

2022

# COMPETITIONS REGULATIONS



# Competitions Regulations

## 2022

Amendments are marked **yellow**

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## 1. WBSC EUROPE BASEBALL COMPETITIONS

- a. The International Competitions and Championships of **WBSC Europe Baseball** will be organized applying these norms, which are obligatory for the Federations, members of the Technical Commission, the Officials, the Organizing Committee and all of the people in the administration and direction of **WBSC Europe Baseball** Competitions.
- b. The Federation, which manifest interest in organizing any approved, official **WBSC Europe Baseball** competition must accept in writing, their acceptance of the established norms and must comply with what is expressed in the bidding procedures. Upon awarded to host a Competition, the Federation must sign a Host Agreement provided by **WBSC Europe Baseball**. The Host Agreement makes reference to these Competition Rules.
- c. According to these norms **WBSC Europe** authorises its member Federations to organise International European Baseball competitions as follows:

### I. Championships for National Selections

European Championship and Qualifier(s) held every 2 years.

European Championship Women held every 2 years.

European Championship U23 and Qualifier(s) held every 2 years

European Championship U18 JUNIORS and Qualifier(s) held every 2 years.

European Championship U15 CADETS and Qualifier(s) held every 2 years.

European Championship U12 JUVENILES and Qualifier held annually.

Super 6 held every 4 years.

### II. Cup Competitions

European Champions Cup held annually.

**Confederation** Cup held annually.

Federations Cup and Qualifiers held annually.

- d. **WBSC Europe Baseball** International Competitions for National Selections will be entrusted by **WBSC Europe** to the Federations of **WBSC Europe**, while Cup Competitions will be assigned to Clubs, member of a Federation of **WBSC Europe**. The Federation of the country where the competition will be held is responsible to **WBSC Europe** for all what is provided by present rules, even if Organizing Committees are in charge of the competition management, including Cup Competitions.
- e. In the Event of a dispute between **WBSC Europe** and the Federation responsible of hosting the Competition, regarding the application of these Competition Rules and other regulations for the Competition expressed in the Host Agreement, efforts shall be made in the first instance to reach a resolution through negotiation in good faith. In the event that no resolution can be reached in this way, the matter shall be put before the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) based in Lausanne, Switzerland, for mediation or, if necessary, arbitration. Under no circumstances may **WBSC Europe** or the Federation resort to court proceedings. The Parties agree to abide by the rules of CAS and to abide by and accept in good faith any ruling the CAS may hand down.

## 2. BIDDING PROCEDURES FOR THE **WBSC EUROPE BASEBALL** COMPETITIONS

- a. Federations of **WBSC Europe** showing interest in organizing any Baseball competition must apply for candidature to the Executive Committee, in writing, using the form "Site Request for **WBSC Europe Baseball** Competitions".  
(<http://wbsceurope.org/Baseball/documents>)  
Federations of **WBSC Europe** can only send one application per competition per year to **WBSC Europe**. If more than one club from a federation wants to apply for organizing the same Baseball competition in the same year, the federation has to decide itself which application is forwarded to **WBSC Europe**.
- b. Candidature for European Championships can be presented before November 1<sup>st</sup> four years prior to the year of the competition; for European Championships Women, U23, Juniors U18, Cadets U15, Juveniles U12 and Super 6 before November 1<sup>st</sup> two years prior to the year of the competition.  
Candidature for Qualifier competitions for the European Championship, U23, Juniors U18 and Cadets U15 can be presented before November 1<sup>st</sup> two years prior to the year of the competition.  
Candidature for Cup competitions can be presented before November 1<sup>st</sup> one year prior to the year of the competition.
- c. For Championships for National Selections, U23, Juniors U18, Cadets U15, Juveniles U12 Championship and Super 6 the site will be chosen by the Executive Committee. European Championships for National Selections cannot be held twice in succession in the same country, unless exceptional circumstances. No more than 1 (one) European Cup competition can be held at the same time in the same country, unless exceptional circumstances.
- d. The organisation of the Championships is entrusted by **WBSC Europe** to the Federation involved. The Federation may delegate its duties to a special Organisation Committee, which must be approved by the **WBSC Europe** Executive Committee. **WBSC Europe** rejects all and any financial responsibilities in connection with the organisation and management of the Championships.
- e. The Organising Committee entrusted with the management of the European Championship must take all necessary arrangements subject to approval of the **WBSC Europe** Executive Committee.
- f. For all technical arrangements of the Championships, the Organizing Committee must consult the **Baseball** Technical Commission. A questionnaire will be filled in for the **WBSC Europe** Executive Committee by the Organising Committee directly after the closing day of the competition.

### 3. GENERAL OBLIGATIONS OF THE ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

If not otherwise foreseen in the specific competition rules, the obligations of the Organizing Committee (LOC) are as follows:

- a. Communicate to the **WBSC Europe Baseball** the specific dates and a plan of activities for the Championship. The final decision on the date and venues, shall be made at least 6 months prior to the opening day of the Championship, unless exceptional circumstances.
- b. To have availability of ratified playing grounds for the assigned Competition at least one year before the start of the competition and according the requirements set by **WBSC Europe** for each playing level.
- c. To have availability of a WIFI or ADSL Internet connection at the fields and in the hotel of the officials to transmit the reports and results of the competition to the **WBSC Europe** Website in "Play by Play mode". On the fields a dedicated internet connection for the play-by-play is necessary.
- d. To supply the competition balls of a well-known brand and of high quality. For approval 2 (two) balls must be sent three months before the start of the competition to the chairman of the **Baseball** Technical Commission. For all national competitions and qualifiers **WBSC Europe** has the right to supply the game balls to organizers, if a sponsor contract between **WBSC Europe** and a ball manufacturer is agreed.
- e. To receive the members of the Technical Commission in charge for the control of the playing grounds and all other arrangements like hotel, transport etc. for due ratification.
- f. To plan the competition schedule as set up at item 19 of these rules for approval by the **Baseball** Technical Commission. The **Baseball** Technical Commission may allow deviations. The Organizing Committee provides also adequate training fields for the participating teams. The schedule for the use of the training fields will be prepared by the Organizing Committee and approved by the **Baseball** Technical Commission.
- g. Insure against all kind of risks of general liability of all participating officials and athletes from the arrival until departure, after having completed their obligations in the competition and to submit the documentation to the **Baseball** Technical Commission before the start of the competition.  
**WBSC Europe** can never be held responsible for any accident whatever.
- h. To receive the **WBSC Europe** officials before the competition and guarantee their corresponding functions during the event.
- i. Create, print and distribute an official program for the competition.
- j. To supply adequate arrangements for the press, radio and television (this includes e.g. a reserved seating area and adequate and reserved work space). In appendix II and III you find the WBSC Europe Media Guidelines with valuable information and examples and the form for application for granting of broadcasting right.

- k. To provide medical aid and if needed transport to the nearest medical centre or hospital and police guard at the playgrounds during all games. Appoint a person who is responsible for the compliance with the Covid-19 guidelines **if needed**
- l. To distribute any communications of the Technical Commission at all time. Daily communication of the results of the games plus a summary of the official score sheets to the members of the Executive Committee (if present), the Technical Commission, the Umpires, the Managers of the participating teams and to the representatives of the press, radio and T.V.  
Only the statistics on the WBSC Europe website are official and valid. The LOC is not allowed to publish statistics other than ones of **WBSC Europe** on any tournament or local website or publication.
- m. To supply a general summary of the technical details of the competition, immediately after the competitions has ended, to the persons mentioned under l.
- n. To make available a suitable meeting room for the **Baseball** Technical Commission for the full period of the competition.
- o. To reserve seating for the following designated groups:
- Seating reserved in the first rang, for the members of the **WBSC Europe** Executive Committee (if present).
  - Seating for all other **WBSC Europe** international officials.
  - Seating reserved in the first row for the **Baseball** Technical Commission.
  - Seating behind home plate for coaches of the participating teams and scouts.
  - Seating in a reserved section for the athletes and all other participants.
- p. Within 15 days from the official communication by **WBSC Europe Baseball** of the list of participating teams, the Organizing Committee shall send all necessary information and an official invitation to every team. If a visa is required also a copy to the organizing country's embassies located in the participating country with a copy to the concerned federation. Failure to comply with this rule will result in a fine of Euro 400.
- q. To comply with specific rules and financial obligations established for said competition. The federation of the country, in which the chosen city is situated, shall be in a position to ensure that the competition is organized according to the rules and financial regulations for the competition.
- r. To supply and present the competition trophies and awards, with name and logo of **WBSC Europe**, as stipulated in these rules under item 12.
- s. The **WBSC Europe** Executive Committee reserves the right to nullify the site of a country, which does not comply with the established norms.
- t. Obligations of the organizer of the European Championship Seniors:
- The **WBSC Europe** Executive Committee and the **Baseball** Technical Commission shall during the European Championship see to it that the provisions governing the competition as well as the Official Baseball Rules are closely observed.
  - The Organizing Committee provides for its account: room, board and local transportation, as and when needed, for 5 (five) days, for the members of the **WBSC Europe** Executive Committee and for the full period for the President, **VP Baseball** and Secretary General of **WBSC Europe**.

- u. Pay at the prescribed time the fees related to organisation, which correspond to each competition. The fees should be paid the 1st January and received into the account of **WBSC Europe** before the 31st of January in the year the competition is played.
- v. In case of a withdrawal of the Organizer the federation involved will be fined with a maximum of the organizing fee and a minimum of Euro 2.500 to be decided by the **WBSC Europe** Executive Committee.  
The federation or club who withdraws as organizer cannot be participant in the same year as the event takes place and relegation is the consequence.
- w. Ensure access of the members of the Technical Commission of the tournament, the **Baseball** Technical Commission and the **WBSC Europe** Executive Committee to all areas of the venues during the tournament (including VIP areas).
- x. Bottled potable water should be provided to the playing teams and **WBSC Europe** officials during their games (including pre-game practice).
- y. Provide sufficient flagpoles at the main field in a clearly visible place for the flags of the participating countries and the official **WBSC Europe** flag. The **WBSC Europe** office will provide the official flag of **WBSC Europe** before the start of the tournament to the LOC. After the tournament, the flag must be returned to the **WBSC Europe** office. Failure to return the flag results in a fine of 100 Euros
- z. If **WBSC Europe** provides banners from **WBSC Europe** or possible sponsors of **WBSC Europe** apply these banners on the fence in a clearly visible place. Failure to return the banners results in a fine of 100 Euros



## 4. FINANCIAL OBLIGATIONS OF THE ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

If not otherwise foreseen in the specific competition rules, the financial obligations of the Organizing Committee (LOC) are as follows:

- a. Assume the costs for travel and hotel of the Technical Commissioner-Controller to inspect the playing grounds where the European competition will be held.
- b. Assume the financial conditions relative to accommodation, food and local transportation necessary for all assigned umpires and scorekeepers, to and from all games. The accommodation and meals for umpires will be paid for a period beginning one day prior to the competition and including one day after its conclusion. Each umpire will receive 9 (nine) Euro for each playing day as indemnity.
- c. Assume the cost of the financial conditions relative to: accommodation, food and local transportation at all time, as stipulated for each **WBSC Europe Baseball** competition for Technical Commissioner(s) who carry out functions at the competition for a period beginning one day prior to the start of the competition and including one day after its conclusion. The Technical Delegate shall arrive one day before the scheduled date of the technical meeting. The Technical Commissioner(s) and the umpires will be lodged separated from the participating teams.
- d. To provide local transportation for each delegation from the hotel to and from all games and the pre-competition practice (art. 13, g, l) as long as the distance is not more than 30 km one-way.  
If organizers decide to play at two or more locations, the transport between those facilities and the hotels is to be provided and on account of the organizers irrespective of the distance. Local transportation is meant also to and from the pick-up airport.  
The organizing committee has to agree on the pick-up airport(s) with **WBSC Europe Baseball** before the official awarding of the tournament.
- e. To supply the trophies and awards.
- f. To provide the maintenance, all costs for custodial care required maintaining cleanliness at the fields.
- g. All costs related to doping control (if provided).
- h. Insurance against General Liability for all athletes and officials who participate in the competition.

The terms "international transportation" or "travel expenses" always means:

1<sup>st</sup> class travel expenses railway or boat, including meals en route or boat and Economy class airlines.

### Accommodation

It is provided 1<sup>st</sup> class hotel. The hotel for Umpires, Technical Delegate(s) and Commissioner(s) must not be the same as used by the teams. All Competition Officials must be lodged at the same hotel.

Technical delegates/commissioners as well as the scoring director have to be lodged in separate (single) rooms, **scorers and umpires can be lodged in double (twin) bedrooms.**

### Food

Meals are to be provided either in hotel, restaurants or on the field, anyhow arrangements for appointed officials (Technical Commission, umpires, scorers, etc.) are to be made so that meals may be taken at all time, according to the game schedule. Non- appointed officials must be ensured to have meals at the same hotel where they are booked or at a restaurant or at the field provided that adequate transport is arranged. When the meals are served on the field there must be a separate room, only for the officials. There must be at least 1 warm quality meal with fresh vegetables and fresh fruit per day. It is not ok when officials need to eat every day "fast food". We advise that the breakfast can be taken in the hotel where the officials are logged. Provide at least 2 free drinks per day for each official.

## 5. OBLIGATIONS OF FEDERATIONS OR CLUBS PARTICIPATING IN **WBSC EUROPE BASEBALL** COMPETITIONS

If not otherwise foreseen in the specific competition rules, the obligations of the federations or clubs participating in a **WBSC Europe Baseball** competition are as follows:

- a. To subscribe by use of the specific form within the term established for each competition (<http://wbsceurope.org/baseball/documents>) and anyway before **December 1<sup>st</sup>** in the year before the competition is played.
- b. Pay at the prescribed time the fees related to participation and organisation, which correspond to each competition. The fees should be paid the 1<sup>st</sup> January and received into the account of **WBSC Europe** before the 31<sup>st</sup> of January in the year the competition is played.
- c. If demanded by **WBSC Europe**, arrange the payment of the guarantee sum. The guarantee sum should be paid the 1<sup>st</sup> January and received into the account of **WBSC Europe** before the 31<sup>st</sup> of January in the year the competition is played.

Each federation or club will register its players following these rules:

- d. In the Championships for National Selections all players must have the nationality of the country they represent (see Eligibility item 7). Six (6) officials-technicians are allowed to accompany the team on the playing field. For the eligibility of the players for the cup competitions see the specific regulations.
- e. The participating teams pay their own expenses: international travel, board & lodging and have to arrange a travel and accident insurance for their players and officials valid from departure till return from/to their home country.
- f. The **WBSC Europe Baseball** Insurance Form (Affidavit) should be, undersigned by the participating club or federation delivered together with the F.T.R. at the Technical Meeting the day before the start of the tournament. Failing of delivering of this insurance document will cause removal of the team from the event. (<http://wbsceurope.org/baseball/documents>)
- g. Each visiting team will bring with them the **WBSC Europe Baseball** umpire(s) living in their country, chosen by the **Baseball** Technical Commission from the official list. Only umpires chosen by the **Baseball** Technical Commission will be allowed to officiate in the tournament. Instead of these national umpire(s) the **Baseball** Technical Commission has the right to nominate umpire(s) from other countries than those participating, should it be deemed necessary to maintain a certain level of umpires. In such case, **WBSC Europe** will cover the travel expenses for said umpire.

In case the participating team cannot or does not bring the appointed international umpire(s), the federation will be charged by **WBSC Europe** with a fine of Euro 400.

Travel expenses for appointed **WBSC Europe** Umpire(s) for the European Championship (A-level), the European Championship Women, the European Champions Cup, the **Confederation** Cup and the Super 6 are on account of **WBSC Europe**.

Travel expenses for appointed **WBSC Europe** Umpire(s) for European Championships U23, Juniors U18, Cadets U15, Juveniles U12 and all national team Qualifier competitions, Federations Cup and FC Qualifier are on account of each participating federation or club.

The Baseball Technical Commission has the right to appoint umpires from other countries than those participating.

- h. Supply at least 30 days before arrival to the competition a complete list of the official delegation including its directors and the projected arrival and departure times to the host country.
- i. To be present at the venue the day before the start of the competition at the meeting with the Technical Commission. In case this obligation is not fulfilled a sum of 200 Euro will be fined by **WBSC Europe** to the transgressor.
- j. Supply the Organizing Committee, on arrival, with the country flag 2.50 x 1.50 meter and compact disc (CD) with a short version of the national anthem. The flag and the anthem of each country, as approved by the International Olympic Committee, will be used in each competition.
- k. Any damage incurred by any member of a delegation to installations, baseball stadiums, transportation vehicles or any other competition area or any logistic category will be the responsibility of the federation that person or persons represent.

Neither the host country, Organising Committee nor **WBSC Europe** is responsible for the financial situation of any participating delegation or team.

## 6. COMPETITION OFFICIALS

### a. Technical Delegate

For every Baseball Competition, the **WBSC Europe Baseball** Technical Commission will designate a Technical Delegate.

The functions and responsibilities of the Technical Delegate are:

- The Technical Delegate, designated by the **Baseball** Technical Commission, is the highest authority of **WBSC Europe** at the competition. His duties begin with arrival to the competition venue one day prior to the Pre-Competition Technical meeting and last until the end of the competition. The Technical Delegate is chairman of the Technical Commission working at the competition.

The responsibilities of the Technical Delegate are:

- **Ensuring that he has the FTR rosters from the participating teams in his possession. These can be found on the my.wbse.org and will be send by the WBSC Europe office or the Baseball Technical Commission before the start**
- Ensure that **WBSC Europe** Baseball rules are complied with.
- Supervise, upon his arrival, the final arrangements with organizers, which include all logistical aspects related to the competition, such as transportation, food in special cases, technical information, results, etc.
- **If needed**, check if the organizer has appointed an COVID 19 Officer
- Harmonise the interests represented by the Organizing Committee and the Technical Commission working at the competition and to mediate between them to reach agreements whenever it should prove necessary.
- Act as the official **WBSC Europe** spokesperson with the media in all matters relative to the competition, with the exception of changes to the competition schedule.
- Advise the Technical Commission working at the competition on any necessary changes to the competition schedule due to games that have been suspended or postponed.
- Take care of all the contacts with the responsible person who is in charge for the broadcasting during the tournament yourself, or delegate it to a technical commissioner.
- Prepare the official final report at the end of the competition for the consideration of the **WBSC Europe** Executive Committee.

### b. Technical Commission

For every Baseball competition, the **WBSC Europe Baseball** Technical Commission will designate the Technical Delegate(s), the Technical Commissioner(s), the Umpire Director and the Scoring Director as required for the control of the games.

**When there is no Umpire director nominated the Delegate will take over his work**

The functions and responsibilities of the Technical Commission are:

- Control of the eligibility and credentials of the players.
- Designate the umpires and scorekeepers.
- Reschedule suspended games.
- Apply competition rule 13. i. (Equality of games) including calculating the TQB.
- Judge protests and rules violations.
- Disciplinary cases involving players and coaches.
- Control the respect of the obligations of the Organizing Committee.
- **If needed** : see that the WBSC Europe COVID protocol guidelines are followed

- All other tasks mentioned in these rules for the Technical Commission.

Travel expenses for appointed Technical Delegate(s) and Commissioner(s) for Championships for National Seniors selections (including ECh Women) and all Youth Championships (U23, Juniors U18, Cadets U15, Juveniles U12), Super 6 and all Cup competitions are on account of **WBSC Europe**.

At least one member of the Technical Commission for the competition shall be present at each game to supervise all technical aspects of the game and the fulfilment of the present rules.

The name(s) of the Technical Commissioner(s) assigned for each game shall be announced on the list of assigned umpires. The Organizing Committee shall provide a French-English translator at the disposal of the Technical Commission if requested.

During the development of the competition, the Technical Commission will make the decision regarding any topic that is not specifically covered in the Statutes, Rules and Norms as approved.

If the Technical Commission has to judge protests or rule violations and there is a TV coverage of the game, the Commission may evaluate the TV recordings to get the right decision.

Within two weeks after the end of the competition the Technical Delegate shall send to the Chairman of the **Baseball** Technical Commission, the game results and the final standings. The general complete report will be sent within one month.

### c. Umpires

All member federation must submit their list of international umpires to the **Baseball** Technical Commission no later than November 15<sup>th</sup> every year. If a member federation fails to submit their list before January 1<sup>st</sup> of the current season, the federation will be charged by **WBSC Europe** with a fine of Euro 400. In addition to that, the **Baseball** Technical Commission can nominate umpires from other federations as substitutes.

The panel of umpires shall consist of a number of umpires from various countries together with a sufficient number of umpires supplied by the federation of organizers to make up the total number needed for the competition. All umpires for the competition must be chosen and appointed by the **Baseball** Technical Commission.

Umpires shall arrive on the day of the settled date of the Technical Meeting or in case a clinic is provided before the competition, the same date stated in the convocation. As a rule, Umpires must wear dark blue shirts in the games.

Participation to the clinic is mandatory for all umpires assigned to the competition. The **Baseball** Technical Commission may inflict a disciplinary action against absent umpires.

Each umpire must make the commitment to stay for the duration of the competition, including play-offs if needed. Failure to abide by this rule may result in a suspension of the umpire from

participation at **WBSC Europe** competitions. Umpires must be able to talk and understand the English language.

For the European Championship Seniors, the European Championship Women, the European Champions Cup and the **Confederation** Cup the travel expenses will be paid by **WBSC Europe**, while for all other competitions and qualifiers each federation or participating club will pay on its own.

As a rule, an umpire shall not be allowed to take part as plate umpire in a game where his country is taking part. The appointment of the umpires for each game will be done by the Technical Commission, as a rule, the day before the game starts. Per game, in principle, **two**, three or four umpires of a different nationality of the teams involved will be appointed by the Technical Commission.

At the end of each game, the game report forms will be send electronically by the Technical Commissioner. In case of disciplinary action, the umpire involved must draw up, at the end of the game, a report about the happening by describing precisely the circumstances. This must be done on paper

In **the main** competitions one of the members of the Technical Commission shall be nominated by Baseball Technical Commission as Umpire Director. The responsibilities of the Umpire Director are:

- Prepare the umpire assignments for the Technical Commission.
- Submit the proposals for these assignments 24 hours before game time to the Technical Commission, if possible.
- Notify the Umpires about their approved assignments at least 12 hours before game time, if possible. Assignments should only be distributed maximally for the following two tournament days.
- Hold an umpire meeting together with the Technical Delegate and the nominated umpires before each tournament (e.g. right before or after the Technical Meeting). A representative of the LOC should also attend this meeting.
- Hold daily umpire meetings (as chair), if required.
- Complete the umpire evaluation forms, if needed. The Technical Commissioner on duty is still responsible for filling out the umpire evaluation form after each game.
- Ask the Technical Commission for general impressions about the work of the umpires (on and off the field).
- Submit a complete report approved by the Technical Delegate to the Chairman of the **Baseball** Technical Commission and the Chairman of the **WBSC Europe Baseball** Umpire Commission.

#### d. Scorekeepers

All member federations must submit their list of international scorekeepers to the **WBSC Europe Baseball** Technical Commission no later than November 15<sup>th</sup> every year.

The Organizing Committee must be aware of the importance of the scorekeeping and have the responsibility to select capable and trained scorekeepers to assume correct and uniform decisions, using the **WBSC Europe** Scoring System. All **scoring directors** for the competition

will be chosen and appointed by the **Baseball** Technical Commission. **The LOC is responsible that there are sufficient scorers.**

The board of scorekeepers shall consist of a sufficient number of qualified and trained scorekeepers to cover the competition. Bearing in mind the daily game schedule, at least 2 scorers (one for the paper scoring, one for the data entry) are mandatory in all **WBSC Europe** competitions.

For European Senior Championship A level, 3 scorers are mandatory. For each game the role of scorekeepers will be appointed by the Technical Commission of the tournament.

The following number of scorers is recommended:

Games per day	Fields	Minimum Scorers	Optimum Scorers
2	1	3	6
3	1	4	6
3	2	6	6
4	2	6	8
5	2	6	8
U12 Championships	1 -2	6	8

The Scoring Director is not to be included in the recommended number of scorers.

For every tournament the LOC has to propose two months before the start of the tournament to the **WBSC Europe** Scorers Commission ([scorer@wbsceurope.org](mailto:scorer@wbsceurope.org)) a list of the selected scorekeepers - who will be available during the whole competition - for approval. The selected scorekeepers have to be on the submitted list of international scorers. If the LOC does not propose the numbers of scorers needed for the competition, the **WBSC Europe** Scorer Commission will appoint other international scorer(s) to cover the competition on account of the LOC.

To publish the game in Play-by-Play on the **WBSC Europe** website, the Technical Commission will nominate a Scoring Director who is part of the scorer group within the competition.

For each game at least two scorekeepers (one for paper scoring, one for data-entry) will be appointed by the Technical Commission of the tournament.

The score sheets will be transmitted to the Scoring Director immediately after the game. After the tournament the score sheets have to be sent to the Scorers Commission as well as the TAS file.

The Scoring Director is in charge of the organization and supervision of the work of all scorekeepers during the tournament (in coordination with and according to the guidelines given by the **WBSC Europe** Scorers Commission). The Scoring Director is responsible for the management of the competition website, play by play and the daily reports (initial, daily and final reports) in accordance with guidelines of the **WBSC Europe** Scorers Commission and subject to approval by the Technical Delegate.



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- e. No **WBSC Europe** official mentioned in this article may serve in a function for his club or his national federation in the same tournament he is appointed as an **WBSC Europe** official.

## 7. ELIGIBILITY

### Nationality of Competitors

- a. A player in any **WBSC Europe** competition including the Olympic qualifying competitions must be a national of the country of the federation that is entering him.

Any competitor in any European Championship for national selections or the Super 6 must be a national of the country of the federation and must have the stipulated age during the calendar year of the competition; however, the minimum age required to play in any adult competition is 15 (fifteen) years in the year of the competition.

For Cup competitions, what is provided in the specific competition rules will apply.

To establish the nationality of the players, a valid passport or, in case of competitions are held into the Schengen area and for players coming from those areas, ID card with photo that mentions the nationality, issued by the governmental authorities shall be presented to the Technical Commission. All participants from EU countries, and Non EU countries must have passports in 2023 (ID cards are no longer accepted from 2023 !)

- b. All disputes relating to the determination of the country, which a competitor may represent in the **WBSC Europe** competition or in qualifying competitions for **WBSC Europe** Competitions shall be resolved by the **WBSC Europe** Executive Committee.
- c. A competitor who is a national of two or more countries at the same time may represent either one of them, as he may elect. However, after having represented one country in the Olympic Games, in Continental or Regional Games or in World or Regional Championships recognized by the **WBSC Europe**, he may not represent another country unless he meets the conditions set forth in the following paragraph that apply to persons who have changed their nationality or acquired a new nationality.
- d. A competitor who has represented one country in the Olympic Games, in the Baseball World Cup, in Continental or Regional Games or in World or Regional Championships recognized by the **WBSC Europe**, and who has changed his nationality or acquired a new nationality shall not participate in the Olympic Games, in the Baseball World Cup, in the Continental or Regional Games or in World or Regional Championships recognized by the **WBSC Europe** to represent his new country until three years after such change or acquisition. This period may be reduced or even cancelled with the agreement of the initial national federation and the approval of the **WBSC Europe** Executive Committee. The request to waive the three year waiting time must be received by **WBSC Europe** before 30<sup>th</sup> April in the year the player wants to represent his new country. This particular choice may only be made once
- e. If an associated state, province or overseas department, a country or colony acquires independence, if a country becomes incorporated within another country by reason of a change of border, or if a new NOC is recognized by the IOC, a competitor may continue to represent the country to which he belongs or belonged. However, he may, if he prefers, choose to represent his country or be entered in the **WBSC Europe** competition or the Olympic qualifying competitions by his new federation or NOC if one exists. This particular choice may only be made once.

- f. In all cases not expressly addressed in this rules, in particular in those cases in which a competitor would be in a position to represent a country other than that of which he is a national or have a choice as to the country which he intends to represent, the **WBSC Europe** Executive Committee may take all decisions of a general or individual nature, and, in particular, issue specific requirements relating to nationality, citizenship, domicile or residence of the competitors, including the duration of any waiting period.
- g. Should an eligibility violation occur, and a player be proven to be ineligible prior to any games being played, the player is automatically removed from his team roster and will not be allowed to participate in any game of the competition. This player cannot be replaced. The Technical Commission of the Competition will notify the **WBSC Europe** Executive Committee for further action.
- h. Should a violation be discovered during the competition and after the athlete has played in one or more games, the player is automatically removed from the roster, and any game in which he participated shall be considered a forfeited game for his team. The team shall continue to play in the competition and the infraction shall be reported by the Technical Commission of the Competition to the **WBSC Europe** Executive Committee for further action. A player removed for any eligibility violation cannot be replaced by another player.

## 8. REGISTRATION OF PLAYERS FOR COMPETITIONS (FINAL TEAM ROSTER –FTR)

- a. Each year all National federations must communicate to the WBSC Europe , at least 20 days prior to the beginning of the national team competitions, the Final Team Roster (FTR) through the online platform <http://my.wbse.org>

Note: User ID and Password have been communicated to all National Federations from WBSC Europe in 2021

- For the European Championship Seniors, Qualifiers Seniors and Super 6:  
The FTR may have 24 players which will be allowed to participate in the competition.

- For all other national selections:  
The FTR may have 20 players, which will be allowed to participate in the competition.

A maximum of 3 (three) players are allowed to be replaced on the Final Team Roster (FTR) for WBSC Europe official tournaments. The Technical Delegate and Scoring Director of the tournament must be informed of such changes during the Technical meeting before the tournament

A minimum of 15 players is obligatory for national selection teams. Teams with less than 15 players at the time of registration are banned from the competition.

- b. Each year all National federations must communicate to the WBSC Europe , at least 20 days prior to the beginning of the Cup competitions, the Final Team Roster (FTR) of their participating club teams through the online platform <http://my.wbse.org>

Note: User ID and Password have been communicated to all National Federations from WBSC Europe

- For official Cup competitions:  
The FTR may have 24 players which will be allowed to participate in the competition

A maximum of 3 (three) players are allowed to be replaced on the Final Team Roster (FTR) for WBSC Europe official tournaments. The Technical Delegate and Scoring Director of the tournament must be informed of such changes during the Technical meeting before the tournament

A minimum of 12 players is obligatory for club teams. Teams with less than 12 players at the time of registration are banned from the competition.

- c. The federation or club that **communicate** the **FTR** after the respective deadline will be sanctioned with a fine of 400 Euro for the European Championship Women, U23, Junior U18, Cadets U15, Juveniles U12 Championship, all Qualifier competitions and the Super 6. For the European Championship **Seniors** the fine is 1000 Euro.

For Cup Competitions see **also** art. 26 e.4.

No player will be allowed to the competition when he has not been registered at the **WBSC Europe**.

- d. The Technical Commission shall meet with the team-delegate of each participating federation on the day before the start of the competition at a time to be announced to the Technical Commission.

The team-delegate shall present to the Technical Commission at that time the following:

A print out of the final team roster (FTR) from the platform [my.wbseurope.org](http://my.wbseurope.org)

This must be identical the same than registered in the [mywbseurope.org](http://mywbseurope.org)

A valid passport or ID card (from 2023 ID cards will no longer be accepted) with photo, which confirms the nationality for each athlete for verification by the Technical Commission.

Affidat – Insurance form

Please note that during the Technical meeting each team delegation must deliver to the Delegate a signed affidavit form, which confirms the insurance coverage. This form is compulsory to be allowed to participate in the tournament and can be find at <http://wbseurope.org/baseball/documents>

Upon request from the Technical Commissioner, the manager must present the valid passport(s) or ID card of his player(s) at any time during the tournament.

Following verification of athletes and validation of the registration forms, there will be no changes of FTR permitted under any circumstances for the duration of the competition.

- e. Other members of the delegation such as officials, managers, coaches, trainers, equipment manager, doctor, masseur etc. shall appear on the final roster. All players and coaches must wear a specified number on the back of the uniform. If players have different numbers for different uniforms, the number by colour of uniform must be specified. Numbers cannot be changed during the competition unless exceptional circumstances justifying such changes arise. Any changes must immediately be announced to the Technical Commission for approval and, before the next game, be informed to the chief umpire and the Technical Commissioner(s) of the game.
- f. The Technical Commission will obtain from each delegate during the Technical Meeting the colour of the uniforms to be used as the visiting team. The home team shall wear light tops and the visiting team a shirt of darker colour.  
There will be no changes allowed to the established uniforms without prior approval of the Technical Commission.
- g. Teams not complying with registration as described above at the indicated date and hour of the accreditation session will be fined with 200 Euro.

## 9. PROTESTS

- a. Protests regarding the status of a player who is to participate in the competitions, must be made to the Technical Commission at the moment of the irregularity has been discovered and in any case within the end of the competition. The decision of the Technical Commission is final.
- b. Protest relating to organisational matters and the aspects of the game, out of the baseball field, should be made to the Technical Commission and be decided in accordance with the Official Rules of Baseball of the previous year and these Competition rules.
- c. A responsible official shall make any protest in writing in English to the Technical Commission accompanied by a guarantee sum of 200 Euro, or its equivalent, before action is taken.

The guarantee sum will be forfeited if the protest is rejected.

- d. In case of protest relating to the technical aspects of the game over a misapplication or misinterpretation of the official rules, the protest shall be made immediately to the umpire in chief. The written protest, mentioning the number of the rule related to the protest, must be handed over, with the guarantee sum, to the Technical Commissioner within 5 minutes. The Technical Commissioner(s) will after consulting the umpires, take a decision before the game can continue. The decision is final.

## 10. EJECTIONS AND PENALTIES

List of the penalties to be imposed:

- a. Player, manager, coach or technician sent from the field for having insulted another player, manager, coach or technician:
  - first time in the competition – warning and a fine of 50 Euro
  - second time in the competition - suspension for one game in the competition and a fine of 100 Euro
  - third time in the competition - suspension for the rest of the competition and a fine of 200 Euro
  
- b. Player, manager, coach or technician sent from the field for having insulted an umpire, a **WBSC Europe** official or the public:
  - first time in the competition – suspension for one game in the competition and a fine of 100 Euro
  - second time in the competition – suspension for three games in the competition and a fine of 200 Euro
  - third time in the competition – suspension for the rest of the competition and a fine of 400 Euro
  
- c. Player, manager, coach or technician sent from the field for attempting aggression (with no physical contact) towards another player, manager, coach or technician:
  - first time in the competition – warning and a fine of 50 Euro
  - second time in the competition – suspension for one game in the competition and a fine of 100 Euro
  - third time in the competition – suspension for three games in the competition and a fine of 200 Euro
  
- d. Player manager, coach or technician sent from the field for attempting aggression (with no physical contact) towards an umpire, a **WBSC Europe** official or the public:
  - first time in the competition – suspension for one game in the competition and a fine of 100 Euro
  - second time in the competition – suspension for three games in the competition and a fine of 200 Euro
  - third time in the competition – suspension for the rest of the competition and a fine of 400 Euro
  
- e. Player manager, coach or technician sent from the field for using physical violence at another player, manager, coach or technician:
  - first time in the competition – suspension for two games in the competition and a fine of 200 Euro
  - second time in the competition - suspension for the rest of the competition and a fine of 400 Euro

- f. Player manager, coach or technician sent from the field for using physical violence at an umpire, a **WBSC Europe** official or the public:
- first time in the competition – suspension for four games in the competition and a fine of 400 Euro
  - second time in the competition - suspension for the rest of the competition and a fine of 800 Euro
- g. Player sent from the field for using or attempting to use an illegal bat according to rule 6.03 (a) (5) of the Official Baseball Rules:
- first time in the competition – warning and a fine of 50 Euro
  - second time in the competition - suspension for one game in the competition and a fine of 100 Euro
  - third time in the competition - suspension for the rest of the competition and a fine of 200 Euro
- h. Player sent from the field for unsportsmanlike conduct during a collision at home plate:
- first time in the competition – warning and a fine of 50 Euro
  - second time in the competition - suspension for one game in the competition and a fine of 100 Euro
  - third time in the competition - suspension for the rest of the competition and a fine of 200 Euro
- i. For any violation/suspension not mentioned above, the Technical Commission may decide which penalty and fine would be appropriate.
- j. Any suspension that cannot be executed during the present competition will remain valid and will be executed in the next competition/s the player is registered for.
- k. In case any competition participant is charged with any kind of conduct that requires any sanction, or the Organizing Committee does not fulfil the general and/or financial obligations for the competition, the Technical Commission shall send a report to the **WBSC Europe** Executive Committee, accompanied, if necessary, by the umpire(s) report(s), for further sanction.

The accused party will have the right to defend itself at a hearing. After the decision of the **WBSC Europe** Executive Committee the accused party can appeal, within one month, to the I.O.C. Tribunal of arbitration for Sports (T.A.S.). Its decision will be final.



## 11. DOPING CONTROL

- a. In **WBSC Europe** competitions selected for doping tests, testing will be conducted in accordance with these doping-rules and applicable international rules and standards.
- b. The **WBSC Europe** Anti-Doping Delegate is responsible for the selection of players to be tested. Players may be randomly selected. In games selected for doping tests, one or more players from each team shall be selected for testing.
- c. For games in which an anti-doping control will be made, the following procedure shall be followed:
  - At the end of the first half of the fourth inning the Doping Control Officer (DCO), the **WBSC Europe** Anti-Doping Delegate and the Technical Commissioner(s) in charge of the game shall assemble in the box of the Technical Commission or in the Doping Control Station with an interpreter (when needed).
  - Selections will be made based on the Final Team Roster (FTR).
  - If random selection is made, a mobile app or numbered cards shall be used.
  - If two players from the team are to be tested, the first selection will be made from the players listed on the starting line-up. The second selection will be made from the FTR. If only one player is to be tested, the selection will be made from the FTR.
  - The names of the players selected shall not be communicated before the end of the game.
  - A player may be subject to doping control on more than one occasion during the competition.
- d. If a player selected gets seriously injured and needs to be immediately hospitalized, another player of the same team shall be randomly selected at the end of the game. In such case, medical evidence on the serious status of the injury has to be given to the **WBSC Europe** Anti-Doping Delegate.
- e. If a player selected is not on the site of the game, his team delegate shall advise him using all means available, to appear in due time to undergo the anti-doping control. If the player cannot be found and therefore does not undergo the anti-doping control, he shall appear at the place, date and time as officially advised by the **WBSC Europe** Anti-Doping Delegate to undergo the control, which in any case will be considered as a competition control for all purposes.
- f. If a player tests positive, the following sanctions shall apply:
  - On the first occasion in a competition that a player is found positive in a doping test, the player concerned shall be suspended and expelled from the competition and the player shall not be replaced on the team roster.
  - If on a second occasion, within the same competition, another player within the same team is found positive in a doping control, that player shall be suspended and expelled from the competition and shall not be replaced on the team roster. In addition, the team shall be penalized by recording a forfeit (losing by 9-0) for the game or games in which the player concerned took part, at or since the game in which his doping control showed a positive result. The team penalty must be imposed even if that second player has not actually taken part in a game.
  - If on a subsequent occasion, within the same competition, another player within the same team is found positive in a doping test, that player shall be suspended and the team shall immediately be expelled from the competition, and all titles and possible medals won by the players or the team concerned shall be lost and/or returned.

g. For results management, the WBSC Anti-Doping Rules shall apply.

## 12. TROPHIES AND AWARDS

- a. The leading hitter of the competition shall be determined by rule 9.22(a) of the Official Baseball Rules. Candidates for the batting title must have as many or more total plate appearances as for cadets the number of games played by the team multiplied by 2.4. For all other categories 2.7 times multiplied by the total number of games played by their team. This number of minimum plate appearances is fixed and excludes the sentence in rule 9.22(a) that refers to any player with fewer than the required numbers of plate appearances whose average would be the highest, if he were charged with the required number of plate appearances. In case of a tie, the decision shall be based on the slugging average according to rule 9.21(c) of the Official Baseball Rules.
- b. The pitcher with the best won and loss record of the series shall be determined in accordance with rule 9.21(a) of the Official Baseball Rules. Candidates for the pitcher with the best earned run average title must have at least as many innings pitched as the number of games played by their team in case of the European Championship Seniors. In all other tournaments, candidates for the earned run title must have at least as many as 150% innings pitched as the number of games played by their team. In case there is a tie for this title, the pitcher who has pitched more innings shall win the title.
- c. If there is a tie for the title of most runs batted in, the one with fewer trips to bat wins the award.
- d. In case there is a tie for the title of most runs scored and most stolen bases, the award shall go to the player with less times at bat and the one with the best average based on the times he tried to steal and the number of times he successfully stole (Official Baseball Rules 9).
- e. Determination of the awards mentioned above shall be based on the statistics at a point when all teams have played the same number of games. In case of tournaments played in two robins (round robin and quarterfinals/semi-finals/finals; or round robin and second robin + finals), all games played during the round robin will be included in the account for the final stats. Only statistics that count for the determination of the awards will be published in the Daily report
- f. The Technical Commission shall select the most valuable player (MVP), best pitcher of the tournament, outstanding defensive player and all-star players. The best pitcher shall be chosen by the Technical Commission according to his performance in the games, his relevance in the tournament and crucial games, as well their stats and earned runs.

### Team Trophies and Medals for all European Championships:

(A-, B-, C-Pool, Women, U23, U18, U15, U12)

First place:	Team: Trophy WBSC Europe Challenge Trophy (if existing) Individual: Gold Medal (30)
Second place:	Team: Trophy Individual: Silver Medal (30)
Third place:	Team: Trophy Individual: Bronze Medal (30)

Individual Awards European Championship (A-Pool):

Leading hitter with the highest batting average	Trophy
Pitcher with the best earned run average	Trophy
Pitcher with the best won-loss average	Trophy
Most runs batted in (RBI)	Trophy
Most home runs	Trophy
Most stolen bases	Trophy
Most runs scored	Trophy
Outstanding defensive player	Trophy
Most valuable player (MVP)	Trophy

Individual Awards European Championships Women, U23, Juniors U18 and Cadets U15:

Leading hitter with the highest batting average	Individual Award
Best Pitcher	Individual Award
Most valuable player (MVP)	Individual Award

Individual Awards European Championships Juveniles:

Due to the age of the participants no individual award shall be given to players on the basis of comparable skills or accomplishments.

For all Cup Competitions including Qualifiers, all National Team Qualifiers:

First, second, third placed Team:	Trophy
Leading hitter with the highest batting average	Individual Award
Best Pitcher	Individual Award
Most valuable player (MVP)	Individual Award

All awards must bear the name and the logo of **WBSC Europe**

## 13. TECHNICAL ASPECTS

### a. Competition venues

All competition venues and installations will have the requirements established by the **WBSC Europe** and the **WBSC Europe Baseball** Technical Commission will control the playing ground where the European competitions will be held, on dimensions established etc.

It is allowed to play on playing grounds with artificial turf under permission of the **WBSC Europe** Executive Committee.

For all Adults, Juniors and Cadets competitions the baseball field's dimensions are those approved by WBSC and **WBSC Europe**:

- Official dimensions: 98 - 122 and 98 meters
- It is mandatory that the distance from home base to the backstop, and from base lines to the nearest fence, stand or other obstruction on foul territory shall be 18,25 meters or more

For Juveniles are as follows:

- Official dimensions: 61 - 76 and 61 meters
- Exceptional (minimum): 61 - 61 and 61 meters
- It is mandatory that the distance from home base to the backstop, and from base lines to the nearest fence, stand or other obstruction on foul territory shall be of 7,65 meters or more

### b. Ground rules

Ground rules related to the stadium(s) will be approved by the Technical Commission prior to the start of the competition. These rules shall be printed in English and distributed to all coaches and umpires and discussed thoroughly at the Technical Meeting prior to the start of the competition.

### c. Scoreboard message

A scoreboard, which follows the course of the game, in cooperation with the official scorer, is obligatory adjacent to the playing field.

The use of the scoreboard and public address system for the purpose of arousing the public shall not be allowed.

### d. Bat boys

For all games the Organizing Committee shall furnish the bat boy(s). The bat carrier of each team shall be kept close to the dugout when the team is at bat. They must wear uniforms and double earflap helmets. Infraction may result in ejection of the bat carrier. Minimum age of the batboy/girl must be 12 years.

#### e. Cameramen and photographers

No cameramen and photographers shall be allowed to enter the playing field when a game is underway. Cameramen are allowed to enter the playing ground only when opening and closing ceremonies are held and before and after the game is played. A special section shall be reserved at the stadium for cameramen.

#### f. Interpreters

Each team shall designate prior to the game a person who speaks the language of the team and French or English and who will act as interpreter during games. This person shall sit in an assigned seat in the stands close to the dugout.

#### g. Practice schedule

##### I. Pre-competition practice

The Organizing Committee shall set a pre-competition schedule for all teams (when foreseen), approved by the Technical Commission.

The practice (one per team) should be a two-hours period and should be arranged for the last two days prior to the start of the competition. If more than one stadium is to be used, the Organizing Committee will assign the stadium to be used for practice. Assignments can be made based upon arrival of the competing teams.

##### II. Pre-game practice

###### 1. *If held on the field of the competition:*

###### a) First game of the day, starting 2 (two) hours before game time:

Home team 40 minutes batting practice  
Visiting team 40 minutes batting practice  
Home team 10 minutes infield practice  
Visiting team 10 minutes infield practice  
Field maintenance and Umpire/Coaches meeting

###### b) Additional games of the day:

As soon as the previous game is completed, the groundskeepers shall begin to repair the field. When the chief-groundskeeper announces the field is ready, if 2 hours or more remain until game time, the schedule in II.1. a) shall prevail. If less than 2 hours remain, the time from that moment until 30 minutes prior to game time shall be divided equally between the home team and visiting team. If less than one hour remains until game time, there will be no batting practice on the field.

2. *If held on alternate field(s):*

- a) The starting time shall be determined by the length of time needed to get the team from the batting practice site to the competition site at least 15 minutes before they are scheduled to take infield practice.
- b) The home team will hit first for 40 minutes followed by the visiting team for 40 minutes.
- c) If two batting practice sites are used, the teams may be scheduled for practice simultaneously.
- d) Infield practice will be held at the competition site as outlined in II 1a.
- e) If alternate practice fields are used, the Organizing Committee shall recommend practice schedules to the **WBSC Europe Baseball** Technical Commission at least 1 month in advance of the competition. After approval by the **WBSC Europe Baseball** Technical Commission, the **WBSC Europe** shall circulate the practice schedules to all the participating teams.

**h. Games schedule**

The game schedule based upon the **WBSC Europe** Competition Rules art 19. shall be proposed by the Organizing Committee to the **WBSC Europe Baseball** Technical Commission at least **four** months in advance for Championships for national selections and three months in advance for Cup competitions.

Between the Organizing Committee and the **WBSC Europe Baseball** Technical Commission the proposed schedule will be studied, and changes will be made if necessary and then approve the schedule within one month.

Subsequently the **WBSC Europe** shall then circulate the approved schedule to all participating teams **and publish them on the WBSC Europe website.**

The **WBSC Europe Baseball** Technical Commission will decide on the program regarding the hour on which the games start. The decision will be taken after consult with the Organizing Committee.

In case the organiser does not dispose of a playing field with light installation, the last game of the day will begin at least 4 (four) hours before sundown, local time.

With two or more games scheduled on the same day, on the same field, there shall be at least 30 minutes' interval between games. It is suggested that a minimum of four hours' time period be scheduled for the practice and playing of all competition games.

The games of the competition will be played in one or more cities that have a distance between them, as a rule, of no more than 100 kilometres. **Deviations from this must be approved in advance by the WBSC Europe Baseball Technical Commission**

No team must be obliged to play two games on the same day, unless special circumstances for instance postponed games. In all the schedules the home team is mentioned in the first place except when it concerns play-off games. In this case the Technical Commission will indicate the home team by drawing of lots.

In case of withdrawal of one or more team(s) before the start of the competition, the **WBSC Europe Baseball** Technical Commission, may scratch the games concerned or revise the original schedule according to the competition format as laid out in these rules. In any case, no draw of lots will be made.

If a team is not represented at the Technical Meeting or has not arrived at the venue of the competition without prior notification to the Technical Commission or organizer, the team will be taken out of the competition.

#### i. Equality (Ties) of games

All ties after the preliminary round will be settled as follows (in order):

1. The team that won the game(s) between the teams tied shall be given the higher position;
2. The team that has the best Team's Quality Balance (TQB\*)
3. The team that has the best Earned Runs Team's Quality Balance (ER-TQB).
4. Highest batting average in games between the teams tied
5. A coin flip.

\* Teams Quality Balance (TQB) is the sum of runs scored divided by the number of innings played on offense minus the number of runs allowed divided by the number of innings played on defense.  $(RS/IPO)-(RA/IPD)=TQB$ .  
The TQB is calculated with four decimal places. The fifth decimal place is used to round up or down.

When applying point 2, 3 or 4 and one team is selected for the higher or the lower position and the remaining teams are still tied with the same result of TQB, ER-TQB or batting average the order to settle this tie between these remaining teams starts again at point 1. When applying this rule 1(one) out is 1/3rd of an inning.

When calculating the TQB only the games between the teams tied in the specific playing round (e.g. round robin) have to be included.

For TQB Calculation Examples please refer to Appendix I.

#### j. Starting line-up

Managers shall file a tentative line-up with the official scorer at least 60 minutes before the scheduled start of the game; this line-up is for publicity purposes only. This shall include the name, uniform number and field position of each player in the starting batting order plus the pitcher. All other players on the approved roster will be considered as possible substitutes for all the games. The official scorer shall have a copy of the approved roster of each team. The official line-up will be given to the umpire in chief at the meeting at home plate just prior to



the start of the game, copy that shall be given to the official scorer and Technical Commissioner in charge of the game.

The team that does not observe this rule has to pay a fine of 200 Euro.

After the tentative line-up has been entered into the scoring software, the LOC should provide a printed version of this line-up to the press and media as soon as possible (mandatory for European Championship and European Champions Cup, recommended for all other competitions).

#### **k. Technical meeting**

Following verification of the athletes, the Technical Commission shall discuss with the team delegate and representatives of the coaching staff the following:

- Relationship of the Technical Commission, umpires, coaches and delegates
- conduct of the game
- Competition Rules
- Official ball - the official competition ball must be of high quality see point 3d.
- Practice schedule
- Speed-up rules
- handling protests
- handling ejections
- Team transportation
- Sanctions / penalties against teams or players
- Information on play-offs and finals
- Communication between the Technical Commission and the teams
- General information **and if needed the Covid-19 recommendations**

#### **l. Forfeited games**

A game won on forfeit shall have the final result 9-0 or 7-0 **(for Women, U23, U18 and U15) or 6-0 (for U12)**. All statistics (except winning and losing pitcher) up to the point that caused the forfeit shall be valid for that game.

## 14. COMPETITION REGULATIONS (PLAYING RULES)

The games will be played following the Official Rules of Baseball of the year prior to the year the competitions are played (except for Juveniles U12).

### a. Designated hitter

Rule 5.11 – Designated hitter is applicable only for all adult, U23 and U18 competitions.

### b. Wooden Bats

**Wooden Bats** are allowed in all competitions.

The use of an **aluminium bat** is permitted only in Cadet U15 and Juveniles U12 competitions and in the European Championship Women.

The use of **Composite bats** is only allowed in the following competitions:

- European Championship Women
- European Championship C-Pool
- European Championship Qualifier U23
- European Championship Qualifier U18
- European Championship U15 & Qualifier
- European Championship U12 & Qualifier
- Federations Cup
- Federations Cup Qualifier

Only **wooden bats (no composite bats)** are allowed in the following competitions:

- European Championship A-Pool, B-Pool
- European Championship U23
- European Championship U18
- Champions Cup
- **Confederation Cup**
- Super 6

For the use of wooden bats and composite bats, **WBSC Europe Baseball** announces a list of approved bats. (<http://wbsceurope.org/baseball/documents>)

Use of a **non-approved bat** will be considered the same as using an illegal bat according to rule 6.03 (a) (5) of the Official Baseball Rules.

The brand and type number of the bat must be readable on the bat in case of a control in order to be able to clearly identify the bat (e.g. if composite or not). If the bat cannot be clearly identified by the umpire(s) or Technical Commissioner(s), the team of the player who used

or tried to use the bat has to prove to the Technical Commissioner(s), that the bat is legal according to this rule.

Bats for Juveniles U12:

See art. 25 C f.

**c. Number of Innings and Run Difference Rule**

**For Senior competitions.**

For Senior competitions a regulation game consists of 9 innings.

If after 7(seven) complete innings for the visiting team or 6½ innings for the home team, there is a 10 (ten) runs score difference between the teams, the game is ended.

If after 5(five) complete innings for the visiting team or 4½ innings for the home team, there is a 15(fifteen) runs score difference between the teams, the game is ended.

**For Women, U23, Juniors U18, Cadets U15 :**

For Women, U23, Juniors U18, and Cadets U15 a regulation game consists of 7 innings.

If after 5(five) complete innings for the visiting team or 4½ innings for the home team, there is a 10 (ten) runs score difference between the teams, the game is ended.

If after 4(four) complete innings for the visiting team or 3½ innings for the home team, there is a 15(fifteen) runs score difference between the teams, the game is ended.

If after 3(three) complete innings for the visiting team or 2½ innings for the home team, there is a 20(twenty) runs score difference between the teams, the game is ended.

**For Juveniles U12:**

For Juveniles U12 a regulation game consists of 6 innings.

If after 5(five) complete innings for the visiting team or 4½ innings for the home team, there is a 10 (ten) runs score difference between the teams, the game is ended.

If after 4(four) complete innings for the visiting team or 3½ innings for the home team, there is a 15(fifteen) runs score difference between the teams, the game is ended.

If after 3(three) complete innings for the visiting team or 2½ innings for the home team, there is a 20(twenty) runs score difference between the teams, the game is ended.

**d. Winning Pitchers, Saves for Relief Pitchers**

Rules 9.17 and 9.19 (d) of the Official Baseball Rules will be modified as follows:

**OBR 9.17 modification**

- the winning pitcher is that pitcher whose team assumes a lead while such pitcher is in the game or during the inning on offense in which such pitcher is removed from the game, and does not relinquish such lead, unless:

- \* such pitcher is a starting pitcher and
- \* such pitcher has completed:

For tournaments with 7-inning games (except U12):

- four innings of a game that lasts seven innings or
- three innings of a game that lasts four, five or six innings or
- two innings of a game that lasts three innings.

For U12 tournaments:

- three innings of a game that lasts six innings or
- two innings of a game that lasts four or five innings or
- 1.2 innings of a game that lasts three innings.

**OBR 9.19.d 3 modification**

A save for a relief pitcher will be credited:

In tournaments with 7-inning games (except U12):

- when he pitches for at least two innings of a game that lasts four, five, six or seven innings.
- In a three inning game no save will be credited.

In U12 tournaments

- when he pitches for at least two innings of a game that lasts five or six innings or
- when he pitches for at least one inning of a game that lasts four innings.
- In a three inning game no save will be credited.

**e. Dug-outs**

Home team is to be located at 3<sup>rd</sup> base dugout and the visitors in the 1<sup>st</sup> base dugout.

Only persons permitted by rules and registered on the roster are allowed to stay in the dugout.

It shall be the responsibility of the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> base umpire to make sure that unauthorised persons do not occupy the dug-out and that the players and the coaches stay in the dugout during the game.

**f. Suspended games**

**Exception to OBR 7.01 (e):** If a game is called for any reason before it has become a regulation game, it shall always become a suspended game.

If a game scheduled for 7 or 6 innings (e.g. Cadets U15 and Juveniles U12) is called, it is a regulation game:

- (1) If four innings have been completed;
- (2) If the home team has scored more runs in three or three and a fraction half-innings than the visiting team has scored in four completed half-innings;
- (3) If the home team scores one or more runs in its half of the fourth inning to tie the score.

All suspended, tied or games not played shall be rescheduled by the Technical Commission and the Organizing Committee in order to resume or start them following the suspension order. The scheduling of these games shall be given priority by the Technical Commission in order to complete them as soon as possible.

Nevertheless, if there are difficulties concerning the closing date, only the important games shall be scheduled. No team shall be asked to play more than two games on the same day, unless the case warranted by exceptional circumstances, for instance postponed games and decided by the Technical Commission.

If a play is in progress at the moment of a failure of the field's lighting system and any additional action is impossible, the game is considered suspended.

Whenever the lights are restored, the game shall continue at the same situation that existed at the beginning of the play, which was interrupted due to the lack of the lighting. According to **WBSC Europe** regulations, no time limit shall be set on a game and every game shall be played to a decision.

For the Juveniles, the Technical Commission will, under extraordinary circumstances in conjunction with the Organizing Committee, adjust the game schedule as necessary.

**g. Speed up rules**

The need to speed up the play of international competition games must be constantly enforced in an effort to keep the game moving quickly: (Speed Up Rules are not valid for Juveniles U12 competitions)

- I. The 12-second rule for the pitcher must be enforced.

- II. The hitter shall be required to remain in the batter's box unless he makes a request for time and the umpire feels that the request is reasonable. Only then shall the umpire grant time out.
- III. The pitcher shall be allowed 8 warm-up pitches to start the first inning and on any pitching change, or 4 pitches between innings and the plate umpire shall ensure that the pitches are thrown without undue delay. If a team fails to complete the warm-up pitches in a reasonable length of time, the umpire may terminate them and call "Play Ball". Teams shall be directed to have a catcher ready to warm up the pitcher as soon as an inning is completed.
- IV. When a batter hits a home run, members of his team shall not be allowed to contact the hitter until he has passed on home plate. Failure to observe this rule will result in a warning and if it occurs again, the manager of the team shall be ejected from the game.
- V. Only one infielder at a time can go the pitcher's mound, and only one such a trip per inning shall be allowed. In this context, the catcher is not considered an infielder.
- VI. Coaches shall be allowed three free trips to the mound during the game to talk with the pitcher (a free trip is one in which the pitcher is not removed from the mound). After the third trip, each subsequent trip to the mound must result in the removal of the pitcher from the game. If the game goes into extra innings, one additional trip shall be allowed for each extra three innings.
- VII. Two trips to the mound in the same inning, to the same pitcher, must result in the removal of the pitcher from the game.
- VIII. Only one infielder can go to the mound when the coach does and if one infielder goes to the mound at the time, it is considered the "infielders trip" to the mound for the inning as stated in rule VI. In this context, the catcher is not considered an infielder.
- IX. Teams are allowed a maximum of 3 "offensive meetings" per game. An offensive meeting shall be charged any time a coach delays the game for any length of time to talk with an offensive player, whether it be the hitter, a base-runner or an on-deck batter going to the plate, or to another coach. If the game goes into extra innings 1 additional "offensive meeting" shall be permitted for each 3 extra innings. If this rule is violated the coach may be ejected.

#### **h. Extra Inning Rule**

If the game remains tied after the completion of nine (9) innings, the following procedures will be implemented during extra innings (For Women, U23, Juniors U18 and Cadets U15 after seven (7) innings, for Juveniles U12 after six (6) innings):

- Each team will begin the first extra inning (10<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup>) (and any subsequent necessary extra innings) with a player on first and second, no outs.
- The batting order in any extra inning will be determined by how the previous inning ended. That is, if the 9<sup>th</sup> inning ends with the #6 hitter having the last plate appearance (PA), then the 10<sup>th</sup> inning begins the #7 hitter at bat, and the #5 hitter at 2B and the #6 hitter at first base.
- With the exception of beginning the inning with runners on 1B and 2B with no one out, all other "Official Rules of Baseball" and "WBSC Europe Baseball Competition Rules" will remain in effect during extra innings required to determine a winner.

- No player re-entry is permitted during extra innings.
- The traditional system of the visiting team hitting in the top of the inning and the home team hitting in the bottom of the inning (if needed) will remain in effect until a winner is determined.

**i. Protective equipment**

Double earflap helmets will be mandatory for the hitter and the base runners.

*It is recommended that base coaches wear a protective helmet, with or without ear flaps.*

**j. Collisions at Home Plate**

OBR Rule 6.01 (i) has to be applied in all **WBSC Europe** competitions.

## 15. FINES

Infraction of specific **WBSC Europe Baseball** Competition Rules will automatically incur a fine. The violator will have two months from the date of modification to either pay the fine or appeal to the **WBSC Europe** Executive Committee for the review of the infraction.

All infractions fall under two categories:

1. "A" level - are infractions of rules that are considered pivotal for competition success, those that cause serious negative effects on international baseball.

The monetary penalty for an "A" level infraction is 400 Euro.

2. "B" level - are infractions of rules which are logistical and/or routine in nature.

The monetary penalty for a "B" level infraction is 200 Euro.

"B" level fines will be for violation of these rules: starting line-up, no regular registration to the Technical meeting, absence to the Technical meeting, umpires, etc.

## 16. PUBLICITY AND T.V. RIGHTS

### a. Radio and T.V. rights

The **WBSC Europe** owns the rights to radio, recording, film, television and internet at each of its official competitions.

The right can be transferred to the Organizing Committee by a written agreement between **WBSC Europe** and the involved federation.

The organizer is obliged to present all the contracts to **WBSC Europe** for the liquidation of the financial agreements.

### b. Publicity on uniforms and equipment

The WBSC Executive Committee has approved the freedom for the continents to have publicity on uniforms and helmets for continental competitions.

The **WBSC Europe** rules on this behalf are:

- name of the country and uniform number must be on the shirt
- name of the sponsor (max. 16 x 40 cm)
- on each sleeve of the shirt one publicity
- on the helmet one publicity each side or one at the back
- NO publicity on the caps
- for the warm-up jackets the same as for the shirt



## 17. GENERAL DISPOSITION

### Transfer of players from one country to another

A player registered with a federation to a club who desires to play in another country, federation or club, for a reason whatever, will be obliged to ask his transfer from the last federation he played in.

For such transfer the **WBSC Europe** transfer form must be used.

(<http://www.wbsceurope.org/baseball/documents>)

If **WBSC Europe** does not receive the copy of the official transfer the player(s) will be deleted from the roster for the **WBSC Europe** tournament.

The form must be received by the **WBSC Europe** at the latest one month before the start of the respective Cup competition of the year of transfer.

If a player transfers to another country, federation or club, but is not participating in any of the Cup competitions during the year of the transfer, only the national rules of the involved federations will apply. Registration is in this case for administrative purposes only.

## 18. APPLICATION OF THESE RULES

The **WBSC Europe** Executive Committee shall decide any matters not provided for in these rules. In case of qualification competitions for WBSC World Cups and/or Championships and Olympic games the WBSC regulations will be strictly applied.

## 19. **WBSC EUROPE BASEBALL COMPETITION TERMS**

### A a.1 Registration

The closing day for entries shall be not later than **December 1<sup>st</sup>** prior to the start of the competition. Requirements for registration is to send the fully signed **WBSC Europe** subscription form to the **WBSC Europe** (<http://www.wbsceurope.org/baseball/documents>)

### a.2 Organizing fee

European Championship A-Pool:	Euro 40.000
European Championship B-Pool:	Euro 1.500
European Championship C-Pool/ U23:	Euro 1.000
European Championship U18, U15, U12:	Euro 500
European Championship Women	Euro 1.000
Qualifier European Champ. U23,U18, U15, U12:	Euro 500
European Champions Cup:	Euro 2.000
<b>Confederation</b> Cup:	Euro 1.000
All other competitions:	none

### a.3 Participating fee

European Championship A-Pool:	Euro 3.000
European Championship B-Pool:	Euro 1.000
European Championship C-Pool/ U23:	Euro 500
European Championship Women	Euro 500
European Championship U18, U15, U12:	Euro 350
Qualifier for European Champ. U23:	Euro 500
Qualifiers for European Champ. U18, U15, U12:	Euro 350
European Champions Cup, C.E.B. Cup:	Euro 2.000
Federations Cup and Qualifier:	Euro 500
Super 6:	none

### a.4 Guarantee fee of the Federation.

If there is a reason of doubt about the participation of a national team or a club team, **WBSC Europe** will demand from the federation or the club a guarantee sum of Euro 6.000 for the European Championship A-Pool and for all other events Euro 2.000 per team. Payment should be received by the **WBSC Europe** Treasurer latest on 31<sup>st</sup> January before the annual **WBSC Europe** Congress.

In case of a withdrawal of a team after the 31<sup>st</sup> of January in the year of the

competition, the federation or club involved will be fined with Euro 6.000 for the European Championship A-Pool and Euro 2.000 for the other events. The federation has to pay the fine on first demand of **WBSC Europe**. The fine will be paid by **WBSC Europe** to the Organizer.

Furthermore, the club team in question will be suspended of all international activity in respective competition level during 2 (two) years and in case of a national team the federation will be suspended of all international activity in the respective category.

If European Baseball is harmed by a withdrawal after the 31<sup>st</sup> of January from any **WBSC Europe Baseball** Competition of any national team, the **WBSC Europe** Executive Committee can take additional suspension against the federation or against teams of the involved federation.

If a game is forfeited due to early departure of the team, the extra fine is losing (or to pay) the guarantee sum for the respective level.

## B Formation of groups

For all competitions in which the teams are split-up, the following system must be used:

Each group will be formed according to the standings of the previous competitions. The promoted or relegated teams and teams not participating in previous competitions will be placed in one group each by drawing of lots.

Group 1	Group 2
1 <sup>st</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup>
4 <sup>th</sup>	3 <sup>rd</sup>
5 <sup>th</sup>	6 <sup>th</sup>
8 <sup>th</sup>	7 <sup>th</sup>
9 <sup>th</sup>	10 <sup>th</sup>

## C Schedule system

For the starting Round Robin, the Organizing Committee must use this schedule system to propose to the **WBSC Europe Baseball** Technical Commission for approval. The **WBSC Europe Baseball** Technical Commission may allow deviations.

Teams	Schedule system
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6	1 <sup>st</sup> day	5-1	4-2	3-6
	2 <sup>nd</sup> day	1-3	2-5	6-4
	3 <sup>rd</sup> day	1-4	2-6	3-5
	4 <sup>th</sup> day	1-2	3-4	5-6
	5 <sup>th</sup> day	2-3	6-1	4-5

5	1 <sup>st</sup> day	1-4	5-3	Rest 2
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	2 <sup>nd</sup> day	4-5	2-3	Rest 1
	3 <sup>rd</sup> day	1-2	3-4	Rest 5
	4 <sup>th</sup> day	3-1	2-5	Rest 4
	5 <sup>th</sup> day	5-1	4-2	Rest 3

4	1 <sup>st</sup> day	1-4	2-3
	2 <sup>nd</sup> day	3-1	4-2
	3 <sup>rd</sup> day	1-2	3-4

3	1 <sup>st</sup> day	1-3	Rest 2
	2 <sup>nd</sup> day	2-1	Rest 3
	3 <sup>rd</sup> day	3-2	Rest 1

## 20. EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIPS

Due to a decision taken by the WBSC Europe Executive Board on recommendation of the IOC all the national teams of Russia and Belarus are excluded of participating in the WBSC Europe tournaments in 2022 because of the aggression in Ukraine

### CHAMPIONSHIP (A-level)

#### A Period

The European Championship takes place every two years.

#### B Participants

The participants for 2023 are:

- the first 14 ranked countries of the previous championship in 2021
- the 2 winners of the play off tournament in 2023 between the 3 winners of the Qualifiers Seniors played in 2022

Players have the minimum age of 15 years in the year the competition is played.

The games for the competition will be played in one or more cities, which have a distance between them of no more than 100 kilometres. Deviations from this must be approved in advance by the WBSC Europe Baseball Technical Commission

The European Championship will be played with WBSC Europe Baseball approved bats only and with one of the Official Ball for Competitions to be listed by WBSC Europe Baseball

#### C Competition System

The 16 teams will be placed in 4 bowls and 4 groups will be formed by drawing:

Group A, Group B, Group C and Group D

Bowl 1 : The first 4 ranked national teams of the previous EC

Bowl 2 : Place 5 – 8 ranked national teams of the previous EC

Bowl 3 : Place 9 – 12 ranked national teams of the previous EC

Bowl 4 : Place 13 and 14 + the 2 winners of the play off tournament in 2023

The organizing country will be placed in group A on spot 1

The teams from bowl 2 will be placed in the groups A,B,C and D on spot 3

The first part of the competition will be for each group a round robin (3 games in 3 consecutive days). At the end of this phase the standing will be made

The first 2 teams of each group will go the second phase of the tournament after one day of rest and will play the quarter finals, semi finals and finals or ranking games for the places 5 till 8 when the teams are eliminated in the quarter finals

The day 4<sup>th</sup> of the competition is a day of rest for the top two teams of each group

On the day 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> of the competition, the top two teams of each group will play a play-off round (quarterfinals, semifinals, final game) as follows

W (winner), L (loser)

5 <sup>th</sup> day	(a)	A1	-	B2	A1 is home team = quarter final
	(b)	C1	-	D2	C1 is home team = quarter final
	(c)	B1	-	A2	B1 is home team = quarter final
	(d)	D1	-	C2	D1 is home team = quarter final

6 <sup>th</sup> day	(e)	W (a)	-	W (b)	Home team by draw = semi final
	(f)	W (c)	-	W (d)	Home team by draw = semi final
	(g)	L (a)	-	L (b)	Home team by draw = 5-8 place game
	(h)	L (c)		L (d)	Home team by draw = 5-8 place game

7 <sup>th</sup> day	(i)	L (g)	-	L (H)	Home team by draw = 7-8 place
	(j)	W (g)	-	W (h)	Home team by draw = 5-6 place

8 <sup>th</sup> day	(k)	L (e)	-	L (f)	Home team by draw = 3-4 place
	(l)	W (e)	-	W (f)	Home team by draw = 1-2 place

On the day 4<sup>th</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> of the competition, the bottom two teams of each group will play for the ranking 9<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> place and avoid relegation to the EC Seniors B-level, the 2

last ranked teams will relegate. On the 5<sup>th</sup> or 6<sup>th</sup> day there will be a rest day

4 <sup>th</sup> day	(m)	A3	-	D4	A3 is home team = relegation
	(n)	C3	-	B4	C3 is home team = relegation
	(o)	D3	-	A4	D3 is home team = relegation
	(p)	B3	-	C4	B3 is home team = relegation

5 <sup>th</sup> day	(q)	W(m)	-	W(n)	Home team by draw = relegation
	(r)	W(o)	-	W(p)	Home team by draw = relegation
6 <sup>th</sup> day	(s)	L(m)	-	L(n)	Home team by draw = relegation
	(t)	L(o)	-	L(p)	Home team by draw = relegation
7 <sup>th</sup> day	(u)	L(s)	-	L(t)	Home team by draw = 15-16 place
	(v)	W(s)	-	W(t)	Home team by draw = 13-14 place
	(w)	L(q)	-	L(r)	Home team by draw = 11-12 place
	(x)	W(q)	-	W(r)	Home team by draw = 9-10 place

## QUALIFIERS B-LEVEL

### A Period

In July 2022. The exact date will be decided by the WBSC Europe Baseball Technical Commission.

### B Participants

The subscriptions for the Qualifier Competitions Seniors is open for all countries who are not qualified for the European Championship A-level

With the teams subscribed we will form 3 groups and each winner of the group will participate in a play off tournament that will be played in June 2023. The 3 teams will play a round robin. The winner of the round robin is placed for the EC Seniors in September 2023. The 2 other teams will play a extra game, and the winner takes the the second spot for the EC Seniors in September 2023

### C Formation of the groups

The participating teams are divided in 3 groups by results from previous competitions. The WBSC Europe Baseball Technical Commission has the task to give at all the groups the most similar strength configuration as possible.

### D Competition System

The Qualifier Competitions will be played with WBSC Europe Baseball approved bats only and with the Official Ball delivered by WBSC Europe Baseball.

#### D1 – Pool with 5 teams:

First Phase:  
The five teams will play a single round-robin (4 games in 5 consecutive days).

At the end of this phase the standing will be made.

**Second Phase:**

The first 2 teams will play a final game and the winner of this game is qualified for the play off tournament in June 2023

**D2 – Pool with 4 teams:**

**First**

**Phase:**

The four teams will play a single round-robin (3 games in 3 consecutive days).

At the end of this phase the standing will be made.

**Second Phase:**

The first 2 teams will play a final game and the winner of this game is qualified for the EC A-level later this year in September

**E Bats**

In 2022 the use of composite bats during the Qualifiers Seniors will be allowed because it is a mix of teams from the B and C level

## 21. EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIPS WOMEN

**A Period**

The European Championship Women takes place every two years.



Following the WBSC decision to move the Women's World Cup to 2023, WBSC Europe made the decision to postpone the Women's European Championship to 2022

## **B Participants**

Players have the minimum age of 15 years in the year the competition is played.

The games for the competition will be played in one or more cities, which have a distance between them of no more than 100 kilometres.

The European Championship will be played with WBSC Europe Baseball approved bats (see D) only and with the Official Ball delivered by WBSC Europe Baseball.

## **C Competition System**

### First Phase:

The four teams will play a single round-robin (3 games in 3 consecutive days).

At the end of this phase the standing will be made.

### Second Phase:

The first 2 teams will play a final game and the winner of this game is qualified for the qualification games for the WBSC World Cup in 2023

## **D Bat regulations for WBSC Europe Women's Baseball Competition**

The use of non-wooden bats is authorized, as long as they comply with the following requirements:

- The entire bat must be round with a constant radius at any point and the finish of the hitting area must be smooth
- There must be a direct line from the center of the knob to the center of the large end. The knob and end plug (if applicable) must be firmly attached
- The maximum length is 36 inches (91.4 cm) and the maximum diameter is 2 ¾ inches (6.99 cm)
- A bat may not weigh, numerically, more than five units less than the length of the bat (e.g. a 35-inch-long (88.9 cm) bat cannot be less than 30 ounces (850,5 grams) in weight)
- It is mandatory that all bats have an identification mark 18 inches (45.7cm) from the end of the handle.

The use of wooden bats is also authorized, as long as they comply to the requirements above.

## 22. SUPER 6 BASEBALL - SOFTBALL

This article covers only the baseball aspects of the tournament.

### A Period

The Super 6 will take place every four years (starting 2018 - in even years in which no Olympic Summer Games take place).

There will be no Super 6 tournament in 2022

### B Participants

The participants are the first 6 classified countries of the previous European Championship A-Level.

Players have the minimum age of 15 years in the year the competition is played.

The games for the competition will be played in one or more cities, which have a distance between them of no more than 100 kilometres. Deviations from this must be approved in advance by the WBSC Europe Executive Board

The Super 6 will be played with WBSC Europe approved bats only and with one of the official balls for Competitions to be listed by WBSC Europe

### C Competition System

The competition system follows the rules of chapter 19.

#### First phase:

The teams play a single round-robin to decide all positions without a day of rest.

#### Second phase:

The first two teams play one final game for the first and second place. Home team will be the winner of the single round robin.

## 23. EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIPS U23 A-level and B-level

The European Championships U23 is open only for U23 national teams of the federations of **WBSC Europe Baseball**

### A Period

The European Championships U23 takes place every two years **and will be played in the first half of August.**

The games for the championship will be played in one or more cities, which have a distance between them of no more than 100 kilometres. **Deviations from this must be approved in advance by the WBSC Europe Baseball Technical Commission**

### B Participants A-level

The participants are the 6 first classified of the previous championship and the winner of each group of the last Qualifiers B-level.

The players have the maximum age of 23 years and a minimum age of 15 years in the year the competition is played.

This competition is played with wooden bats, which are approved and mentioned on the approved bat list of **WBSC Europe Baseball.**

The DH rule is allowed.

### Participants B-level

The subscriptions for the Qualifier Competitions B-Level is open to all countries not qualified for the European Championship + the 2 relegated teams from the A-level

The winner of each group will promote to the next European Championship A-level

### C Competition System A-level

#### **First Phase:**

The eight teams will be divided into two groups. Each group will play a single round-robin (3 games in 3 consecutive days).

At the end of this phase the standings will be made.

Group 1	Group 2
1	1
2	2
3	3
4	4

### **Second phase:**

The first two teams of each group will play cross-over game and final as follows:

(a)	1 <sup>st</sup> G1	-	2 <sup>nd</sup> G2	1 <sup>st</sup> G1 is home team
(b)	1 <sup>st</sup> G2	-	2 <sup>nd</sup> G1	1 <sup>st</sup> G2 is home team

(c)	W(a)	-	W(b)	Game for gold and silver medals
(d)	L(a)	-	L(b)	Game for bronze and fourth place

Home team in the games (c) and (d) is decided by drawing of lots.

The teams that finished third and fourth in each group play a single round-robin (counting the game already played between the two teams from the same group) to decide which teams will be relegated to the next qualifier.

The single round-robin will be played as follows:

3 <sup>rd</sup> G1	-	4 <sup>th</sup> G2	3 <sup>rd</sup> G1 is home team
3 <sup>rd</sup> G2	-	4 <sup>th</sup> G1	3 <sup>rd</sup> G2 is home team
3 <sup>rd</sup> G1	-	3 <sup>rd</sup> G2	Home team to be decided by drawing of lots
4 <sup>th</sup> G1	-	4 <sup>th</sup> G2	Home team to be decided by drawing of lots

### **Competition System B-level**

**A round robin with a final game**

### **D Promotion and relegation**

The teams that finished 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> place in the Championship **A-level** are relegated to the next Qualifier **B-level**

The winners of the groups Qualifier B-level in the following year promote to the next Championship A-level.

## 24. EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIPS JUNIORS U18

The European Championships Juniors U18 is open only for national junior teams of the federations of **WBSC Europe**

### A Period

The European Championships Juniors U18 takes place every two years.

The games for the championship will be played in one or more cities, which have a distance between them of no more than 100 kilometres. **Deviations from this must be approved in advance by the WBSC Europe Baseball Technical Commission**

### B Participants

The participants are the **10 teams** of the previous championship and the 2 first classified of the last Qualifier. **In total 12 national teams**

The junior players have the age of 16, 17 or 18 years in the year the competition is played.

This competition is played with wooden bats which are approved and mentioned on the approved bat list of **WBSC Europe Baseball**.

A maximum of 3 (three) players of 15 years will be allowed in the junior competition.

### C Competition System

#### First Phase:

The teams will be divided into two groups. Each group plays a single round-robin. At this stage the standings will be made.

Group 1	Group 2
1	1
2	2
3	3
4	4
5	5
6	6

**Second phase:**

The first two teams of each group will play cross-over game and final as follows:

(a)	1 <sup>st</sup> G1	-	2 <sup>nd</sup> G2	1 <sup>st</sup> G1 is home team
(b)	1 <sup>st</sup> G2	-	2 <sup>nd</sup> G1	1 <sup>st</sup> G2 is home team

(c)	W(a)	-	W(b)	Game for gold and silver medals
(d)	L(a)	-	L(b)	Game for bronze and fourth place

The third and fourth team of each group will play cross-over game and ranking games as follows:

(e)	3 <sup>rd</sup> G1	-	4 <sup>th</sup> G2	1 <sup>st</sup> G1 is home team
(f)	3 <sup>rd</sup> G2	-	4 <sup>th</sup> G1	1 <sup>st</sup> G2 is home team

(g)	W(a)	-	W(b)	Game for place 5 and 6
(h)	L(a)	-	L(b)	Game for place 7 and 8

The fifth and sixth team of each group will play cross-over game and ranking games as follows:

(i)	5 <sup>th</sup> G1	-	6 <sup>th</sup> G2	1 <sup>st</sup> G1 is home team
(j)	5 <sup>th</sup> G2	-	6 <sup>th</sup> G1	1 <sup>st</sup> G2 is home team

(k)	W(a)	-	W(b)	Game for place 9 and 10
(l)	L(a)	-	L(b)	Game for place 11 and 12 (these teams relegate)

## D Promotion and relegation

The winners of the groups Qualifier B-level in 2022 promote to the next Championship A-level in 2022. The 2 last teams of the E.C. will be relegated to the Qualifiers in 2023

## E Pitch count

There will be a pitch count, conform the WBSC rules for World Cups, starting from 2022 for the European Championship A-level and Qualifiers

### Pitch Count for U-18 Baseball World Cup

Each pitcher must observe a day(s) rest as follows:

- 1 - 49 no rest
- 50 - 104 1 day
- Max 105 4 days (no more than 105 pitches will be allowed)

The Technical Commissioner will ultimately determine the accurate pitch count by using all the information gathered from the official scorers plus his own work and render any final decisions on protests.

Note:

1. Pitch count is to be accurately recorded by official scorers and non-active players will be listed in a daily report.
2. Pitch count thrown by the same pitchers in games on the same day will be added to determine non-active pitchers.
3. Violating pitch count rules will cause the forfeit of the games.
4. If a pitcher reaches the max number of pitches, he is allowed to finish the same batter.

### Example of Pitch count Rule.

	DAY						
Pitcher	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Pitcher 1	25	50	X				
Pitcher 2	50	X					
Pitcher 3	105	X	X	X	X		

	= pitcher availability
55	= sample number of pitches
X	= mandatory rest day pursuant to WBSC U-18 Baseball World Cup rules

**NOTE: There is no pitch count limitations for U-23 and Women's Baseball World Cups.**



## 25. EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIPS CADETS U15

The European Championships Cadets U15 is open only for National Cadet teams of the Federations of **WBSC EUROPE**

### A Period

The European Championships Cadets U15 takes place every two years.

The games for the competition will be played in one or more cities, which have a distance between them of no more than 100 kilometres. . Deviations from this must be approved in advance by the **WBSC Europe Baseball Technical Commission**

### B Participants

The participants are the first six classified teams of the previous championship and the two first classified teams of the last Qualifier.

The Cadet players will have the age of 13, 14 or 15 years in the year the competition is played.

A maximum of 3 (three) players of 12 years will be allowed, in the cadet competition.

### C Competition System

#### First Phase:

The eight teams will be divided into two groups. Each group will play a single round-robin (3 games in 3 consecutive days).

At the end of this phase the standings will be made.

Group 1	Group 2
1	1
2	2
3	3
4	4

## **Second phase:**

The first two teams of each group will play cross-over game and final as follows:

(a)	1 <sup>st</sup> G1	-	2 <sup>nd</sup> G2	1 <sup>st</sup> G1 is home team
(b)	1 <sup>st</sup> G2	-	2 <sup>nd</sup> G1	1 <sup>st</sup> G2 is home team

(c)	W(a)	-	W(b)	Game for gold and silver medals
(d)	L(a)	-	L(b)	Game for bronze and fourth place

Home team in the games (c) and (d) is decided by drawing of lots.

The teams that finished third and fourth in each group play a single round-robin (counting the game already played between the two teams from the same group) to decide which teams will be relegated to the next qualifier.

The single round-robin will be played as follows:

3 <sup>rd</sup> G1	-	4 <sup>th</sup> G2	3 <sup>rd</sup> G1 is home team
3 <sup>rd</sup> G2	-	4 <sup>th</sup> G1	3 <sup>rd</sup> G2 is home team
3 <sup>rd</sup> G1	-	3 <sup>rd</sup> G2	Home team to be decided by drawing of lots
4 <sup>th</sup> G1	-	4 <sup>th</sup> G2	Home team to be decided by drawing of lots

## **D Promotion and relegation**

The teams that finished 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> place are relegated to the next Qualifier B-level.

The winners of the groups Qualifier B-level in the following year promote to the next Championship A-level.

## **E Pitch count**

There will be a pitch count, conform to the WBSC rules for World Cups, starting from 2021 for the European Championship A-level and starting from 2022 for the Qualifier B-level.

### **Pitch Count for U-15 Baseball World Cup**

Each pitcher must observe a day(s) rest as follows:

- 1 - 35               no rest
- 36 - 50            1 day
- 51 - 65            2 days
- 66 - 80            3 days
- max 95             4 days (no more than 95 pitches will be allowed)

The Technical Commissioner will ultimately determine the accurate pitch count by using all the information gathered from the official scorers plus his own work and render any final decisions on protests.

Note:

1. Pitch count is to be accurately recorded by official scorers and non- active players will be listed in a daily report.
2. Pitch count thrown by the same pitchers in games on the same day will be added to determine non-active pitchers.
3. A pitcher can only pitch on three (3) consecutive days if pitch count on the two previous days does not exceed thirty-five (35) pitches. If pitch count is thirty-six (36) or above on those two days, the said pitcher will require one (1) day of rest.
4. Pitcher cannot pitch four (4) consecutive days. At least one (1) day-rest is needed.
5. Violating pitch count rules will cause the forfeit of the games.
6. If a pitcher reaches the max number of pitches, he is allowed to finish the same batter.

#### **Example of Pitch count Rule.**

Pitcher	DAY						
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Pitcher 1	25	11	X				
Pitcher 2	50	X					
Pitcher 3	65	X	X				
Pitcher 4	80	X	X	X			
Pitcher 5	95	X	X	X	X		
Pitcher 6	15	20	30	X			
Pitcher 7	15	20	45	X			
Pitcher 8	15	20	62	X	X		
Pitcher 9	15	20	75	X	X	X	
Pitcher 10	15	20	91	X	X	X	X

	= pitcher availability
55	= sample number of pitches
X	= mandatory rest day pursuant to WBSC U-15 Baseball World Cup rules

## **26. QUALIFIER FOR THE EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIPS U23, JUNIORS U18, CADETS U15 AND JUVENILES U12**

### **A Competition System**

For these qualifying competitions, the **WBSC Europe Baseball** Technical Commission will decide yearly the format of the competition based upon the number of subscriptions. Based upon the number of participants the **WBSC Europe Baseball** Technical Commission can decide to play in two or more groups

In case the qualifying competitions for the Championship Juniors and/or Cadets are played in two different countries, the **WBSC Europe Baseball** Technical Commission will try to form regional groups as much as possible.

### **B Promotion and Relegation**

#### **b.1 Qualifier for the European Championships U23, Juniors U18, Cadets U15**

The winners, of the groups qualifier competitions promote to the next championship. If there is only one group the first 2 teams will promote

#### **b.2 Qualifier for the European Championships Juveniles U12**

The winner, and if the qualifier has more than 6 subscriptions, also the runner-up of the qualifier competition is promoted to the championship. In case the qualifier is played in two different countries, the winner of each group promote to the championship.

## 27. EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIPS JUVENILES U12

The European Championships Juveniles U12 is open only for national Juveniles teams of the Federations of WBSC Europe

### A Period

The European Championships Juveniles U12 takes place every year.

The games for the competition will be played in one or more cities, which have a distance between them of no more than 100 kilometres. . Deviations from this must be approved in advance by the WBSC Europe Baseball Technical Commission

### B Participants

The participants are the first 8 teams of the tournament from 2021. This tournament was played with all teams together (EC and Qualifier)

The Juveniles players will have the age of 10, 11 or 12 years in the year the competition is played.

A maximum of three players of 9 years will be allowed, in the Juveniles competition.

### C Competition System

#### First Phase:

The eight teams will be divided into two groups. Each group will play a single round-robin (3 games in 3 consecutive days).

At the end of this phase the standings will be made.

Group 1	Group 2
1	1
2	2
3	3
4	4

## Second phase:

The first two teams of each group will play cross-over game and final as follows:

(a)	1 <sup>st</sup> G1	-	2 <sup>nd</sup> G2	1 <sup>st</sup> G1 is home team
(b)	1 <sup>st</sup> G2	-	2 <sup>nd</sup> G1	1 <sup>st</sup> G2 is home team

(c)	W(a)	-	W(b)	Game for gold and silver medals
(d)	L(a)	-	L(b)	Game for bronze and fourth place

Home team in the games (c) and (d) is decided by drawing of lots.

The teams that finished third and fourth in each group play a single round-robin (counting the game already played between the two teams from the same group) to decide which teams will be relegated to the next qualifier.

The single round-robin will be played as follows:

3 <sup>rd</sup> G1	-	4 <sup>th</sup> G2	3 <sup>rd</sup> G1 is home team
3 <sup>rd</sup> G2	-	4 <sup>th</sup> G1	3 <sup>rd</sup> G2 is home team
3 <sup>rd</sup> G1	-	3 <sup>rd</sup> G2	Home team to be decided by drawing of lots
4 <sup>th</sup> G1	-	4 <sup>th</sup> G2	Home team to be decided by drawing of lots

## **D Promotion and relegation**

The teams that finished 1<sup>st</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> place are qualified for the next championship.

The team that finished 8<sup>th</sup> place will be relegated to the next qualifier.

If the qualifier has more than 6 subscriptions, also the team that finished 7<sup>th</sup> place in the championship will be relegated to the next qualifier. **The runner up of the Qualifier will then also promote to the next championship**

## E Rules of Baseball

The games will be played according these **WBSC Europe Baseball** Competition rules for Juveniles.

We point out the following dispositions:

a. Protective equipment

- use of helmets by the batter, on-deck batter and all base runners is mandatory
- each helmet shall have a double ear-flap
- all players must wear metal, fibre or plastic type cup
- catchers must wear long model chest protector with neck collar, throat guard, shin guards and catcher's helmet
- catchers must wear a mask, throat protector and catchers helmet during practice, pitcher warm-up and games
- the use of metal spikes is not allowed.

If the umpire observes any violation of these rules, he shall direct the violation to be corrected. If the violation is not corrected within a reasonable time in the umpire's judgement, the umpire shall eject the offender from the game, and disciplinary action, as appropriate, will be recommended.

b. Pitch count rule

Each pitcher must observe a day(s) rest as follows:

- 1 - 30 no rest
- 31 - 45 1 day
- 46 - 60 2 days
- 61 - 75 3 days
- max 85 4 days

The Technical Commissioner will ultimately determine the accurate pitch count by using all the information gathered from the official scorers plus his own work and render any final decisions on protests. Only the pitch count mentioned in the Daily report is the official one.

Note:

1. Pitch count is to be accurately recorded by official scorers and non active players will be listed in a daily report.
2. Pitch count thrown by the same pitchers in games on the same day will be added to determine non active pitchers.
3. Pitcher cannot pitch 3 consecutive days if pitcher's first 2 days combined exceed 30.
4. If pitcher's day 1 + day 2 exceeds 30, they require at least 1 day rest. Pitcher cannot pitch 4 consecutive days. One (1) days rest is needed.
5. Violating pitch count rules will cause the forfeit of the games.
6. If a pitcher reaches the max number of pitches, he is allowed to finish the same batter.
7. **Balk and illegal pitch do not count as a pitch**

Examples of Pitch Count Rule:

	Day					
	1	2	3	4	5	6
Pitcher 1	25	20	X			
Pitcher 2	35	X				
Pitcher 3	50	X	X			
Pitcher 4	65	X	X	X		
Pitcher 5	82	X	X	X	X	
Pitcher 6	15	12	30	X		
	= Pitcher availability					
55	= sample number of pitches					
X	= mandatory rest day					

c. Differences for Juveniles to Official Baseball Rules

**5.10** Player in the starting line-up who has been removed for a substitute, may re-enter the game once. In any position in the batting order, provided:

1. the substitute has completed one time at bat and
2. has played defensively for a minimum of 6 (six) consecutive outs.
3. a pitcher may not re-enter the game as a pitcher
4. only a player in the starting line-up may re-enter the game.

When two or more substitute players of the defensive team enter the game at the same time, the manager shall immediately before they take their position as fielders designate to the umpire in chief such player's position in the batting order and the umpire in chief shall notify the official scorer. The umpire in chief shall have the authority to designate the substitute's places in the batting order, if this information is not immediately provided.

Should injury or illness prevent, a manager from fielding 9 (nine) players the manager may, without penalty of forfeiture, replace injured or ill players with players previously in the line-up, but only if use of all other eligible players has exhausted the roster. This provision does not apply with respect to a player or players ejected from the game. If a team is unable to field 9 (nine) players for reason of ejection of a player and no eligible substitute is available, previously used players may not enter the game.

**5.06(b)(4)(I)** One base, if the batter becomes a runner on a ball four when the pitch passes the catcher and lodges in the umpire's mask or paraphernalia.

If the batter becomes a runner on a wild pitch, which entitles the runner to advance one base, the batter-runner shall be entitled to first base only.

**5.06(d) (in addition to the OBR)** When a pitcher is in contact with the pitcher's plate and in possession of the ball and the catcher is in the catcher's box ready to receive delivery of



ball, base-runners shall not leave their base until the ball has been delivered and has reached the batter.

The violation by one base runner shall affect all other base runners.

When a base runner leaves the base before the pitched ball has reached the batter and the batter does not hit the ball, the runner is permitted to continue. If a play is made on the runner and the runner is out, the out stands. If said runner reaches safely the base to which the runner is advancing, that runner must be returned to the base occupied before the pitch was made, and no out results.

- a) When a base runner leaves the base before the pitched ball reached the batter and the batter hits the ball, the base runner or runners are permitted to continue. If a play is made and the runner or runners are put out, the out or outs will stand. If not put out, the runner or runners must return to the original base or bases or the unoccupied base nearest the one that was left. In no event shall the batter advance beyond first base on a single or error, second base on a double or third base on a triple. The umpire in chief shall determine the base value of the hit ball.
- b) When any base runner leaves the base before the pitched ball reached the batter and the batter bunts or hits a ball within the infield no run shall be allowed to score. If three runners were on the bases and the batter reaches first base safely, each runner shall advance to the base beyond the one they occupied at the start of the play except the runner on third base, this runner shall be removed from the base without a run being scored.

EXCEPTION: if at the conclusion of the play there is an open base, paragraph (a) and (b) will apply.

#### **6.02(a) except 6.02(a)(5) ABROGATED**

This means: there will be no balk, only illegal pitch (quick pitch).

#### d. Schedule

No team shall be scheduled to play two games in one day unless the case warranted by exceptional circumstances, for instance: postponed games and decided by the Technical Commission. If two games involving four teams are played on the same field, the first game must be completed before the second game starts (exception under condition of rule 7.02).

#### e. Night games

Juvenile games may be played after sundown under artificial light. In any case, no inning shall start after 10.00 p.m. prevailing time. It will be held that an inning starts the moment that the third out is made, completing the preceding inning.

#### f. Field dimension

From home-plate to fence: 61 m.

Pitcher's plate: 15,20 cm. A pitching mound is mandatory.

Distance from the back of home plate (point) to pitcher's plate: 14,00 m.

From home-plate to backstop: 7,60 m.

From home-plate to second base: 25,85 m.

Distance between bases: 18,30 m.

g. Bats

The bat shall be made of wood or of other materials as it comply with the WBS specifications as written in this rule.

- It shall be a smooth, rounded stick with a constant radius at any point.
- There must be a direct line from the center of the knob to the center of the large end.
- The knob and the end plug, if any, must be firmly attached.
- The bat shall not be more than 33 inches (83.82 cm) of length.
- The diameter of a bat shall not be more than 2 5/8 inches, nor less than 2 1/4 inches.
- The bat should be labeled with a BPF (Bat Performance Factor) of 1.15 or less, if it is not made of solid wood. If the label is not legible, the bat cannot be used and shall be removed from the game.

In addition to bats with a BPF of 1.15 or less, bats which meet the new standard of USA Baseball four youth bats are also allowed. These bats have to be marked with the USA Baseball logo as shown below (logo also possible in different colors).



NOTE: An illegal bat must be removed. Any bat that has been altered shall be removed from play.

PENALTY: If a batter entering the batter's box is discovered with an illegal bat, or is discovered having used an illegal bat prior to the next player entering the batter's box, the plate umpire has to warn the manager of the offensive team, in case it would be the first violation. At the second violation the manager of the team will be ejected from the game.

If the batter hits the ball using an illegal bat he should be called out, however the manager of the defensive team may advise the plate umpire of the decision to decline the penalty and accept the play. This decision shall be communicated immediately at the end of the play.

## 28. EUROPEAN CUP AND QUALIFIER COMPETITIONS

Due to a decision taken by the WBSC Europe Executive Board on recommendation of the IOC all the club teams of Russia and Belarus are excluded of participating in the WBSC Europe tournaments in 2022 because of the aggression in Ukraine

### European Cup Competitions

The European Cups are competitions of European Baseball on the highest club level, organized by **WBSC Europe Baseball**

The European Cups are played in four categories: European Champions Cup, **Confederation** Cup, Federations Cup and Federations Cup Qualifier.

The European Cups are for National Champion teams of the highest division and/or for the runner-up of the national championship of the highest division. The National Federation decides which teams are allowed to subscribe.

#### **A**     **Period**

The Cup Competitions will normally be played during the month of June.

The games of the competitions will be played in one or more cities, which have a distance between them of no more than 100 kilometres. . **Deviations from this must be approved in advance by the WBSC Europe Baseball Technical Commission**

#### **B**     **Participants**

##### a. European Champions Cup

- Teams from federations which teams finished 1<sup>st</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> place in the European Champions Cup of the previous year.
- A team from the federation which team won the **Confederation** Cup of the previous year.

##### b. Confederation Cup

- Teams from federations which teams finished 2<sup>nd</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> place in the **Confederation** Cup of the previous year.
- A team from the federation which team finished 8<sup>th</sup> place in the European Champions Cup of the previous year.
- A team from the federation which team won the Federations Cup of the previous year.

##### c. Federations Cup

- Teams from federations which teams were not promoted to the **Confederation** Cup or relegated to the Federations Cup Qualifier due to the results of the Federations Cup of the previous year.
- A team from the federation which team finished 8<sup>th</sup> place in the **Confederation** Cup of the previous year.

- Teams from federations which teams were promoted to the Federations Cup due to the results of the Federations Cup Qualifiers of the previous year.
- d. Federations Cup Qualifiers
  - Teams from federations which teams were not promoted to the Federations Cup due to the results of the Federations Cup Qualifier of the previous year.
  - Teams from federations which teams were relegated to the Federations Cup Qualifier due to the results of the Federations Cup of the previous year.
  - Runner up of the Federations that have only one representative in the Champions Cup or **Confederation** Cup or Federations Cup,
  - Champions of all other Federations which are not participating in Champions Cup or **Confederation** Cup or Federations Cup,
  - Runner up of the best ranked Federations which are not participating in Champions Cup or **Confederation** Cup or Federations Cup.
- e. A team can only subscribe for the level of competition it is qualified for. It cannot subscribe for a lower level of competition
- f. In case a team renounces to participate it can be replaced by another team of the country concerned.
- g. The federation of the clubs which has the right to participate in one of the Cup competitions will enforce the participation of their club.
- h. In case a subscription for one of the Cup competitions does not arrive at **WBSC Europe** before the fixed date foreseen by these rules, **WBSC Europe** will warn the president of the national federation involved and consequently the team of that federation will be replaced.
- i. In case a country renounces to participate in one of the Cup competitions it will be replaced by a country qualified for the competition of the next lower level and the renouncing country (club) will go to next lower competition level for the following year.
- j. In case a country refuses to participate in the one of the Cup competitions, this country cannot organise a Cup competition the next year, unless it is the only candidate.

## **C Organizing country**

For the Cup competitions all participating countries can enter the candidature for organisation by their entitled club before November 1<sup>st</sup>. In case of more than one candidature for the same competition the **WBSC Europe Baseball** Technical Commission will, based on vast criteria, assign the organiser.

The organisers will inform **WBSC Europe Baseball**, before the 31<sup>st</sup> of January, of the exact date of the start and the end of competition and the exact date, hour and site of the Technical Meeting.

## **D Promotion-Relegation system**

- From the European Champions Cup the last ending team's federation relegates to the **Confederation Cup** in the next year.
- From the **Confederation Cup** the best placed team's federation is promoted to the European Champions Cup in the next year.
- From the **Confederation Cup** the last ending team's federation relegates to the Federations Cup in the next year.
- From the Federations Cup the best placed team's federation is promoted to the **Confederation Cup** in the next year.
- From the Federations Cup the last 1, 2, 3 or 4 team's federations relegate to the qualifier in the next year (pending on the number of pools played in the Qualifier in the same year).
- From the Federations Cup Qualifiers, the federations of the winners of each pool are promoted to the Federations Cup in the next year.

## **E Players**

### **e.1 Eligibility**

Players must have the minimum age of 15 years in the year the competition is played.

All the players participating in the European Cups shall be:

- regularly registered with their club.
- regularly registered in the national competition with their club the running year, with which they participate in the European Cup competition.

All the players mentioned on the **Final Team Roster (FTR)** are not allowed to play for another team, worldwide, **in the period 30 days prior to the competition** of the European Cups. For players mentioned on the **FTR** who play at college level in the USA there is the possibility to get a waiver from the former mentioned restriction. In order to get a waiver, the national federation has to send a list to the **WBSC Europe** office together with the **FTR**. The list has to include: name of the college player, date of birth, member of the club since when, college team in the USA.

### **e.2 Team composition**

Each team will be composed of a minimum of 12 (twelve) players and a maximum of 24 (twenty-four) players.

Teams with less than 12 (twelve) players are rejected from the competition.

### e.3 Foreign players

The participation of foreign players in the Cup competitions is regulated as follows:

The players who have a different nationality than that of the country the team represents and have a different nationality than one of the **WBSC Europe** member federations, are considered foreign players.

### e.4 Team Rosters

The limitation of foreign players on the Final Team Roster (FTR) is maximum 3 (three). The Federation **put the FTR roster in the platform my.wbse.org** and confirms herewith that the players are regularly registered according to **WBSC Europe** rules.

Teams not complying with this rule to submit the forms will pay a fine of 1.000 Euro for the European Champions Cup and **Confederation** Cup and 500 Euro for the Federations Cup and the Federations Cup Qualifier.

## F Competition system

### f.1 European Champions Cup and **Confederation** Cup

Two groups of four teams.

The competitions will start on Tuesday to end on Saturday or will start on Wednesday to end on Sunday, which means five consecutive playing days without a day of rest.

The competition system follows the rules of chapter 19.

#### **First phase:**

Each group plays a single round-robin (three games in three consecutive days). At the end of this phase the standings will be made.

#### **Second phase:**

The first two teams of each group (G) will play cross-over games and final as follows:

(a)	1 <sup>st</sup> G1	-	2 <sup>nd</sup> G2	1 <sup>st</sup> G1 is home team
(b)	1 <sup>st</sup> G2	-	2 <sup>nd</sup> G1	1 <sup>st</sup> G2 is home team

(c)	W(a)	-	W(b)	Final Game
(d)	L(a)	-	L(b)	Game for 3 <sup>rd</sup> Place

Home team in the games (c) and (d) is decided by draw of lots.

The last two teams of each group (G) will play cross-over games and game for 7<sup>th</sup> place as follows:

(e)	3 <sup>rd</sup> G1	-	4 <sup>th</sup> G2	3 <sup>rd</sup> G1 is home team
(f)	3 <sup>rd</sup> G2	-	4 <sup>th</sup> G1	3 <sup>rd</sup> G2 is home team

(g)	L(e)	-	L(f)	Game for 7 <sup>th</sup> Place
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Home team in game (g) is decided by draw of lots.

The winners of games (e) and (f) finish both 5<sup>th</sup> place, if they did not play against each other in the first phase of the tournament. If they played against each other in the first phase, the result of that game will determine 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> place of the tournament.

## f.2 Federations Cup

One pool of six teams.

The competition will start on Monday to end on Saturday, or will start on Tuesday to end on Sunday, which means six consecutive playing days without a day of rest.

The competition system follows the rules of chapter 19.

### First phase:

The teams play a single round-robin to decide all positions without a day of rest.

### Second phase:

The first two teams play one final game for the gold and silver medals. Home team will be the winner of the single round robin.

## f.3 Federations Cup Qualifiers

Up to four pools with up to six teams.

The **WBSC Europe Baseball** Technical Commission will decide on the number of pools and number of teams per pool every year pending on the number of federations that have subscribed for the Qualifiers.

The competition will start on Monday to end on Saturday or will start on Tuesday to end on Sunday, which means six consecutive playing days without a day of rest.

The competition system follows the rules of chapter 19.

**First phase:**

The teams of each pool play a single round-robin to decide all positions without a day of rest.

**Second phase:**

The first two teams of each pool play one final game for the win of the pool. Home team will be the winner of the single round robin.



## 29. ALTERNATE DETERMINATION OF CHAMPION

In case of rain during the championship round, the following will be made:

If rain disrupts the championship round before completion, all efforts will be made to determine a champion by playing only the game(s) which remain to determine the title. If a decision regarding a medal must be made without playing a game, the tie breaking criteria TQB shall apply (see art. 13 i). The same procedure will be followed for subsequent positions if necessary.

If two or more teams did not play each other, the TQB will be applied, including all the games played in the tournament, to establish the final standings.

## APPENDIX I: Six Examples of the application of the Tie Breaker Criteria

### Scenario 1:

Game 1: Team A - Team B 5 - 4  
 Game 2: Team D - Team E 9 - 1

Standings after single round robin:

Team A 3 Won, 1 Lost \*  
 Team B 3 Won, 1 Lost \*  
 Team C 2 Won, 2 Lost  
 Team D 1 Won, 3 Lost \*\*  
 Team E 1 Won, 3 Lost \*\*

\* Criterion 1: Team A finishes higher than Team B, because of the result of game 1.

\*\* Criterion 1: Team D finishes higher than Team E, because of the result of game 2.

### Scenario 2:

Game 1: Team A - Team B 5 - 4 (8 ½ innings)  
 Game 2: Team C - Team A 2 - 0 (8 2/3 innings)  
 Game 3: Team B - Team C 8 - 2 (8 ½ innings)

Standings after single round robin:

Team A 3 Won, 1 lost \*  
 Team B 3 Won, 1 lost \*  
 Team C 3 Won, 1 lost \*

\* Criterion 1: No decision between any of the teams A, B and C.

Criterion 2: Team B finishes higher than A, which finishes higher than C, because of the **TQB** in games 1, 2 and 3.

Team	Runs Scored	Offens. Innings	Ratio	Runs Allowed	Def. Innings	Ratio	TQB
A	5	17	0.2941	6	17.67	0.3396	-0.0454
B	12	17	0.7059	7	17	0.4118	0.2941
C	4	17.67	0.2264	8	17	0.4706	-0.2442

Team B: 12 runs scored in 17 offensive innings = 0.7059; 7 runs allowed in 17 defensive innings = 0.4118 → TQB = 0.2941

Team A: 5 runs scored in 17 offensive innings = 0.2941; 6 runs allowed in 17.67 defensive innings = 0.3396 → TQB = -0.0454

Team C: 4 runs scored in 17.67 offensive innings = 0.2264; 8 runs allowed in 17 defensive innings = 0.4706 → TQB = -0.2442

### **Scenario 3:**

Game 1: Team A - Team B 6 - 4 (8 ½ innings)

Game 2: Team A - Team C 0 - 2 (9 innings)

Game 3: Team B - Team C 8 - 2 (8 ½ innings)

Standings after single round robin:

Team A 3 Won, 1 lost \*

Team B 3 Won, 1 lost \*

Team C 3 Won, 1 lost \*

\* Criterion 1: No decision between any of the teams A, B and C.

Criterion 2: Team B finishes higher than A, which finishes higher than C, because of the **TQB** in games 1, 2 and 3.

Team	Runs Scored	Offens. Innings	Ratio	Runs Allowed	Def. Innings	Ratio	TQB
A	6	17	0.3529	6	18	0.3333	0.0196
B	12	17	0.7059	8	17	0.4706	0.2353
C	4	18	0.2222	8	17	0.4706	-0.2484

Team B: 12 runs scored in 17 offensive innings = 0.7059 8 runs allowed in 17 defensive innings = 0.4706 → TQB = 0.2353

Team A: 6 runs scored in 17 offensive innings = 0.3529; 6 runs allowed in 18 defensive innings = 0.3333 → TQB = 0.0196

Team C: 4 runs scored in 18 offensive innings = 0.2222; 8 runs allowed in 17 defensive innings = 0.4706 → TQB = -0.2484

### **Scenario 4**

Game 1: Team A - Team B 3 - 4 (11 2/3 innings)

Game 2: Team A - Team C 8 - 5 ( 9 2/3 innings)

Game 3: Team B - Team C 3 - 7 (9 innings)

Standings after single round robin:

Team B 3 Won, 1 Lost \*

Team C 3 Won, 1 Lost \*  
 Team A 3 Won, 1 Lost \*

\* Criterion 1: No decision between any of the teams A, B and C.

Criterion 2: Team C finishes higher than A, which finishes higher than B, because of the TQB in games 1, 2 and 3.

Team	Runs Scored	Of. Innings	Ratio	Runs Allowed	Def. Innings	Ratio	TQB
A	11	21.67	0.5076	9	21.67	0.4153	0.0923
B	7	20.67	0.3387	10	21	0.4762	-0.1375
C	12	19	0.6316	11	18.67	0.5892	0.0424

Team A: 11 runs scored in 21.67 offensive innings = 0.5076; 9 runs allowed in 21.67 defensive innings = 0.4153 → TQB = 0.0923

Team C: 12 runs scored in 19 offensive innings = 0.6316; 11 runs allowed in 18.67 defensive innings = 0.5892 → TQB = 0.0424

Team B: 7 runs scored in 20.67 offensive innings = 0.3387; 10 runs allowed in 21 defensive innings = 0.4762 → TQB = -0.1375

### Scenario 5:

Game 1: Team A - Team B 7 - 4 (8 ½ innings), in earned runs 3 - 4  
 Game 2: Team B - Team C 7 - 4 (8 ½ innings), in earned runs 5 - 2  
 Game 3: Team C - Team A 7 - 4 (8 ½ innings), in earned runs 5 - 1

Standings after single round robin:

Team A 3 Won, 1 Lost \*  
 Team B 3 Won, 1 Lost \* \*\*  
 Team C 3 Won, 1 Lost \* \*\*

\* Criterion 1: No decision between any of the teams A, B and C.

Criterion 2: No decision between any of the teams A, B and C.

Team	Runs Scored	Offens. Innings	Ratio	Runs Allowed	Def. Innings	Ratio	TQB
A	11	17	0.6471	11	17	0.6471	0.0000
B	11	17	0.6471	11	17	0.6471	0.0000
C	11	17	0.6471	11	17	0.6471	0.0000

Criterion 3: Team B finishes higher than Team C and Team A because of the TQB in games 1, 2 and 3.

Team	Earned Runs Scored	Of. Innings	Ratio	Earned Runs Allowed	Def. Innings	Ratio	ER-TQB
A	4	17	0.2353	9	17	0.5294	-0.2941
B	9	17	0.5294	5	17	0.2941	0.2353
C	7	17	0.4118	6	17	0.3529	0.0588

Team B: 9 ERuns scored in 17 offensive innings = 0.5294; 5 ERuns allowed in 17 defensive innings = 0.2941 → TQB = 0.2353

Team C: 7 ERuns scored in 17 offensive innings = 0.4118; 6 ERuns allowed in 17 defensive innings = 0.3529 → TQB = 0.0588

Team A: 4 ERuns scored in 17 offensive innings = 0.2353; 9 ERuns allowed in 17 defensive innings = 0.5294 → TQB = -0.2941

### Scenario 6:

Game 1:	Team A - Team B	5 - 4 (9 innings)
Game 2:	Team B - Team C	5 - 0 (8 ½ innings)
Game 3:	Team C - Team D	8 - 4 (8 ½ innings)
Game 4:	Team D - Team E	9 - 0 (8 ½ innings)
Game 5:	Team E - Team A	5 - 2 (8 ½ innings)
Game 6:	Team A - Team C	1 - 3 (9 innings)
Game 7:	Team B - Team D	3 - 5 (9 innings)
Game 8:	Team C - Team E	1 - 3 (9 innings)
Game 9:	Team D - Team A	0 - 8 (9 innings)
Game 10:	Team E - Team B	3 - 7 (9 innings)

Standings after single round robin:

Team A	2 Won, 2 Lost *	
Team B	2 Won, 2 Lost *	
Team C	2 Won, 2 Lost *	**
Team D	2 Won, 2 Lost *	**
Team E	2 Won, 2 Lost *	

\* Criterion 1: No decision between any of the teams A, B, C, D and E.

Criterion 2: Teams B finishes higher than Team A, C, D and E because of the TQB in games 1 thru 10.

Team	Runs Scored	Of. Innings	Ratio	Runs Allowed	Def. Innings	Ratio	TQB
A	16	36	0.4444	12	35	0.3429	0.1016

B	19	35	0.5429	13	36	0.3611	0.1817
C	12	35	0.3429	13	35	0.3714	-0.0286
D	18	35	0.5143	19	35	0.5429	-0.0286
E	11	35	0.3143	19	35	0.5429	-0.2286

Team B: 19 Runs scored in 35 offensive innings = 0.5429; 13 Runs allowed in 36 defensive innings = 0.3611 → TQB = 0.1817

Team A: 16 Runs scored in 36 offensive innings = 0.4444; 12 Runs allowed in 35 defensive innings = 0.3429 → TQB = 0.1016

Team C: 12 Runs scored in 35 offensive innings = 0.3429; 13 Runs allowed in 35 defensive innings = 0.3714 → TQB = **-0.0286**

Team D: 18 Runs scored in 35 offensive innings = 0.5143; 19 Runs allowed in 35 defensive innings = **0.5429** → TQB = **-0.0286**

Team E: 11 Runs scored in 35 offensive innings = 0.3143; 19 Runs allowed in 35 defensive innings = **0.5429** → TQB = -0.2286

\*\* Criterion 1: Team C finishes higher than Team D, because of the result of game 3.

## APPENDIX II: WBSC Europe Media guidelines

Version April 2018

World Baseball and Softball Confederation Europe Media Guidelines

### Goals

Our community is growing and baseball and softball are getting more and more attention in media. To make sure our sport can position itself better, we have to make sure the appearance of our highly valued products, our tournaments and leagues, our teams and players, our clubs and federations, position themselves in a more professional manner. This of course, asks for a lot of effort, but the time and dedication we put into this is an investment in our growth and our future.

Organizing events takes thousands of hours of work, oftentimes of volunteers supporting our efforts within whole baseball and softball Europe. To make sure these hours of work are valued, we need to work to present those efforts to the media landscape and within our continental community.

These media guidelines should give federations and LOCs guidance on how media activities at tournaments can be executed. Especially for smaller tournaments, a lack of budget is often a factor that hinders public relation and media activities. With these guidelines the WBSC Europe's media commission wants to give guidance to smaller LOCs and help development and improvement of media activities at every tournament within baseball and softball Europe.

### Corporate Design

#### Vision

We want every tournament to have design standards, which form a so-called corporate design (CD). This is in order to assure the recognition value of each tournament, but also our sport within Europe. Wherever communication takes place, letters to teams, posters, signs, event design, schedules, merchandise or tickets, everything shall be design according to the rules of these style specifications.

As the recognition value of our sport is an important factor to grow our community within Europe, we want to bring special attention to this topic. From 2019 on, WBSC Europe will provide corporate designs for the major tournaments. For future years, minor changes, in order to specify the design for the host of the tournament, will be implemented, but the recognition value will remain. This measure will help us in to keep up growth of publicity, but take away a burden from LOCs. For smaller tournaments, the WBSC Europe Media Commission will offer its support, creating a stylesheet with a master for corporate design.

Starting no later than 4 months before a tournament, the personalized design shall be officially presented. Additionally, the planning of media communication regarding the hosting of tournaments needs to start even earlier.

#### Guidelines

It is important to improve the professional appearance of our sport on all levels. A coherent design of graphical impressions is the first step; the second step is to push the brand of baseball and softball in Europe. Therefore, the logo and design of WBSC Europe needs to be part of posters, flyers and other official releases.

As a minimum, a logo, a specific font and a set of colors need to be defined. Additionally, it is strongly recommended to define a stylesheet with stylistic elements, flags/logos of the participating countries or teams and possibly to define a slogan and the tournament hashtag according to WBSC Europe's nomenclature.

A corporate design can contain the following elements:

- Stylesheet and guideline
- Logo
- Secondary stylistic elements, illustrations
- Fonts
- 3-5 defined colors
- Tournament slogan
- Set of flags of participants, matching the corporate design

By standard, the following graphics shall be made available:

- Official Logo (PNG, PDF, min 500x500px)
- Simple logo – 2 colors – for printings (PNG, PDF, min 500x500)
- Banner with logo, official title, hashtag and slogan (PNG, PDF, 1200x675, landscape)
- Tournament Schedule (PNG, PDF, 1200x675, landscape or portrait)
- Flyer and posters for promotion (DIN A2/A3)
- Template for video inserts, lower thirds, game frames (Photoshop or GIMP file)
- Intro-Video master for video production
- Letterhead (Word Doc)
- Master for presentation (PowerPoint)
- Graphics for T-Shirt, other tournament merchandising and promotion material



## Best Practice Examples



## Media Assets

Modern communication offers numerous different ways to transfer information. Communicating is much more than transferring information, so we also need to focus on the impression our output

make. What makes media communication even more complex is that we also have different target audiences, and each of them is different for each tournament.

## **Media Content Types**

### **Media Guide**

A Media Guide is a standard asset for media relations. It should be a collection of information, designed for journalists. Therefore, facts, potential stories and background information on baseball and softball in Europe/in your country, about the city/cities the tournament takes place in, the local club etc., should be put together in a booklet. Additionally to this, a selection of press photos and the corporate design elements should be offered on a server for download. When covering the local team or the national team, the local team's roster and staff should be added to such a media guide.

For bigger international tournaments it will make sense to produce a media guide not only in your local language, but also in English. Make sure to share the media guide timely with your media contribution list and also work together with WBSC Europe media commission in order to share it via their international contacts.

### **Articles**

Some might say, 'writing articles is old-school'. Fact is that there is a demographical difference how people consume media. Still, for major tournaments, articles such as announcements, game reports or daily summaries are strongly recommended. While youth players may not be your main target group for articles, media and external interest groups definitely are. In general, articles also help to document the event and offer content on demand.

The effort in writing an article can easily be combined with press releases. However, one has to be aware that media/press can be interested in your tournament for a variety of reasons. While a magazine focusing on our sports wants more details on the games itself, a local newspaper might only be interested in the event itself and the success of the local team. It is the media team's job to analyze these interests and find ways to target those.

A focus needs to be set via which channel articles should be spread. While social media platforms are traditionally the channels with little text content, articles are better placed on websites or sent as newsletters and press releases. Links to those contents can later be shared on social media.

### **Introductions**

Before a tournament starts, introducing your event, the venue, and the participating teams makes sense for a lot of different reasons. It is the first chance to introduce the LOC's and the media team's enthusiasm and give the local- and the participants' community alike a glimpse of your work. If fans see that you communicate at an early stage, they will stick to you and follow your posts through the whole course of the event.

Those introductions can have various formats. While interviews, as videos or in written form, is one classic option, stories about the participating teams, side events, program or special guests are other great options to add to the communication plan. Also pictures, including the corporate design, are an easy way to fill up your social media streams with attractive content.

### **Press Conferences**

Conducting press conferences is a sensitive issue. While press conferences are a situation where a media team can fully prove its competences and organizational skills, gather a lot of information and footage for later days. It is also a critical moment for the presentation of your tournament to a media audience.

Depending on the conditions and the relations your LOC, the federation and the local community has to journalists, personal invitations and incitements might be necessary.

## Video

A rising format, especially on social media and the internet are moving pictures. It gives us the chance to transport personalities, to convey emotions and bring a special view on topics during a tournament to the audience. What is important here is adapting your content to the framework that are given within a LOC. Post-game interviews are easily filmed and uploaded to Youtube, Facebook or other channels. Live videos make it even easier to push content onto social media platforms. More labor intensive is edited material, either of in-game highlight clips, edited interviews or daily summaries. For this, not only additional video footage and personnel is necessary, also equipment and know-how.

The focus on video content should be informative and captivating at the same time. It should be oriented towards an international audience and cover also other teams than the local heroes. For video coverage, experienced personnel are of high value. Within communities around an LOC, often-times people with know-how can help out carry out the task. Still, a few hints are given here in order to guarantee a necessary standard quality for video material.

Built-in cameras in smart phones and tablets already provide a quality that is good enough to be used on the internet. This makes everybody a potential camera-man or woman, making video coverage much easier and more flexible than before

A last option that should be pointed out here is the possibility to create short Instagram videos. Within this platform - especially popular among young community members - short and catchy content is expected. The format gives various options and is well accepted.

## Interviews

Interviews can be conducted and covered in different ways for different purposes. The purpose can be either getting a full story out the discussion, a video, getting a feeling for the counterpart's approach to the tournament or a simple quote for articles later on, or collecting information in general. Interviews give the possibility to cover exactly what somebody said or wrote and help personify content. The audience gets the chance to get to know players, coaches or other representatives better and start to develop sympathy for those people. Lastly, giving sponsors, the host or politicians the chance to present themselves during interviews can be a nice gesture to thank them for their efforts and their support for the tournament.

In order to introduce different participants (see introductions bellow), an option is to send a set of questions to the team's management or media representative ahead of the tournaments. Those introductions can be posted as articles or on social media streams, using either the full answers or quotes the teams delivered.

The first chances to get participants in front of a camera are a pre-tournament press conference or interviews during the arrival of teams. A question on their first impression can help you introduce the facilities and the efforts you put into the preparation of the facilities for the tournament.

Classical interview scenarios at a tournament are pre-game interviews and post-game interviews. Again, the purpose can be different, but the focus on what a potential audience wants to hear versus what information needs to be transmitted, will decide on the questions and the later outcome of the interview.

## Pictures

Great photos are always well received. What is important here is to offer a high quality selection that focuses on the needs of the different target audiences. While the community might want to see great pictures of players, with action, close plays and emotions, sponsors might have a specific eye on being present on those pictures. Local fans and representatives of the municipality might have a special interest in seeing themselves or the tournament location in pictures.

For appropriate quality it is recommended to hire a professional photographer.

### Social Media Posts

Everybody knows how to post a tweet or share a video. But social media management is tricky. For running social media accounts for tournament, the goal needs to be as authentic as possible and finding the right dose in information, but also in the tone of the messages. Tone is important to attracting the right demographic, but the right content is also crucial to keeping them interested. In social media, everything is about engagement. Moving on this fine line is tough, but when following a set of rules your media team defines before going live, your audience will get used to your way of communicating. Further out, it can even become a unique feature of you and your tournament.

As mentioned before, also using your corporate design is an important feature to develop recognition. Looking at other factors of professional social media management, it is recommended to use defined hashtags. Another addition to a great social media post is adding emojis and flags of the participants. Last but not least, linking other social media accounts to posts is easy, but as important, as it creates the attention and the engagement that is necessary.

### Best Practice Examples

#### “Counting the days” – 60, 30, 15, 10, 5...

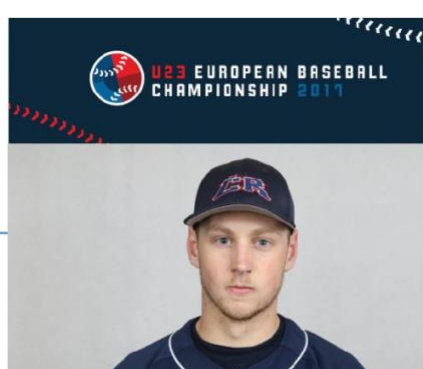
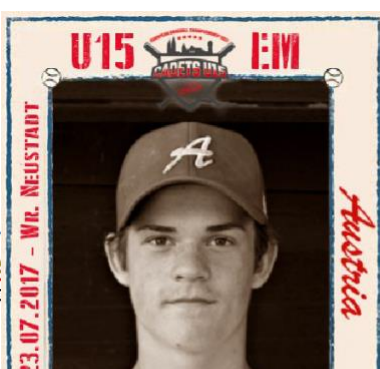
This is a typical way of addressing the audience and starts pleasant anticipation for fans, players and community. Again, the tournament corporate design should be applied here in order to spread the logo, slogan and hashtag with the audience. To create pictures for this, the logo can be arranged differently - or countdown numbers can be added. The media team could also for example use pictures of players' numbers on their backs to count the days until the tournament finally starts.

The design-part of this measure can be done all at once at an early stage. The pictures and posts can easily be scheduled with social media tools or directly at the social media network of your confidence.



### Introductions

For every tournament you should introduce playing fields, staff, the host club(s), the city, sights, conduct interviews, introduce participants, etc. When doing so, share content from one platform on others. One to two posts/articles per week should be sufficient, but definitely try to offer regular content. Watermarks with logo, lower-thirds, hashtags, etc. should be used, to share the tournament's CD with the audience.



## Press Conferences

A kick-off press conference can be a very good measure to present a tournament to the media. While not for every tournament a big press conference is suitable (due to low media interest), the media team should still consider preparing a pre-tournament press release and produce content for the different tournament media channels. A PC is also a good time for getting players or coaches in front of a camera in a prepared setting for interviews (video), pictures, etc.

Try to make the press conference a positive experience for everybody. You want players and representatives to perform well in order to present our sport as well as possible to the media. This also goes for journalists. Since baseball and softball are not yet as popular in Europe, sports journalists should still get the feeling that we work on a professional level by delivering high quality stories for their work and through willingness to support and help them.

Therefore, background information, press photos - potentially put together in a media guide - should be offered to reporters when inviting them. Shortly before the day of the press conference all material should be included in a reminder, but also as a printed version at the event itself. Try to give journalists the chance to get in contact with players and coaches and offer opportunities for private interview sessions.

Another strong recommendation is to offer refreshments for all your media guests, such as coffee, snacks and drinks.

## Media Accreditations and Area

Not only players, officials and staff should be accredited, also media representatives should receive accreditations. On one hand, this helps to keep an overview on which journalists are present, on the other hand will it help to give them access to restricted areas, such as a media tent or photo booths.

Before handing out accreditations, make sure to let them fill out a contact sheet and a waiver, which should define liability exclusions for their equipment and themselves, but also define rules for journalists on where they are allowed to go and when, and how and where they are able to reach out to players and managers.

It is also recommended to set up certain spots around the field(s) for photographers or cameramen. While photographers often ask for free sight without disrupting fences, you might make special areas or photo booths available to them. Off the field, an area such as a media room or a media tent where journalists can quietly work is recommended. A special area for interviews, including a branded interview wall further helps professional appearance and design branding.

Make sure that there is one person of your media team available at all times. Not only will

questions come up, but also building relationships with journalist will help you in the future for local events or games as well. Refreshments and little snacks should be offered to the media.



### Conducting Interviews (Videos)

For interviews in general, preparation is the key to success. Sometimes, after games e.g., your interview counterpart is not defined until shortly before the interview starts. Still, background information on the team, the organization, a potential course of a game or previous tournament games are important and will give you more options and security during the interview. Before the interview questions are defined, it often helps to set general goals for the interview: What do I want my interviewee to tell the audience? What potential emotions could he or she transfer? What addition can their answers make to the video in general? With this information, it will also be easier to find the right questions. Making notes and formulating the whole question in advance will help conduct the interview. Additionally, thinking about the development of the dialog and the sequence of the questions might be a factor to a successful interview.

While the digital quality of videos might be quite high already, exposure, sound, camera work, and other factors are still to be addressed. Preparation is as important as the interview itself. A quiet place, away from the crowd, is important to assure no noise interference. The background of the video should be selected, potentially use a wall with sponsors or a roll-up with your tournament branding. The next important factor is light. Players often wear hats, which might drop shade onto their faces. Make sure to either turn the way their faces can be seen well or think about additional lighting.

As important as the technical preparation is, your interviewee will be the one in focus of your interview, so don't forget to address him as well. Since a positive interview mostly helps both sides, having a short warm-up phase off-camera helps to run a smooth interview later out. You can even let them know what the questions will be, in order to reduce nervousness. If you handle rather unexperienced interviewees, you might do a quick "style check" and position your counter

When the interview starts, remember to introduce your interviewee. While interviewing, try to stay positive or even smile. This will help your counterpart to stay positive as well and enjoy the interview even more. When the interviewee answers the questions, try not to interrupt him or her. Silent affirmations, to show understanding, are ok, while noises from your end are to be avoided. When the answer is over, wait a moment before asking the next question. Both hints will make it easier to edit and cut the video at a later point.

It is advisable to hold the press conference before or after the technical meeting. Teams should be informed in advance to send representatives (managers or players). Communicating a certain dress code, such as wearing the team's jersey or suite up, might be an idea. The press room should be set up accordingly - banners, roll-ups (all branded), sponsors etc. should be put up. Refreshments for media and representatives as well as interviewees are advisable.



## Pictures

The spectrum of pictures is wide, from quick social media material all the way to professional sports photography. Again, the presentation of pictures is key. Addressing a younger audience might require a different editing and selection of pictures on Instagram or Facebook than pictures for mainstream media press releases require. The original quality of the pictures for these purposes is not essential. Press representatives may ask for pictures in high quality and resolution, preselected for their needs.

On a website or a Facebook gallery, a bigger selection of pictures can be offered. All pictures posted on social media shall have a tournament logo watermark and a copyright sign for the photographers. Don't use watermarks on the press pictures. Rename the pictures, mention players and countries, but also the photographers name in the file title.

Our recommendation is to have an official tournament photographer. Often a big variety of pictures are useful. You need to make sure to communicate your needs, agree on motives you later need, such as team pictures, shake hands of team managers, the crowd in the stands, action pictures of specific players, etc.

## Game Frames

To announce games, to promote Play-by-Play or livestream and to share results, each game can be endorsed, using game frames. A game frame is a picture, either a prepared photo or directly from the playing field, with a frame in corporate design, including team/country names, flags and after the game also the results. The media team shall prepare a template, using graphic software.

For the picture posted in the game frame shortly before a game, try to use a picture on which both teams are represented, such as players during the anthem lined up, coaches shaking hands, fans of both teams, team ware (hats, pins, jerseys,...), starting pitchers, etc. If time allows, pictures used can also be edited via photoshop in advance.

For the game frame showing the result of the game, use action photos or try to catch emotions of the winning team, great plays, slides and other action.

Engagement of our community is important. Especially to get in contact with the fans of our players, an easy way to do so is letting players or teams take over a social media account for a day or a certain time. Follow them during a day of practice and let them introduce themselves. This especially helps promoting an event to the local community of our sport.

You can announce that you will do so and ask the players to share this before. You can define a hash-tag, so everybody outside understands that this is a special thing.

If you let players link themselves on a picture, it will help you grow your social media audience.

## Platforms

### Vision

The vision for media platforms for hosting tournaments is defined as a professional and target group oriented communication platform, that not only varies its format and content to the audience's need, but also is a strong communicator to the baseball and softball community and media alike.

As mentioned in the corporate design section, multiple channels can be used, but need to be selected depending on the capabilities of the LOC's media team and the expectable audience.

### Guidelines

For the major tournaments, the social media platforms will be reused. Therefore, WBSC Europe will hand over access rights to the LOC's media team for the course of the tournament. This will not only help to keep the appearance of each tournament, but also to keep the existing audience. Additionally to the potential social media platforms, a page section on WBSC Europe's website will be available for each tournament to present specific information about the tournament.

If there you host a tournament that is not among the major tournaments of WBSC Europe, it is not recommended to create specific social media accounts for only one tournament. We rather propose to use your federation's or club's account instead and use a hashtag for all event posts as a branding. This will help your existing account grow and add international community. If you still want to have an own appearance on social media, having a Facebook event with the option to post regular updates is advisable.

Many potential channels are out there that could be used, but for a strong position of your media team it is wise to select only a few, for which your media team can guarantee quality content throughout the whole tournament. As a standard, using Facebook is strongly recommended. In order to get connected with media and international partners, Twitter is the network you definitely should approach. If you are hosting a youth tournament, especially the use of Instagram can be a big winner for your media activities. If you are planning to publish videos on a regular basis, Facebook is a good start. If your club or your federation has an own YouTube channel, it is recommended to use this.



## Media Team

### Vision

The media team is a sub organization of a tournament's LOC, focusing on public relations and external communication of the event. The media team is led by the media manager, who should also be part of the LOC. Other necessary team members depend on the tasks that need to be covered, but generally should manage social media accounts, write articles, and work on graphical output and video. Cameraman and photographers, potentially also editors for video material

The media team should set its own goals, which should always be integrateable into the LOC's major goals.

### Recommendation

The recommendation of WBSC Europe's media commission for the media team is to form a core media team early enough and think about goals and capacities of your team before and during the tournament. There are multiple things that can be done in order to promote and communicate the event, but everybody should be aware that it takes a lot of effort to fulfill those tasks.

The media team not only needs to work together with the LOC, be updated on their plans and coordinate marketing action, but also exchange with WBSC Europe's media commission. When setting up a team, it is recommended to define a media manager who leads the group. For the phase before the tournament start, a core team should be formed - during the event; additional team members should be added.

Coordination between all team members is key to the work of a media team. Make sure to structure responsibilities and tasks. This goes for the time prior the tournament, but even more during the tournament itself. It is strongly recommended to conduct daily huddles and to create a schedule for your tasks during a game and during the whole day.

Before the tournament kicks off, all participants should also be addressed by the media team. One reason for this is to collect links the clubs or nation's media streams, another one might be to get in contact with their media manager or simply collect information about the teams. Another important background on this is to get the participants onboard, not only their media managers, but with this also their communities. At the technical meeting it is advisable to ask the technical commissioner for a few minutes. You can use this time to introduce you and your team and their responsibilities, but also to present your intentions for the tournament.

### Best Practice and Examples

The core of the media team for each tournament shall be set up at least six months before the start of the competition. Preparation meetings to coordinate the communication and promotion plan should be held on a regular basis. In cooperation with the WBSC Europe Media commission and/or a graphic designer, the corporate design for the tournament need to be worked out.

Additionally the following two examples were worked out:

#### Scenario 1 – Major tournament

- media manager (MM)

Head of the media team, representative within the LOC, coordinating with WBSC Europe's TCs, ...

- media and press coordination(MC)

Communication with and representative for journalists during tournament, communication plan...

- photographers (one per field at all time)
- social media manager (SM)

Creating and preparing social media posts, replying to comments and questions, ...

- additional team member(s) (TM)

For various tasks, such as selecting pictures, editing/cutting videos, graphics, accreditations, ...

- TV/ livestream coordinator (TV)

Coordinating between external TV companies and media team, input delivery, interviews, ...

#### Scenario 2 – Small tournament

- media manager

Head of the media team, representative within the LOC, coordinating with WBSC Europe's TCs, Communication with and representative for journalists during tournament, communication plan...

- team member

Creating and preparing social media posts, selecting pictures, live interviews, graphics, accreditations, ...

- photographer

## Communication Plan

### Vision

Setting up a communication plan for the tournament is a key exercise the media team needs to cope with. There are two different phases that need to be addressed. The first one is the time prior the event, focusing on how to get the audiences' and media's attention. This phase will leave a lot of time for scheduling, preparing and creating the planned measures. The second phase is the daily coverage of the event, starting from the technical meeting until the last out of the final and beyond. The focus at this phase is content and information. While phase one prepares and teases your target audiences for the upcoming event, phase two will feed them with your

When setting up your communication plan, the media team's goals and intentions will be the cornerstones within the plan. Every measure needs to be prepared. From the presentation of the logo, all the way to the first pitch of the tournament, all posts, articles or releases follow an arc of suspense.

### Recommendations

When putting together a communication plan for the phase prior the event, make sure to find a suitable framework, fitting the number of posts you want to feature and the capacity of your media team. Although creating attention for the tournament is one of the main goals of this phase, you have to keep in mind; you don't want to annoy your audience by repeating content. A second goal that comes along at this phase is, you want to create awareness of your event, its corporate design and with this, show the importance of this tournament to your partners, municipals and potential sponsors.

As mentioned before, 4 months in advance is a good point in time to start communication and sharing regular information with teams, fans, media and the community. Presenting your corporate design at a press conference with representatives of the municipals, your federation and local media might be a great chance for a kick-off event. Making a story out of this event helps creating attention at a very early stage. As mentioned above, introducing your facility, your club or federation, either as short stories, interviews or simple pictures, accompanied by your corporate design are the classic examples that can be given here. Also counting the days until the tournament starts is not a new idea, but really easy to implement.

Everybody who ever worked with a LOC during a tournament knows that this time is really intense, and sometimes marked by sleepless nights and stress. Again, preparation and planning is everything. Setting up a communication plan does not only mean to define things you want to get done during a day, it also means timely scheduling the tasks and distributing responsibilities. For some content ty-pes, preparing masters or templates will save you a lot of time. This should be done early enough before the tournament starts. For instance, when adding watermarks to your photos for a gallery, you can easily set up so-called bulk processing. For press releases, set up your distribution list and template beforehand.

When scheduling your daily activities, you not only need to adapt your plan on the game schedule, you also need to keep in mind that social media networks work differently. While Twitter and Instagram can be used without limitation, Facebook will restrict your reach, since their "pipeline" will limit the audience, unless you pay for it. Therefore, the major messages you want to bring along need to be defined. You might need to do sacrifices, leave some posts out.

### Best Practice and Examples

As an example we give you the scenario of a major tournament. For a smaller tournament you can scale down the activities your media team wants to set and is capable doing in the course of the tournament. These plans are for orientation and depending on know-how and experience, some additional tasks might be needed, some might be irrelevant.

Communication plan during a major tournament – Scenario 1

- Before the start of the tournament

<b>Task</b>	<b>When</b>	<b>Who?</b>	<b>Media</b>
<b>Define team members</b>	30 min before game	MM	Photoshop/Editor
<b>Hold kick-off meeting</b>	10-5 min before game	team	
<b>Get in touch with WBSC Europe's media commission</b>	At game time	MM	
<b>Prepare corporate design</b>	Innings 1-3	MM, TM	
<b>Invitation to press conference</b>	1-2 weeks before PC	CT	Press release
<b>Logo presentation, press conference, ticket launch info</b>	5 months before event	Media team	FB/Tw/Insta
<b>Press release on presentation</b>	After PC	CT	Press release/Website
<b>Activate social media channels</b>	After PC	SM	FB/Tw/Insta
<b>Design "counting the days"</b>	4 months before event	TM	Photoshop/editor
<b>Scheduling "counting the days"</b>	ongoing	SM	FB/Tw/Insta
<b>Promote ticket sale</b>	ongoing	SM	FB/Tw/Insta, Website
<b>Present venue, LOC, infos...</b>	4 months before event +	SM	FB/Tw/Insta
<b>Run introduction interviews</b>	3 months before event	MM/CT	Facebook
<b>Reach out to participants &amp; gather information/photos</b>	3 months before event	MM	Email
<b>Introduce participants</b>	6 weeks before event +	SM	FB/Tw/Insta
<b>Press Release on tournament Include stories, home roster,</b>	4 weeks before event	CT	Press release

<b>photos, accreditation infos</b>			
<b>Repost program &amp; schedule</b>	4 weeks before event	SM	FB/Tw/Insta
<b>Introduce home team's players</b>	2 weeks before event	TM/SM	FB/Tw/Insta
<b>Tournament press conference</b>	1 day before event	team	

*Abbreviations for team members see Media Team – Scenario 1*

During a game day:

<b>Task</b>	<b>When</b>	<b>Who?</b>	<b>Media</b>
<b>Write preview</b>	Night before actual day	CT	Website/Social media
<b>Create day schedule graphic</b>	Night before actual day	TM	Photoshop/Editor
<b>Hold meeting/talk with TC/LOC</b>	Morning	MM	
<b>Daily huddle</b>	1 hour before game 1	Media team	
<b>Post preview and/or schedule</b>	Morning, before game1	SM	FB/Tw/Insta
<b>Run media activities for games (see below)</b>	30 min before game time	Media team	
<b>Prepare press conference</b>	During game 1	CT, TM	
<b>Run press conference</b> <i>If applicable</i>	Between game 1 and 2	CT, TV, MM, TM	Facebook Live, YouTube;
<b>Instagram features</b>	During the day	SM	Instagram
<b>Create day result graphic</b>		TM	Photoshop/Editor
<b>Write day summary</b>	During/after final game	CT	Website
<b>Send press release</b>	When day summary done	CT	Press release
<b>Select interview/PC partners</b>	End of day	CT, MM	
<b>Plan daily activities</b>	End of day	MM, CT	

- During a game:

<b>Task</b>	<b>When</b>	<b>Who?</b>	<b>Media</b>
<b>Prepare game graphics</b>	30 min before game	PM	Photoshop/Editor
<b>Take picture for game frame</b>	10-5 min before game	P1	
<b>Post link + game frame</b>	At game time	SM	FB/Tw/Insta
<b>Take pictures</b>	Innings 1-3	P1	
<b>Select pictures of innings 1-3</b>	4th inning	TM	Media Server
<b>Instagram posts</b>	During game	SM	Instagram
<b>Add watermarks to pictures</b>	When pictures selected	TM	Photoshop/Editor
<b>Create and post album</b>	When watermarks done	SM	FB/Gallery Platform
<b>Post result / game updates</b>	During game	SM	Tw
<b>Preparing game summary</b>	Last innings	MC	
<b>Select picture for game frame</b>	Last inning	TM	Media Server
<b>Prepare game frame (final)</b>	Last inning	TM	Photoshop/Editor
<b>Select/prepare for interviews</b>	Last innings	TV	
<b>Post game frame (final)</b>	After last out	SM	FB/Tw/Insta
<b>Conduct video(s)</b>	After teams shake hands	TV	
<b>Select pictures of 2nd half</b>	After teams shake hands	TM	Media Server
<b>Upload pictures of 2nd half</b>	After selection/WM	SM	FB/Gallery Platform
<b>Cut interview video(s)</b>	After interviews	TM/TV	
<b>Post interview video(s)</b>	After interviews are cut	SM	Facebook
<b>Finish game summary</b>	After game ends	CT	Website/press release

## Minimum Standards

Together with its national federations, WBSC Europe's wants to present its tournaments in a more professional way. Giving the tournaments and events a new and unified look, will help us present ourselves more professional throughout. To guarantee a certain level of media communication, a set of standard was defined which shall be followed by every WBSC Europe tournament.

## Corporate Designs for Tournaments

Each tournament needs a basic design, which follows through the complete graphical appearance. A logo, a font and a selection of colors are mandatory and need to be set in an early stage of the tournament organization. On letter heads, posters and all other written communication material, the WBSC Europe logo and possible sponsors need to be present and approved by the WBSC Europe Media Commission before publishing. For some tournaments, WBSC Europe will provide a full corporate design, which can be adapted according to local characteristics.

## Social Media and Online Platforms

We want our community to grow, also online. For the main tournaments, WBSC Europe will provide tournament Facebook pages, which will be adapted for the specific tournament, in order to keep the gained users of previous tournaments. LOCs shall manage those accounts before and during the event. For all other tournaments we recommend to use accounts of the national federation or the local club in order to push the existing account and not to lose fans when determining event accounts. For other social media platforms, such as Instagram or Twitter, it is also recommended to either use the provided accounts and/or use the national federation's or club's accounts.

As content, engagement posts in order to promote the upcoming event, such as counting the days or presenting the participating teams, the schedule etc. Contacting the participants and trying to engage their fans is also recommended. During the event, the following coverage is expected of LOCs:

## Media Content

It is in the interest of everybody within our community, to spread the seed about our grooming sport. Tournaments are a perfect setting in order to share this sport not only with new resident fans, but also to local, up to national media. Additionally, your federation and your clubs get the chance to present itself to the whole European baseball and softball community. For tournaments, all media rights are owned by WBSC Europe.

To make sure, fans from all around Europe can expect a standard of information presented to them, the following assets are required:

As minimum communication assets, daily best-of photo selections, final scores (e.g. game frames), updates regarding delays or weather reports and summaries are defined.

Engagement via social media and press can be seen as great chance. The WBSC Media commission offers guidance and workshops for these topics, in order to make your media communication efforts as successful as possible.

## Photos

It is expected, that LOCs arrange outside the playing field for photographers and camera personal, that are restricted to them only and offer an unhindered view on the playing field. An official team picture of each participating team and the officials shall be taken. Photo selections shall be published on a daily basis (see above) and made available for WBSC Europe.



## TV Production

In case of TV or livestream production, an early cooperation with the WBSC Europe media commission is required. LOCs can only engage broadcasting arrangements after written consent by WBSC Europe's executive board. Therefore a request has to be submitted by the hosting national federation. The rights to broadcast games of the tournament can only be handed over to the national federation, when the TV signal is shared with WBSC Europe's Video platform and the broadcasting language is English.

## WBSC Europe Branding

WBSC Europe will provide banners and other material during the tournament to present the brand of baseball and softball in Europe. In cooperation with the WBSC Europe delegates, it's the LOC's obligation to put these banners to well visible places for spectators and media. As mentioned above, adding the WBSC Europe logo to official releases.

### Summary for Minimum Standards:

- Corporate Design
  - Logo
  - Font
  - Colors
  
- Social Media Platforms
  - Facebook (WBSC Europe or NF) - required
  - Twitter - recommended
  - Instagram - recommended
  
- Media Content
  - Introduction & engagement before tournament
  - Photo selections, team photos and officials
  - Regular result- and other updates and summaries
  
- WBSC Europe Branding
  - Mentioning WBSC Europe in official communication and releases
  - Logo on releases and communication materials
  - Provided Banners and presenting the brand of WBSC Europe during event

## APPENDIX III: Application for media rights

### APPLICATION FOR GRANTING OF BROADCASTING RIGHT

With this, the below-mentioned federation applies for the transfer of broadcasting rights for the following WBSC Europe Baseball tournament:

Hosting National Federation:

Official Tournament Name:

Tournament Venue:

Local Organizer:

The national federation accepts, that at all time, WBSC Europe keeps the broadcasting rights for all official competitions. A further transfer of those rights to external organization is not desired. With the granting of the below-mentioned rights for broadcasting official competitions, the hosting national federation guarantees a quality production with scoreboard-inserts and English commenting. A video livestream footage of those games must be made available for WBSC Europe's TV platform, baseballsoftball.tv. All costs and technical efforts are obligation to the hosting federation.

The national federation applies for the following broadcasting rights (mark below):

Internet Livestream:

Public Television:

Film:

Radio:

Broadcasting specification:

Production Company:

# of games:

Estimated Costs in €:

# of cameras:

Broadcast Language(s):

# of fields covered:

Broadcasting Channels (TV, Facebook, YouTube,...):

The national federation is required to attached the official offer of the production company to this application. If the organizer decides not to broadcast every game, a list of scheduled broadcasts needs to be attached as well.

Signature National Federation: .....

By (president or Secretary General): .....

Date, Place: .....

Stamp:

With this signature, WBSC Europe grants the broadcasting rights under the above- mentioned requirements.

p.p. WBSC Europe Executive: .....

By: .....

Date, Place: .....

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