

Japan Softball Association – Annual Activity Report (FY2025)

1. Domestic Development and Grassroots Promotion

- Promotion for Young Children and Beginners
 - Developed an introductory program tailored for preschoolers and lower-grade elementary students.
 - Provided subsidies to prefectural associations that implemented the program.
 - Delivered hands-on “participation programs” using the ASOBALL (developed in 2019) at nurseries, kindergartens, and community facilities nationwide.
- School’s Physical Education Support
 - Continued support for the compulsory “Base-Type Sport” curriculum in junior high schools.
 - Conducted nationwide teacher training workshops in cooperation with NPB.
- Collaboration with Japan League and Top League Organizations
 - League teams conducted softball clinics for local youth at league venues.
 - Jointly implemented ASOBALL-based programs for preschoolers and beginners as part of outreach activities.

2. International Exchange and Cooperation

- Asian Region Development
 - Provided coaching support by dispatching Japanese instructors to Asian countries that requested technical development assistance.
- Japan–Korea Junior Sports Exchange
 - Conducted bilateral exchange programs to promote mutual understanding, friendship, and junior athlete development.

3. Public Relations and Media Activities

- Enhanced the official website and expanded online video streaming of competitions.
- Improved information sharing with prefectural PR committees and strengthened collaboration with university groups and PR agencies.
- Conducted marketing activities to secure sponsorships.

4. High Performance Program

- Organized national team selection trials, domestic training camps, and international competition participation to enhance elite performance.

5. Technical Development

- Implemented the “MIRAI Talent Development Program” across all regions.

6. National Events

- Hosted 31 National Championships and co-host 6 softball competitions for multi-sports events.
- Held Japan League competitions:
 - Men’s League: 8 venues
 - Women’s League: 9 venues
 - JD League: 54 venues

7. National Team Selection and International Events Participation

● Selection Trials

- Men's U23: Kochi City
- Women's U18: Izu City

● International Competitions

• Men:

- 18th Men's World Cup Final (Canada) - 4th Place
- 12th World Games (China) - Gold medal
- 2nd U23 Asian Cup (Thailand) - Gold medal

• Women:

- 14th Women's Asian Cup (China) - Gold medal
- 12th World Games (China) - Gold medal
- 15th Women's U18 World Cup Final (USA) - Silver medal
- 2nd Women's U15 World Cup (Italy) - Gold medal

• Exchange program:

- Japan-Korea Junior Women Exchange Program August 8-13, Chiba Japan
- Korea-Japan Junior Women Exchange Program November 25-30, Busan, Korea

8. Rules and Governance

- Convened the Rules Committee and reviewed revisions for the 2025 Official Softball Rules.

9. Officials and Coaches Development FY2024 finalized in February 2025

● Umpire Certification

- Level 1: 223
- Level 2: 231
- Level 3: 2,236

● Scorer Certification

- Level 1: 56
- Level 2: 82
- Level 3: 1,161

● Coaching Certification

- Certified Start Coaches: 1,117 participants
- Coach Level 3 Course: 33
- National Leaders Workshop (Tokyo): Strengthened leadership and inter-prefectural cooperation
- Coach Level 3 & 4 certification renewal workshop

10. Publications

Issued the following materials in FY2025:

- Official Softball Rulebook
- Player Handbook

- Softball Casebook
- Coaching Textbook
- Scoring Manual
- Early Childhood Ball-Play Program Materials
- Anti-Doping Leaflet
- Heat Illness Prevention Leaflet
- Harassment Prevention Leaflet
- School PE Softball Guidebook

11. Anti-Doping Activities

- Produced and distributed anti-doping leaflets.
- Conducted 16 doping tests.
- Held anti-doping seminars and trainers' workshops.

12. Revenue-Generating Activities

- Published the JSA Softball Newsletter (11 issues).
- Conducted approval of new equipment (official balls, bats, helmets).
- Sold umpires equipment's and membership badges.

13. Organizational Governance

- Maintained membership in JSPO, JOC, WBSC, and the Softball Asia and engaged in ongoing cooperation with these organizations.
- Held board meetings, council meetings, and other governance sessions.

Issues and Challenges

1. Declining membership revenue due to the decreasing player population

- The continued decline in the softball participation base has resulted in reduced membership revenue, creating a significant financial challenge.

2. Aging and decreasing number of certified umpires

- The umpire workforce is aging, and the number of active certified umpires continues to decrease, raising concerns about the long-term sustainability of officiating capacity.

3. Rising costs of hosting competitions (labor costs, venue rental fees)

- The cost of organizing competitions has increased substantially, particularly due to rising labor expenses and higher venue rental fees.

4. Increased risk of heat-related illness during summer competitions

- Summer competitions face heightened risks of heat-related illness, requiring enhanced safety measures and operational adjustments.

In response to these challenges, the JSA is expanding grassroots development, strengthening umpire recruitment and training, optimizing competition operations, enhancing sponsorship efforts, and implementing comprehensive heat-management measures to ensure safe and sustainable softball activities.

Number of registrations (as of 31 March, 2025)

Teams/Players

Leather ball (Competitive level)	Teams	Players
Club & Industry team – Men	342	7,210
Club & Industry team – Women	67	1,379
University team – Men	97	2,234
University team – Women	78	1,902
Rubber ball (Student level)	Teams	Players
Elementary team (U12) – Men	955	18,931
Elementary team (U12) – Women	206	3,650
Junior High School team (U15) - Men	63	1,225
Junior High School team (U15) - Women	961	16,757
High School team (U18) – Men	1,046	3,684
High School team (U18) - Women	207	14,351
Rubber ball (Lifelong level)	Teams	Players
Men 15+ team (Ippan) – Men	530	11,751
Teachers team – Men	58	1,343
Men 40+ team (Sonen) – Women	517	11,233
Men 50+ team (Jitsunen) – Women	467	9,541
Men 59+ team (Senior) – Women	505	10,700
Men 65+ team (High Senior) – Women	281	5,168
Ladies 15+ team (Open) – Women	295	5,975
Ladies 35+ team (Elder) – Women	113	2,104
Ladies 50+ team (Eldest) – Women	102	1,884
Total	6,890	131,022

Coaches, Umpires, Scorers

Coaches	15,235
Umpires	29,282
Scorers	8,974

National tournaments 2025

National championships	37 tournaments
Japan Diamond League, Japan Softball League	72 sessions
International tournaments	1 *

*Utsugi Cup