




SUMMARY REPORT

Post WBSCO Qualification Event (for Technical Director)


Event Name	WBSC Oceania Men's Softball Qualification Event
Location	Pago, Pago, American Samoa
Date & Duration	9-11 November 2023
Event Organiser	American Samoa Softball Federation
Your Duties during the Event	Tournament Director and Tournament Commissioner
Relation with LOC (and eventual issues raised during the event, if any)	<p>On Arrival on the 8th for the relocation of the fence they had already started and did not take on board previous discussion regarding the base of the fence. Wu, Trevor and I explain the way the fence base needed to go, and they began to make the adjustments.</p> <p>Again, the venue preparation was a lot of work, and the fence moving group did not seemed to understand what was needed in terms of safety. On return to the venue when all was completed Wu, Trevor and I made many changes to the fence to minimise all unsafe areas.</p>
Accreditations	LOC provided – via the WBSC Oceania head shot uploads. Accreditation was not necessary, and it was suggested to leave it, but the LOC insisted for players to keep.
Local staff/volunteers	Louis Solaita / Onolata Salapaga / Marcel McMoore Many more volunteers at time throughout the event
Meeting organisation (Pre-Tournament Meeting, Press Conference, etc.)	Two Meeting were held; Online meeting held on Wednesday 25 th October online. Event Technical meeting on ground 8 th November
Accommodation	<p>Officials – The Hanger A COVID-19 facility next to the airport. Single rooms provided - equipped with a fridge, microwave, sink, tea and coffee facilities and internal shower and toilet.</p> <p>Teams NZ Team – Tradewinds Aust Team – Pago Airport Inn AS – Home</p>

Transportation	Officials – Car organized by LOC Teams – School busses
Meals	Officials – Some meal provided by the LOC other supplied by the individuals. Meals were hit and miss, and the umpires expressed concern over this which I understand. We were having to find places late evening to try and get a meal which was difficult.
Ceremonies	Opening Ceremony – I worked with the LOC on and explained to the teams where they would be standing and what the schedule was. They continued with Military Colours and salute for anthems but cut the fire dance display.
Laundry	Officials – Laundry facilities were on site at The Hanger, hours of operation had to be negotiated with staff.
Relation with the Participating Teams (and eventual issues raised during the event, if any)	Australia and American Samoa were great to work with and the team staff were very easy and understanding when issues would arise. Weather was a concern as we had 30+ degrees, 80% minimum humidity and extreme UV with no wind. We also used an ice bath to cool players and also have cold towels in for cooling purposes. NZ Delegate in attendance (Lyn Lockhart) was a pleasure to deal with and I valued her support throughout the events. The New Zealand team manager was not the easiest person to work with and continually commented on them having to be there and the amount of money spent for them to be there. We had many issues and discussions in the days prior and during the competition. The NZ coaches and additional staff were understanding of the conditions.
Relation with LOC staff (and eventual issues raised during the event, if any)	I feel at times the LOC felt uneasy with my continual requests due to not understanding the event expectations. They may not have understood the hosting agreement completely.
Relation with Other Parties (and eventual issues raised during the event, if any)	The ground crew lead was very good and read the ground and weather. I would ask him daily how the weather looked and how the ground came up overnight and he was very informative with a sense of humor.
Comments about International Officials	WBSC Oceania Staff Small group of 7 but a great working group. Tournament Director - Brooke Penfold Tournament Statistician - Kirsty Andrews Tournament Umpire - Wiremu Tamaki WBSC Oceania Rex Capil Umpires Mark Porteous and Andy McManus (NZ) Trevor Murphy and James English (AUS) Dave Lam Sam (AS) (base umpired)
General Evaluation of the International Officials	Wu was great to work with, very supportive and helpful in decisions made. Due to the complexities of the event daily I made sure to use Wu or always keep him in the loop.

	<p>Trevor and Wu went above and beyond with helping with fixing the field for safety.</p> <p>Kirsty took on a big role and went above and beyond, coordinating with the LOC admin and daily schedule reviews.</p> <p>Rex was great to have around the event and a good support when need to push works necessary.</p>
Comments about Local Officials (if any)	The LOC personnel we were dealing daily with were all very lovely people.
General Evaluation of the Local Officials (if any – please list any of the local officials eventually eligible to be part of the International Officials)	I had to monitor the use of the grounds and training field due to the conditions and one team pushing the barrier continuously on this. I enforced the 1.5hr field familiarisation use but had to call that due to the weather and ground conditions after heavy rain. My view remained the same to all teams and LOC - the field needs to be safe and ready so all games can be played, and I again stressed to the LOC and teams that all things event were to be equal for all teams.
Technical Matters (and eventual issues raised during the event, if any)	<p>We completed all 9 games and due to weather, all games were played under a Heat Rule – 5 minute rehydration break at the end of the 3rd and again at the end of the 5th.</p> <p>No score board – as the TV option at the front of the stands did not work.</p> <p>Awards given by the LOC – Stats had to be assessed for MVP and best Defensive Player.</p> <p>Continued the use of walkie talkies to relay changes to the statistician as the initial messaging was not quick or clear.</p>
Playing Field(s) and Ground Crew (what worked well and/or challenges)	<p>The playing surface was an issue but held up after the heavy rain and the daily heavy use by the men's games. Getting the LOC to role, water and drag continuously was again asked many many times. After asking a few times, removing the tarps after the rain had to be started by the WBSC Officials for the LOC to act on this and assist. Removing these and allowing the sun and heat on the ground was good for drying out the mud areas.</p> <p>There were times I had to rush field maintenance off the field for game start or start the plate meeting whilst they were still making.</p>
20 Second Clock (if in place – mention if problems arised)	Not available
Media (list if any specific case, issues, problems, actions)	A photographer was onsite, pictures hard to get and teams pictures and awards winner images not received when requested.
Medical issues, Anti-Doping issues, Injuries (list if any specific case, issues, problems, actions)	Issue not reported but known to me – NZ catcher suffered cramps in a game and at the conclusion of the game and the warm down, in the sun, he began to cramp all over and was not in good shape. The Australian team physio was on hand to assist and cooled the catcher's body in the ice bath we had provided, and an ambulance was called. I checked in with the Physio and team manager regarding the situation and the player at the time and later in the afternoon. The player was in the hospital until early evening being hydrated.

BASE / TV broadcast (list if any specific case, issues, problems, actions)	We had all games live and announcer was very good for on ground announcing and live feed.
Commentators (list if any specific case, issues)	The Local commentator was very good and stuck to the game start schedules perfectly.
Safeguarding (list if any specific case, issues)	No issues reported
In general: What worked well	Using what we had learnt during the U18 Women's event. The heat rule being incorporated into games
In general: Challenges / What shall be improved	The grounds, heat and player safety The toilets facilities blocking up and not in use some days
Recommendations & eventual Proposals for the future (if any)	I think American Samoa will get better with each opportunity in event hosting. This was their starting point and things can improve.
General Comments (if any)	I thoroughly enjoy this experience all though it was a massive learning curve and came with many challenges. Dealing with a manager constantly pushing was in the end good as I was able to learn more and react appropriately.
Competition Results	 <p> 1st Australia - with a 5-1 record 2nd New Zealand - with a 4-2 record 3rd American Samoa - with a 0-6 record </p>
Attachments (if any)	Documents created and or used at the event will be uploaded to a file for future use.

Report submitted by:

<p>_____</p> <p>Date</p>	<p>Brooke Penfold</p> <p>_____</p> <p>Name</p>	 <p>_____</p> <p>Signature</p>
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