

Motions and Proposals for the WBSC Europe Congress

Amendment of the WBSC Europe Statutes

In accordance with Article 14.9 (q) and Article 18(1)

For the Congress

- Motion/Proposal related to the addition of a new Article in the Statutes under Article 19 Disputes. (Amnesty) - Latvian Baseball and Softball Federation
- Motion/Proposal related to a change to an Article in the Statutes under Article 9 Disciplinary Actions (adding wording amnesty) - Latvian Baseball and Softball Federation
- Motion/Proposal related to Executive Board right to create Regulations, Rules and By-Laws (Disciplinary By-Laws) - Latvian Baseball and Softball Federation
- Motion/Proposal related to citizenship eligibility rules and regulations -Austrian Baseball Softball Federation
- Motion/Proposal related to citizenship eligibility rules and regulations (Policy of two passports) -Latvian Baseball and Softball Federation
- Motion/Proposal related to citizenship eligibility rules and regulations (quarantine clause) - Latvian Baseball and Softball Federation
- Motion/Proposal related to the suspension of the Belarus teams participating in European Competitions (National Team) - Belarus Baseball Association
- Motion/Proposal related to the suspension of the Belarus teams participating in European Competitions (Clubs) - Belarus Baseball Association
- Motion/Proposal related to the suspension of the Belarus teams participating in European Competitions (Youth) - Belarus Baseball Association
- Motion/Proposal related to Bid for Congress 2025- Croatia Baseball Association

For the Baseball Commission

- Motion/Proposal related to dates and times of European Tournaments - Royal Belgian Baseball and Softball Federation
- Motion/Proposal related to dates and times of European Tournaments (Israel 2025) - Royal Belgian Baseball and Softball Federation
- Motion/Proposal related to general access for the Baseball European Championships- Turkish Baseball & Softball Federation
- Motion/Proposal related to playing European Baseball Championships annually - Latvian Baseball and Softball Federation
- Motion/Proposal related to adding European Baseball Championships and Euro Cup for U13. - Latvian Baseball and Softball Federation
- Motion/Proposal related to adding European Baseball Championships and Euro Cup for U16. -Latvian Baseball and Softball Federation

Motion/Proposal from Latvian Baseball and Softball Federation

Proposal related to the addition of a new Article in the Statutes under Article 19 Disputes.

ARTICLE 19. DISPUTES

Add new 19.4 Amnesty ;

19.4 A Member, Participant or Official who filed for amnesty in accordance with these Statutes or a WBSC By –Law may be subject to pardon.

Reasoning:

No path for amnesty.

Executive Board Recommendation:

The Executive Board recommends that the Congress not approve with a vote "not in Favour".

Reasoning; WBSC Europe are aligned with the WBSC and there are proceedings in place for an individual who has been sanctioned or given disciplinary measures for appealing any decision

Motion/Proposal from Latvian Baseball and Softball Federation

Proposal related to a change to an Article in the Statutes under Article 9 Disciplinary Actions

ARTICLE 9. DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS

Add to 9.1 wording in red.

9.1 – Any matter related to disciplinary *or amnesty* actions *policies* will be decided by the Executive Board and in accordance to either the WBSC Europe disciplinary proceedings or the WBSC Disciplinary By-Laws until such proceedings are authorized.

Reasoning:

No path to consider to reduce disciplinary penalty.

Executive Board Recommendation:

The Executive Board recommends that the Congress not approve with a vote "not in Favour". Reasoning; WBSC Europe are aligned with the WBSC and there are proceedings in place for an individual who has been sanctioned or given disciplinary measures for appealing any decision

**Motion/Proposal from Latvian Baseball and Softball Federation
Related to Executive Board right to create Regulations, Rules and By -Laws**

For WBSC Europe Board

To introduce WBSC Europe version of Disciplinary By-Laws.

Reasoning:

Currently WBSC Europe is using WBSC's version with no way to make adjustments specific to European needs..

Executive Board Recommendation:

The Executive Board has tasked the Governance Department and the Integrity Commission to bring forth recommendations on this issue. Part of a long term plan of these to WBSC Europe entities and to align with WBSC.

Motion/Proposal from Austrian Baseball Softball Federation Related to citizenship eligibility rules and regulations

For WBSC Europe Board

Adopt a new regulation for the participation of teams in the European Championships 23 under and seniors. Players should have to observe a waiting period (3 years) after obtaining citizenship until their first appearance in the national team at the European Championships. A differentiated regulation is possible for baseball and softball.

The regulations of the European Basketball Association could serve as a possible model.

Reasoning:

At the last (Baseball) European Championships in 2023, there were teams that consisted of up to 100% naturalized players.

In our view, this increasingly common approach is completely at odds with the development goals of WBSC Europe. Countries that adhere to these goals and have developed a sustainable youth program are in competition with federations that create their national teams with naturalized players. This is not fair in sporting terms and distorts competition. Different state regulations also have a restrictive effect here. That is not the goal. It also has a demotivating effect on players and clubs in their own country. If there are any at all.

This regulation can again provide a motivational boost for all nations to focus on youth development and jointly strengthen baseball and softball in Europe.

Executive Board Recommendation:

The issue of citizenship including dual citizenship and eligibility is the prerogative of the WBSC.

The WBSC player eligibility rules on nationality are clear, and fully in line with the Olympic Charter – all Confederations are in line with those as their official NT events are sanctioned accordingly.

Recommendation is for the Austrian Baseball and Softball Federation to send the proposal to the WBSC.

Motion/Proposal from Latvian Baseball and Softball Federation Related to citizenship eligibility rules and regulations

For WBSC Europe Board

Task WBSC Europe Baseball Commission to develop eligibility policy for players with 2 passports by September 2024. Present it in written form by September 2024 for a review with federations for a vote in congress in 2025.

Reasoning:

Unregulated current WBSC Europe policies for players with 2 passports.

Executive Board Recommendation:

The issue of citizenship including dual citizenship and eligibility is the prerogative of the WBSC. The WBSC player eligibility rules on nationality are clear, and fully in line with the Olympic Charter – all Confederations are in line with those as their official NT events are sanctioned accordingly.

Recommendation is for the Latvian Baseball and Softball Federation to send the proposal to the WBSC.

Motion/Proposal from Latvian Baseball and Softball Federation Related to citizenship eligibility rules and regulations

For WBSC Europe Board

Update eligibility rules in WBSC Europe Tournament Regulations Quarantine

Add a quarantine clause in Players Eligibility rule

3 years of quarantine after naturalization, or 18 consecutive months of residence prior and/or post naturalization.

Reasoning:

In Euro 2023 there were over 137 players (6 full teams) born and trained outside of Europe. 70 (3 full teams) out of 137 were current or former professional baseball players.

12 out of 70 have played in MLB

22 from AAA

11 from AA

14 from a single A

11 from pro leagues in caribbean and Japan

46 (2 full teams) players have played competitive US college ball.

- Current Unregulated eligibility rules are contributing to long lasting negative impact on European Baseball, on players development , on coaching having their jobs, on baseball growth in general.
- To even the playing field
- Some countries don't allow dual citizenship and hence natuuralization is not an option whcih creates disadvanteg on the a field.

Executive Board Recommendation:

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The issue of citizenship including dual citizenship and eligibilty is the prerogative of the WBSC.

The WBSC player eligibility rules on nationality are clear, and fully in line with the Olympic Charter – all Confederations are in line with those as their official NT events are sanctioned accordingly

Note: Quarantine already exists for a player to wait for 3 years to play for another country after the players last activity for any NT of that players “former nationality” – unless both NFs involved agree on an immediate change (in line with the Olympic Charter).

Recomendation is for the Latvian Baseball and Softball Federation to send the proposal to the WBSC.

Motion/Proposal from Belarus Baseball Association
Related to the suspension of the Belarus teams participating in European Competitions

For WBSC Europe Board

To allow Belarus National Team to participate in European Competitions.

Reasoning:

IOC Recommendations

Executive Board Recommendation:

The Executive Board recommends that the Congress not approve with a vote "not in Favour".

Reasoning:

Congress 2023 decided not to allow Belarus (as well as Russia) to participate in European Competitions in coordination with the WBSC.

As of now the IOC recommendations as to participation for the two countries are related to individual athletes and not Teams (national or Club and no differentiation between senior or youth).

Motion/Proposal from Belarus Baseball Association
Related to the suspension of the Belarus teams participating in European Competitions

For WBSC Europe Board

To allow Belarus Clubs to participate in European Competitions.

Reasoning:

IOC Recommendations

Executive Board Recommendation:

The Executive Board recommends that the Congress not approve with a vote "not in Favour".

Reasoning:

Congress 2023 decided not to allow Belarus (as well as Russia) to participate in European Competitions in coordination with the WBSC.

As of now the IOC recommendations as to participation for the two countries are related to individual athletes and not Teams (national or Club and no differentiation between senior or youth).

Motion/Proposal from Belarus Baseball Association
Related to the suspension of the Belarus teams participating in European Competitions

For WBSC Europe Board

To allow Belarus Youth to participate in European Competitions.

Reasoning:

IOC Recommendations

Executive Board Recommendation:

The Executive Board recommends that the Congress not approve with a vote "not in Favour".

Reasoning:

Congress 2023 decided not to allow Belarus (as well as Russia) to participate in European Competitions in coordination with the WBSC.

As of now the IOC recommendations as to participation for the two countries are related to individual athletes and not Teams (national or Club and no differentiation between senior or youth).

Motion/Proposal from Croatia Baseball Association Bid for Congress 2025

For WBSC Europe Congress

Bid for holding the Next Congress

Application:

Croatia Baseball Association bids for holding the 2025 General Congress in Zagreb, Croatia

Executive Board Recommendation:

This was the only bid for Congress 2025

**Motion/Proposal from Royal Belgian Baseball and Softball Federation
Related to dates and times of European Tournaments**

For WBSC Europe Board

More spread of the European Tournaments , no consecutive dates

Reasoning:

Cost savings for federations (better use of our own vans)

Executive Board Recommendation:

The Executive Board recommends that the Baseball Commission address this proposal for their decision.

**Motion/Proposal from Royal Belgian Baseball and Softball Federation
Related to dates and times of European Tournaments**

For WBSC Europe Board

Can the EC Baseball Seniors be organized in Israel 2025

Reasoning:

Security for participating teams in a country that is at war

Executive Board Recommendation:

The Executive Board and the Baseball Commission received a letter from the Israel Association of Baseball a request to withdraw from hosting 2025 because of the conflict in israel and the bids are open for the 2025 and 2027 EC Baseball Seniors

**Motion/Proposal from Turkish Baseball & Softball Federation
Related to general access for the Baseball European Championships**

For WBSC Europe Board

Inclusion of Direct Team participation in Baseball European Championships

Reasoning:

To streamline and enhance the accessibility of the Baseball European Championships by allowing teams to participate directly, similar to the existing format in Softball Championships.

Executive Board Recommendation:

The Executive Board recommends that the Baseball Commission address this proposal for their decision

Motion/Proposal from Latvian Baseball and Softball Federation
Proposal related to playing European Baseball Championships annually.

For WBSC Europe Board

WBSC Europe European Baseball Championships in all age groups annually.

Reasoning:

- Everyone is playing in Euros: Everyone is playing every year
- Playing every year will allow more federations to host Euros in our lifetime
- 2-3 neighbouring federations can cooperate and host if needed
- Split hosting is cheaper, will allow to improve or build infrastructure and bring attention locally, and most importantly brings baseball home.
- Playing more will raise Europe's country ranking, which is a deciding factor for many tournament seeding including WBC Qualifiers, Premiere 12.

Executive Board Recommendation:

The Executive Board recommends that the Baseball Commission address this proposal for their decision

Motion/Proposal from Latvian Baseball and Softball Federation

Proposal related to adding European Baseball Championships and Euro Cup for U13.

For WBSC Europe Board

Create WBSC Europe European Baseball Championships and Euro Cups for U13.

Reasoning:

- It takes years to develop skills, to understand game situations, to be present at the moment, to build instincts.
- In Europe a number of age groups U13, U14, U16, U17, U19 and U20 are without competitions; Baseball is the only team sport in Europe that does not think those ages are important when participation numbers are reducing every year (based on annual reports from federations)
- Studies in NCAA tell us 75% of players drop out by age 14 because of lack of playing.
- The impact on Europe without opportunities to play ;
Less games → Less fun → less learning
With less games there would be no need to build the baseball fields and with no infrastructure there would be no baseball
Kids are switching to other sports and with such there would be no coaching jobs
- European Baseball players need to play more games. We need them to play a significant more quality games otherwise European born players don't have a chance to be competitive against North and Latin American players and we will continue to lose kids to other sports.

Executive Board Recommendation:

The Executive Board recommends that the Baseball Commission address this proposal for their decision

Motion/Proposal from Latvian Baseball and Softball Federation

Proposal related to adding European Baseball Championships and Euro Cup for U16.

For WBSC Europe Board

Create WBSC Europe European Baseball Championships and Euro Cups for U16.

Reasoning:

- It takes years to develop skills, to understand game situations, to be present at the moment, to build instincts.
- In Europe a number of age groups U13, U14, U16, U17, U19 and U20 are without competitions; Baseball is in the only team sport in Europe that does not think those ages are important when participation numbers are reducing every year (based on annual reports from federations)
- Studies in NCAA tell us 75% of players drop out by age 14 because of lack of playing.
- The impact on Europe without opportunities to play ;
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- European Baseball players need to play more games. We need them to play a significant more quality games otherwise European born players don't have a chance to be competitive against North and Latin American players and we will continue to lose kids to other sports.

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The Executive Board recommends that the Baseball Commission address this proposal for their decision