



BASEBALL5

TECHNICAL REGULATIONS

2023

B5 Technical Regulations 2023

Official European B5 Competitions

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INTRODUCTION

This regulation covers the organization of official Baseball5 competitions from the calendar of WBSC Europe (Championships for national teams and Cups for club teams).

Refer to the Official WBSC Baseball5 Rulebook of the current year to be found on WBSC website (<https://www.wbsc.org/en/disciplines/baseball5>).

All matters not stipulated in these regulations will be settled according to the Official WBSC Baseball5 Rulebook.

A. GENERAL NORMS

1. PLAYERS ELIGIBILITY

1.1. Every player on a National Team must be of the same nationality as the Federation they represent.

1.2. The nationality of every player will be determined by a passport or an I.D. card issued by the national authority of their WBSCE member country, which has to be presented at the TC meeting.

1.3. Age eligibility for Baseball5 events is determined by the age of the player at 31 December in the year of competition.

1.4.1. For Senior competitions, the minimum age is 15 years.

1.4.2. For Youth competitions, players must be a minimum of 13 years and no older than 18 years.

2. TEAM ROSTER & RESPONSIBILITIES

2.1. All participating teams must upload their Preliminary Team Roster (PTR) on my.wbsc.org 21 days before the start of the competitions and the Final Team Roster (FTR) 2 days before the TC meeting.

2.2. The Official Delegation is composed by:

- maximum of four (4) staff members including:
 - Delegation Leader (might also be a Coach or Manager).
 - Manager and Coach(es).
- maximum of eight (8) players:
 - a. Maximum 4 female players.
 - b. Maximum 4 male players.
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2.3. During the Technical Meeting, the Delegation Leader shall submit the following documents:

- Valid and current passport (individual passport) or ID card for each player for verification. Other members of the Delegation such as the Delegation Leader and Coach shall appear on the Team Roster and although they may not be citizens of the country, they shall present a valid passport.
- Email address(es) and Phone numbers for Delegation Leader and/or Coach.
- Official Affidavit Insurance Form to have the right to participate in the B5 competition.

2.4 Procedures

- 2.4.1 All participating teams must fill in the official Entry Form 120 days before the start of the competitions to have the right to participate in the B5 competition. The entry form must be sent to WBSC Europe email address indicated in the entry form.
- 2.4.2 All participating teams must pay the entry fee 90 days before the start of the competition.
- 2.4.3 The host must provide a guarantee to be able to host the B5 Championship or Cup as follows:
Pay a guaranteed fee (deposit) of 1250 Euros or Provide a Letter of Guarantee.
- 2.4.4 All participating teams must provide information on arrival and departure times.

2.5. Participating team responsibilities

- 2.5.1 To cover all expenses of travel, accommodation, meals, and medical insurance connected to participation in the B5 official competition.
- 2.5.2 To cover the transportation of one certified game official from their home country to the location of the competition. If a game official is not provided, a fee of five hundred (500) Euros must be paid to WBSC Europe.
- 2.5.3 To cover the expenses of the game official/s for participation in a clinic prior to the competition.
- 2.5.4 To organize and cover local transportation from their arrival to their departure.
- 2.5.5 To have at least one representative at the Technical Meeting who should present to the Technical Commissioner(s) all necessary documents.

3. PRE-TOURNAMENT TECHNICAL MEETING

- 3.1 Before the start of the competition, a Technical Meeting will be held to discuss all the technical and organizational issues concerning the competition. Place, date, hour of the technical meeting will be announced to the teams as soon as available.

4. DOPING CONTROL

- 4.1 Doping Control shall be conducted in accordance with the WBSC Anti-Doping Rules and/or national regulations of the host country.

5. AWARDS

POSITION	AWARD
First	Gold Medal
Second	Silver Medal
Third	Bronze Medal

The total number of medals will be the number of the Official Delegation members to a maximum of twelve (12).

Based on the statistics from the scorecards, the following additional Awards rewards may be awarded:

- Best Offensive Player (Individual with the most runs scored in the tournament)
- Best Hitter Player (Individual with the highest number of hits batting average number of Hits per number of at bat)
- Best Defensive Team (Team with the fewest defensive errors throughout the tournament)
- Best Offensive Team (Team with the most runs scored in the tournament)
- Most Valuable Player in the tournament.

All the individual and team performance Awards are the responsibility of the Technical Commissioner.

B. COMPETITION ADMINISTRATION

1. COMPETITION OFFICIALS

- Tournament Director, who may be a member of WBSC Europe Executive Board
- Media Officer
- Technical Commissioner
- Competition Official-in-Chief
- Game Officials

2. WBSC EUROPE RESPONSIBILITIES

2.1 To cover travel expenses of the WBSC Europe Tournament Director, Technical Commissioner, Competition Official-in-Chief and Media Officer.

2.2 To cover the balls, medals, lineup cards, and presentation for the host.

2.3 To prepare and provide a game schedule for the competition.

3. PROTESTS

3.1. When a protest is made by the Coach over a suspected misapplication or misinterpretation of a playing rule, it shall be presented according to the Official Baseball5 Rulebook.

3.2. When such a protest is made, the Table Official shall stop the game, and inform the Coach or Manager of the opposing team, the Game Official(s) and the audience (if possible), that the protest has been filed. If the protest occurs on the game-ending play, the opposing team must wait for the decision before they leave the playing field.

After a consultation within the crew of Game Officials, a ruling will be given by the Table Official. If this fails to resolve the situation, the protest must immediately be made in writing.

3.3. The Protest, indicating the number(s) of the Baseball5 Rule(s) involved, shall be presented to the Table Official, who will consult with the Competition Official-in-Chief before a final ruling on the Protest is made without delay. There is no appeal against this ruling.

4. APPEALS

4.1. Only a Game Official decision that is not related to the Official Baseball5 Rulebook, such as player eligibility, may be appealed.

4.2. The appeal must be forwarded in writing to the Technical Commissioner, with details of the decision being appealed and supporting materials, within one hour of the completion of the game. It will be considered by a Technical Committee consisting of the Table Official, Competition Official-in-chief, Technical Commissioner and chaired by the Tournament Director.

4.3. The ruling will be delivered to the interested parties within 24 hours after the incident occurred.

5. COMPETITION & GAME PROTOCOLS

5.1 Opening Ceremony

5.1.1. The staging of the Opening Ceremony is the responsibility of the LOC. The Ceremony program must be agreed with the Tournament Director, as a representative of WBSCE, and should include:

- Parade of the national teams (teams enter announced alphabetically except for Home team, who enters as last team), with national flag and/or board with name of the country in English language. Local junior players could be used to lead the teams.
- Introduction of the Officials and official guests.
- Brief opening remarks from dignitaries, including Host and official games opening by Tournament Director.
- Rising of the flag WBSC Europe flag (if possible) and European Anthem “Ode to Joy”.
- First pitch (if appropriate) by local celebrity, etc.
- Celebration for fans and delegations.

5.2 Before each game

- The announcer first calls the Visiting team (the players in the starting lineup by name, then coaches and the rest of the team in uniform) on to the field, followed by the Home team and then the Game Officials.
Home team shall line up along the third base foul line. Visitor Team shall line up along the first base foul line. The Game Officials shall stand at home plate.
- The official version of the national anthems (found on the WBSC Europe website) of the two teams shall then be played, Visitors first. During the anthems, all should face towards the displayed national Flags, with hats removed and without talking, eating, drinking, etc....

NOTE: if several games are being played at the same time in the same venue, discretion should be exercised in the use of announcer and playing of anthems to minimize confusions between the fields.

- Only players and coaches are permitted on the field during the pre-game ceremony.

5.3 Closing Ceremony

5.3.1. The staging of the Closing ceremony is the responsibility of the LOC, who shall agree the program with the Tournament Director, ensuring the participation of teams, delegations and fans. It includes:

- a) Parade of at least the medal teams on the field (enter announced in order third, second, first. Gold medal team line up in the middle, silver on third base side, bronze on first base side)
- b) Closing remarks, including WBSC Europe presentation to LOC
- c) Presentation of individual awards

- d) Presentation of Bronze, Silver and Gold medals and Competition Trophy (photos to be taken of all awards).
- e) National anthem of Gold Medal team.
- f) The Tournament Director announces the closure of the event.

6. COMPETITION SYSTEM

6.1 Match Format

All Games are contested on “best of three (3) sets” format, in which each set (match) is composed of 5 innings each. In order to win the game, the team has to win 2 matches out of three.

6.2 Round Robin

Two (2) groups of seven (7) and six (6) Teams (A, B), will play all vs., with the top three (3) teams from each group advancing to the Super Round. In case of a tie, see tie-breaking system. Bottom four (4) - group A - and three (3) - group B - teams will go to the Placement Round.

6.3 Super Round

The top three (3) teams from one group (A, B), will play all vs. all against the top three (3) teams from the other group. At the end of this round, the 4 teams to play in the Finals will be determined based upon the results of the Opening Round between the three (3) qualified teams as well as the Super Round matches (two matches from the Opening Round and three matches from the Super Round). Ex: Team A1, Team A2 and Team A3 qualified for the Super Round and A4, A5, A6 and A7 were eliminated after the Opening Round.

For team A1, the records of A1 vs A2 and A1 vs A3 will count as well as the three (3) matches from the Super Round, however the records of A1 vs A4, A1 vs A5, A1 vs A6 and A1 vs A7 will not count.

6.4 Placement Round

The bottom four (4) group A teams after the Round Robin will play all vs. all against the bottom three (3) group B teams. At the end of this round, the standings among the seven (7) teams will be determined based upon the results of the Round Robin between the four (4) teams from group A and three (3) teams from group B that went to the Placement Round as well as the Placement Round Games [three (3) - group A – and two - group B - games from Round Robin and three (3) or four (4) games from Placement Round].

Ex: Team A4, Team A5, Team A6 and Team A7 went to play Placement Round and A1, A2, A3 advanced to the Super Round. For team A4, the records of A4 vs A5, of A4 vs A6 and A4 vs A7 will count as well as three (3) matches from the Placement Round, however the records of A4 vs A1, A4 vs A2 and A4 vs A3 will not count.

6.5 Finals

The teams will play in the Final Round in the following manner: Ø 1st and 2nd place teams after the Super Round will play the European Championship Final; Ø 3rd and 4th place teams after the Super Round will play the Bronze Medal Final

6.6 Home / Visitor assignments

Round Robin game assignments are decided by the WBSC Europe Baseball5 Technical Committee and agreed with the LOC once all participating teams are known. The number of Home and Visitor games for each team will be as equitable as possible.

In the Super Round and Placement Round, home and visitor teams are determined by the standings of the Round Robin games: the team ranked higher is Home Team for first and third games of the series.

If two teams have same standing, Home and Visitor will be determined by coin toss before the first game of the series.

For Bronze Medal Game, team stands as third after the Super Round will be determined as Home Team for first and third games of the series.

For Championship Final Game, team stands as first after the Super Round will be determined as Home for first and third games of the series.

C. TECHNICAL ASPECTS

1. UNIFORMS

- 1.1 All players should wear the same uniform, consisting of a shirt (t-shirt or polo), shorts, and socks. Undershirts are allowed in the same style and color. Caps or visors are allowed in the same style and color.
- 1.2 Each player's shirt should bear a unique number with a number from 0 to 99. Each player will keep the same number during the whole competition.
In any case no numbers can be changed on the uniforms without the previous approval of the Table Official. If any changes to uniform numbers are approved, then the Table Official will notify both teams prior to the start of the game.
- 1.3 The teams must have two sets of shirts, in contrasting colors. If a team have a uniform shirt in their national colors, this will be regarded as their 'Home team' shirt. When playing as Visitors, they may still wear these shirts as long as they do not clash with the Home team's colors in that game. All colors are declared before or at the TC Meeting: In case of a clash, the colors preferred by the Home team take precedence.

2. COMPETITION VENUES

All competition facilities will fulfil the requirements established by the Baseball5 rules.

3. GROUND RULES

Ground rules related to the venue(s) will be proposed by the LOC before the Technical Meeting, approved by the Technical Commissioner (TC) and then announced to the teams.

4. DUGOUT

- 4.1 For all matches the Home team will be located in the 3rd base dugout and the Visiting team in the 1st base dugout. The teams stay in the same dugout for all games of the series.
- 4.2 Only roster members can stay in the dugout.

5. STARTING LINE-UP

The Delegation Leader, Manager or Coach must present line-ups of the two first game of the series to the Table Official at least thirty (30) minutes before the scheduled start of the game if the team is not already playing. If already playing, the lineups will be given as soon as possible.

The lineup shall include the name, uniform number and gender of each player in the starting hitting order as well as all of the substitutes. The lineup is an important document and should not be misused. The only reasons for a change to the preliminary lineup before the game starts should be illness or injury to a player. Any change must be announced directly to the Table Official and to the opposing team.

6. PLAYING RULES

6.1 All games will be played under the latest WBSC Official Baseball Rules.

6.2 Protective Equipment:

Only kneepads and elbow sleeves are permitted as protective equipment. Some type of protecting finger taping can be allowed by the Game Officials under certain circumstances and must be announced prior to the start of the game.

6.3 Run ahead Rule:

A game is over if a team leads by 15 runs at the end of the 3rd (third) inning or by 10 at the end of the 4th (fourth). Should a team reach a 10 or more run lead during the top of the 5th (fifth) inning the game shall be completed by playing the bottom part of the 5th inning.

6.4 Extra-Inning Regulations:

In a tied game, the teams shall play and complete an extra inning(s) until one team scores more runs than the other.

- The first extra inning will start with a runner on first base.
- The second extra inning will begin with runners on first and second base.
- Runners on all bases from the third extra inning onwards.

Runners must be placed on base(s) without modifying the batting order.

- Latest batter of the previous inning goes to first base.
- Second to last batter of the previous inning goes to second base.
- Third to last batter of the previous inning goes to third base.

6.5 Forfeit games will be recorded with a score of 5-0.

7 COMPETITION GAME SCHEDULE

Once the competition game schedule has been agreed with the LOC, it can only be amended with the approval of the Tournament Director. If any circumstances during the competition require amendment to the schedule, the Tournament Director shall officially approve the new schedule in writing before it is announced to all participants.

8 SUSPENDED GAMES

In case a game is stopped because of weather, curfew or other reason, the following will apply:

8.1 A Regulation game is a game that has completed at least the third inning, or the Home team is on offense and has scored more runs than the other team has scored in three or more innings.

- 8.2 In case of a three-game series, a Regulation game is a game that has completed at least three innings of the second game provided that the same team that won the first game is ahead when the game is interrupted.
- 8.3 Before a contest becomes a Regulation game, it is not an official game and shall be resumed at the exact point of interruption. After it becomes a Regulation game, it is ruled complete.
- 8.4 If, after a game has become Regulation and is tied when interrupted or when the visiting team takes the lead in an uncompleted inning, it shall be ruled a Suspended game and shall be resumed at the exact point of suspension and played to a completion.
- 8.5 The scheduling of completion of a Suspended game shall be given priority by the Technical Commissioner in order to complete it as soon as possible.
- 8.6 If no solution can be found to resume the game, the Tournament Director may cancel the game if there is no adverse impact on the competition or may decide the winner by a coin toss.

9 TIE-BREAKING

- 9.1 The ranking of the teams after the Round Robin shall be according to the win-loss record of all the games played.
- 9.2 Any ties after the Round Robin will be settled as follows (in order):
- a. The team that won the game(s) between the teams shall be given the higher position.
 - b. The team with the highest average of runs scored per inning in the games between the teams shall be given the higher position.
 - c. The team with the highest average of runs scored per inning throughout the tournament at that moment shall be given the higher position.
 - d. The team that has scored the most overall runs shall be given the higher position.
 - e. Coin toss.

10 ALTERNATE DETERMINATION OF CHAMPION

If an uncontrollable problem during the Finals disrupts the completion of the competition, the title will be given to the top team of the Qualification Round, followed by the others in order of their standings. Both teams with the top rank in the pools of the Qualification Round will be given the title.

D. FOR THE USE AND CARE OF PROPERTY & INSTALLATIONS

The participating teams will be responsible for any damages to or disappearance of property in the places where they will be accommodated during the competition.

E. OTHER MATTERS

TEAM PRESENTATION

1. All players and coaches must wear an official game uniform when participating in official competition activities (e.g. games, ceremonies, etc.).

2. All Delegation members must be mindful of how their teams are presented and must maintain professional attire at all times at the venues.

F. HOST RESPONSIBILITIES

1. To provide a minimum of two full-size fields for Baseball5 (refer to the Official WBSC Baseball5 Rulebook of the current year to be found on WBSC website). One field can also suffice should you have up to 8-teams and at least 3 days of competition.
2. The facility/venue should guarantee a temperature of at least 18 degrees Celsius.
3. To provide additional field(s), upon request from WBSC Europe, depending on the number of participating teams.
4. If the organizer cannot provide a suitable surface for the fields, they should cover the incoming transportation for the WBSC field(s). After the event, the organizer should restore the original packing of the field(s) and ship them back according to WBSC Europe instructions. Return shipping costs will be covered by the organizer.
5. To organize and cover accommodation, meals, and local transportation of all WBSC Europe Officials (one WBSC Europe Executive Board member, Technical Commissioner on a number to be defined by the number of fields, Officials, and media officer). The responsibility starts one day before the first day of the competition and ends on the first day after the last game of the competition. Double rooms in a minimum 3-star hotel to be provided for the Officials, single rooms for Technical Commissioner(s), Tournament Director, and Media Officer. Accommodation of Officials from the opposite sex in a double room is not allowed.
6. To provide the presence of a qualified first aid medical specialist for every competition day, 30 minutes before the first game until the end of the last game. If the fields are located in different venues, the organizer should provide at least one qualified first aid medical specialist per venue.
7. To run the competition with live scoring and live stream of all games.
8. To provide trophies for all participating teams, as well as individual and team performance awards.
9. Fresh drinking water shall be provided for Officials and teams at the fields (not necessarily in one-use bottles: alternative supply includes water-cooler, tap water or drum, and the use of recyclable cups or preferably personal reusable bottles).

G. FINAL DISPOSITIONS

1. During the course of a competition, the Tournament Director shall have the authority to jointly make decisions on any point not specifically covered in this document, according to each competition.
2. Any unforeseen circumstances which arise and are not specified in the Tournament Regulations, then the WBSC Official Baseball5 Rules will serve as the primary source of guidance for all Game Officials.

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