

WBSC

WORLD
BASEBALL SOFTBALL
CONFEDERATION

Game Time!

WBSC BASEBALL
GAMES OF THE XXXII
OLYMPIAD TOKYO 2020
QUALIFYING EVENTS

TOURNAMENT
REGULATIONS

Revised 22 August 2019

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A. GENERAL NORMS

A1. PLAYERS ELIGIBILITY

Nationality of Competitor

A1.1. Any player in a Qualifying Event for the Games of the XXXII Olympiad Tokyo 2020 must be a national of the country or region of the National Federation/Associated Member that is entering him.

A1.2. All disputes relating to the determination of the country which a competitor may represent in a Qualifying Event for the Games of the XXXII Olympiad Tokyo 2020 shall be resolved by the WBSC Executive Committee.

A1.3. 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 of them (in a WBSC Baseball World Cup, WBSC U-23/21 Baseball World Cup, the U-18 Baseball World Cup, U-15 Baseball World Cup, U-12 Baseball World Cup, Continental or Regional Games or World or Regional Championships recognized by the WBSC), he may not represent another country or region 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. (Note: the World Baseball Classic and other non-official invitational tournaments are considered exceptions to this rule)

A1.4. A competitor who has represented one country in a Premier12, WBSC Baseball World Cup, Regional and Continental Championships (EG European Championships or Asian Championships), the U-23/21 Baseball World Cup, the U-18 Baseball World Cup, the U-15 Baseball World Cup and the U-12 Baseball World Cup and who has changed his nationality or acquired a new nationality shall not participate in any other official WBSC competition to represent his new country or region until three years have passed since the competitor last represented her/his former country. (Note: the World Baseball Classic and other non-official invitational tournaments are considered exceptions to this rule). This period may be reduced or even canceled with the agreement of the initial National Federation and the approval of the WBSC Executive Committee.

A1.5. 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 or region to which he belongs or belonged. However, he may, if he prefers, choose to represent his country or be entered in the official WBSC competition or the Olympic qualifying tournaments by his new Federation or NOC if one exists. This particular choice may only be made once.

A1.6. In all cases not expressly addressed in this By-law, 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 or region which he intends to represent, the WBSC 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.

A1.7. 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. The Technical Commission of the competition will notify the WBSC Executive Committee for further action.

A1.8. 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 actually played 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 Executive Committee for further action.

A1.9. Should a violation of eligibility be discovered after the competition, the case can be submitted by the WBSC Technical Commission, or by the National Federation, directly to the WBSC Executive Committee for further action. In any case the Executive Committee may act officially should a violation of eligibility be discovered after the competition.

A1.10. A player, removed for any eligibility violation, cannot be replaced by another player. A team can be penalized for eligibility violation only if a player has actually played in a game.

A1.11. In any case, it is the obligation of the Delegation or the National Federation/Associated Member, officially protesting the ineligibility of a player, to produce valid proof, the documentation and all the information regarding the violation in writing at the moment when filing the protest.

A1.12 Age limit to participate in the Olympic Games Tokyo 2020 and/or any of the Qualification Events for the Olympic Games Tokyo 2020 is eighteen (18) years old. The athlete must reach his eighteenth birthday any time prior to the start of the event, which is marked by the day set for the Pre-Competition Technical/Organisational Meeting.

A2. PROVISIONAL TEAM ROSTER – (PTR)

A2.1. No later than thirty (30) days prior to the beginning of the competition, all National Federations must communicate to the WBSC the Provisional (maximum 45 players) Team Roster (**PTR**), through the online platform: <http://my.wbsc.org>

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

A2.2 If any players, manager or coaches on Provisional Team Roster become unavailable after the PTR deadline due to injury, sickness or any other reasons that are approved by WBSC, they may be replaced on Provisional Roster. National Federations must obtain WBSC's approval in writing before making such changes. If medical reasons, a medical certificate in English or Spanish language must accompany the request when submitted to the WBSC. Failure to report and obtain WBSC approval will result in dismissal from tournament.

A2.3. The non-fulfillment of the deadline to submit the documents mentioned under point A2.1., the incomplete submission or lack of fulfillment of any of the sections shall be sanctioned with a USD one hundred (100) fine per day until the problem is corrected.

NOTE: Adjusted PTR deadlines for the Europe/Africa Qualification Event participants will be communicated directly to the participating teams due to short time period between Pre-Qualification and Qualification Events.

A3. FINAL TEAM ROSTER – (FTR)

A3.1. No later than ten (10) days prior to the beginning of the competition, all National Federations and/or Associate Members must communicate to the WBSC the Final Team Roster (**FTR**) composed of 24 players and 9 delegation members including coaches.

NOTE: Adjusted FTR deadlines for the Europe/Africa Qualification Event participants will be communicated directly to the participating teams due to short time period between Pre-Qualification and Qualification Events.

A3.2. During the Pre-Competition Technical/Organizational Meeting, the Delegation Leader shall submit the following to the Technical Commission:

- A valid and current passport (**individual passport**) for each player for verification by the Technical Commission. Other members of the Delegation such as Delegation Leader, Team Manager, Coaches, Trainers, etc. shall appear on the Final Team Roster form (**FTR**) but do not need to submit their Passport.
- The name, room number and phone number (local address) of the Delegation Leader and Team Manager of each Delegation.
- Email address(es) and Phone numbers for Delegation Leader and/or media officer

A3.3 A maximum of five (5) players are allowed to be replaced on the Final Team Roster (**FTR**)

. The WBSC must be informed of such changes at any moment up to and including the Pre-Competition Technical/Organizational Meeting. These documents should be in the hands of the Technical Director at the time of the Pre-Competition Technical/Organizational Meeting. If for whatever reason, previously known and accepted by the WBSC, a team arrives in the country later, the team should make sure that the Technical Director gets these documents no later than upon the team's arrival. Those five (5) players may come from either inside or outside the PTR.

A3.4. The participating team's official Delegations will be composed of:

Players	24
Delegation Officials	9

Max. total: 33

Note: For extra personnel in addition to 33 members per delegation, the WBSC is responsible to find appropriate accommodation and food upon request and team delegations are responsible to cover all the associated costs. Also, the Delegation Leader must stay with the Delegation during the entire period of the team's participation in the competition.

A3.5. The non-fulfillment of the deadline to submit the documents mentioned under point A3.1., the incomplete submission or lack of fulfillment of any of the sections shall be sanctioned with a USD five hundred (500) fine per day until the problem is corrected.

A3.6 If more than five (5) players on FTR become unavailable after due to injury, sickness or any other reasons and if National Federation/Associated Member wishes to replace such player(s), the reasons for such unavailability must be communicated to WBSC in writing. WBSC will review the request and communicate if the request could be granted. Without WBSC's approval in writing, no changes are permitted.

A3.7 Once the athletes' verification at Technical Meeting is over, no changes to the FTR will be permitted for the duration of the competition. Copies of the FTR shall be provided to each Delegation Leader, Technical Director, Technical Commissioners, Scorers, Anti-Doping Commissioner and Media before the start of the competition.

A4. PRE-COMPETITION TECHNICAL/ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING

A4.1. On the day before the start of the competition, an information meeting will be held, to discuss all the technical and organizational issues concerning the competition. Place, date and time of the meeting will be made available to the teams as soon as possible.

A4.2. The Pre-Competition Technical/Organizational Meeting will be chaired by the Tournament Director accompanied by the Technical Director, the Director of Umpires (or Coordinator assigned for the competition), the Scorers' Director (or Coordinator), the Anti-Doping Commissioner, a representative of the Local Organizing Committee (LOC) and a representative of the WBSC Tournament Department. Relevant technical matters of the competition will be discussed in this meeting.

Note: All materials handed out at this meeting should be printed in English and Spanish at a minimum.

A5. DOPING CONTROL

A5.1. Doping Control will be conducted in accordance with the WBSC Anti-Doping Rules which are in compliance with the World Anti-Doping Code.

A5.2. WBSC will appoint a WBSC Anti-Doping Commissioner to oversee the anti-doping program. The WBSC Anti-Doping Commissioner shall establish the test distribution in consultation with the head Doping Control Officer (DCO).

A5.3. For games in which doping controls will be conducted, the following procedure shall be followed:

- At the end of the first half of the fourth innings the head DCO, the WBSC Anti-Doping Commissioner and one of the Technical Commissioners in charge of the game, with a copy of the starting Line-ups, shall meet in the Doping Control Station. The head DCO will have a copy of the FTR for the selection process.

- The Team Manager has to confirm to the TC that all players are at the game and if one is missing (for injury, sickness, etc...) why and where the player is (for Doping test reason).

- The head DCO will provide a random system. In the case of no available system, player names or numbers will be written on pieces of paper and cut up.
- A random selection process will be conducted for each team. This will include selection of reserve players in the event the original selected player/s are seriously injured during the game.
- If one player from each team is being selected, all players will be included in the draw, and one reserve player selected. If two players from each team are being tested, the first selection will be from the Starting Line-up, the second from the full player roster. The reserve selections will be made from the full list.
- While a player may be subject to doping control on more than one occasion, the WBSC Anti-Doping Commissioner may ask for a redraw if the player has already been tested twice at the same tournament.
- The selections will be marked on the Starting Line-up, signed by the parties in attendance and given to the DCO.
- The names of the selected players shall not be communicated to the teams before the end of the game.

A5.4. Players must stay at the field for the duration of the game. The Technical Commissioner(s) assigned to the game and the Executive Director shall be informed immediately in case a player needs to be absent from the field or tournament at any time.

A5.5. If a selected player gets seriously injured and needs to be immediately hospitalized, the reserve player selected from the same team shall be tested instead. In such a case, medical evidence on the serious status of the injury must be given to the WBSC Anti-Doping Commissioner. The injured player may still be selected for a doping control by WBSC once they have recovered. For example: a player is hurt before the doping procedure on a Monday and goes to the hospital. On Tuesday, he is taken off the roster but is still in the country at the hotel or at the game. That player is still eligible to be tested just as the rest of the players on the initial FTR are eligible to be tested. In short, any player who is injured or removed from the roster is still subject to the same drug testing procedures as the rest of the team.

A5.6. Any players on the Final Team Roster (FTR) not present at the game may be selected by WBSC for a doping control whether still in the host city or not.

A5.7. The LOC is responsible for getting the Doping Control Station properly equipped and ready for use.

A6. INFRACTIONS AND FINES

A6.1. Infraction of competition rules will automatically incur a fine in USD and will be invoiced to the National Federation in question upon the conclusion of the tournament. Any appeal of a decision regarding a fine will be handled as per the section B4 of this document. While teams, players and federations will be notified about fines during the tournament by the Executive Director and/or Technical Director, the WBSC headquarters will be responsible for ensuring that fines are paid in a timely fashion. It is ultimately the responsibility of the National Federations and/or Associate Members to ensure that these fines have been paid. Failure to do so will result in teams being unable to participate in the next international event, as well as additional fines being incurred. No team will be permitted to play in a WBSC official event if outstanding fines have not been paid to the WBSC headquarters.

A6.2. The following is the list of infraction levels and associated fines and suspensions.

A level fines: over \$2000
 B level fines: \$1000 - \$1999
 C level fines: \$ 500 - \$ 999

A level infractions:

A level is infractions of rules that are considered crucial for competition success, those that cause serious negative effects on international baseball. The fine for an A level infraction is \$2000 and above.

The following are examples of A level infractions.

- Foreign substance/doctored baseball

- Physically aggressive activities against WBSC official
- Physically aggressive activities against a fan
- Illegal/corked bat
- Non presence of a team in the tournament after confirming the participation
- Throwing equipment in umpire's direction

B level infractions:

B level is infractions of rules that are considered important for games operations and/or also is a behavior that is considered unsportsmanlike. The fine for an B level infraction is \$1000 – \$1999.

The following are examples of B level infractions.

- Not leaving dugout after ejection
- Contacting an umpire
- Fighting
- Team personnel ejection
- Intentional throwing at a batter in the head area

C level infractions:

C level is infractions of logistical and/or routine rules in nature. The fine for a C level infraction is \$500 – \$999.

The following are examples of C level infractions.

- Delay or absence in technical meeting without prior notice
- Failure to follow regulations concerning uniform color and related regulations
- Failure by the host to follow guidelines on stadium use and maintenance
- Failure by the host to meet the protection and security regulations of the players in the playing field
- When non-authorized personnel enters/does not leave the dugout, after being instructed by TCs.

The following incidents are examples of potential infractions and fines. These incidents will serve as guidelines for the types of fines and/or suspensions that the Technical Director and the Executive Director will use when rendering judgments:

Infraction Level	Action	Fine	Suspension
C	Delay or absence in technical meeting without prior notice	\$500	
C	Failure to follow regulations concerning uniform color and related regulations	\$550	
C	Failure by the host to follow guidelines on stadium use and maintenance	\$550	
C	Failure by the host to notify all participants regarding the ground rules at each competition site	\$550	
C	Failure by the host to meet the protection and security regulations of the players in the playing field	\$600	
C	Failure by the host to adhere to the Technical Commission guidelines regarding scheduling of games	\$600	
C	Failure to submit starting line ups in time	\$650	
C	Failure by the host to use the WBSC official baseball	\$650	
C	Prolonged arguing	\$700	
C	Non-authorized personnel enters/does not leave the dugout after being instructed by Technical Commission	\$700	
B	Communication between dugout and stands during a game	\$1,000	
B	Inappropriate comments directed at an umpire	\$1,000	
B	Use of non approved bat	\$1,000	
B	Violently throwing equipment	\$1,000	
B	Inappropriate gestures at an umpire	\$1,000	
B	Restrained from confronting umpire/player	\$1,000	
B	Actions causing benches to empty	\$1,200	
B	Team personnel ejection (any delegation member)	\$1,200	
B	Failure by the host to provide adequate scorekeeping personnel and resources	\$1,200	
B	Non compliance with WBSC requests for media commitment (interview,	\$1,500	

	press conference, mixed zones etc)		
B	Actions during bench clearing (not physical violence)	\$1,500	0 to 3 games
B	Throwing equipment/debris onto field from dugout	\$1,500	0 to 6 games
B	Intentional throwing at a batter	\$1,500	1 to 4 games
B	Charging the mound	\$1,500	0 to 3 games
B	Not leaving dugout after ejection	\$1,600	1 to 3 games
B	Contacting an umpire	\$1,600	1 to 6 games
B	Fighting	\$1,900	3 to 8 games
B	Intentional throwing at a batter in the head area	\$1,900	4 to 6 games
A	Throwing equipment in umpire's direction	\$2,000	1 to 6 games
A	Use of altered bat	\$2,000	7 to 8 games
A	Foreign substance/doctored baseball	\$2,000	10 games
A	Non compliance with WBSC uniform advertising regulations	\$2,500	
A	Physically aggressive activity against a WBSC official	\$2,500	5 to 15 games
A	Physically aggressive activity against a fan or others (e.g. Volunteers)	\$5,000	0 to 6 games
A	Causing a forfeit game	\$5,000	0 to 6 games

Note: Executive Director has the ability to make additional decisions at his discretion.

A6.3. In case any tournament participants are charged with conduct that requires stronger sanctions than the above, the Technical Director and the Executive Director may impose a penalty and/or suspension they find appropriate and justified. Any appeal of the decisions will be taken up by the Jury of Appeal.

A6.4. Conduct on or off the field: damages caused by any member of a Delegation to the installation where they are housed, the competition facilities or transport units, or to any other area, will be the direct responsibility of the Federation they represent. The host country and/or Organizing Committee shall not be responsible for the financial situation of any Delegation or team. The Executive Director may impose any penalty he finds appropriate and justified. Any appeal of the decision will be taken up by the Jury of Appeal, which will make the final decision.

B. COMPETITION ADMINISTRATION

B1. COMPETITION OFFICIALS

WBSC Executive Director

B1.1. The WBSC Executive Director is the highest authority in the competition.

B1.2. The Responsibilities of the WBSC Executive Director, or in his absence the Tournament Director, include:

- Enforce all WBSC regulations and all agreements between the WBSC, the National Federations and the LOC.
- Review final arrangements with the LOC Chairperson for the organization of the competition which includes all logistical aspects such as accommodation, transportation, protocol, etc. and all related aspects.
- Harmonize the interests represented by the WBSC, the LOC, the National Federations and the Technical Commission working in the competition.
- Ensure that the Jury of Appeal is constituted to act if the situation arises.
- Ensure that the LOC facilitates and enforces all matters related to the rights and privileges of WBSC sponsors regarding the competition.
- Arbitrate and have final authority in making a decision regarding any disputes that cannot be resolved by negotiations among any or all of the groups or organizations involved in the competition.
- Convene and chair along with the Technical Director at the Tournament Technical/ Organizational Meeting before the competition.
- Act as the official WBSC spokesperson to all media.
- In the absence of the WBSC President, or of his specifically designated representative for this, represent the WBSC in all formal acts and presentations related to the competition.
- Inform the WBSC Executive Committee about the matters regarding the competition organization.
- Prepare the final official report for its consideration by the Executive Committee.
- Take a final decision in regard to game schedule after consulting the Technical Director and LOC

Technical Commission

B1.3. A Technical Commission will be appointed to work at least five months prior to the competition. Its functions and responsibilities are:

- Supervise all technical aspects of the competition.
- Compile, verify and submit for the approval of the Executive Committee all statistical data related to the competition.
- Control the eligibility and the credentials of the players.
- Inspect the playing fields and practice facilities for the competition.
- Enforce the regulations as written in this document.
- In the event of suspended games the Technical Commission will propose the adjustment of the competition

schedule in consultation with the WBSC Tournament Department. Any changes in the schedule require the final approval of the WBSC Executive Director.

- Receive and judge as first instance protests related to technical matters that come from participating teams.
- Rule as first instance in discipline cases on the playing field involving participants, Players, Coaches, Umpires and Officials.

B1.4. At least two international members of the Technical Commission for the tournament shall be recommended at each game to supervise all technical aspects of the game and the fulfillment of the present rules.

B1.5 At games selected for doping controls, one of the Technical Commissioners appointed for the game shall participate in the selection of athletes for doping control. This will occur at the end of the first half of the fourth innings in the Doping Control Station (unless another location is agreed.) If there is only one Technical Commissioner, then the selection process will be done in the Technical Commissioners area.

B1.6. The name(s) of the Technical Commissioner(s) assigned for each game shall be announced a day before the game. The Host Organizing Committee shall provide a Spanish-English translator at the disposal of the Technical Commission if it is requested. Also the Technical Commission Members will be seated in a reserved area behind home plate with good visibility and easy access to the playing field.

Technical Director

B1.7. The WBSC shall appoint one member as Technical Director in the competition.

B1.8. The responsibilities of the Technical Director include:

- Proceed to the final review and approval of competition and practice venues.
- Present all Technical Competition items at the Pre-Competition Technical Meeting
- Assign the Technical Commission members to daily game supervision.
- Liaise with WBSC Office to confirm assignment of Technical Commissioners.
- Liaise with WBSC Tournament Department and Technical Commission regarding game delays, rescheduling and cancellation to submit jointly a proposal to the Executive Director / Tournament Director, who is charged with making the final decision.
- Gather relevant statistical and game report information from Technical Commission members.
- Chair the meetings of the Technical Commission to review issues associated with technical areas of competition and to determine actions related to participants' discipline or team protests.
- Chair the All-World Team selection meeting.

Jury of Appeal

B1.9. The WBSC will appoint a Jury of Appeal comprising of the chairperson, and 2 other members.

B1.10. The Jury of Appeal will be the organ of appeal for fines, judgments, or suspensions dictated by the Technical Commission in the Competition. It will have no application in the judgments dictated by the Technical Commission in cases related to the Official Baseball Rules. Only the Technical Commission decisions that are not related to the Rules of the Game may be appealed in front of the Jury of Appeal.

B1.11. A person having the same nationality as the appealing country may not act as a member of the Jury. If this

incompatibility occurs, the Executive Director / Tournament Director will designate another member.

Umpires

B1.12. The panel of umpires shall consist of a number of WBSC International Umpires (recommended by the WBSC Baseball Umpire Director) and that make up the total number needed for the competition. All Umpires for the competition must be appointed by the WBSC with the approval of the WBSC Executive Director.

B1.13. The WBSC will directly appoint the umpires to serve, taking into account the criteria of quality, experience and ability.

B1.14. After complete evaluations are conducted by the WBSC Umpire Director and input from the Umpires Commission, National Federations and/or Associated Members, umpires selected by the WBSC to work in the tournament will be notified of their selection in a timely manner.

B1.15. Two (2) umpires of a same participating country may work together in a game, but an Umpire shall not be allowed to take part as on-field umpire officiating in a game in which his country is playing. Every attempt will be made in order for umpires, even host team country umpires, not to be assigned to the games of their countries as on-field umpires. 20-second clock operators are not subject to this regulation.

B1.16 A least four (4) umpires shall be assigned to each game.

B1.17. Game assignments for Umpires will be notified no less than 12 hours before game time of their respective assignments. No more than two days of assignments will be distributed at anytime during the competition.

B1.18. At the beginning of the competition, an Umpire Pre-Competition meeting will be conducted by the Umpire Director. The Executive Director, the Technical Director, a representative of the LOC, and other selected WBSC staff may be requested to attend this meeting. During the competition, a daily umpire meeting may be held as required. The Umpire Director will chair this meeting.

B1.19. During the competition, the Umpire Director will complete Umpire Evaluations form. WBSC Baseball Umpire Director will be in contact with Technical Commissioners to seek their feedback on the umpires officiating their games.

B1.20. After the completion of the tournament, the Director of Umpires will submit a complete report to the Executive Director.

Umpire Director

B1.21. The WBSC will appoint one member as Umpire Director in the Competition.

B1.22. The responsibilities of the Umpire Director include:

- Carry on the final inspection and approval of competition venues, determining the specific Ground Rules for each field of play.
- Present Ground Rules and any other pertaining items at the Pre-Competition Technical Meeting.
- Assign Umpire crews to daily games.
- Liaise with WBSC Office to confirm assignment of Umpires.
- Liaise with tournament Umpires regarding game delays, rescheduling and cancellation, or any other matters that arise during the competition.
- Supervise and evaluate each Umpire during the competition, compiling information to present a final evaluation report after the tournament.

- Chair the Umpire tournament meetings before and during the tournament to review items associated with umpiring the competition.
- Oversee replay and game management clocks operation.

Scorers

B1.23. The board of Scorers shall consist of a sufficient number of both international and local scorers (recommended by the WBSC Scoring Director and/ or the LOC and appointed by the WBSC) to score and register each game officially, in addition to the production of a “live” online transmission of the play-by-play of each game on the WBSC website under the supervision of the Competition Scoring Director and the Technical Director. All Scorers shall be appointed by the WBSC office.

B1.24. No later than ninety minutes (90) before the start of the game, the Technical Commissioner(s) shall obtain from each Team Manager a tentative line-up and then distribute it to LOC to make copies for the scorers and other appropriate individuals.

B1.25. Each game shall be recorded by two or more Scorers. It shall be the duty of the Scorer to compile the averages of defense and offense plays for the players of each team and provide a day-by-day account and circulate these statistics daily to all the above mentioned persons within 24 hours after the game. At the end of the tournament, in accordance with what has been established; the Scorer(s) shall indicate the name of the players who have excelled individually.

Scorers Director

B1.26. The WBSC will appoint one member as Scorer Director in the Competition.

B1.27. The responsibilities of the Scorer Director include:

- Carry on the final inspection and approval of scorers working spaces at the competition venues.
- Attend the Pre-Tournament Technical Meeting to cover any items related to scoring, tie-breakers, etc. that may arise during the meeting.
- Assign Scorer’s crews to daily games.
- Liaise with WBSC Office to confirm assignments of Scorers.
- Liaise with tournament scorers regarding game delays, rescheduling and cancellation, or any other matters that arise during the competition.
- Supervise and evaluate each scorer during the competition, compiling information to present a final evaluation report after the tournament.
- Chair the Scorers tournament meetings before and during the tournament to review items associated with scoring the competition.
- Provide statistical data to Technical Commission for the election of the All-World Team.
- Provide tie-breaker and/or statistical information to Tournament Director upon petition.
- Provide list of Individual Award winners to Tournament Director upon completion of the games determining the calculation for the awards.

Anti-Doping Commissioner

B1.28. The Anti-Doping Commissioner appointed by WBSC will oversee the anti-doping program at the event. This will include ensuring that the facilities for doping control are appropriate, overseeing the doping control process, including athlete selection, notification and the sample collection process, and making decisions on any issues arising during

this process.

B2. OTHERS

Bat Boys/Girls

B2.1. For all games the bat boys/girls shall be furnished by the Local Organizing Committee. The bat boys/girls of each team shall be kept close to the dugout when the team is at bat. They must be at least 15 years-old, and they must wear uniforms and double-ear flap protective helmets. They must receive proper training on their functions and responsibilities from the LOC. Infractions may result in ejection of the bat boy/girl. Also teams may bring their own bat boys/girls as long as they are in appropriate uniforms during games and teams shall be responsible for all associated costs.

Interpreters

B2.2. The LOC will assign a person who speaks the language of the host country and Spanish or English to act as interpreter during the games. This person shall be permitted to sit in the dugout of the team to which he/she is assigned. Note: If a coach for the team is also serving as an interpreter, the manager must let the home plate umpire know about this at the pre-game meeting at home plate.

TV Cameramen and Photographers

B2.3. TV cameramen and photographers who have been authorized by WBSC are allowed to be at restricted areas on the field during pre-game and post-game activities. They must always wear an official WBSC Media vest as well as their accreditation in order to access the corresponding areas. During the game, when the game is not in play, TV cameramen if approved by WBSC may also be on the field provided that they will not interfere with the smooth operation of the game.

First Aid

B2.4. Medical and first aid attendance shall be available all the time during the competition and practices. LOC is responsible to make sure adequate staff and facilities are assigned to the competition. Adequate staff and facilities are defined as having present a certified first aid attendant with ambulance and doctor on call.

B3. PROTESTS

B3.1. When protest is made by a Team Manager over a suspected misapplication or misinterpretation of Official Baseball Rules, it shall be presented to the Home plate Umpire according to the Official Baseball Rules. When such protest is made, the Home plate Umpire shall stop the game, inform the Team Manager of the opposing team, the Technical Commissioner(s) assigned to work that game, and the audience that a protest has been filed.

B3.2. The protest shall be presented in written form within ten (10) minutes after it was announced to the Head Umpire, indicating the number(s) of the Baseball Rule(s) involved to the Technical Commissioners assigned to the game who must immediately take a decision. The presentation of a protest will incur a cost of \$200 USD to be directly invoiced to the National Federation in question. If the protest occurs on the game-ending play, the desire to submit a protest must be announced by the Team Manager or the Delegation Leader to the Technical Commissioner(s) assigned to the game. They will inform the opposing team, the umpires, and the other necessary parties that a protest has been filed. After consultation with the Umpires, a decision will be taken immediately by the Technical Commissioner(s) assigned to work that game. The opposing team must wait for the decision before they leave the playing field.

B3.3. Any decision of the Technical Commissioner(s) regarding the playing rules is final and not subject to appeal.

B3.4. When a participating Delegation protests the participation of any athlete; the protest shall be presented to the Technical Commission of the competition prior to the conclusion of the competition.

B3.5. If the protest does not refer to an action in the game, it must be submitted in writing to the Technical Commission, together with the corresponding deposit, explaining the reasons that state for it and the due dispositions that supposedly apply to it.

B4. APPEALS

B4.1. The appeal brief shall be forwarded to a member of the Jury of Appeal, accompanied by a copy of the judgment being appealed, quoting the rules that the appellant believes have been violated or have not been applied. The presentation of an appeal will incur a cost of \$100 USD to be directly invoiced to the National Federation in question. Only the Technical Commission's decisions that are not related to the rules of the game may be appealed in front of the Jury of Appeal. Technical Commission's decisions related to the rules of the game are final and they can only appeal other items not related to game rules.

B4.2. The time limit to present an appeal is three (3) hours after having received the notification of the judgment to be appealed.

B4.3. Once the appeal has been presented to the Jury of Appeal, the Jury meets immediately after receiving the appeal, and the decision will be made within twelve (12) hours of receiving the appeal, knowing that the decision of the Jury could have a bearing on any subsequent games in the competition.

B5. DELIVERY OF NOTICES

B5.1. The Technical Director in cooperation with WBSC headquarters will deliver the fines or ruling communications to the interested parties with acknowledgement of receipt within 24 hours after the incident occurred, making evident the time of delivery for the latter purposes of appealing. Official WBSC form provided by the Technical Director shall be duly signed by the parties involved and the LOC.

B6. GAME PROTOCOL

B6.1. The following ceremony shall be used before and during all matches:

- The tournament anthem supplied from the WBSC headquarters shall be played to indicate the start of the ceremony and shall continue to be played in the background during the introductions.
- Before the match begins, the Public Address Announcer will first call the visiting team (manager and coaches first, then the players in the starting line-up by name, the pitcher in the bullpen and the rest of the roster) on to the field, followed by the home team and then the umpires. The teams shall line up along the foul line, while the umpires stand at home plate.
- When the teams are lined up, the flag of each country shall be displayed next to its own team with the WBSC flag centered in the middle. All flags shall look impeccable for a first-class presentation.
- A 45-60 second version of the national anthems of the two teams, as approved by the WBSC, shall be played with the teams and umpires lined up. During the national anthems, the team delegation members must show a respectful posture with hats removed and refrain from talking, laughing, spitting, eating and drinking.
- Music and sound effects should be used prior to, during and after each game in order to enhance a sense of cultural diversity and international competition. After the anthems and before the match starts, time shall be made available for any prize-giving, first pitch ceremony, special recognition or announcement of special guests.
- Only uniformed members of the team delegations are permitted on the field during the pre-game ceremony. Non-uniformed personnel must stay in dugouts or their designated seats.

B6.2. Opening ceremony

B6.2.1 WBSC may invite team delegations and/or officials to attend the Opening Ceremony. However none of them shall be forced to participate and all teams shall be treated fairly and equally.

B 6.3. Closing ceremony

B6.3.1 There will not be closing ceremony. The team qualifying for the Olympic Games will be presented with the winning certificate upon the conclusion of the deciding game.

B7. COMPETITION SYSTEM

6-Team Format (Europe/Africa Qualification Event and Final Qualification Event):

Single Round Robin

Teams will play all vs. all (round robin format) for a total of five (5) games. The top National Team in the tournament final standings will gain a berth for the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games.

In case of a tie, see tie-breaking system.

8-Team Format (Americas Qualification Event):

Opening Round

Two (2) groups of four (4) Teams (A,B), will play all vs. all (round robin format), with the top two (2) teams from each group advancing to the Super Round. In case of a tie, see tie-breaking system. Bottom two (2) teams from each group will be eliminated from competition after the Opening Round.

Super Round

The top two (2) teams from each group will advance to the Super Round carrying the result of the games played between each other. The Super Round will be a 4-team round robin without playing the team of their original group.

The top National Team in the tournament final standings will gain a berth for the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games.

C. TECHNICAL ASPECTS

C1. UNIFORMS

C1.1. The Home Team shall have preference to wear the colours of their national uniform, and the Visiting Team shall wear a colour that cannot get confused with the other one. The final decision on the colours to be worn by each Team on each game will be made at the Pre-Competition Technical/Organizational Meeting. The Home team shall wear a light color (i.e. white, gray) uniform tops and the Visiting team a shirt of dark color uniform top. There will be no changes allowed to the established uniforms without prior approval of the Technical Commission. If a team requests a change to uniform color, the said request must be submitted in writing to the Technical Commission, and the Technical Commission will also communicate to the team of its decision (whether approved or disapproved) in writing.

C1.2. All players and uniformed coaches must wear a specified and different number on the back of the uniform. Each uniformed individual will keep the same number during the competition. The numbers cannot be changed during the competition unless exceptional circumstances justifying such changes arise. In any case no numbers can be changed on the uniforms without the previous approval of the Technical Commissioners of the game. If any changes to uniform numbers are approved, then Technical commissioners of the game will hand to both teams in writing such notice prior to the start of the game. Uniform numbers must be chosen from 1 to 99.

C1.3. The participants shall fulfill the following regulations with regard to the trademark of the manufacturers and the advertising on the uniforms and material (refer to the Addendum A). These items will be checked by members of the Technical Commission upon arrival of that team in the host country. A designated time and location will be determined to check the following items:

a) Manufacturer trademark

The manufacturer trademark, i.e. indication of the name, a design, a mark, a logo or any other distinguishing mark of the manufacturer of the item, may only appear once on each item and should not exceed the following sizes:

- Uniform and any kind of clothing: One identification of the manufacturer per item will be permitted, to a maximum size of 30cm².
- Shoes: All footwear items may carry the Identification as generally used on products sold through the retail trade during the period of 6 months prior to the tournament.
- Equipment of play: May carry the Identification as generally used on products sold through the retail trade during the period of 6 months prior to the tournament.
- Bag: The manufacturer trademark should not exceed 10% of the total surface area of the item and in any case up to a maximum of 60cm².
- Socks, Helmet, Hat, Towel: One identification of the manufacturer per item will be permitted, to a maximum size of 10cm².
- Batting glove and wrist band: One identification of the manufacturer per item will be permitted, to a maximum size of 8cm².
- Belt: One identification of the manufacturer per item will be permitted, to a maximum size of 6cm²
- Eyewear: May carry the Identification of the Manufacturer as generally used on products sold through the retail trade during the period of 6 months or more prior to the competition, with the Identifications permitted on the lenses, so long as such identifications are tone-on-tone, engraved into the lens, and is not deemed conspicuous by the WBSC.

b) Advertising

Advertising is allowed on the uniforms, previously authorized by the WBSC, with the following restrictions:

- Any kind of religious, political or racial advertising is banned, as well as any other advertising, which may be considered as contrary or damaging to the image of WBSC.
- For team sponsor/advertising, just one and only the same design or sponsor may appear on all the uniform and accessories unless otherwise approved by WBSC.
- Shirt: up to 120 cm² on the left sleeve. The right sleeve is reserved for the WBSC advertising.
- No advertising is allowed either on the chest or on the back.
- Jacket: up to 120 cm² on the left sleeve. The right sleeve is reserved for the WBSC advertising.
- No advertising is allowed either on the chest or on the back.
- Helmet: Reserved for the WBSC advertising.
- Other clothing or items: not authorized.
- The design and/or name of the advertising or sponsor to appear on the uniform should be reported to the WBSC at latest forty five days (45) prior to the beginning of the competition and must be authorized by the WBSC in writing. Non-authorized advertising may not be allowed and

subject to removal.

C2. COMPETITION VENUES

All competition facilities shall fulfil the requirements established by the WBSC and will be subject to inspections by WBSC representatives to verify their use during the competition.

C3. GROUND RULES

C3.1. Ground rules related to the stadium(s) will be proposed by the Local Organizing Committee before the start of the competition and reviewed and approved by the Technical Director and Umpire Director. These rules shall be printed in both English, Spanish and the language of the host country and distributed to all Team Managers and Umpires and discussed thoroughly at the Pre-competition Technical/Organizational Meeting. In addition, copies of the Ground Rules shall be posted in both dugouts of all competition sites. Ground rules shall be prepared by the LOC prior to the arrival of the Technical Director and Umpire Director and shall be completed after their site inspection before the Pre-Competition Technical Organisational meeting.

C4. DUGOUT

C4.1. The designation and assignment of clubhouses and dugouts shall be made by WBSC without regard to which team shall be the home team. WBSC will confirm the clubhouse designation at the pre-tournament technical meeting.

C4.2. Only credentialed personnel (staff, delegation members, translators, bullpen catchers, uniformed players, and uniformed coaches) will be allowed to stay in the dugout. A maximum of thirty-five (35) will be permitted. There are no exceptions to this rule. It shall be the responsibility of the Technical Commissioners assigned to the game to make sure that unauthorized persons do not occupy the dugout and that all the authorized persons stay inside the dugout during the game. More than this number of people in the dugout will not be permitted, and teams in violation of this rule subject themselves to fines from the Technical Commission.

C4.3. No communication between any personnel in the dugout and those in the stands should take place during the games. The communication with bullpens is allowed and is not subject to this rule.

C5. PRACTICE SCHEDULE

Pre-Competition Official Practice

C5.1. The Local Organizing Committee in conjunction with WBSC Office shall set up a pre-competition schedule for all teams. Each team shall have a two-hour session at least once at the competition venue. If more than one stadium is to be used, teams will be assigned to respective timeframes by WBSC. Assignments and schedule shall be made available to the teams prior to their arrival at the competition.

Pre-Game Practice

C5.2. The WBSC Tournament Department shall determine the site(s) of practice together with the LOC and Technical Commission

- If held on the field of play:

a) First game of the day, starting 2 hours 20 minutes before game time:

- 40 minutes Home Team Batting Practice
- 5 minutes Field Maintenance/Preparation
- 40 minutes Visiting Team Batting Practice
- 5 minutes Field Maintenance/Preparation

- 10 Minutes Home Team Infield Practice
- 10 minutes Visiting Team Infield Practice
- 10 minutes Field Maintenance
- 18 minutes Pre-Game Ceremony/Team Managers meeting
- 2 minutes Pitcher Warm Up

Examples

Game start at h. 18:00		Game start at h. 18:30	
h. 15:40	Batting Practice Home Team	h. 16:10	Batting Practice Home Team
h. 16:20	Maintenance/Preparation	h. 16:50	Maintenance/Preparation
h. 16:25	Batting Practice Visitor Team	h. 16:55	Batting Practice Visitor Team
h. 17:05	Maintenance/Preparation	h. 17:35	Maintenance
h. 17:10	Infield Practice Home Team	h. 17:40	Infield Practice Home Team
h. 17:20	Infield Practice Visitor Team	h. 17:50	Infield Practice Visitor Team
h. 17:30	Maintenance	h. 18:00	Maintenance
h. 17:40	Pre game ceremony	h. 18:10	Pre game ceremony
h. 17:58	Pitcher warm-up	h. 18:28	Pitcher warm-up
h. 18:00	PLAYBALL!	h. 18:30	PLAYBALL!

b) Additional games of the day:

As soon as the previous game is completed, the groundskeepers shall begin to repair the field. When the head groundskeeper announces the field is ready, if two (2) hours and twenty (20) minutes or more remain until next game time, the schedule indicated in a) shall prevail. If less than two (2) hours and twenty (20) minutes remain, the time from that moment until fifty (50) minutes prior to game time shall be divided equally between the Home team and Visiting team for batting practice. If less than fifty (50) minutes remain prior to the scheduled start of the game, there will be no batting practice on the field.

Note: The TC will be present and is the final authority on how these procedures will take place.

- If held on alternate field(s):

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, making sure that the team arrives at least fifteen (15) minutes before they are scheduled to take infield practice.

The Home team will hit first for forty (40) minutes followed by the Visiting team for forty (40) minutes.

If two batting practice sites are used, the teams may be scheduled for practice simultaneously.

Infield practice will be held at the competition site as outlined in C5.2.a.

If batting cage is available, then Technical commissioners assigned to the game will distribute equal time to both teams.

C5.3. Note that while batting practice prior to the game is for forty (40) minutes, it certainly can be less if a team desires. This does not, however, mean that the other team can hit for a longer period of time. Moreover, teams are not permitted to stretch, warm up, or be near the batting cage until BP for the other team is over. Teams should warm-up in an area outside the baseball field during this time. If no viable warm-up area exists (this will be the discretion of the Technical Commissioner), then teams are permitted to go to the far right or left field area during BP to warm-up during the other teams batting practice time. Should they do so, teams should provide someone to protect the players from getting hit baseballs during the batting practice time. The Technical Commissioner will be on site to assist with any difficulties during this time.

C5.4. Each team will be allowed ten (10) minutes for infield practice before the beginning of the game. Fifty (50) minutes before the official game time, the Home team may take a pre-game infield and outfield practice. Forty (40) minutes before the official game time, the Visiting team may take pre-game infield and outfield practice. Thirty (30) minutes prior to official game time, the field will be made available to the maintenance crew.

C6. STARTING LINE-UP

C6.1. Team Managers shall compulsorily present a tentative line-up to the Technical Commissioner(s) at least ninety (90) minutes before the scheduled start of the game. This line-up is for information purposes only and whether the games are televised or not shall be duly communicated from the WBSC staff onsite in advance. This line-up shall include the name, uniform number, and field position of each player in the starting batting order and the starting pitcher. All other players on the approved roster (FTR) will be considered as possible substitutes for all the games and their name, uniform number and field position must also be clearly included in the line-up. The official line-up will be given to the Home-plate Umpire at the meeting at home-plate immediately prior to the start of the game. A copy of the official line-up shall be given to the opposite Team Manager, the Scorer(s) and Technical Commissioner(s) in charge of the game. The preliminary line-up is an important document and should not be misused. If there are changes between the preliminary and starting line-up, it must be announced directly to the Technical Commissioner in charge of the game and to the opposing team. An injury or other extraordinary reason should be the only reason for changes in the preliminary line-up. Abuses in this regard will not be viewed lightly and are subject to fines from the Technical Director.

C6.2. Each team manager or delegated team official shall inform WBSC Communication Department within one (1) hour after the conclusion of the previous day's game or games, the name of probable starting pitcher for the next game. The change of such announcement shall not be permitted without valid reason and WBSC's approval must be obtained. Failure to do so may subject a team or teams in question to disciplines and fines by WBSC. A public announcement shall be made by WBSC for the relevant teams together. Following WBSC's official announcement or two (2) hours after the conclusion of the game, whichever comes first, teams can communicate their next game's starting pitcher to press and social media.

C7. PLAYING RULES AND PACE OF PLAY

Official Baseball Rules

C7.1. All games will be played under the event year of the Official Baseball Rules and Baseball Umpire Manual Procedures and Interpretations unless noted in this section.

Designated Hitter

C7.2. The designated hitter is allowed.

Bat

C7.3. The players can only use one-piece wood bats which are included in the current year official list approved by the WBSC (WBSC Baseball Bat List)

Protective Equipment

C7.4. Single or Double ear-flap helmet is mandatory for the hitter, base-runners and it is also recommended that base coaches wear the skull caps.

Note: the skull caps for coaches is not required but highly recommended.

Run difference Rule

C7.5. If a team is losing by 15 or more runs after having batted at least in five (5) innings, the game is ended at that point. If a team is losing by 10 or more runs after having batted at least in seven (7) innings, the game is ended at that point.

WBSC Exceptions to the Official Rules of Baseball

C7.6. The need to speed-up the play of international competition games must be constantly stressed to the Umpires, Team Managers and Coaches, and the following rules must be constantly enforced in an effort to keep the game moving quickly:

- a) In the event of inclement weather or other unforeseen conditions, the Technical Commissioners assigned to the game will have the responsibility of determining the start of a game. (Note: exception to OBR 3.10).
- b) The 20-second clock rule for the pitcher must be enforced at all time during the game (without runners on base). Teams shall be directed to have a catcher ready to warm-up the pitcher as soon as an inning is completed.

- c) The pitcher shall complete eight (8) warm-up pitches in a maximum of ninety (90) seconds between innings and the Home-plate Umpire shall ensure that the pitches are thrown without undue delay. The between innings clock will be activated once the last out of the inning is completed. If a team fails to complete the warm-up pitches within the allotted time, the Umpire may terminate them and call "Play Ball". If the game is televised live, the Umpire Director will confirm the number of pitches and/or duration of warm-up pitches between innings.
- d) When a batter hits a home run, members of his team shall not be allowed to touch the hitter until he has passed the home plate. Failure to observe this rule will result in a warning to the Team Manager and if it occurs again the Team will be fined and the Team Manager shall be ejected from the game.
- e) Coaches shall be allowed three free trips to the mound during the game to talk with the pitcher (free trip is one in which the pitcher is not removed from the mound). These meetings shall be limited to 30 seconds from the moment the Umpire calls "Time" and the clock will be activated when the Manager steps across the foul line on way to the mound. (Note: Countdown clock at stadium, if available, will show visit time. Otherwise the second base umpire will monitor with a stopwatch). After the third free trip, each subsequent trip to the mound shall result in the removal of the pitcher from the game. If the game goes into extra innings, trips not done during the game will not be accumulated and only one additional free trip shall be allowed for each three (3) extra innings. Two trips to the mound in the same inning to the same pitcher must result in the removal of the pitcher from the game. Coaches that are going to make multiple changes involving the pitcher after the two options mentioned above (after the three free trips or for the second visit in an inning) must go to the home plate umpire to state their changes prior to going to the mound or their moves are invalid and the pitcher must be removed from the game.
- f) Pitching substitutions shall be limited to a maximum of eight (8) pitches within the allotted ninety (90) seconds for non-televised games. The pitching change clock will be activated once the substitute pitcher steps onto the warning track coming from bullpen. If a pitcher fails to complete the warm-up pitches within the ninety (90) seconds, the Umpire may terminate them and call "Play Ball". If the game is televised live, the Umpire Director will confirm the number of pitches and/or duration of warm-up pitches.
- g) 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 is the hitter, a base-runner, an on-deck batter going to the plate, or to another Coach. If the game goes to the extra innings, "offensive meetings" not done during the game will not be accumulated and only one additional "offensive meeting" shall be permitted for each three (3) extra innings. Failure to observe this rule will result in a warning to the Team Manager and if it occurs again the Team will be fined and the Team Manager shall be ejected from the game. No offensive trip will be charged if the offense discusses strategy during a delay for which they are not responsible (e.g. trip to the mound, injury, player change, etc.) proving they cause no further delay.
- h) Collision Rule:

The WBSC is concerned about unnecessary and violent collisions primarily with the catcher at home plate, and with infielders at all bases. The intent of this rule is to encourage base runners and defensive players to avoid such collisions whenever possible.

1. When there is a collision between a runner and a fielder who clearly is in possession of the ball, the umpire shall judge:
 - I. Whether the collision by the runner was avoidable (could the runner have reached the plate without colliding) or unavoidable (the runner's path to the plate was blocked);
 - II. Whether the runner actually was attempting to reach the plate or attempting to dislodge the ball from the fielder. Contact above the waist shall be judged by the umpire as an attempt by the runner to dislodge the ball in; or
 - III. Whether the runner was using flagrant contact to maliciously dislodge the ball.

PENALTY:

- If the runner attempted to dislodge the ball, the runner shall be declared out even if the fielder loses possession of the ball. The ball is dead and all other base runners shall return to the last base touched at the time of the interference.

- If the fielder blocks the path of the base runner to the plate, the runner may make contact, slide into, or collide with a fielder as long as the runner is making a legitimate attempt to reach the plate.
- If the flagrant or malicious contact by the runner was before the runner's touching the plate, the runner shall be declared out and also ejected from the contest. The ball shall be declared dead immediately. All other base runners shall return to the bases they occupied at the time of the interference.
- If the contact was after a preceding runner had touched home plate, the preceding runner will be ruled safe, the ball becomes dead immediately and all other base runners will return to the base they had last touched prior to the contact.
- If the runner is safe and the collision is malicious, the runner shall be ruled safe and ejected from the game.

2. If the defensive player blocks the plate or base line clearly without possession of the ball, obstruction shall be called. The umpire shall point and call, "That's obstruction." The umpire shall let the play continue until all play has ceased, call time and award any bases that are justified in Rule 2 of the Official Rules of Baseball. The obstructed runner is awarded at least one base beyond the base last touched legally before the obstruction.

- If the base runner collides flagrantly, the runner shall be declared safe on the obstruction, but will be ejected from the contest. The ball is dead.
- If the runner's path to the base is blocked and all stipulations above are fulfilled, it is considered unavoidable contact.

i) The "between innings infield clean-up" after the bottom of 5th inning will be limited to a maximum of five (5) minutes. The field maintenance may be skipped if so directed by home plate umpire.

j) Extra-Inning Rule:

If the game remains tied after the completion of nine (9) innings, the following procedures will be implemented during extra innings:

- Each team will begin the 10th inning (and any subsequent necessary extra innings) with a player on first and second, no outs.
- The lineup will continue as in any other inning. For example, if the 9th inning ends with the #8 hitter having the last plate appearance (PA), the 10th inning begins with the #9 hitter at bat and 2B runner is the #7 hitter, and 1B runner is the #8 hitter in the lineup.
- With the exception of beginning the inning with runners on 1B and 2B with no one out, all other "Official Baseball Rules" and "WBSC Tournament Regulations" will remain in effect during extra innings required to determine a winner.
- 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.

C8. COMPETITION GAME SCHEDULE

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

C9. SUSPENDED GAMES

In case a game is stopped because of weather, curfew or other reason, the following will apply:

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

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

C9.3. When it is tied or when the visiting team takes the lead in an uncompleted inning, and after it has become a regulation game, it shall be ruled a suspended game and shall be resumed at the exact point of suspension and played to a completion. The scheduling of completion of suspended game shall be given priority by Technical Commission in order to complete it as soon as possible.

C9.4. All suspended, tied or games not played shall be re-scheduled by the Technical Commission and the WBSC Tournament Department in order to resume or start them following the suspension order if applicable. The new schedule has to be officially approved in writing by the Executive Director before being released to all participants.

C9.5. If there are difficulties concerning the closing date, only the games necessary to establish the final positions of the first three teams will be re-scheduled. No team shall be asked to play more than two games on the same day, unless the case warranted by exceptional circumstances and agreed upon by both teams affected by this measure. Would the exceptional circumstances persist and would any of the involved teams refuse to play two games on the same day, the Executive Director has the authority officially to determine whether they must play or not and the team or teams will be under the obligation to do it if the decision of the Executive Director establishes it as to be so. If the team or teams do not agree to play, they will lose the game by forfeit to appear.

C9.6 As per the Official Baseball Rules, a game is considered a regulation game if five innings have been completed and the umpire calls the game. When one of the teams is ahead after completion of a full inning or if the home team is ahead after a half of an inning is completed and after it has become a regulation game, the umpires must wait a minimum of 60 minutes – and no more than 90 minutes -- before making a decision about whether to call the game and make it become a regulation game.

C9.7. If a play is in progress at the moment of a failure of the field's lighting system and an additional action is impossible, the game is considered suspended. Whenever the lights are restored, the game shall continue in the same situation that existed at the beginning of the play which was interrupted due to lack of lighting.

C10. SUPER ROUND (8-TEAM FORMAT ONLY)

C10.1. Home and visitor teams for Super Round games (Americas Qualification Event only) shall be established in accordance with the Men's Baseball World Rankings if the standings of the Opening Round are equal (ex: 1st place team from Group A vs 1st place team from Group B, the team ranked higher on latest WBSC Baseball World Rankings will be home team). However teams with higher seed in the Opening Round should be given home teams (ex: 1st place from Group A vs 2nd place from Group B, then 1st from Group A will be home team).

C11. TIE BREAKING

All ties after the completion of the Round Robin (6-team format) or the completion of the Opening Round and Super Round (8-team format) will be settled as follows (in order):

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

1. The team that won the game(s) between the teams tied shall be given the higher position.
2. Team's Quality Balance (TQB) and win-loss records in games between the teams tied.

Note: If three or more teams are tied and when criterion 1 does not break a tie, a team or teams with the higher TQB will be placed in the highest spot(s) and a team or teams with the lower TQB will be

placed in the lower spot(s). If some of the teams tied have the same TQB, a head-to-head result shall be the first to apply. If the head-to-head result does not break the tie, then the next criterion 3 shall be used.

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

Five Examples of the application of the Tie Breaker Criteria.

Scenario 1:

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

Standings:

Team A 2 Won, 1 Lost *

Team B 2 Won, 1 Lost *

Team C 1 Won, 2 Lost **

Team D 1 Won, 2 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 C, 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 ⅓ innings)
 Game 3: Team B - Team C 8 - 2 (8 ½ innings)

Standings after Opening Round:

Team A 2 Won, 1 Lost *

Team B 2 Won, 1 Lost *

Team C 2 Won, 1 Lost *

Team D 0 Won, 3 Lost

* Criterion 1: No decision between any of the teams A, B and C. Team D is 4th place.

Criterion 2: Team B has the highest TQB, followed by Team A and Team C. Therefore, Team B is 1st place, Team A is 2nd place and Team C is 3rd place.

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 = 0.706; 7 runs allowed in 17 defensive innings = 0.412 □ TQB = 0.294

Team A: 5 runs scored in 17 offensive innings = 0.294; 6 runs allowed in 17.67 defensive innings = 0.339 □ TQB = -0.045

Team C: 4 runs scored in 17.67 offensive innings = 0.226; 8 runs allowed in 17 defensive innings = 0.471 □ TQB = -0.244

Scenario 3:

Game 1: Team C - Team D 4 - 3
 Game 2: Team C - Team E 8 - 5
 Game 3: Team D - Team E 3 - 7

Standings Round Robin:

Team A 5 Won, 0 Lost

Team B 3 Won, 2 Lost

Team C	2 Won, 3 Lost	*
Team D	2 Won, 3 Lost	*
Team E	2 Won, 3 Lost	*
Team F	1 Won, 4 Lost	

* Criterion 1: Based on the games played between teams C, D and E, team C won both games (record of 2-0), team E has one win one loss (1-1), and team D lost both games (0-2). Therefore this 3-team tie can be broken with criterion 1 as Team C won the games between the 3 teams. C is placed 3rd, E is 4th place and D is 5th place in this scenario.

Scenario 4:

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:

Team A	2 Won, 1 Lost	*	
Team B	2 Won, 1 Lost	*	**
Team C	2 Won, 1 Lost	*	**
Team D	0 Won, 3 Lost		

* Criterion 1: No decision between any of the teams A, B and C. Team D is 4th place.

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 ER-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 ERruns scored in 17 offensive innings = 0.529; 5 ERuns allowed in 17 defensive innings = 0.294 □ TQB = 0.235

Team C: 7 ERuns scored in 17 offensive innings = 0.412; 6 ERuns allowed in 17 defensive innings = 0.353 □ TQB = 0.059

Team A: 4 ERuns scored in 17 offensive innings = 0.235; 9 ERuns allowed in 17 defensive innings = 0.381 □ TQB = -0.294

Scenario 5:

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:

Team A	3 Won, 2 Lost	*	**	
Team B	3 Won, 2 Lost	*	**	
Team C	3 Won, 2 Lost	*	**	***
Team D	3 Won, 2 Lost	*	**	***
Team E	3 Won, 2 Lost	*	**	
Team F	0 Won, 5 Lost	*		

* Criterion 1: No decision between any of the teams A, B, C, D and E. Team F is 6th place.

**Criterion 2: Team B has the highest TQB followed by Team A. Team C and Team D have same TQB. Team E has the lowest TQB and therefore is 5th place. Team C won the game against Team D and therefore Team C is placed 3rd and Team D is 4th place.

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 = 0.542; 13 Runs allowed in 36 defensive innings = 0.361 TQB = 0.181

Team A: 16 Runs scored in 36 offensive innings = 0.444; 12 Runs allowed in 35 defensive innings = 0.342 TQB = 0.101

Team C: 12 Runs scored in 35 offensive innings = 0.342; 13 Runs allowed in 35 defensive innings = 0.371 TQB = -0.028

Team D: 18 Runs scored in 35 offensive innings = 0.514; 19 Runs allowed in 35 defensive innings = 0.542 TQB = -0.028

Team E: 11 Runs scored in 35 offensive innings = 0.314; 19 Runs allowed in 35 defensive innings = 0.542 TQB = -0.228

C12. ALTERNATE DETERMINATION OF CHAMPION

C12.1. In case of extreme weather conditions or any other reasons that prevent the completion of all games, it will proceed as follows:

a) An extra day will be used to permit the top finishers from each of the Opening Round groups to play a game or games to determine the title (8-team format only).

b) If extreme weather or other conditions disrupt the competition 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 final placement must be made without playing a game, the TQB tie breaking criteria from C-11 shall apply. If teams in question have played different amount of games or if they have not played each other, the equal amount of games played for the teams tied (including those teams with a potential tie if they would have won the remaining games) counting from the beginning of the competition shall be used to calculate TQB and the final placement shall be determined accordingly (if same TQB, ER-TQB shall be used). The same procedure will be followed for subsequent positions if necessary.

D. RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE USE AND CARE OF PROPERTY AND INSTALLATIONS

D1. The participating teams will be responsible for the damages to or disappearance of property in the places where they will be accommodated during the competition. The following procedures will be applied:

- a) A LOC representative and one person from each team will inspect the accommodation upon arrival of each team and an inspection report will follow.
- b) A clearance certificate or a bill for damages and alleged disappearances of property will be prepared by the LOC (in writing) at the end of the competition and submitted to the team Leader of each non local participating team before leaving the city.
- c) A certificate in writing will certify that the LOC does not have any claim for damages or disappearance of property against the team or any of its members and that it does not know of the existence of any claim against the team.
- d) A written invoice for damages or disappearance of property will specify the damages claimed, the disappeared article(s), name and address of the affected person(s) and amount of the claimed compensation.

D2. In the event of a claim for damages and/or disappearance of property against a team, the LOC and the WBSC will conduct a complete investigation of the events, proposing the corresponding steps to be taken.

D3. Failure to fulfill the stipulations of this section shall mean that the LOC loses the right to make any claim for damages or disappearance of property against any offending team and the WBSC.

E. OTHER MATTERS

E1. USE OF ELECTRONIC DEVICES

The use of electronic devices is forbidden during the games. None of the electronic devices such as cellular phones, laptops, tablets, video cameras, walkie-talkies, shall be used to communicate to on-field personnel, those in the dugout, bullpen, clubhouse and stands. The only exception to this rule is the use of phone/cellular phone to communicate between dugout and bullpen, however such device must be approved by WBSC in advance. No microphones or cameras are permitted in the dugout, bullpens or on the field of play without approval of WBSC. The participating teams must obtain approval of WBSC before using any other or new electronic equipment during a game.

E2. USE OF SOCIAL MEDIA

The use of social media by uniformed personnel of team delegations is not allowed during the games. If any violation is detected, individual(s) and National Federation(s) in question will subject themselves to fines and penalties by WBSC. If your team staff is in the stands during the entire duration of the game, such person may use electronic devices. However, the use of electronic device is prohibited when in and close to dugouts. Before and after the game, use of such electronic devices is allowed. Fans can follow the official online play-by-play, live-stream and/or @WBSC. Press officers stationed in designated press zones are encouraged to share posts (no video footage of game) to social media during the games.

E3. BREAK BETWEEN INNINGS

The amount of time between innings shall be ninety (90) seconds or as set otherwise for each game by WBSC, which shall provide that information to the Technical Commission. The Technical Commission shall communicate to the umpires and the participating teams accordingly. The home plate umpire will instruct the catcher to throw to second base thirty (30) seconds before the conclusion of a between-inning break. After signaling "one more pitch," the home plate umpire shall actively call the leadoff batter to approach home plate. The goal is to have the first pitch delivered immediately after the inning break concludes.

E4. SMOKING AND SMOKELESS TOBACCO

Any members of team delegation are not permitted to smoke in places that are visible to the public including audiences on media outlets such as TV, Internet streaming. It is the responsibility of team delegation leader to ensure such smoking is not seen by public as long as they are in game venues and practice facilities as well as other tournament official activities. In addition, team delegations should only smoke in a smoking area if one is designated by LOC. Any violation of this rule will be taken seriously and violators would be subject to disciplinary action as WBSC may deem appropriate. The use of smokeless tobacco is also prohibited for team delegation members during televised interviews or appearances. While spectators are permitted into the stadium, the delegation leader must ensure that such tobacco products (including tobacco tins or packages) are not visible to audience.

E5. TEAM PRESENTATION

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

E6. MEDIA OBLIGATIONS

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

F. FINAL DISPOSITIONS

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

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

F3. Any unforeseen circumstances, which arise and are not specified in the WBSC Tournament Regulations, then the WBSC Statutes, Disciplinary Rules, Code of Ethics, Protocol, Sanction Procedure and International Game Rules and other WBSC official documents as well as the Official Rules of Baseball will serve as the primary reference for all WBSC tournament officials.

WBSC

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BASEBALL SOFTBALL
CONFEDERATION

Game Time!

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