

# TOURNAMENT REGULATIONS



**BASEBALL<sup>5</sup>**  
**WORLD CUP**  
**YOUTH**

This is the WBSC Youth Baseball5 World Cup Tournament Regulations, published by the World Baseball Softball Confederation (WBSC). Its application is compulsory for the competition.

In the whole document everything that is written in masculine applies also to the feminine:

e.g.: he = she  
his = her

Likewise, “competition”, “event” or “tournament” under this document is synonymous with WBSC Youth Baseball5 World Cup.

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## **A. GENERAL NORMS**

### **A1. PLAYERS ELIGIBILITY**

#### Nationality of Competitors

A1.1. Any player in any WBSC official competition must be a national of the country or region of the Federation that is entering him.

A1.2. All disputes relating to the determination of the country which a competitor may represent in a WBSC official competition or in qualifying tournaments for WBSC official competitions shall be resolved by the WBSC Executive Board.

A1.3 Only athletes born in 2005 – 2006 – 2007 and 2008 are eligible for the event.

### **A2. FINAL TEAM ROSTER – (FTR)**

A2.1. At latest 10 days prior to the beginning of a competition, all National Federations must communicate to the WBSC / LOC the Final Team Roster (FTR), through the online platform. <http://my.wbsc.org>

*Note: User ID and Password have been communicated to all NFs from WBSC Headquarters.*

A2.2. Following the team arrival in the country hosting the competition and before the Pre-Competition Technical/Organizational Meeting, the Delegation Leader shall submit the following to the Game Officials:

- A valid and current passport (individual passport) for each player for verification by the Game Officials. Other members of the Delegation such as the Delegation Leader and Coach shall appear on the Final Team Roster form (**FTR**) and although they may not be citizen of the country, but they shall present a valid Passport or ID card.
- The hotel name, room number and phone number (local address) of the Delegation Leader and Coach of each Delegation.
- Email address(es) and Phone numbers for Delegation Leader and/or Coach.

A2.3 A maximum of 2 (two) players are allowed to be replaced on the Final Team Roster (**FTR**) for WBSC official tournaments. The WBSC/LOC must be informed of such changes at any moment up to and including the Pre-Competition Technical/Organizational Meeting. These documents should be in the hands of the Technical Director at the time of the Pre-Competition Technical/Organizational Meeting. If for whatever reason, previously known and accepted by the WBSC, a team arrives in the country later, the team should make sure that the Technical Director gets these documents no later than upon the team's arrival.

A2.4. Official Delegation is composed as follows:

- 8 Athletes
  - There must be 4 male and 4 female athletes in the Final Team Roster
- 1 Coach

- 1 Delegation Leader (or second coach)

The WBSC recommends but does not mandate equal representation of gender also between the Coach and Delegation Leader roles.

## **A3. PRE-COMPETITION TECHNICAL/ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING**

A3.1. On the day before the start of the competition (or at most on the same day in the morning when the competition starts with one match only), an information meeting will be held, to discuss all the technical and organizational issues concerning the competition. Place, date and time of the meeting will be made available to the teams as soon as possible.

## **A4. DOPING CONTROL**

A4.1. Doping Control will be conducted in accordance with the WBSC Anti-Doping Rules, which are in compliance with the World Anti-Doping Code.

## **A5. AWARDS**

A5.1.	First place:	Team: Trophy	Individuals: Gold Medal
	Second place:		Individuals: Silver Medal
	Third place:		Individuals: Bronze Medal

A5.2. Individual Awards:

Outstanding female player	Prize
Outstanding male player	Prize
Best Coach	Prize

A5.3 Determination of the awards mentioned under A5.2 are done by representatives of the LOC and Game Officials, and confirmed by the WBSC. Best coach is elected by the peers by secret ballot.

## **A6. INFRACTIONS AND FINES**

A6.1. Infraction of specific WBSC Tournament rules will automatically incur a fine in USD\*. The violator will have two months from the date of notification to pay the fine or an amount incurred by said fine would be deducted from the participation deposit paid by the National Federation to WBSC Headquarters. Any appeal of a decision regarding a fine will be handled as per the section B4 of this document. While teams, players and federations will be notified about fines during the tournament by the Tournament Director, the WBSC Headquarters will be responsible for ensuring that fines are paid timely. It is ultimately the responsibility of the National Federations to ensure that these fines have been paid. Failure to do so will result in teams being unable to participate in the next international event, as well as additional fines being incurred. No team will be permitted to play in WBSC official events if outstanding fines have not been paid to the WBSC Headquarters.

\* For the full process regulation and procedure please refer to the Appendix A

## **B. COMPETITION ADMINISTRATION**

### **B1. COMPETITION OFFICIALS**

- a. WBSC Executive Director
- b. Tournament Director
- c. Jury of Appeal
- d. Anti-Doping Commissioner
- e. Game Officials

### **B2. PROTESTS**

B2.1. When a protest is made by the Coach or Delegation Leader over a suspected misapplication or misinterpretation of the *Official Baseball5 Rules*, it shall be presented to the Homeplate Official according to the *Official Baseball5 Rules*. When such protest is made, the Homeplate Official shall stop the game, inform the Coach or Delegation Leader of the opposing team, the Game Official(s) assigned to work that match, and the audience (if possible) that a protest has been filed.

B2.2. The protest shall be presented in written form, within five (5) minutes after it was announced to the Game Official at Home plate, indicating the number(s) of the Baseball5 Rule(s) involved to the Table Official, who must immediately take a decision. *The presentation of a protest will incur a cost of \$100 USD to be deducted from the National Federation's participation deposit. If the protest occurs on the game-ending play, the desire to submit a protest must be announced by the Coach or Delegation Leader to the Table Official.* They will inform the opposing team, the other Game Officials, and the other necessary parties that a protest has been filed. After a consultation within the crew of Game Officials, a decision will be taken immediately by the Table Official. The opposing team must wait for the decision before they leave the playing field.

### **B3. APPEALS**

B3.1. Only a Game Official decision that is not related to the Official Baseball5 Rules may be appealed to a Jury of Appeal. Game Official's decisions related to the rules of the game are final and they can only appeal other items not related to game rules

B3.2. The appeal brief must be forwarded to the Jury of Appeal, accompanied by a copy of the judgment being appealed and supporting materials. The presentation of an appeal will incur a cost of \$100 USD to be deducted from the National Federation's participation deposit

### **B4. DELIVERY OF NOTICES**

B4.1. The Game Officials Director in cooperation with WBSC Headquarters will deliver the fines or ruling communications to the interested parties with acknowledgement of receipt within 24 hours after the incident occurred, making evident the time of delivery for the latter purposes of appealing. Official WBSC sheet provided by the Technical Director shall be duly signed by the parties involved and the LOC.

**B5. MATCH PROTOCOL**

B5.1. Prior to WBSC approval, a small ceremony with music and a quick show may be foreseen before and during tournament matches:

- Before the match begins, the speaker first calls the visiting team (manager and coaches first, then the players in the starting lineup by name and the rest of the team in uniform) on to the field, followed by the home team and then the Game Officials. The teams shall line up along the foul line, while the Game Officials stand at home plate.
- A 45-60 second Olympic version of the national anthems of the two teams shall be played with the teams
- and Game Officials lined up. During the national anthems, the team delegation members must show a respectful posture with hats removed and refrain from talking, laughing, spitting, eating and drinking.
- Music and sound effects should be used prior to, during and after each game in order to enhance a sense of cultural diversity and international competition. After the anthems and before the match starts, time shall be made available for any prize-giving, special recognition or announcement of special guests.
- Only uniformed members of the team delegations are permitted on the field during the pre-match ceremony. Non-uniformed personnel must stay in dugouts or their designated seats.

**B5.2. Opening ceremony**

B5.2.1 Opening ceremony may take place 45-60 minutes before the beginning of the first match or the evening before, shall the matches start in the morning.

The staging and organizing of the opening ceremony is at discretion of the LOC. Should the ceremony take place it may include the following:

- a) Parade of the national teams
- b) Introduction of the officials
- c) Opening remarks from maximum 3 dignitaries (WBSC, LOC and Public Official)
- d) Party / celebration for fans and delegations alike
- e) Raise of the WBSC Flag / play of the anthem

Should the LOC wish to stage an opening ceremony, the complete rundown shall be priory discussed and approved in written by the WBSC.

**B5.3. Closing ceremony**

After the end of the Gold Medal Game, the awards shall be prepared, and a closing ceremony may take place.

The Local Organizing Committee may plan a Closing Ceremony to be coordinated with the WBSC.

**B6. COMPETITION SYSTEM 12-Team Format\*****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.

**Opening Round**

Two (2) groups of six (6) Teams (1, 2), 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 three (3) teams from each group will go to the Placement Round.

**Super Round**

The top three (3) teams from one group (1, 2), 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 A, Team B and Team C qualified for the Super Round and D, E, F were eliminated after the Opening Round. For team A, the records of A vs B and A vs C will count as well as the three (3) matches from the Super Round, however the records of A vs D, A vs E and A vs F will not count.

**Placement Round**

The bottom three (3) teams from one group after the Opening Round will play all vs. all against the bottom three (3) teams from the other group.

At the end of this round, the standings among the six (6) teams will be determined based upon the results of the Opening Round between the three teams that went to the Placement Round as well as the Placement Round Games (two games from Opening Round and three games from Placement Round).

Ex: Team D, Team E and Team F went to play Placement Round and A, B, C advanced to the Super Round. For team D, the records of D vs E and D vs F will count as well as three (3) matches from the Placement Round, however the records of D vs A, D vs B and D vs C will not count.

**Finals**

The teams will play in the Final Round in the following manner:

- 1st and 2nd place teams after the Super Round will play the World Cup Final;
- 3rd and 4th place teams after the Super Round will play the Bronze Medal Final

*\* For the full process regulation and procedure please refer to the Appendix B*



## **C. TECHNICAL ASPECTS**

### **C1. UNIFORMS**

C1.1. The Home Team shall have preference to wear the colours of their national uniform, and the Visiting Team shall wear a colour that cannot get confused with the other one. The final decision on the colours to be worn by each Team on each game will be made at the Pre-Competition Technical/Organizational Meeting. There will be no changes allowed to the established uniforms. Teams fails to respect the assigned uniform colors may be fined or even forfeit the game.

C1.2. All players must wear a specified and different number on the uniform. Each player will keep the same number during the whole duration of competition. In any case no numbers can be changed on the uniforms without the previous approval by the Table Official. If any changes to uniform numbers are approved, then the Table Official will hand in both teams in writing such notice prior to the start of the match. Uniform numbers must be chosen from 0 to 99.

#### **b) Advertising**

Advertising is allowed prior to WBSC written approval. The design and/or name of the advertising or sponsor to appear on the uniform, or any other authorized accessory, should be reported to the WBSC at latest thirty days (30) prior to the beginning of the competition and must be authorized by the WBSC in writing. Non-authorized advertising may not be allowed and subject to removal. Further regulations will be detailed in the aforementioned document.

### **C2. COMPETITION VENUES**

C2.1. All competition facilities fulfil the requirements established by the WBSC\* and will be subject to inspections by WBSC representatives to verify their use during the official competitions.

*\* Refer to the Appendix I to see the official B5 field dimensions.*

### **C3. GROUND RULES**

C3.1. Ground rules related to the venue(s) will be proposed by the Local Organizing Committee before the start of the competition and approved by the Game Official Director. These rules shall be presented and discussed thoroughly at the Pre-tournament Technical/Organizational Meeting.

### **C4. DUGOUT**

C4.1. For all games the home team will be located in the 3<sup>rd</sup> base dugout and the visiting team in the 1<sup>st</sup> base dugout.

C4.2. Only credentialed personnel (staff, delegation members, translators, uniformed players, uniformed coaches and ball boys/girls) will be allowed to stay in the dugout. The maximum amount of people allowed in the dugout in the WBSC Baseball5 World Cup is ten (10). There will be no exceptions to this rule. It shall be the responsibility of the Game Officials assigned to the match to make sure that unauthorized persons do not occupy the dugout and that all the authorized persons stay inside the dugout during the match. More than this number of people in the dugout will not be permitted, and teams in violation of this rule subject themselves to fines from the Game Officials.



**C5. PRACTICE SCHEDULE****Pre-Competition Practice**

C5.1. The Local Organizing Committee in conjunction with WBSC Office, shall set up a pre-competition schedule for all teams. This practice should be a sixty (60) minute period and should be arranged upon request from teams. If more than one venue is to be used, teams will be assigned to respective timeframes in accordance to team's arrival time where applicable. Assignments and schedule shall be made available to the teams prior to their arrival at the competition.

**C6. STARTING LINE-UP**

C6.1. Delegation Leader shall compulsorily present the line-ups to the Table Official at least sixty (60) minutes before the scheduled start of the game. This line-up is for information purposes only and whether the games are televised or not shall be duly communicated from the WBSC staff onsite in advance. This line-up shall include the name, uniform number, of each player in the starting hitting order and all the reserve players. The official line-up will be given to the Homeplate Official at the meeting at home-plate immediately prior to the start of the first match. A copy of the official line-up shall be given to the opposite Team Coach and Table Official.

**Gender Balance**

During the first 2 sets (matches) each team must alternate the gender ratio of its line-up. Specifically, should a team start the first set with 3 male athletes and 2 female athletes, that gender ratio shall be maintained for the whole set. Conversely, the same team shall compulsory start the second set of that game with 3 female athletes and 2 male athletes, the gender ratio shall again be maintained for the whole second set. The alternate gender ration may be applied irrespectively to either of the first or second set.

The team delegation leader shall present the the line ups for the first 2 sets simultaneously 60 minutes prior to the start of the game. Teams shall not be aware of the opponents line-up until the start of the game.

The submitted lin-up(s) is final and cannot be changed, in the event of an injury a substitution is allowed provided the gender ratio initially indicated in the line-up is respected. The injured athlete cannot take part in the set when he/she was substituted before the start.

Should the game reach the third and decisive set, a new lineup will be submitted to the home plate official right after the end of the second set, the standard rule of minimum 2 athlets per gender on the field at all times only applies to the third and decisive set.

**C7. PLAYING RULES AND PACE OF PLAY**

C7.1. All matches will be played under the *Official Baseball5 Rules*.

**C7.2. 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 match.

### C7.3. Run difference Rule

A game is over if a team leads by 15 runs at the end of the third inning or by 10 at the end of the fourth. Should a team reach a 10 or more run lead during the top of the fifth inning the game shall be completed.

### C7.4. Extra-Inning Regulations:

In case of a tie game, the teams shall play and complete extra inning(s) until one team scores more runs than the opponent.

- 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

## **C8. COMPETITION GAME SCHEDULE**

C8.1. Once the competition game schedule has been approved by the WBSC Executive Director, it becomes inviolable and can only be amended further to a new decision of the WBSC Executive Director itself. Nevertheless, if during the competition there are reasons unforeseen in these norms and an amendment to the schedule would be necessary, changes to the game schedule could be done through a joint proposal of the Competition's Tournament Director and the Local Organizing Committee to the WBSC Executive Director, who is the only person entitled to sanction an amendment. The WBSC Executive Director shall officially approve the new game schedule in writing before being released to all participants.

## **C9. SUSPENDED GAMES**

In case a game is stopped for any reason

C9.1. Before a contest becomes a regulation game, it is not an official game and shall be resumed at the exact point of suspension.

C9.2. After it becomes a regulation game, it is ruled a complete.

C9.3. Regulation game is when at least the third inning of the second match has been completed.

C9.4. When it is tied or when the visiting team takes the lead in an uncompleted inning, and after it has become a regulation game, it shall be ruled a suspended game and shall be resumed at the exact point of suspension and played to a completion. The scheduling of completion of suspended game shall be given priority by the Technical Director in order to complete it as soon as possible.

## **C10. HOME/VISITOR ASSIGNMENTS**

C10.1. Opening Round Home and Visitor game assignments are decided by WBSC once all participating countries are known. An attempt is made to ensure the number of Home and Visitor games is as equitable as possible.

C10.2. Establishing home and visitor teams in Super Round / Placement Round g and in Finals shall be done in the following order:

1. Based on the standings of the Opening Round. Teams with higher seed after the Opening Round will be home team (i.e. 1st from A vs 2nd from B, then 1st from A will be home team).
2. By the drawing of lots if the seeding after the Opening Round is equal (i.e. 1st from pool A vs 1st from pool B).

#### **C11. TIE BREAKING**

All ties after the Opening Round or Super Round will be settled as follows (in order):

The ranking of the teams after the round robin shall be according to the win-loss record of all the games played. All ties after Opening Round, Super Round and Finals shall be settled in the order of the following list. That is, if criteria (1) does not break the tie, then it is no longer considered the criteria capable of breaking the tie, and the next criteria (2) will be used. This logic continues through the list, in order, until the tie is broken:

1. The team that won the match (s) between the teams tied shall be given the higher position.
2. Team Quality Balance (TQB)\*
3. Coin toss.

\*The TQB is calculated as follows:

(runs scored / innings played at bat) – (runs allowed / innings playing on defence).

For a three-way tie and when the TQB is needed to break the tie, the TQB will place all three teams from highest to lowest placing.

#### **C12. ALTERNATE DETERMINATION OF CHAMPION**

C12.1. In case games of the Super Round and/or Finals are interrupted, the tournament will proceed as follows:

- a) If prevented the playing of all the Super Round and/or Finals, an extra day will be used to permit the top finishers from each of the Opening Round groups to play a match or matches to determine the title.
- b) If prevented the playing Super Round and/or Finals before completion, all efforts will be made to determine a champion by playing only the match(s), which remain to determine the title. If a decision regarding a medal must be made without playing a match, the tie breaking criteria from C-11 shall apply. The same procedure will be followed for subsequent positions if necessary.

## **D. FOR THE USE AND CARE OF PROPERTY AND INSTALLATIONS**

D1. The participating teams will be responsible for the damages to or disappearance of property in the places where they will be accommodated during the competition\*.

*\* For the full process regulation and procedure please refer to the Appendix D/E*

## **E. OTHER MATTERS**

### **E1. TEAM PRESENTATION**

All official delegation members must wear official game uniform at the tournament venues. For uniformed personnel including players and coaches, they must wear game uniform during their stay at the venues when participating in official activities (e.g. matches, ceremonies, any other events as requested by WBSC). For non-uniformed personnel staying in dugout during the matches, they must wear official team apparel provided by their respective teams or organizations. All official delegation members must be mindful of how their teams are presented and must maintain professional attire at all time at the venues.

### **E2. MEDIA OBLIGATIONS**

On match and workout days, players and coaches shall be present at media interviews and press conference if so requested by WBSC or its partners. All players and coaches must go through the mixed zones at each venue, if any. All official delegation members shall also cooperate on all other media opportunities reasonably requested by WBSC or its partners. Team Delegation Members must wear game uniform at press conference and other media appearances if so requested by WBSC.

## **F. FINAL DISPOSITIONS\***

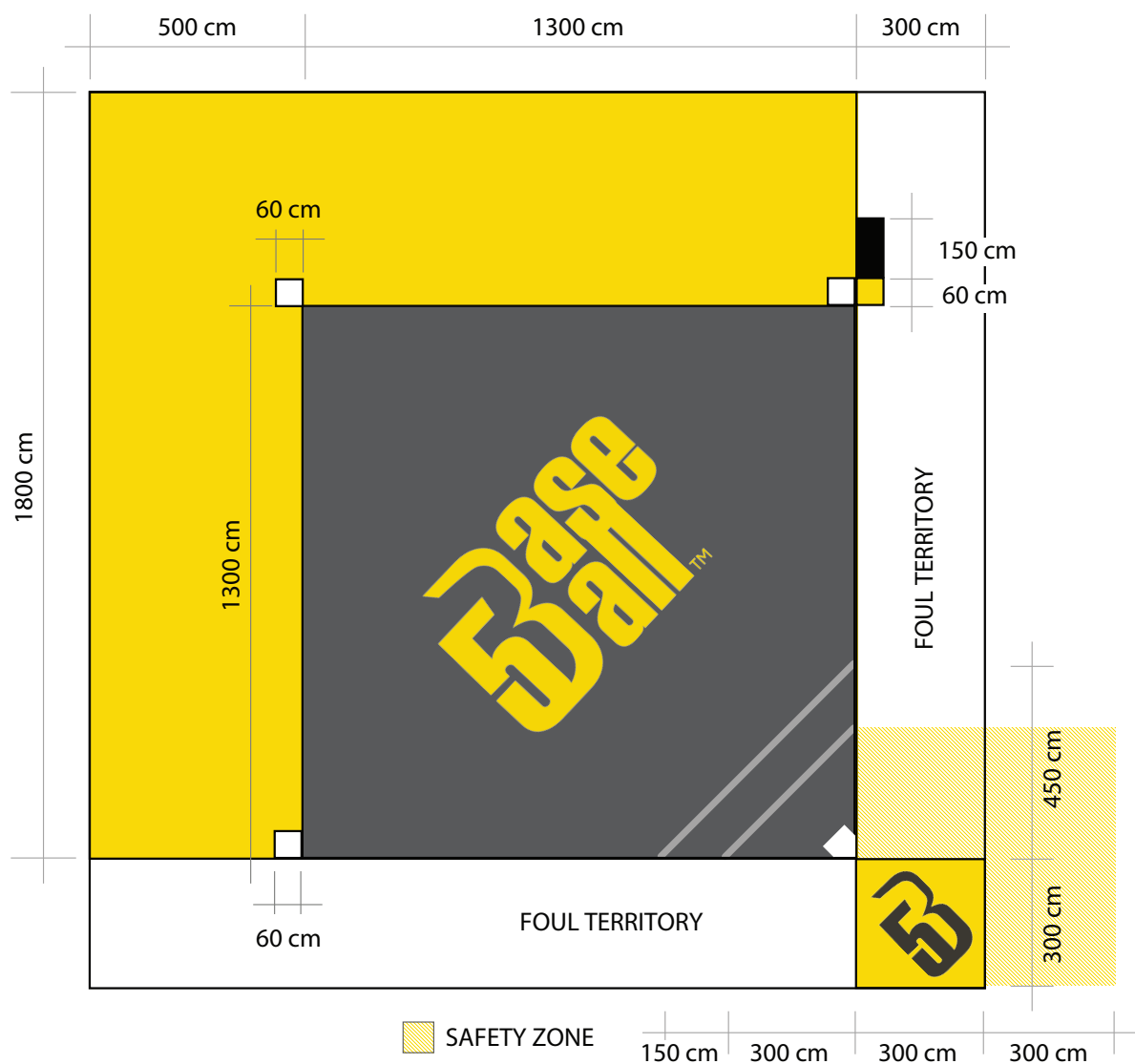
F1. The Agreement signed between the WBSC and the host National Federation establishes the rules and the general norms under which the competition shall be conducted, as well as the obligations and responsibilities of each of the parties. This document serves as a non-restrictive complement to said Agreement.

F2. During the course of a competition, the WBSC Executive Director and the Tournament Director shall have the authority to jointly make decisions on any point not specifically covered in this document, according to each competition. In any aspects where there is no mutual agreement, the WBSC Executive Director will be the final authority.

F3. Any unforeseen circumstances which arise and are not specified in the WBSC Tournament Regulations, then the Official Baseball5 Rules will serve as the primary source of guidance for all WBSC Game Officials.

*\* For the full process regulation and procedure please refer to the Appendix D/E*

**APPENDIX I: Baseball5 field blueprint (technical specifications are communicated separately)**





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