



SOFTBALL ASIA

MINUTES OF THE SECOND (2ND) SOFTBALL ASIA EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING (02/2022-2026)

Date: 07 February 2023

Time: 09.30 am

Venue: Level 2, Grand Millennium Hotel, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEMBERS

- | | | |
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| 1. | Mr. PAN Yi Chuan | Chairman |
| 2. | Mr. Yutaka MIYAKE | Advisor |
| 3. | Ms. (Dato') LOW Beng Choo | President |
| 4. | Ms. Taeko UTSUGI | First Vice President |
| 5. | Ms. KIM Eun Young | Vice President |
| 6. | Ms. ZHANG Xuan (Susan) | Vice President |
| 7. | Mr. Yotsakrai PHAINPANITPORN | Vice President |
| 8. | Mr. Jean Henri LHUILLIER | Vice President |
| 9. | Mr. Patrick NG Ka Him | Vice President |
| 10. | Mr. LEE Chong Hoon | Member-At-Large |
| 11. | Ms. Sally LIM Swee Gaik | Secretary-General |
| 12. | Mr. CHANG Chia Hsing | Secretary to Chairman |
| 13. | Dr. YANG Xu | Member-At-Large (Attended Online) |

CHAIRS OF SOFTBALL ASIA COMMITTEES

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| 1. | Mr. SEE Kok Wooi | Chair, SA Competitions & Technical Committee |
| 2. | Mr. Paulo TABIRARA | Chair, Softball Asia Umpires Committee |
| 3. | Mr. Tony MARIADASS | SA Chief Media Officer |

BY INVITATION

- | | | |
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| 1. | Mr. Michael SCHMIDT | WBSC Executive Director - ONLINE |
| 2. | Ms. LO Yu Hsin | Chinese Taipei – CTSA President |
| 3. | Mr. Willeam MAH Choon How | Malaysia – SAM President |
| 4. | Ms. FOO Pei | Singapore – SBSA President |
| 5. | Mr. Cherfy LEE Chong Fai | Hong Kong – HKSA Vice President |
| 6. | Mr. Tomoaki OKAMOTO | Japan - JSA Executive Director |
| 7. | Mr. Shinsuke YABATA | Japan - JSA Secretary-General |
| 8. | Mr. Miko JIMENEZ | Philippines – ASAPhil Council Member |

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE

- | | | |
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| 1. | Mr. Sam KIM Bich | WBSC Staff |
| 2. | Mr. CHO Min Jun | KBSA Staff – Interpreter |
| 3. | Ms. KIM Hyemin | KBSA Staff – Interpreter |
| 4. | Mr. WOO Jisuk | KBSA Staff |
| 5. | Ms. Akiko ITO | JSA Interpreter |
| 6. | Mr. Tomohiro HISAKA | JSA Staff |
| 7. | Ms. Tina YEH Wan-Ting | CTSA Staff - Interpreter |
| 9. | Mr. Mohd. REZA bin Abd Rashid | Malaysia |

1. ROLL CALL

- 1.1 SA Secretary-General Ms. Sally Lim completed the Roll Call and confirmed that a quorum was present for the Meeting to proceed.
- 1.2 The Meeting was called to order by the Softball Asia (SA) President, Dato' Beng Choo Low, who welcomed all present and thank them for their attendance. She also welcomed the attendance of WBSC Executive Director (ED), Mr. Michael Schmidt, who joined the meeting online despite it being very early in the morning in Switzerland, and also SA Member-at-Large cum Chinese Softball Association (CSA) President Dr. Yang Xu who also joined the Meeting online.
- 1.3 She informed that the main item for discussion in this Meeting was to confirm the SA Calendar of events and tournaments for 2023.

2. CHAIRMAN & PRESIDENT'S WELCOME REMARKS

- 2.1 SA Chairman Mr. Pan Yi Chuan welcomed and thanked everyone for coming to the SA 2nd EXCO Meeting. He was happy to see everyone again and wished everyone to stay safe and in good health.
- 2.2 As host, SA President Low also welcomed the SA EXCO Members to the Meeting. On behalf of SA, she also welcomed the invitees to the meeting.

3. MINUTES OF 1ST EXCO Meeting (1/2022- 2026) held on 16 August 2022

- 3.1 As there were no amendments, the Minutes of the 1st EXCO Meeting held on 16 August 2022 was unanimously approved as proposed by SA Vice President Mr. Yotsakrai Phainanitporn and seconded by SA Vice President Mr. Patrick Ng Ka Him.

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES OF MEETING

- 4.1 There were no matters arising from the Minutes.

5. REPORTS ON EVENTS

5.1 U23 Men Softball Asia Cup Play-off 2022 (Shimanto, Japan)

5.2 Men Softball Asia Cup 2022 (Shimanto, Japan)

SA President Low informed that the SA Reports on the U23 Men Softball Asia Cup Play-off 2022 and the Men Softball Asia Cup 2022, both held in Shimanto, Japan were available on the SA website. She thanked all who contributed to the success of both events, and thanked in particular the field crew in Shimanto who worked tirelessly to prepare the fields and had to deal with inclement weather which was very challenging indeed. She thanked Japan Softball Association (JSA) President Mr. Yutaka Miyake and his JSA team, as well as JSA Executive Director Mr. Tomoaki Okamoto and his Shimanto team for a job well done for both tournaments.

JSA Mr. Miyake and Mr. Okamoto thanked everyone for their participation and services which contributed to the success of the two tournaments.

5.3 WBSC-SA Scorers Seminar (Pattaya, Thailand)

5.4 WBSC-SA Umpires Certification Seminar 2022 (Pattaya, Thailand)

5.4 Asian Universities Women Softball Asia Cup 2022 (Pattaya, Thailand)

SA President Low thanked Softball Association Thailand (SBAT) President Mr. Yotsakrai Phainpanitporn (Art) for hosting the above three (3) events, namely:

- (i) WBSC-SA Scorers Seminar;
- (ii) WBSC-SA Umpires' Certification Seminar;
- (iii) Asian Universities Women Softball Asia Cup 2022 in Pattaya, Thailand.

She commended that the venue, the Pattaya Rugby School, had excellent facilities for sports events and catered high quality meals for participants. She stated that the results of the Umpires Certification Seminar will be sent to the relevant National Federations.

SBAT President Phainpanitporn (Art) stated that SBAT was happy to host the events and look forward to having future events in Thailand.

6. SOFTBALL ASIA CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2023 - 2024

6.1 To discuss and consider the use of Mizuno M150 (leather) or Mizuno M170 (synthetic leather) balls for Softball Asia tournaments in 2023

6.1.1 SA President Low stated that several of the SA Members-National Federations (NFs)/teams had informed her of the following as regards the Mizuno balls used for SA tournaments:

- (i) It has been noted that Mizuno would be discontinuing the sponsorship and production of the current Mizuno M150 (leather) balls for Softball tournaments and that the new sponsored balls would be the Mizuno M170 (synthetic leather).
- (ii) A number of the SA Members–NFs/teams bought substantial quantities of the Mizuno M150 balls and still had quite a stock of those balls.
- (iii) Mizuno has indicated that it may take some time for the new Mizuno M170 balls to be easily available in the general market for purchase by the SA Member-NFs/teams this year (2023) for use for training and practice.

6.1.2 She explained that both the M150 and M170 balls were similar content except that the covering is different – the M150 balls had leather covering whereas the M170 balls had synthetic leather covering. She said the difference may be felt by pitchers in particular.

6.1.3 She informed that:

- (i) For the 2023 Asia Cup tournaments (example, Women Softball, U15 Women Softball, U18 Men Softball, Men Softball and U18 Women Softball), SA would still have sufficient stock of the M150 balls for use as the official competition/tournament balls which SA would supply from the previous Mizuno sponsorship.
- (ii) As for the Hangzhou Asian Games (HAG), Mizuno has agreed to sponsor and supply the new Mizuno M170 balls for the Softball competition there.

6.1.4 WBSC ED Mr. Schmidt informed that for the WBSC U15 Women Softball World Cup 2023 in Tokyo Japan, the M150 balls would be used from the current WBSC stock of Mizuno sponsored balls, HOWEVER, for all other

WBSC Softball World Cups, the new M170 balls would be used. He said that it is still not certain whether Mizuno would be able to make the new M170 balls easily available in the market. He suggested that if SA still had a good stock of the M150 balls, then SA should use that for the Asia Cup tournaments this year (2023).

6.1.5 SA President Low requested the views of the SA EXCO Members on the matter as to whether it would be more practical to continue the use the current Mizuno M150 balls for the SA tournaments in 2023 to enable the existing stock to be used and to save some costs in that SA Members-NFs/teams did not need to have to rush to buy the new ball and incur additional costs in the short term.

6.1.6 There was much deliberation on the matter. After discussion and taking into consideration the factors discussed in paras 6.1.1 to 6.1.4, the SA EXCO Members decided as follows.

DECISION

The SA EXCO unanimously decided as follows:

(1) The Mizuno M150 balls would be used for the following SA Asia Cup tournaments in 2023 and that SA would supply the balls:

- (i) Women Softball Asia Cup 2023 in Incheon Korea,**
- (ii) U15 Women Softball Asia Cup 2023 in Puli TPE,**
- (iii) U18 Men Softball Asia Cup 2023 in Kochi Japan,**
- (iv) Men Softball Asia Cup 2023 in Kochi Japan, and**
- (v) U18 Women Softball Asia Cup 2023 in Pingtan China.**

(2) In view of Mizuno’s new sponsorship of the official competition ball, the Mizuno M170 balls would be used for the Softball competition in the Hangzhou Asian Games.

6.2 Softball Asia Calendar 2023 – 2024

After discussion, the SA EXCO Members agreed in principle to the following for the SA Calendar for 2023 – 2024, and that it is SUBJECT to change.

Softball Asia Calendar for 2023 – 2024

YEAR 2023

<u>No.</u>	<u>Tournament / Event</u>	<u>Host City & Dates for Event</u>	<u>Remarks</u>
1.	Softball Asia EXCO Meeting <i>Completed</i>	City: Kuala Lumpur Meeting Date: 07 February 2023	For SA Executive Council Members & Invitees only
2.	Youth (U18) Baseball5 Asia Cup (Qualifier for World Cup 2023 – 3 Asia slots)	City: Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia (Berjaya Times Square Hotel) Competition Dates: 08 – 11 February 2023 (7 participating teams confirmed – CHN, HKG, IND, KOR, MAS, SGP, TPE)	<i>World Cup 2023 host & dates TBD</i>
3.	WBSC-Softball Asia Umpires Certification Seminar	City: Incheon, South Korea Dates: Theory: 30 – 31 Mar & 01 April 2023 Practical: 02 – 08 April 2023	For certification of umpires at WBSC and Softball Asia levels

No.	Tournament / Event	Host City & Dates for Event	Remarks
4.	Women Softball Asia Cup (Qualifier for 3 Groups Stage World Cup 2023 – 3 Asia slots)	City: Incheon, South Korea Competition Dates: 02 - 08 April 2023 (9 participating teams confirmed – CHN, HKG, IND, JPN, KOR, PHI, SGP, THA, TPE)	World Cup Group Stage 2023 Hosts – Ireland, Italy, Spain (See Row #11 below)
5.	U23 Men Softball World Cup 2022 to 2023	City: Parana, Argentina Dates: 15 – 23 April 2023	Asia Qualified Teams: JPN & SGP
6.	Co-Ed Slow Pitch Softball Asia Cup (Qualifier for World Cup 2023 – 3 Asia slots)	City: Pattaya, Thailand Competition Dates: 24 – 27 May 2023 (5 participating teams – CHN, PHI, SGP, THA, TPE)	<i>World Cup 2023 host & dates TBD</i>
7.	WBSC-Softball Asia Umpires Certification Seminar	City: Puli, TPE Dates: Theory: 10 – 12 June 2023 Practical: 13 – 17 June 2023	For certification of umpires at WBSC and Softball Asia levels
8.	U15 Women Softball Asia Cup (Qualifier for 1-stage World Cup –October 2023 (Japan) – 2 Asia slots other than Japan as World Cup host)	City: Puli, TPE Competition Dates: 13 - 17 June 2023 (9 participating teams – CHN, HKG, IND, JPN, KOR, PHI, SGP, THA, TPE)	World Cup host: Tokyo, Japan Competition Dates: 21 – 29 Oct 2023 (See Row #14 below)
9.	U18 Men Softball Asia Cup (Qualifier for 1-stage World Cup 2023 – 2 Asia slots)	City: Kochi, Japan Competition Dates: 22 – 24 June 2023 (5 participating teams – HKG, IND, JPN, SGP, TPE)	<i>World Cup 2023:</i> <i>Host: Mexico</i> <i>Dates: 11 – 19 November 2023</i>
10.	Men Softball Asia Cup (Qualifier for 3 Groups Stage World Cup 2024 – 3 Asia slots)	City: Kochi, Japan Competition Dates: 25 – 28 June 2023 (6 participating teams – HKG, IND, JPN, PHI, SGP, TPE)	<i>World Cup 3 Groups Stage 2024 host & dates TBD</i>
11.	Women Softball World Cup 3 Groups Stage 2023	Hosts – Ireland, Italy, Spain <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dublin, Ireland (Group A) Dates: 11 – 15 July 2023 (Ireland, Asia 3, USA, Great Britain, Australia, Botswana) • Valencia, Spain (Group B) Dates: 18 – 22 July 2023 (Spain, Asia 2, Cuba, Puerto Rico, Netherlands, South Africa) • Castions di Strada & Buttrio, Italy (Group C) Dates: 22 – 26 July 2023 (Italy, Asia 1, Canada, Venezuela, New Zealand, Wild Card) 	3 Asia Qualified Teams to be determined in Asia Cup (See Row #4 above): Asia 1: Italy (Group C) Asia 2: Spain (Group B) Asia 3: Ireland (Group A)
12.	U18 Women Softball Asia Cup (Qualifier for World Cup 2024) – Group Stage – 3 Asia slots)	City: Pingtan, China (<i>TBC</i>) Competition Dates: 29 Aug – 03 Sept 2023 (8 participating teams – CHN, HKG, IND, JPN, KOR, PHI, SGP, TPE)	<i>World Cup 3 Groups Stage 2024 host & dates TBD</i>
13.	19th Asian Games Hangzhou 2022 to 2023: Softball Competition	Venue: Shaoxing Baseball & Softball Sports Centre (42 km from Athletes' Village) Softball Competition Dates: 26 September – 02 October 2023 <i>AG Opening Ceremony: 23 September</i> <i>AG Closing Ceremony: 08 October</i> Entry by Number Deadline: 15 Mar 2023 Entry by Name Deadline: 15 Jun 2023	Teams approved by SA at its EXCO Meeting 09 May 2022: CHN, HKG, IND, JPN, KOR, PHI, SGP, THA, TPE Note: FINAL participation to be determined by respective National Olympic Committee

<u>No.</u>	<u>Tournament / Event</u>	<u>Host City & Dates for Event</u>	<u>Remarks</u>
14.	U15 Women Softball World Cup 2023	City: Tokyo, Japan Competition Dates: 21 – 29 Oct 2023	3 Asia Qualified Teams to be determined in Asia Cup (See Row #8 above)
15.	6th Asian Indoor & Martial Arts Games (AIMAG) 2023: Baseball5 Competition	City: Bangkok Thailand Competition Dates: 20 – 25 November 2023 AIMAG Opening Ceremony: 17 Nov 2023 AIMAG Closing Ceremony: 26 Nov 2023	Participation to be determined by respective National Olympic Committee
16.	Softball Asia EXCO Meeting	City: Kuala Lumpur Meeting Date: December 2023 <i>TBC</i>	For SA Executive Council Members & Invitees only
17.	Youth (U18) Baseball5 World Cup 2023	City: <i>TBD</i> Competition Dates: <i>TBD</i>	3 Qualified Asia Teams: TPE, CHN, KOR
18.	U18 Men Softball World Cup 2023	City: Mexico Competition Dates: 11 – 19 November 2023	2 Asia slots to be determined in Asia Cup 2023 (See Row #9 above)
19.	Co-Ed Slow Pitch Softball World Cup 2023	City: <i>TBD</i> Dates: <i>TBD</i>	3 Asia Qualified Teams to be determined in Asia Cup (See Row #6 above)

YEAR 2024

<u>No.</u>	<u>Tournament / Event</u>	<u>Host City & Dates for Event</u>	<u>Remarks</u>
1.	Softball Asia – Japan Softball Association Coaching Seminars 1.1 Levels 1 & 2 1.2 Level 3	City: <i>TBD</i> Dates: <i>TBD</i>	For WBSC and SA certification of coaches
2.	Softball Asia Biennial Congress	City: <i>TBD</i> Meeting Date: <i>TBD</i>	For SA National Federation-Members & Invitees
3.	Asian Universities Women Softball Asia Cup 2024	City: Taichung, TPE Competition Dates: August 2024 <i>TBC</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> For Athletes 18 – 28 years old. All athletes must be full-time students in a university, with a valid student identification card.
4.	Baseball5 Open Asia Cup 2024 (Qualifier for World Cup 2024 – 3 Asia slots)	City: <i>TBD</i> in Korea Competition Dates: <i>TBD</i>	3 Asia slots to be determined for World Cup 2024
5.	Youth U18 Baseball5 Asia Cup 2024/2025: (Qualifier for World Cup 2025 – 3 Asia slots)	City: <i>TBD</i> Competition Dates: <i>TBD</i>	3 Asia slots to be determined for World Cup 2024: <i>World Cup 2025 host & dates TBD</i>
6.	Women Softball World Cup Final Stage 2024 (8 teams to be determined in the World Cup 3 Groups Stage played in 2023)	Hosts – Castions di Strada & Buttrio, Italy Dates: 15 – 21 July 2024	Finalist teams to be determined from 3 Groups Stage (See Row #11 in 2023 Calendar above)
7.	Men Softball World Cup 2024 - 3 Groups Stage (To determine 8 teams for World Cup Final Stage in 2025)	City: <i>TBD</i> Competition Dates: <i>TBD</i>	3 Asia slots to be determined in Asia Cup 2023 (See Row #10 in 2023 Calendar)
8.	U18 Women Softball World Cup – 3 Groups Stage (To determine 8 teams for World Cup Final Stage in 2025)	City: <i>TBD</i> Competition Dates: <i>TBD</i>	3 Asia slots to be determined in Asia Cup 2023 (See Row #12 in 2023 Calendar)
9.	Baseball5 Open World Cup 2024	City: <i>TBD</i> Competition Dates: <i>TBD</i>	3 Asia slots to be determined in Asia Cup 2024 (See Row #4 in 2024 Calendar)

7. APPOINTMENT OF SOFTBALL ASIA COMMITTEE MEMBERS

7.1 SA President Dato' Beng Choo Low referred to the Attachment and requested the Chairs and Co-Chairs of the various Committees have to come up with Programmes for 2023 & 2024 for discussion and consideration at the next meeting.

7.1.1 Coaching Committee – Advisor: Yutaka Miyake
Chair: Tomoaki Okamoto

7.1.2 Competitions & Technical Committee – Chair: See Kok Wooi
Co-Chair: Susan Zhang Xuan

7.1.3 Development Committee – Advisor: Taeko Utsugi
Chair: Shinsuke Yabata

7.1.4 Scorers Committee – Chair: Tan Chia Mien

7.1.5 Umpires Committee – Chair: Paulo Tabirara

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

8.1 CTSA Secretary General Mr. Chang confirmed that CTSA was interested to host the Asian Universities Women Softball Asia Cup in Taichung TPE in August 2024.

8.2 KBSA President Mr. Lee confirmed that KBSA was interested to host the Baseball5 (Open category) Asia Cup – World Cup Qualifier in Korea in early 2024

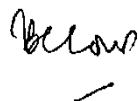
8.3 SA Vice President Mr. Patrick Ng shared the challenges that HKG Softball were facing in getting funding for Baseball5 in Hong Kong China as the HKG government and other authorities assumes that Baseball5 was under the authority of HKG Baseball Association. SA President Low requested HKSA to consider forming a joint HKG Baseball5 Commission or Working Group to jointly promote and develop Baseball5 in Hong Kong, similar to the structure by WBSC-Asia Baseball5, which was a joint commission of Baseball Asia and Softball Asia.

9. ADJOURNMENT

9.1 SA Chairman Mr. Pan and SA President Ms. Low thanked everyone for the lively and open discussions and for their attendance, and also thanked all those who assisted to ensure the success of this meeting.

9.2 There being no other matters arising, the Meeting was adjourned at 11.30 am with a vote of thanks to the Chair of the meeting.

Minutes confirmed by:



DATO' BENG CHOO LOW
President, Softball Asia

07 February 2023