

Tommy Velázquez
Chairman, Softball Division

To all WBSC National Federations

Lausanne, 6 April 2018

Subject: Softball World Cups

Dear Members,

Following the recent WBSC Executive Board (“EB”) meeting in Paris, it’s an honour and duty to provide an update on the decisions taken in Paris and how this will shape an exciting future for Softball, alongside Baseball. We are committed and determined to elevate and grow the WBSC Softball brand to be highly appealing to hosts, multi-sport organisers, broadcasters, sponsors, media and new generations of athletes.

In this regard, the EB decided for new formats for the Softball World Cups starting in 2019.

1. A **16-team Softball World Cup** will be played with two groups of eight (2x8), with the top four teams from each group advancing to the Super Round; those not advancing will continue in the 9th-16th Place Consolation Round.
 - a. Super Round (second round) standings will include Opening Round results/head-to-heads among the top four advancing from the group. That is to say, wins/losses against teams not advancing to the Super Round will not count. The opposite is true for the Consolation Round: Teams will keep their opening round/group results against other teams relegated to the Consolation Round and results against teams advancing to the Super Round will not count.
 - b. The Winner and 2nd Place finisher of the Super Round will play in the Gold Medal Game. 3rd and 4th Place of the Super Round will play in the 3rd/4th Place Bronze Medal Game.

2. A **12-team Softball World Cup** will be played with two groups of six (2x6), with the top three teams from each group advancing to the Super Round. Those not advancing will continue in the 7th-12th Place Consolation Round.
 - a. Super Round (second round) standings will include Opening Round results/head-to-heads among the top three advancing from the group. Wins/losses against teams not advancing to the Super Round will not count. The opposite is true for the Consolation Round: Results against teams advancing to the Super Round will not count.
 - b. Same as above

New Age Categories

The EB implemented a revised age category that aligns with overall WBSC World Cup format and will strengthen awareness and reinforce brand consistency and value across all disciplines. The age category for Softball will be as follows:

- U-23 (Women's & Men's)
- U-19 becomes U-18:
 - Women's 2020
 - Men's 2021
- U-15 begins:
 - Girls 2021
 - Boys 2020
- U-12 (mixed) begins:
 - 2020

NOTE:

The year/launch of the first edition of the U-23 Softball World Cups (Women's and Men's) has yet to be determined. More analysis on this is needed, particularly with potential stakeholders and hosts.

I hope these exciting changes bring about renewed enthusiasm of our sport as we increase momentum toward Tokyo 2020. I feel the decisions the EB took in Paris represent a leap forward for Softball, which will be of great benefit to all National Federations and to the long-term future of our great sport.

Sincerely,



Tommy Velázquez