

WORLD BASEBALL SOFTBALL CONFEDERATION (WBSC) AFRICA - 2023 ANNUAL REPORT

Introduction:

The year 2023 for the World Baseball Softball Confederation (WBSC) Africa was marked by an array of dynamic events, featuring five qualifiers that showcased the region's excellence in softball, baseball and Baseball5. Additionally, the year witnessed significant strides in umpire training, emphasizing the commitment to the development of officiating skills across the continent.

1. U18 Softball Men Qualifier - Kampala, Uganda:

In January 2023, the year commenced with the U18 Softball Men Qualifier hosted in Kampala, Uganda. The tournament witnessed the spirited participation of Uganda and South Africa. South Africa emerged victorious, earning the privilege to represent Africa in the U18 Softball Men World Cup 2023.

2. U12 and U18 Baseball Qualifiers - Kenya:

The excitement continued in January 2023 with the U12 and U18 Baseball Qualifiers held in Kenya, drawing teams from Kenya, Uganda, and Tanzania. Uganda exhibited outstanding prowess by winning in both categories, securing their places in the U12 and U18 Baseball World Cup.

3. Senior Women Softball World Cup Group Stages Qualifier - Botswana:

Botswana played host to the Senior Women Softball World Cup Group Stages Qualifier, featuring South Africa, Lesotho, Kenya, and Botswana. South Africa claimed the top position, followed by Botswana, Kenya, and Lesotho. This success earned Botswana and South Africa the coveted slots in the Softball 2023 Group Stages Qualifiers.

4. Youth Baseball5 World Cup Africa Qualifiers - Cape Coast, Ghana:

Introducing innovation, the inaugural Youth Baseball5 World Cup Africa Qualifiers took place in Cape Coast, Ghana. Ghana and Tunisia emerged as the top two teams, earning the right to compete in the Youth Baseball5 World Cup held in Turkey. The third-place team, Zambia, was granted a wild card to participate, showcasing WBSC's commitment to inclusivity.

5. Softball Umpires Training:

In December 2023, the focus shifted to umpire development with specialized training for East and South Africa. Led by Vincent Maoeng, the Softball Umpire in Chief in Africa, the program aimed to increase the number of qualified softball umpires. The initiative will continue with North and West Africa, incorporating practical assessments and appropriate grading.

6. Olympic Solidarity Sponsored Baseball5 Umpires Training:

The year concluded with the Olympic Solidarity-sponsored Baseball5 Umpires Training in both East and West Africa. The program's objective was to train coaches who will lead teams to the Baseball5 Youth Olympics in 2026 in Dakar, Senegal. This initiative reflects a commitment to nurturing talent and ensuring a high standard of coaching for the upcoming Youth Olympics.

Conclusion:

The WBSC Africa's 2023 Annual Report underscores a year of intense competition, growth, and development in softball and baseball. The success of national teams in qualifiers and the emphasis on umpire and coaching training programs signify the region's dedication to excellence and continuous improvement. As the WBSC Africa looks forward, these initiatives will serve as a foundation for further achievements in the years to come.

Best regards

Signed by 

Albert K. Frimpong
President