provided and on account of the organizers irrespective of the distance. Local transportation is meant also to and from the pick-up airport.

The organizing committee has to agree on the pick-up airport(s) with WBSC Europe Baseball before the official awarding of the tournament.

- f. To supply the trophies and awards.

- g. To provide the maintenance, all costs for custodial care required maintaining cleanliness at the fields.
- h. All costs related to doping control (if provided).
- i. Insurance against General Liability for all athletes and officials who participate in the competition.
- t. Obligations of the organizer of the European Championship Seniors:
 - The WBSC Europe Executive Committee and the Baseball Technical Commission shall during the European Championship see to it that the provisions governing the competition as well as the Official Baseball Rules are closely observed.
 - The Organizing Committee provides for its account: room, board and local transportation, as and when needed, for 5 (five) days, for the members of the WBSC Europe Executive Committee and for the full period for the President, VP Baseball and Secretary General of WBSC Europe.

The terms "international transportation" or "travel expenses" always means: 1st class travel expenses railway or boat, including meals en route or boat and Economy class airlines.

Accommodation

It is provided 1st class hotel. The hotel for Umpires, Technical Delegate(s) and Commissioner(s) must not be the same as used by the teams. All Competition Officials must be lodged at the same hotel.

Technical delegates/commissioners/umpires' supervisor as well as the scoring director have to be lodged in separate (single) rooms, scorers and umpires can be lodged in double (twin) bedrooms.

Food

Meals are to be provided either in hotel, restaurants or on the field, anyhow arrangements for appointed officials (Technical Commission, umpires, scorers, etc.) are to be made so that meals may be taken at all times, according to the game schedule. Non- appointed officials must be ensured to have meals at the same hotel where they are booked or at a restaurant or at the field provided that adequate transport is arranged. When the meals are served on the field there must be a separate room, only for the officials. There must be at least 1 warm quality meal with fresh vegetables and fresh fruit per day. It is not ok when officials need to eat every day "fast food". We advise that the breakfast can be taken in the hotel where the officials are lodged. Provide at least 2 free drinks per day for each official.

4. OBLIGATIONS OF FEDERATIONS OR CLUBS PARTICIPATING IN WBSC EUROPE BASEBALL COMPETITIONS

- a. All teams are responsible for their travel expenses to arrive at and to depart from the Competition venue, and all board, lodging and food throughout. All teams are additionally responsible for all their local travel throughout the event, including to / from the TC Meeting and to / from the field(s) for games and Ceremonies.
- b. The WBSC Europe Baseball Insurance Form (Affidavit) should be, undersigned by the participating club or federation delivered together with the F.T.R. at the Technical Meeting the day before the start of the tournament. Failing of delivering of this insurance document will cause removal of the team from the event.

<https://www.wbsceurope.org/en/disciplines/baseball>

- c. Each Affiliated Federation is responsible for the traveling expenses to and from any baseball competition (or to a baseball Umpire Training Course) for as many Umpires as the teams this Affiliated Federation enters in the current year.

In the event that the participating team fails to provide the appointed international baseball umpire(s), WBSC Europe will impose a fine of 500 euros on the federation.

A new position, umpire supervisor, will be added during the tournament. The baseball umpire nomination system is changed.

a. Umpires

All member federation must submit their list of international umpires to the Baseball Umpire commission no later than November 15th every year. If a member federation fails to submit their list before January 1st of the current season, the federation will be charged by WBSC Europe with a fine of Euro 500. In addition to that, the Baseball can nominate umpires from other federations as substitutes.

The panel of umpires shall consist of a number of umpires from various countries together with a sufficient number of umpires supplied by the federation of organizers to make up the total number needed for the competition. All umpires for the competition must be chosen and appointed by the Baseball WBSC Europe Baseball Competitions and Technical Committee in cooperation with the Umpires Committee

Umpires shall arrive on the day of the settled date of the Technical Meeting or in case a clinic is provided before the competition, the same date stated in the convocation. As a rule, Umpires must wear dark blue shirts in the games.

Participation to the clinic is mandatory for all umpires assigned to the competition. The Baseball WBSC Europe Baseball Competitions and Technical Committee may inflict a disciplinary action against absent umpires.

Each umpire must make the commitment to stay for the duration of the competition, including play-offs if needed. Failure to abide by this rule may result in a suspension of the umpire from participation at WBSC Europe competitions. Umpires must be able to talk and understand the English language.

As a rule, an umpire shall not be allowed to take part as plate umpire in a game where his country is taking part. The appointment of the umpires for each game will be done by the Technical Commission and **Umpires Supervisor**, as a rule, the day before the game starts. Per game, in principle, two, three or four umpires of a different nationality of the teams involved will be appointed by the Technical Commission.

At the end of each game, the game report forms will be send electronically by the Umpires Supervisor. In case of disciplinary action, the umpire involved must draw up, at the end of the game, a report about the happening by describing precisely the circumstances. This must be done on paper

In the main competitions one of the members of the Technical Commission shall be nominated by Baseball Umpire commission as Umpires Supervisor. The responsibilities of the Umpires Supervisor are:

- Prepare the umpire assignments for the Technical Commission.
- Submit the proposals for these assignments 24 hours before game time to the Technical Commission, if possible.

- Notify the Umpires about their approved assignments at least 12 hours before game time, if possible. Assignments should only be distributed maximally for the following two tournament days.
- Hold an umpire meeting together with the Technical Delegate and the nominated umpires before each tournament (e.g. right before or after the Technical Meeting). A representative of the LOC should also attend this meeting.
- Hold daily umpire meetings (as chair), if required.
- Complete the umpire evaluation forms, if needed. The Umpires Supervisor on duty is still responsible for filling out the umpire evaluation form after each game.
- Ask the Technical Commission for general impressions about the work of the umpires (on and off the field).
- Submit a complete report approved by the Technical Delegate to the Chairman of the Baseball Technical Commission and the Chairman of the WBSC Europe Baseball Umpire Commission.

5. ELIGIBILITY

Eligibility of players in the tournament

Nationality of Competitors

- a. A player in any WBSC Europe competition including the Olympic qualifying competitions must be a national of the country of the federation that is entering him.

Any competitor in any European Championship for national selections or the Super 6 must be a national of the country of the federation and must have the stipulated age during the calendar year of the competition; however, the minimum age required to play in any adult competition is 15 (fifteen) years in the year of the competition.

For Cup competitions, what is provided in the specific competition rules will apply.

To establish the nationality of the players, their valid passport or European Union identity card with photo that mentions the nationality, issued by the governmental authorities shall be presented to the Technical Commission. All participants from Non European Union countries must have passports (ID cards are not accepted !)

Completely redesigned by the committee of judges, we will also organize a virtual meeting for this point

14. COMPETITION REGULATIONS (PLAYING RULES)

All competitions in the 2023 Championship season shall be played by the Official Baseball Rules 2022 (hereinafter as the "OBR"). Edition, with the changes as follows. All other rules not affected by this addendum shall remain intact. All previous provisions of the Competition Rules affecting the Playing rules are replaced by the following.
All citations used here below refer to the OBR.

3.02 The Bat

Only bats approved by WBSC Europe for a specific competition may be used in this competition – 3.02(a) and (d).

Except as provided otherwise in these rules, wooden bats are allowed in all competitions.

The use of an **aluminium bat** is permitted only in Cadet U15 and Juveniles U12 competitions and in the European Championship Women.

The use of **Composite bats** is only allowed in the following competitions:

- European Championship Women
- European Championship Qualifier U23
- European Championship Qualifier U18
- European Championship U15 & Qualifier
- European Championship U12 & Qualifier
- Federations Cup
- Federations Cup Qualifier

No other than **wooden bats (especially, composite bats)** are allowed in the following competitions:

- European Championship A-Pool, B-Pool
- European Championship U23
- European Championship U18
- Champions Cup
- Confederation Cup
- Super 6

For the use of wooden bats and composite bats, WBSC Europe Baseball will announce a list of approved bats.

Use of a **non-approved bat** will be considered the same as using pine tar on bat as per 3.02 (c) of the OBR.

The brand and type number of the bat must be legible on the bat in case of a bat check in order to be able to clearly identify the bat (e.g. especially the fact whether it is a composite bat or not). If the bat cannot be clearly identified by the umpire(s) or Technical Commissioner(s), the team of the player who used or tried to use the bat has to prove to the Technical Commissioner(s), that the bat is legal according to this rule.

Bats for Juveniles U12:

See art. 25 C f of the Competition Rules.

3.08 Helmets

3.08 (e) - It is recommended that all base coaches wear a protective helmet while performing their duties.

4.04 Weather and Field Conditions

During a competition the sole judge will be the designated Technical Commissioner for this game.

5.04(b)(4) The Batter's Box Rule

For a batter's second or subsequent violations of this rule in a game, the umpire shall award a strike without the pitcher having to deliver the pitch. The ball is dead, and no runners may advance.

Furthermore: If after the pitcher starts his windup or comes to a "set position" with a runner on, he does not go through with his pitch because the batter has stepped out of the box, the umpire shall not call a balk. Such action by the batter shall be treated as a violation of the Batter's Box Rule and shall subject a batter to the penalties set forth in Rule 5.04(b)(4)(A).

5.07(b) Warm-Up Pitches

The number of preparatory pitches is limited to eight (8).

5.10(g) Three Batter Minimum

In case of a conflict of OBR 5.10(g) and the WBSC Europe Competition Rules – the Competition Rules shall prevail. Example: a pitcher change that is dictated by Competition Rules because of the “Pitch Count Rule” will be allowed and declared as legal even if the provisions of 5.10(g) (“Three Batter Rule”) are not fulfilled.

5.10(l) Visits to the Mound Requiring a Pitcher’s Removal from the Game

Rule 5.10(l) last paragraph shall not be in effect.

5.10(m) Visits to the Mound

Exception: U12 – 7 visits per game.

5.11 Designated Hitter Rule

Designated hitter rule will NOT be used in the U15 and 12 Competitions.

7.01(a) Regulation Games

A regulation game in a WBSC Europe competition can consist of nine (9), seven (7), six (6), or five (5) innings according to the provisions of the competition rules. All rules of the Official Baseball Rules apply to any of these games unless stated otherwise.

Additionally, the Run Difference Rules apply:

- Senior Competitions with 9 innings:
 - If after 7(seven) complete innings for the visiting team or 6½ innings for the home team, there is a 10 (ten) runs score difference between the teams, the game is ended.
 - If after 5(five) complete innings for the visiting team or 4½ innings for the home team, there is a 15(fifteen) runs score difference between the teams, the game is ended.
- For Women, U23, Juniors U18, Cadets U15 a regulation game consists of 7 innings:
 - If after 5(five) complete innings for the visiting team or 4½ innings for the home team, there is a 10 (ten) runs score difference between the teams, the game is ended.
 - If after 4(four) complete innings for the visiting team or 3½ innings for the home team, there is a 15(fifteen) runs score difference between the teams, the game is ended.
 - If after 3(three) complete innings for the visiting team or 2½ innings for the home team, there is a 20(twenty) runs score difference between the teams, the game is ended.
- For Juveniles U12 a regulation game consists of 6 innings:
 - If after 5(five) complete innings for the visiting team or 4½ innings for the home team, there is a 10 (ten) runs score difference between the teams, the game is ended.
 - If after 4(four) complete innings for the visiting team or 3½ innings for the home team, there is a 15(fifteen) runs score difference between the teams, the game is ended.
 - If after 3(three) complete innings for the visiting team or 2½ innings for the home team, there is a 20(twenty) runs score difference between the teams, the game is ended.

7.01 Regulation Games

7.01 (b) (Extra Inning Rules addendum):

If the game remains tied after the completion of nine (9) innings, the following procedures will be implemented during extra innings (For Women, U23, Juniors U18 and Cadets U15 after seven (7) innings, for Juveniles U12 after six (6) innings):

1. Each team will begin the first extra inning (10th or 8th) (and any subsequent necessary extra innings) with a player on second base.
2. The batting order in any extra inning will be determined by how the previous inning ended. That is, if the 9th inning ends with the #6 hitter having the last plate appearance (PA), then the 10th inning begins the #7 hitter at bat, and the #5 hitter at 2B and the #6 hitter at first base.

7.01 (e): If a game is postponed or otherwise called before it becomes a regulation game, it will become a suspended game.

7.01 (c): If a game scheduled for 7 or 6 innings (e.g., Cadets U15 and Juveniles U12) is called, it is a regulation game:

(1) If four innings have been completed.

(2) If the home team has scored more runs in three or three and a fraction half-innings than the visiting team has scored in four completed half-innings.

(3) If the home team scores one or more runs in its half of the fourth inning to tie the score.

All suspended, tied, or postponed games shall be rescheduled by the Technical Commission and the Organizing Committee in order to resume or start them following the suspension order. The scheduling of these games shall be given priority by the Technical Commission in order to complete them as soon as possible.

Nevertheless, if there are difficulties concerning the closing date, only the important games shall be scheduled. No team shall be asked to play more than two games on the same day, unless the case warranted by exceptional circumstances, for instance postponed games and decided by the Technical Commission.

For the Juveniles, the Technical Commission will, under extraordinary circumstances in conjunction with the Organizing Committee, adjust the game schedule as necessary.

The procedures for postponed games, suspended games, and tie games are at the jurisdiction of the Technical Delegate and/or the Technical Commissioners of a competition.

7.04 Protesting Games

Protests are allowed in WBSC Europe competitions. WBSC Europe has established rules governing procedure for protesting a game, when a manager claims that an umpire's decision is in violation of these rules. No protest shall ever be permitted on judgment decisions by the umpire. In all protested games, the decision of the Technical Commissioner(s) shall be final. Comment: Whenever a manager protests a game because of alleged misapplication of the rules the protest will not be recognized unless the umpires are notified at the time the play under protest occurs and before the next pitch, play or attempted play.

9.17 Winning and Losing Pitcher

- the winning pitcher is that pitcher whose team assumes a lead while such pitcher is in the game or during the inning on offense in which such pitcher is removed from the game, and does not relinquish such lead, unless:

* Such pitcher is a starting pitcher and

* Such pitcher has completed:

For tournaments with 7-inning games (except U12):

- four innings of a game that lasts seven innings or
- three innings of a game that lasts four, five or six innings or
- two innings of a game that lasts three innings.

For U12 tournaments:

- three innings of a game that lasts six innings or
- two innings of a game that lasts four or five innings or
- 1.2 innings of a game that lasts three innings.

9.19 Saves for Relief Pitchers

9.19 (d) 3: (He satisfies one of the following conditions):

In tournaments with 7-inning games (except U12):

- when he pitches for at least two innings of a game that lasts four, five, six or seven innings.
- In a three-inning game no save will be credited.

In U12 tournaments

- when he pitches for at least two innings of a game that lasts five or six innings or
- when he pitches for at least one inning of a game that lasts four innings.
- In a three-inning game no save will be credited.

European Championship - Changes in the deployment of teams due to the exclusion of the Russian team

20. EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIPS

Due to a decision taken by the WBSC Europe Executive Board on recommendation of the IOC all the national teams of Russia and Belarus are excluded of participating in the WBSC Europe tournaments in 2022 because of the aggression in Ukraine

CHAMPIONSHIP (A-level)

A Period

The European Championship takes place every two years.

B Participants

The participants for 2023 are:

- the first 13 ranked countries of the previous championship in 2021
- the 3 winners of European Baseball Championship Qualifier 2022

Players have the minimum age of 15 years in the year the competition is played.

The games for the competition will be played in one or more cities, which have a distance between them of no more than 100 kilometres. Deviations from this must be approved in advance by the WBSC Europe Baseball Competitions and Technical Committee.

The European Championship will be played with WBSC Europe Baseball approved bats only and with one of the Official Ball for Competitions to be listed by WBSC Europe Baseball

C Competition System

The 16 teams will be placed in 4 bowls and 4 groups will be formed by drawing:

Group A, Group B, Group C and Group D

Bowl 1 : The first 4 ranked national teams of the previous EC

Bowl 2 : Place 5 – 8 ranked national teams of the previous EC

Bowl 3 : Place 9 – 12 ranked national teams of the previous EC

Bowl 4 : Place 13 and the 3 winners of the EC qualifier 2022

The organizing country will be placed in group A ???

The first part of the competition will be for each group a round robin (3 games in 3 consecutive days). At the end of this phase the standing will be made

The first 2 teams of each group will go the second phase of the tournament after one day of rest and will play the quarter finals, semi finals and finals or ranking games for the places 5 till 8 when the teams are eliminated in the quarter finals

The day 4th of the competition is a day of rest

On the day 5th, 6th, 7th, and 8th of the competition, the top two teams of each group will play a play-off round (quarterfinals, semifinals, final game) as follows.

W (winner), L (loser)

5 th day	(a)	A1	-	B2	A1 is home team = quarter final
	(b)	C1	-	D2	C1 is home team = quarter final
	(c)	B1	-	A2	B1 is home team = quarter final
	(d)	D1	-	C2	D1 is home team = quarter final

6 th day	(e)	W (a)	-	W (b)	Home team by draw = semi final
	(f)	W (c)	-	W (d)	Home team by draw = semi final
	(g)	L (a)	-	L (b)	Home team by draw = 5-8 place game
	(h)	L (c)	-	L (d)	Home team by draw = 5-8 place game

7 th day	(i)	L (g)	-	L (H)	Home team by draw = 7-8 place
	(j)	W (g)	-	W (h)	Home team by draw = 5-6 place

8 th day	(k)	L (e)	-	L (f)	Home team by draw = 3-4 place
	(l)	W (e)	-	W (f)	Home team by draw = 1-2 place

On the day 4th to 7th of the competition, the bottom two teams of each group will play for the ranking 9th to 16th place and avoid relegation to the EC Seniors B-level, the 2 last ranked teams will relegate. On the 5th or 6th day there will be a rest day

4 th day	(m)	A3	-	D4	A3 is home team = relegation
	(n)	C3	-	B4	C3 is home team = relegation
	(o)	D3	-	A4	D3 is home team = relegation
	(p)	B3	-	C4	B3 is home team = relegation

5 th day	(q)	W(m)	-	W(n)	Home team by draw = relegation
	(r)	W(o)	-	W(p)	Home team by draw = relegation

6 th day	(s)	L(m)	-	L(n)	Home team by draw = relegation
	(t)	L(o)	-	L(p)	Home team by draw = relegation

7 th day	(u)	L(s)	-	L(t)	Home team by draw = 15-16 place
	(v)	W(s)	-	W(t)	Home team by draw = 13-14 place
	(w)	L(q)	-	L(r)	Home team by draw = 11-12 place
	(x)	W(q)	-	W(r)	Home team by draw = 9-10 place

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