



2020 WBSC OCEANIA ANNUAL ACTIVITY REPORT

This report will deal with what transpired during the period of January to December 2020 for baseball and softball within the Oceania Region which was hugely effected by the COVID-19 global pandemic. Very little activity and competition took place in the region due to the member countries lockdowns. This report has been prepared in collaboration with assistance from the following;

- **American Samoa Baseball - Marcus Langkilde**
- **Softball New Zealand - CEO Tony Giles**
- **Baseball New Zealand - CEO John Fellet**
- **Softball Australia - Jack Lucas**
- **Federated States of Micronesia – Jose Joab, Development Officer**
- **New Zealand – Communications Officer Baseball New Zealand**
- **Palau – Atley Kazuma – Development Officer**
- **Guam – Bob Steffy – President Guam Baseball Federation**
- **Fiji Baseball and Softball Federation - Inoke Niubalavu**
- **Ray Brown - Oceania DO consultant**

American Samoa Baseball 2020

Baseball and softball had a combined little league program with about 300 kids ranging from 3-18. The games were good with Nick King, Chris King and about 15 other coaches involved. We did both baseball and softball for the kids and softball for the high school girls. We also had the first annual Tony and Ben Solaita Softball Classic which had 14 teams come out and play.

Goals and objectives

The goal of this proposal is to obtain funding that will allow the Summer Little League Baseball/softball Programs to take place. This program will foster baseball and softball sports development which will help continue to build these athletic extracurricular programs in the schools. This program also brings the different youth around the Territory, and abroad to come together in fellowship in providing friendship and positive social interaction.

The focus of the proposal and plan is to:

1. Provide alternatives and choices for students to participate in a successful proven program that will keep them occupied.
2. Allow for learning, growing physically and mentally, character building, and individual preparation for responsible community living through softball.
3. Provide a foundation through maximum and continuous development for youth who are interested in using baseball as a vehicle for opportunities to further education through athletic scholarships.
4. Prepare youth for national and international baseball competition.

Conclusion

implemented throughout this program.

FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESIA (FSM)

2020 Activities

Objectives & Major Achievements for the Year:

Meeting was held middle of this year to dialogue upon matters requested by WBSC on key issues/requirements from the FSM Baseball Softball Federation. Items in the agenda are: 1.) To select State representatives from Yap, Chuuk and Kosrae and Pohnpei as members of FSMBSF. 2.) To complete the vacancy in the FSMBSF Executive Board, 3.) To propose a draft Constitution Bylaws for FSMBSF and 4.) Future plans/ activities for 2021. Leading the discussion is the newly appointed Interim President- Mr. Loyola, Interim Secretary General- Mr. Scaliem along with FSM Olympic Committee SG James R. Tobin.

The matter was put on hold due to COVID 19 Pandemic, travel restriction within the FSM and low internet connection within the states for Zoom virtual meeting. Looking forward to continue the process and hopefully seek adoption for the new Constitution and filling of the vacancies in the federation at the beginning of 2021.

Main objectives for FSMBSF are to:

- Identify and train our baseball and softball athletes
- Provide training to certify our community and national coaches and officials
- Compete in both Regional, Oceania and International games
- Seek support and funding from the International Federation and stakeholders for our programs.

Attendance & Results at International / Regional Tournaments.

In January of 2020, Pohnpei National Team and Kosrae National Team have participated in the 3th Micronesia Baseball Classic (MBC) held at Paseo Stadium in Guam. USA. At these games, each of the 4 FSM States represented their own Island home. A total of 4 teams participated in the Micronesian Baseball Classic. Guam and CNMI have been to there for three consecutive tournaments. This mark the first time Team Pohnpei has attended the MBC. Unlike Pohnpei, Kosrae attended the MBC for the second time. The Teams are listed according to the result of the MBC 2020.

- 1.) First Place - Guam
- 2.) Second Place - CNMI
- 3.) Third Place - Pohnpei
- 4.) Fourth Place - Kosrae

Competitions Conducted:

Nothing much had happened in year 2020 for FSM. Since the start of the pandemic, most of our proposed activities had been deferred to a later date due to "COVID 19 Emergency Declaration" issued by the Office of the President of the Federated States of Micronesia.

As for each of the FSM States, baseball and softball activities were conducted later this year but have been monitored under strict surveillance / rules from the States COVID 19 Task Force.

Pohnpei is set to host MBC 2020 but forced to cancel due to the COVID 19 Pandemic.

Courses (Coaching/ Development/Technical) / Junior Development Programs

Conducted : Coaching Course and Umpire training was put on hold due to COVID 19 Pandemic.

Activities in Junior Sport Development:

Financial Overview

All financial funding were either from State and National Government that supported our athletes to participate in the Micronesian Baseball Classic and other activities within each of the FSM states in 2020. These funding are available either we are hosting major competition or attending to one. Aside from that, FSM Olympic Committee supported our FSM Athletes, Coaches and Federations with equipment and funding to conduct trainings.

Fiji Baseball and Softball Federation

Executive Members (2020 – 2024):

President: Takao Mochida

Vice President (Baseball): Tavo Sorovakatini

Treasure: Shameet Kumar

Secretary & DO: Inoke Niubalavu

Vice President (Softball): Mataca Coalala

DISTRICTS:

6 Districts & Names are: Suva, Lami, Nasinu, Nausori, Nadi & Lautoka. (Yet to be formalized – Nasinu, Sigatoka & Savusavu) New District;Tailevu

CLUBS:

11 Clubs & Names are; Suva: (Raiwai, Raiwaqa , Vatuwaqa, Toorak), Lami: (Nadonumai, Delainavesi), Nasninu: (Nadera), Nausori: (Lomanikoro), Nadi: (Edupia Tigers, Nadi Free bird), Lautoka: (Ba ProvinceFree bird) New District; Nayavu Youth Sports Club

PLAYER NUMBERS:

(in the national team development programs)

U12: 45 player

U15: 30 players

U18: 25 players

Seniors: 30 players

(during club competitions)

U12: 165 player

U15: 121 players

U18: 90 players

Seniors: 110
players

(during schools program)

Primary schools: 1200 students

Secondary schools: 40 students

Tertiary: 0 students

(special program)

Students with disability: 21 students

COACHES NUMBERS:

(national baseball coaches)

National Level 2: 2 coaches

National Level 1: 6 coaches

Community Level: 12 coaches

(national baseball5 coaches)

Community Level: 8 coaches

Activities;

Oceania Baseball/Softball countries embassies event

FIBSA hosted a Baseball/Softball event with Diplomatic Pacific Embassies/Missions in Fiji as we build newpartnership with Federated States of Micronesia, Nauru, Palau and Japan.

Another event as part of the FIBSA 20th Anniversary, for the first time an event to include Baseball and Softball playing countries embassies from the pacific. As always Fiji and Japan competed for the Fiji JapanBaseball Cup which Japan held earlier this year. Fiji played well this time and won the Cup for the end of the year series

We were surprised at the number of FSM and Nauru youths that resides in Fiji for education, they competed on the day which looked promising for the future. First timers Nauru played really well which we feel that they could get better with some practice and more game time. FSM had experienced players but most haven't played for a while and with more practice they could be competitive in the next competition. The Fiji team won the overall tournament and a great boost to the development of the games as now we have more teams to play against in future.

FIBSA would like to thank all the ambassadors, players and supporters that were involved in making the event a success!! We look forward to the next tournament.

Official On-line Handover of donated Baseball / Softball equipment from Fukui, Japan.

The Fiji Islands Baseball & Softball Association (FIBSA) recently received donated Baseball/Softball equipment from Japan through our Fiji Baseball coach Takahiro Nishio prefecture. Coach Taka san hometown collected this equipment from people of Fukui.

Mr. Nishio became a baseball instructor of the JICA cooperation team in October 2018, and after working in Sri Lanka, he was assigned to Fiji from in September, 2019. He mainly coached children and young people, and also served as a coach when convening the national team in the country. Fiji does not have a baseball shop and relies on support from Japan, the United States and Australia. However, there is a chronic shortage, and children often use wooden sticks and pebbles as bats and balls.

Mr. Nishio has solicited a wide range of baseball equipment from the citizens of the prefecture since November last year through a support group created by experienced cooperative teams in the prefecture. By September of this year, a total of about 600 items such as gloves, bats, balls, and uniforms had been sent. Approximately 150 of these items were sent to the site, and the costs were donated by support groups and citizens of the prefecture. It can be used not only in the suburbs of the capital but also in rural areas including remote islands to promote baseball.

Mr. Nishio himself returned to Japan in March of this year due to a temporary evacuation due to the spread of the new coronavirus infection. He continued to coach the national team online and ended his term in October. At the delivery ceremony in mid-November, executives of the Fiji Baseball Softball Association hoped that exchanges with Mr. Nishio and Fukui Prefecture would continue.

Mr. Nishio said in an interview, "I don't think that so many supplies will be gathered, and I am really grateful. It was a step toward popularization in Fiji. I want people who will bear the future of the region through baseball to grow." It was.

The FIBSA would like to thank Fukui prefecture and coach Taka san for their kind donation which will contribute towards the development of Baseball & Softball in Fiji.

Farewell Ambassador Masahiro Omura

FIBSA presented a farewell gift to the departing Japanese ambassador to Fiji Mr. Masahiro Omura as a token of appreciation whom for the past three years has shown tremendous support towards the development program for Fiji Baseball & Softball.

H.E Mr. Omura was strong advocate of People to People relations with his involvement with FIBSA. Mr. Omura said "I believe in the power of sports and am very grateful to play softball all together and other activities that I was involved with during my term in Fiji. The success story of the tri-nation softball match between Fiji, US and Japan is another good example of goodwill and cooperation to strengthen our relationship. I wish Fiji Islands Baseball & Softball Association all the very best in the future"

Vinaka vakalevu Ambassador Omura for all that you have done for the FIBSA.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT:

Fiji Islands Baseball & Softball Association has made positive strides in developing and introducing baseball and softball to the schools and communities despite without a proper baseball/softball facility in Fiji.

FBSA would like to express our strongest appreciation to all the Fiji Baseball & Softball community the athletes', parents, guardians. We would also like to thank the Baseball Confederation of Oceania (BCO), World Baseball Softball confederation (WBSC) funding assistances towards the Development officers programs, the Japanese International Agency Cooperation

and softball in Fiji. We look forward for your continued support in the future.



Baseball New Zealand 2020 Highlights Report Objectives & Major Achievements for the Year:

- Attended all international events
- Advance ranking in WBSC World Baseball Classic
- Increase in playing membership Grow Kiwiball (u11 players)
- Identify and grow new areas of baseball around the country/Introduce a Coaching Accreditation system
- Getting Baseball5 sanctioned in schools

Achievements:

Domestic players contracted for Auckland Tuatara in the Australian Baseball League who went on to win Division and progress to semi-finals in only its second year. Local player Elliot Johnstone named ABL Rookie of the Year.

- Joshua Wechsler (umpire) selected to go to USA to umpire in college baseball (but cancelled due to Covid19)

- Completed 4 of 5 national tournaments pre covid
- Managing Covid19 safely
- Harrison Loudon signed to Highland Community College, Maxwell Leuga signed College of Southern Nevada, Mohi Kahui signed to Hawaii Pacific University
- Jimmy Hemera signed to Augsburg University.
- New baseball diamond in Hamilton with artificial turf infield Men's and u19 national tournaments televised on Sky Television
- Skills competition introduced to all youth grade
- national tournaments E-sports baseball tournament during Covid19 lockdown

Attendance & Results at International / Regional Tournaments

International:

Oceania u15 qualifier Guam – 2nd WBSC Qualifier - cancelled

Oceania u23 qualifier Mexico – postponed to 2021 due to Covid19 Little League ASPAC qualifiers – cancelled due to Covid19

Ripken World Series - cancelled due to Covid19

Competitions Conducted:

Domestic club competition ranging from Rookie Ball, u13, u16, u19, Men's and Divisional around the country National Club Championships u16, u19 and Men's - u13 cancelled due to Covid19

Activities in Junior Sport Development:

Talent identification for u12 and u18 athletes in lead up to 2021 Oceania qualifiers

Athlete Development Program for athletes wanting to work towards attending college in USA

First intermediate age Baseball 5 tournament (Wellington)

Baseball 5 program in several schools (Auckland)

Financial Overview Due to covid19 and the shut down of NZ's borders and the limiting of domestic travel and group activities our sport and finances took a severe hit during March to September 2020. As funding agencies were forced to close there was a significant drop in grant funding and as such our NF staff had their jobs put on hold for 6 months.

PALAU BASEBALL FEDERATION

Objectives & Major Achievements for the Year:

- PALAU MAJOR LEAGUE SEASON
- PALAU NATIONAL BASEBALL LEAGUE SEASON
- BELAU YOUTH GAMES & FESTIVAL
- Umpire refreshing course
- Umpire Level I course & certification
- Coaching Level I course & certification

Attendance & Results at International / Regional Tournaments:

- NO participation on any international and regional tournament due to the pandemic crisis.

Competitions Conducted:

season Belau Youth
Games & Festival

Courses (Coaching/Development/Technical)/ Junior Development Programmes Conducted:

Level 1 coaching course &
certification. 2020 U18 Belau
Youth Games & Festival

Activities in Junior Sport Development:

After school
program. State
outreach
Baseball Federation & One Team baseball camp.

Softball Australia

High Performance

Firstly, congratulations must go to our Travelodge Aussie Spirit team who were magnificent in their WBSC Asia/Oceania Olympic Qualifier, winning all five games and committing no defensive errors in a pressure packed tournament with only one spot in Tokyo up for grabs.

Full credit to Head Coach Laing Harrow, the High Performance team and his coaching staff for earning our spot back in the Olympics, more on this in the High Performance Report along with other fantastic results including a silver medal.



Commercial

Commercially, we have again recorded strong results bringing on several new partners including Kumho Tyre, National Storage, PTP, Aussie Athlete Agency and Gamesense as well as retaining our partners from the previous 12 months.

We also entered a crucial partnership with Crocmedia who not only greatly improved the broadcast of our Australia Pacific Cup and Summer Slam – Fully Loaded Softball tournaments, but also provided live streaming of our Men's and Women's National Championships.

Importantly, Crocmedia provide us with multimedia facilities, including a full broadcast studio, to assist us in creating engaging content around major announcements. Another aspect of our partnership is the ability to tap into their extensive commercial contacts to sell our sport further.

La Trobe University partnership

The Softball Australia and Softball Victoria offices moved into the new La Trobe Sports Stadium based in Bundoora

we now have access to first class sports science facilities, training grounds and meeting rooms. We have also entered a partnership with La Trobe University and their internship program allowing us to achieve more in various areas of the business while assisting in the professional development of students.

Grassroots

At a grassroots level we have re-invigorated the Softball Batter Up (SBU) program including the development of starter packs an online platform for purchasing equipment and offered every Association who runs an SBU program store credit. We also offered up a number of beginner coaching courses for free to arm Associations with the necessary knowledge to host their own junior participation programs.

I'm pleased that the organisation has invested in the marketing of the sport with investment in digital SEO/SEM and Google AdWords in a first for the sport.

COVID-19 effect on play

In March, Australia was in the grips of the global COVID-19 Pandemic, an uncertain time for not only the country, but the entire world. There is no playbook to follow for a situation such as this, but I am extremely proud of our staff and our Member States for their handling of the situation.

From Softball Australia's perspective, it was important to share relevant information we were receiving from the Australian Government and Sport Australia. Softball Australia does not have the ability to enforce a cancellation on local tournaments, but recommended competition be suspended following our first wave of COVID-19 infections, falling in line with other NSOs and sporting codes.

This information was not met with resistance from the community but rather understanding of the unique situation and of course disappointment. I would like to commend our State SEOs around the country for how they all professionally and efficiently handled this unprecedented situation.

Of course, we didn't escape the COVID-19 Pandemic without a hit, notably we were forced into the cancellation of the U23 Men's and Women's National Championships along with the International Friendship Series, Aussie Diamonds and Futures Tours originally planned for April 2020.

The re-scheduling of international events including the Open Men's and U18 Women's World Cups also led to a small re-shuffle of 2021 National Championship dates.

Our Open Women's squad was obviously dealt the harshest cards with the re-scheduling of the 2020 Olympic Games to 2021, however this news was taken in stride by the group who remain focused on a fifth Olympic Medal.



Softball New Zealand

Highlights

- Securing the 2020 U18 Boys World Championships for Palmerston North
- The upcoming 2021 Men's World Championship at North Harbour
- The Challenge Cup held at North Harbour including 3 of the top 4 Mens teams in the world
- The White Sox's opportunity to qualify for the 2020 Olympics in Japan
- The upcoming tours for our U23's and U15's to international events
- Naomi Shaw awarded Member of the New Zealand Order of Merit (MNZM) award in the Queen's Birthday honours
- Stable participation numbers – players, coaches, umpires and scorers
- Hutt Valley taking the Women's National title and Auckland taking the Men's National title
- Magpie's winning the Women's National Club title and Ramblers winning the Men's National Club title
- Canterbury took the inaugural U15 events, with Wellington and Hutt Valley sharing honours at U18. Auckland took the U23 women's title and Wellington took the men's title
- Ongoing opportunities for Sky Sport broadcast

We have completed the One Softball: Kia Whakakotahi Te Hoe O Te Waka Strategic Plan 2019 – 2029

It has been a very robust process involving key stakeholders to ensure that we have a very clear direction and priorities going forward. The plan is now in place with a focus on encouraging greater alignment across our sport and to work more efficiently and collaboratively as a sport together. We have exceptional people and resources within our sport so it's important that we apply the key concepts of teamwork and we encourage Associations to align their own plans so that our sport can achieve the best outcomes collectively.

4 Strategic Outcomes:

- A bigger, more diverse participant base
- Capable, aligned and consistent delivery
- Strengthen the business of softball
- High performance success



GUAM

Guam makes history, qualifies for U-15 Baseball World Cup



20/01/2020

It's the first time Guam has qualified for a WBSC event. The closest it ever came previously was a loss to South Africa in a playoff for the Sydney 2000 Olympic Games.

Guam defeated New Zealand, 12-0, on home turf at *Paseo Stadium* in Hagåtña to win the final of the Oceania Region Qualifier and earn a historic spot in the **WBSC U-15 Baseball World Cup**.

Nolan Babauta, nicknamed *Princess*, dominated New Zealand from the mound. He allowed only two hits and helped himself with three RBIs on three hits, a couple of singles and a double.