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*Chairman, Softball Division*

To all WBSC National Federations and  
WBSC Members

Lausanne, 23 November 2018

*Subject: Launch of U-23 Men's and U-15 Women's Softball World Cups*

Dear National Federations, dear WBSC Members,

On Saturday 17 November, the World Baseball Softball Confederation (WBSC) Softball Division Executive Board met in Rome, Italy for second time this year, to take important decisions regarding the global events of our sport.

In February of this year, the WBSC had taken the decision to modify the structure and image of its global softball events. After long months of analysis, study and work on this topic, last Saturday most of the structure of the new Softball World Cups has been defined, aiming to increase the sporting and economic potential of our flagship events.

Among the most important points of the meeting, held at the headquarters of the Italian Olympic Committee, the Executive Board confirmed the launch of two new categories for the Softball World Cups: the U-15 Women's Softball World Cup and the U-23 Men's Softball World Cup.

Previously the Softball Division Executive Board had decided to modify the Junior (U-19) Men's and Women's category, making it U-18.

### **WOMEN'S SOFTBALL WORLD CUP**

The U-18 and Senior Women's Softball World Cups will remain as 16-team tournaments, while the new U-15 Women's Softball World Cup will be a 12-team event. The

participants will be chosen through a Continental qualifying process.

The inaugural U-15 Women's Softball World Cup will be played in 2021. Also, the next Senior Women's Softball World Cup is scheduled for 2021.

The last U-19 Women's Softball World Cup is scheduled for 2019 in Irvine, California – USA. The Netherlands will receive a wild card and complete the lot of participants. The tournament will become the U-18 Women's Softball World Cup starting 2020.

### **MEN'S SOFTBALL WORLD CUPS**

All Men's Softball World Cup will be a 12-team tournament. The participants will be chosen through a Continental qualifying process.

The inaugural U-23 Men's Softball World Cup will be played in 2021.

The last Senior Men's Softball World Championship will be played in 2019. Cuba will receive a wild card and complete the lot of participants. The tournament will be then rebranded as Men's Softball World Cup in 2021. The following edition will be played in 2024.

The next U-18 Men's Softball World Cup is scheduled for 2020.

### **QUOTA PLACES BY CONTINENT**

Men's and U-15 Women's Softball World Cups – 12 National Teams:

- Africa: One (1)
- Asia: Two (2)
- Americas: Four (4)
- Europe: Two (2)
- Oceania: Two (2)
- Wild Card: One (1)

U-18 and Flagship Women's Softball World Cups – 16 National Teams:

- Africa: Two (2)
- Asia: Three (3)
- Americas: Five (5)
- Europe: Three (3)
- Oceania: Two (2)
- Wild Card: One (1)

I want to thank all my colleagues for their participation in this meeting, and for the long months of hard work that led us to make these decisions. We have shown that we have the capability of working in the interest of the game of softball, and transform the reality of our sport.

We trust that the chosen path is the best for the future of softball and, with the help of all the National Federations around the world and the WBSC Associate Members, we can turn the Softball World Cups into more attractive events for the fans, sponsors and broadcasters, giving our competitions greater prestige and visibility.

We are available to receive your comments or suggestions in order to improve day by day the reality of our sport.

With our kindest regards,



Tommy Velázquez