



SOFTBALL ASIA

MINUTES OF THE 27th SOFTBALL ASIA CONGRESS 2024

Date: 06 December 2024

Time: 09.30 am

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

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEMBERS

- | | |
|---------------------------------|--|
| 1. Mr. PAN Yi Chuan | SA Chairman |
| 2. Ms. (Dato') LOW Beng Choo | SA President |
| 3. Mr. Yutaka MIYAKE | SA Advisor |
| 4. Ms. Taeko UTSUGI | SA First Vice President |
| 5. Mr. Yotsakrai PHAINPANITPORN | SA Vice President |
| 6. Ms. KIM Eun Young | SA Vice President |
| 7. Ms. ZHANG Xuan (Susan) | SA Vice President |
| 8. Mr. Patrick NG Ka Him | SA Vice President |
| 9. Ms. Sally LIM Swee Gaik | SA Secretary-General |
| 10. Mr. CHANG Chia Hsing | SA Secretary to Chairman |
| 11. Mr. Aloysius ONG Jun Heng | SA Athletes Representative – Male |
| 12. Mr. ZHENG Lu (Jimmy) | SA EXCO Co-Opted Member |
| 13. Mr. LEE Chong Hoon | WBSC Softball Division Member-At-Large |

CHAIRS OF SOFTBALL ASIA COMMITTEES

- | | |
|------------------------|--|
| 1. Mr. Tomoaki OKAMOTO | Chair, SA Coaching Committee |
| 2. Mr. Shinsuke YABATA | Chair, SA Development Committee |
| 3. Ms. TAN Chia Mien | Chair, SA Scorers Committee |
| 4. Mr. SEE Kok Wooi | Chair, SA Tournament & Technical Committee |

DELEGATES

- | | |
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| 1. Mr. Bishnulai CHAMLAGAI | Bhutan – BhBSA Youth Development Officer |
| 2. Mr. WAN MD. TAMBRIN Sah | Brunei – BBSA Vice President |
| 3. Mr. ZHENG Lu (Jimmy) | China – CSA Secretary General |
| 4. Mr. Franky WONG Chun Cheong | Hong Kong China – HKCSA President |
| 5. Mr. Cherfy LEE Chong Fai | Hong Kong China – HKCSA Vice President |
| 6. Mr. Lekh Raj MAURYA | India – SBAI Secretary General |
| 7. Mr. Pravin ANAOKAR | India – SBAI Secretariat & Foreign Affairs Director |
| 8. Mr. ALI ABDULHUSSEIN Jasim Al-Baldawi | Iraq – IrqBSF President |
| 9. Mr. ALI ABDULWAHID Lazim AL-Hilfi | Iraq – IrqBSF EXCO Member |
| 10. Mr. Tomoaki OKAMOTO | Japan – JSA Executive Director |
| 11. Mr. LEE Chong Hoon | Korea – KBSA President |
| 12. Ms. KIM Eun Young | Korea – KBSA Vice President |
| 13. Mr. Willeam MAH Choon How | Malaysia – SAM President |
| 14. Mr. Denis NUEVO | Philippines – ASAPhil Board Member |
| 15. Mr. SAMEER J.I. Skaik Abeer | Palestine – PFBS Gen Secretariat Member |
| 15. Ms. FOO Pei | Singapore – SBSA President |
| 16. Ms. TAN Chia Mien | Singapore – SBSA Secretary General |
| 17. Mr. HSIEH Yi Fang | Chinese Taipei – CTSA Vice President |
| 18. Mr. CHANG Chia Hsing | Chinese Taipei – CTSA Secretary General |
| 19. Mr. (Art) Yotsakrai PHAINPANITPORN | Thailand – SBAT President |

SPECIAL INVITEES

- | | | |
|----|-------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1. | Mr. Chhem DARA | Cambodia – CBSF President |
| 2. | Mr. Ean PHEARA | Cambodia – CBSF Secretary General |
| 3. | Mr. ANAS AL-Qudah | Jordan – JBSA Vice President |

OBSERVERS

- | | | |
|----|--------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. | Ms. Akiko ITO | JPN-JSA Interpreter |
| 2. | Ms. Mami TAGAWA | JPN-JSA Staff – Interpreter |
| 3. | Mr. WOO Jisuk | KOR-KBSA Staff – Interpreter |
| 4. | Mr. CHO Minjun | KOR-KBSA Staff – Interpreter |
| 5. | Ms. CHEN Szu Yu | TPE-CTSA Interpreter |
| 6. | Mr. Tony MARIADASS | SA Chief Media Officer |
| 7. | Mr. ROSLI Ismail | SA Umpires Committee |
| 8. | Ms. NOR HAJAR bte Abd. Hamid | SA Baseball5 Games Official |
| 9. | Ms. Aree (Jann) SATHIANWATCHAI | SA IT Support Services |

ABSENT WITH APOLOGIES

- | | | |
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| 1. | Mr. Jean Henri LHUILLIER | SA Vice President |
| 2. | Ms. Elsa CHEW | Athletes Representative – Female |
| 4. | Dr. YANG Xu | WBSC Softball Division Continental Representative - Asia |
| 5. | Mr. Paulo TABIRARA | Chair, SA Umpires Committee |

1. ROLL CALL

- 1.1 SA Secretary-General, Ms. Sally Lim Swee Gaik, completed the Roll Call as per the Attendance List above and confirmed that a quorum was present for this Congress to proceed.
- 1.2 The Congress was called to order by the Softball Asia (SA) President, Ms. (Dato') Beng Choo Low at 09.30 am.

2. SA CHAIRMAN'S OPENING ADDRESS AND SA PRESIDENT'S WELCOME REMARKS

2.1 SA Chairman Mr. Pan Yi Chuan's Opening Address

SA Chairman Mr. Pan Yi Chuan welcomed everyone and thanked them for attending this important SA Congress. He thanked SA President Low for hosting the Congress and looked forward to hearing everyone's feedback on the matters to be discussed. He thanked everyone for their continued support and extended best wishes to all present, and their families.

2.2 SA President Beng Choo Low's Welcome Address

2.2.1 SA President Low welcomed everyone to Kuala Lumpur, and thanked them for their attendance, including the special invitees. She recorded appreciation to all the SA National Federation-Members (NFs), and officials, who have continued to support SA to develop and grow Softball in Asia. She also recorded gratitude to those NFs and local organizing committees, who assisted to host and organise SA events and tournaments as it was not easy to find good hosts with appropriate softball facilities.

2.2.2 She informed that this Congress would approve – ratify the membership applications from several new members. In this regard, she informed that she had stepped up efforts to meet various parties, including National Olympic Committees (NOCs), to encourage the establishment of new NFs for Baseball-Softball, which has resulted in new members to be added to the SA Family. She also reported that she has been busy in meetings with stakeholders and hosts of multi-sports Games, as she continued to propose for the inclusion of Softball and Baseball5 in multi-sports events.

2.2.3 She explained the items for discussion in this Congress, including to confirm the SA Calendar of events and tournaments for 2025, and would appreciate open discussion and feedback on the matters to be discussed.

3. TO CONSIDER AND APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE 26TH SOFTBALL ASIA CONGRESS HELD ON 03 JULY 2022 IN TAIPEI CITY TPE

3.1 SA President Low informed that the Minutes of the 26th SA Congress held on 03 July 2022 in Taipei City TPE (in conjunction with the WBSC Congress 2022 held there) was sent much earlier to all SA NFs-Members and that no requests for amendments were received by the SA secretariat. There was also no request for amendments brought up in this Congress.

Proposal

To consider and approve the Minutes of the 26th SA Congress held on 03 July 2022 in Taipei City TPE, as proposed by Ms. Taeko Utsugi and seconded by Ms. (Susan) Zhang Xuan.

DECISION

The SA Congress unanimously approved the Minutes of the 26th SA Congress held on 03 July 2022 in Taipei City TPE.

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES OF THE CONGRESS

4.1 There were no matters arising from the Minutes brought up.

5. TO CONSIDER AND APPROVE-RATIFY NEW AFFILIATE-MEMBERS, AS RECOMMENDED BY THE SA EXCO TO THE SA CONGRESS FOR APPROVAL-RATIFICATION

SA President Low informed that that the following applications (with the relevant documents) were received by the SA secretariat from the following NFs, for new SA full – ordinary Affiliate-Membership. She also informed that:

- All the respective NFs were already approved by World Baseball Softball Confederation (WBSC) as WBSC full-ordinary Affiliate – Members.
- The SA EXCO Meeting held the day before (05 December 2024) had unanimously approved all the applications and made recommendations that the memberships be approved-ratified by this SA Congress.

She tabled each of the following applications for the SA Congress’s consideration and approval-ratification.

5.1 **Cambodia Baseball Softball Federation**

Proposal:

*To consider and approve-ratify the **Cambodia Baseball Softball Federation** as a Full Ordinary Affiliate-Member of Softball Asia, as recommended by the SA EXCO, with immediate effect from the date of this SA Congress (06 December 2024), subject to payment of the necessary fees.*

DECISION

The SA Congress unanimously approved-ratified the Cambodia Baseball Softball Federation as a Full Ordinary Affiliate-Member of Softball Asia, as recommended by the SA EXCO, with immediate effect from the date of this SA Congress (07 December 2024), subject to payment of the necessary fees.

5.2 **Laos Baseball Softball Federation**

Proposal:

*To consider and ratify-approve the **Lao Baseball Softball Federation** as a Full Ordinary Affiliate-Member of Softball Asia, as recommended by the SA EXCO, with immediate effect from the date of this SA Congress (06 December 2024), subject to payment of the necessary fees.*

DECISION

The SA Congress unanimously approved-ratified the Lao Baseball Softball Federation as a Full Ordinary Affiliate-Member of Softball Asia, as recommended by the SA EXCO, with immediate effect from the date of this SA Congress (06 December 2024), subject to payment of the necessary fees.

5.3 **Viet Nam Baseball and Softball Federation**

Proposal:

*To consider and approve-ratify the **Viet Nam Baseball and Softball Federation** as a Full Ordinary Affiliate-Member of Softball Asia, as recommended by the SA EXCO, with immediate effect from the date of this SA Congress (06 December 2024), subject to payment of the necessary fees.*

DECISION

The SA Congress unanimously approved-ratified the Viet Nam Baseball and Softball Federation as a Full Ordinary Affiliate-Member of Softball Asia, as recommended by the SA EXCO, with immediate effect from the date of this SA Congress (06 December 2024), subject to payment of the necessary fees.

5.4 **Nepal Baseball and Softball Association**

Proposal:

*To consider and approve-ratify the **Nepal Baseball and Softball Association** as a Full Ordinary Affiliate-Member of Softball Asia, as recommended by the SA EXCO, with immediate effect from the date of this SA Congress (06 December 2024), subject to payment of the necessary fees.*

DECISION

The SA Congress unanimously approved-ratified the Nepal Baseball and Softball Association as a Full Ordinary Affiliate-Member of Softball Asia, as recommended by the SA EXCO, with immediate effect from the date of this SA Congress (06 December 2024), subject to payment of the necessary fees.

5.5 **Jordan Baseball – Softball Federation.**

Proposal:

*To consider and approve-ratify the **Jordan Baseball – Softball Federation** as a Full Ordinary Affiliate-Member of Softball Asia, as recommended by the SA EXCO, with immediate effect from the date of this SA Congress (06 December 2024), subject to payment of the necessary fees.*

DECISION

The SA Congress unanimously approved-ratified the Jordan Baseball – Softball Federation as a Full Ordinary Affiliate-Member of Softball Asia, as recommended by the SA EXCO, with immediate effect from the date of this SA Congress (06 December 2024), subject to payment of the necessary fees.

5.6 **Syria Arab Baseball and Softball Federation**

5.6.1 SA President Low explained that there was some confusion as to the correct name of the NF concerned as the various applications and documents showed the following different names:

- Syrian Arab Baseball and Softball Federation.
- Syrian Arab Softball and Baseball Federation.
- Syrian Softball Federation.
- Syrian Baseball and Softball Federation.
- Syria Arab Baseball and Softball Federation.

5.6.2 She also informed that the name of the NF approved by WBSC for WBSC Membership was “Syria Arab Baseball and Softball Federation”.

5.6.3 After some discussion, the SA EXCO Members agreed to consider the application for SA Membership in the name of that approved by WBSC, that

was, “Syria Arab Baseball and Softball Federation”.

Proposal:

*To consider and approve-ratify the **Syria Arab Baseball and Softball Federation** as a Full Ordinary Affiliate-Member of Softball Asia, as recommended by the SA EXCO, with immediate effect from the date of this SA Congress (06 December 2024), subject to payment of the necessary fees.*

DECISION

The SA Congress unanimously approved-ratified the Syria Arab Baseball and Softball Federation as a Full Ordinary Affiliate-Member of Softball Asia, as recommended by the SA EXCO, with immediate effect from the date of this SA Congress (06 December 2024), subject to payment of the necessary fees.

SA Chairman Pan, SA President and the Congress delegates welcomed the new SA Members, and the special invitees of the new members present in this Congress.

The Special Invitees, Cambodia Baseball Softball Federation President Chhem Dara, and Jordan Baseball Softball Association Vice President Anas Al-Qudah, thanked Softball Asia for approving their applications for SA Membership and for the special invitation to attend and participate in discussions in this Congress.

6. TO CONSIDER AND APPROVE THE REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT AND SECRETARY GENERAL FOR THE PERIOD 16 JUNE 2022 TO 31 OCTOBER 2024

6.1 SA President Low presented the Report of the SA President and Secretary-General for the period 16 June 2022 to 31 October 2024, and highlighted the report on the following events and tournaments during that period:

6.1.1 Executive Committee (EXCO) Meetings and SA Congress.

- 26th Softball Asia Congress 2022: *03 July 2023* (Taipei City, TPE).
- 1st Softball Asia EXCO (2022 – 2026) Meeting 2022: *16 August 2022* (Kuala Lumpur, MAS).
- 2nd Softball Asia EXCO (2022 – 2026) Meeting 2023: *07 February 2023* (Kuala Lumpur, MAS).
- 3rd Softball Asia EXCO (2022 – 2026) Meeting 2023: *07 December 2023* (Kuala Lumpur, MAS).
- 2024 Autumn Decorations were conferred by the Government of Japan to JSA’s President Yutaka Miyake and JSA Vice President Taeko Utsugi.

6.1.2 Various SA Meetings – Discussions Online with SA Member-National Federations.

6.1.3 SA Tournaments.

- 1st U23 Men Softball Asia Cup Play-off 2022: *01 – 02 September 2022* (Shimanto City, JPN).
- 11th Men Softball Asia Cup 2022: *03 – 06 September 2022* (Shimanto City, JPN).

- 3rd Asian Universities Women Softball Asia Cup 2022: 14 – 17 December 2022 (Pattaya, THA).
- 13th Women Softball Asia Cup 2023: 30 March – 08 April 2023 (Incheon, KOR).
- 1st Co-Ed Slow Pitch Softball Asia Cup 2023: 24 – 27 May 2023 (Pattaya, THA).
- 1st U15 Women Softball Asia Cup 2023: 13 – 17 June 2023 (Puli, TPE).
- 1st U18 Men Softball Asia Cup 2023: 22 – 24 June 2023 (Kochi City, JPN).
- 12th Men Softball Asia Cup 2023: 25 – 28 September 2023 (Kochi City, JPN).
- 1st U18 Women Softball Asia Cup 2023: 29 August – 03 September 2023 (Pingtan, CHN).
- U12 Mixed Gender Softball Asia Cup: *Postponed to dates to be determined.*
- 4th Asian Universities Women Softball Asia Cup 2024; 15 – 19 October 2024 (Taichung, TPE).

6.1.4 SA Seminars – Courses – Clinics

- WBSC – SA Umpires Certification Seminar and SA Scoring Seminar - Pattaya 2022: 11 – 17 December 2022, in collaboration with WBSC Umpiring Commission, and in conjunction with the 3rd Asian Universities Women Softball Asia Cup 2022.
- WBSC – SA Umpires Certification Seminar – Incheon 2023: 30 March 2023 – 08 April 2023, in collaboration with WBSC Umpiring Commission, and in conjunction with the 13th Women Softball Asia Cup 2023.
- WBSC – SA Umpires Certification Seminar – Puli 2023: 10 – 17 June 2023, in collaboration with WBSC Umpiring Commission, and in conjunction with the 1st U15 Women Softball Asia Cup 2023.
- WBSC – SA Umpires Certification Seminar – Pingtan 2023: 26 August – 03 September 2023, in collaboration with WBSC Umpiring Commission, and in conjunction with the 1st U18 Women Softball Asia Cup 2023.
- SA – JSA Coaching Clinic – Kuala Lumpur 2024: 22 – 24 January 2024, in collaboration with Japan Women’s National Softball Team.
- WBSC – SA – JSA Coaching Certification Seminar: Level 1 & Level 2 – Pattaya 2024: 17 – 20 February 2024, in collaboration with Japan Softball Association.
- WBSC – SA – CSA Technical Commissioners Seminar – Xian 2024: 31 August – 03 September 2024, in collaboration with WBSC Technical Commission and Chinese Softball Association.
- WBSC – SA Scoring Seminar – Taichung 2024: 13 – 18 October 2023, in collaboration with WBSC Scoring Commission, and in conjunction with the 4th Asian Universities Women Softball Asia Cup 2024,

6.1.5 WBSC – Asia Baseball5

- WBSC – Asia Baseball5 Meeting with National Federations: 03 July 2022 (Taipei City), in conjunction with the WBSC Congress 2022.

- WBSC – Asia Baseball5 Joint Games Officials Seminar Kuala Lumpur 2023: 15 – 16 August 2022, in collaboration with WBSC Baseball5 Division, and in conjunction with the 1st Baseball5 Asia Cup.
- 1st Baseball5 Asia Cup 2022: 17 – 19 August 2022 (Kuala Lumpur 2022).
- 1st Youth Baseball5 Asia Cup 2023: 08 – 11 February 2023 (Kuala Lumpur MAS).
- Baseball5 Coaching and Games Officials Seminar – Zhongshan 2023: 13 – 16 December 2023, in collaboration with Chinese Baseball Association and Panda Sports Club, Zhongsan CHN.
- WBSC – Asia Baseball5 Joint Games Officials Seminar Seoul 2024: 11 – 12 April 2024, in collaboration with WBSC Baseball5 Division, and in conjunction with the 2nd Baseball5 Asia Cup.
- 2nd Baseball5 Asia Cup 2024: 13 – 16 April 2024 (Seoul KOR).
- Baseball5 Coaching Seminars – Clinics – Supan Buri 2024 (13 – 16 August 2024) & Chon Buri 2024 (18 – 21 August 2024) in collaboration with WBSC Baseball5 Division, and Softball Association of Thailand (SBAT) and Baseball Association of Thailand (BBAT).
- Baseball5 Coaching and Games Officials Clinics Phnom Penh 2024: 20 – 24 August 2024, in collaboration with WBSC Baseball5 Division, and Cambodia Baseball Softball Federation.
- WBSC introduction to key rule changes to enhance Baseball5 safety and game flow: 01 September 2024.

6.1.6 WBSC Meetings and Events

- IV WBSC Congress & Elections 2022: 04 – 05 July 2022 (Taipei City TPE)
- 1st Baseball5 World Cup 2022: 07 – 12 November 2022 (Mexico City, MEX).
- XVII Men Softball World Cup 2022: 26 November – 04 December 2022 (Auckland, NZL).
- U12 Mixed Gender Softball World Cup 2022: 07 – 11 December 2022 (Taiching TPE).
- 1st U23 Men Softball World Cup 2023: 15 – 23 April 2023 (Parana ARG).
- Women Softball World Cup Group Stages 2023 and Finals 2024:
 - Group Stages
 - Group A: Dublin, IRE
Dates: 11 – 15 July 2023
 - Group B: Valencia, ESP
Dates: 18 – 23 July 2023
 - Group C: Castions di Strada and Buttrio, ITA
Dates: 22 – 26 July 2023
 - Finals: Castions di Strada, ITA
Dates: 15 – 21 July 2024
- 1st Co-Ed Slow Pitch Softball World Cup 2023: *Deferred to dates to be determined.*
- U18 Women Softball World Cup Group Stages 2024 and Finals 2025
 - Group Stages
 - Group A: Sao Paulo, BRA
Dates: 23 – 27 July 2024

- Group B: Pingtan, CHN
Dates: 14 – 18 August 2024
- Group C: Dallas, USA
Dates: 29 August – 02 September 2024

Finals: Dallas, USA

Dates: 28 August – 01 September 2025

- Men Softball World Cup Group Stages 2024 and Finals 2025

Group Stages

- Group A: Hermosillo, MEX
Dates: 12 – 16 June 2024
- Group B: Prince Albert, CAN
Dates: 10 – 14 July 2024
- Group C: Oklahoma City, USA
Dates: 17 – 21 September, 2024

Finals: Prince Albert, CAN

Dates: 08 – 13 July 2025

- 2nd Baseball5 World Cup 2024: 07 – 12 November 2024 (Hong Kong China HKG).

6.1.7 Multi-Sports Events/Games

- 11th World Games Birmingham (Alabama, USA) 2022: 07 – 17 July 2022:
 - Women Softball competition: 09 – 13 July 2022
- 19th Asian Games Hangzhou 2022 (2023): 10 – 25 September 2023:
 - Women Softball competition: 26 September – 02 October 2023.

6.1.8 WBSC Continental Allocation of Number of Teams eligible for Softball World Cups for Asia.

6.2 She thanked all those who continued to support SA in its events and activities, and recorded SA's appreciation to all who hosted and participated in SA's tournaments, events and activities.

6.3 There were no queries raised on the matters in the Report.

Proposal:

To consider and approve the Report of the SA President and Secretary General for the period 16 June 2022 to 31 October 2024, as approved by the SA EXCO.

DECISION

The SA Congress unanimously approved the Report of the SA President and Secretary General for the period 16 June 2022 to 31 October 2024.

7. TO CONSIDER AND APPROVE THE SOFTBALL ASIA RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE PERIOD 16 JUNE 2022 TO 31 OCTOBER 2024

7.1 SA President Low presented the Softball Asia Receipts and Expenditure Accounts for the period from 16 June 2022 to 31 October 2024, and reported that the Accounts had been audited, approved and signed by the Softball Asia's appointed internal auditor,

Mr. Willeam Mah Choon How. She highlighted the following:

	<u>2020 – 2022</u>	<u>2022 - 2024</u>
Total Receipt:	YSD 112,488.52	USD 180,267,40
Total Expenditure:	USD 43,877.10	USD 159,399.25
Surplus:	USD 68,611.42	USD 20,868.15

- 7.2 She informed that the surplus from the period 2020 – 2022 was essentially due to the reduced number of SA tournaments, events and activities, and from deposits for participation costs paid for those tournaments, events and activities, which had to be postponed due to the global Covid-19 pandemic during that period. She said that with the resuming of SA tournaments, events and activities for the period of 2022 – 2024, the surplus was reduced as the deposit-funds collected in the period of 2020 – 2022 were used for the tournaments, events and activities for the period of 2022 – 2024.
- 7.3 She explained that the receipts from the SA Members’ annual subscription/fees and tournament entry fees were not enough for the SA costs and expenses to operate and run all of the SA tournaments, events and activities, and that the SA secretariat was managed by part-timers and volunteers, with no full-time staff salaries paid. She recorded SA’s deepest gratitude to the following:
- 7.3.1 SA Chairman, Mr. Pan Yi Chuan, for his total annual contributions of USD32,000.00 for the financial years of 2022, 2023 and 2024.
- 7.3.2 JSA for their total annual contribution of approximately JPY2,000,000 for the financial years of 2022 and 2023.
- 7.3.3 WBSC for the WBSC’s Continental Development Grant of USD25,000.00 for the year 2024.
- 7.4 She also informed that there would be another payment of the balance of the WBSC Continental Grant for 2024 in the sum of USD13,500.00 to be received by SA in December 2024 – January 2025.
- 7.5 She recorded SA’s appreciation to Mizuno for its continuous contribution of competition balls, umpire uniforms and other attire to SA, especially for the Asian Games.
- 7.6 There were no queries raised on the matters in the Statement of Accounts.

Proposal

To consider and approve the Softball Asia Receipts and Expenditure Accounts for the period 16 June 2022 to 31 October 2024 as approved by the SA EXCO.

DECISION

The SA Congress unanimously approved the Softball Asia Receipts and Expenditure Accounts for the period 16 June 2022 to 31 October 2024.

8. TO CONSIDER THE REPORTS OF THE SA VICE-PRESIDENTS AND SA COMMITTEES

- 8.1 There were no reports from the Softball Asia Vice Presidents and Softball Asia

Committees Chairs.

9. TO DISCUSS AND APPROVE THE SOFTBALL ASIA CALENDAR FOR 2024-2025-2026

9.1 SA President Low presented the following Softball Asia Calendar for the years 2024-2025-2026 for information as regards the events and tournaments in 2024 that were completed and for discussion for the other events and tournaments for the rest of 2024, and for 2025 - 2026.

Calendar for 2024 – 2025 – 2026

Year 2024

<u>No.</u>	<u>Tournament / Event</u>	<u>Place & Dates for Event</u>	<u>Remarks</u>
1.	Softball Asia – Japan Softball Association Coaching Clinic	Place: Kuala Lumpur Clinic Dates: 22 – 24 January 2024	For National Coaches & National Athletes (Senior & Youth teams) COMPLETED
2.	WBSC – Softball Asia – Japan Softball Association Coaching Certification Seminars (Levels 1 & 2)	Place: Pattaya Thailand Seminar Dates: 17 – 20 February 2024	For WBSC and SA certification of coaches COMPLETED
3. 4.	Baseball5 Game Officials Seminar Baseball5 Asia Cup – World Cup Qualifier 2024 – 3 Asia slots)	Place: Seoul, South Korea Seminar Dates: 10 – 12 April 2024 Tournament Dates: 13 – 16 April 2024	3 Asia slots to be determined for World Cup HKG 2024 COMPLETED <i>Asia Champion: JPN Silver: TPE</i> <i>Bronze: CHN 4th: KOR 5th: THA</i> <i>6th: MAS 7th: SGP 8th: HKG</i>
5.	U12 Women Softball Asia Cup 2024 (Note: NOT a World Cup Qualifier)	Place: Singapore Tournament Dates: June 2024 POSTPONED TO DATES TBD	Note: Currently, NO future WBSC U12 WSB World Cup fixed yet
6.	Men Softball World Cup Groups Stage 2024 (3 Groups)	1. Place: Hermosillo, Mexico (Group A) Tournament Dates: 12 – 16 June 2024 2. Place: Prince Albert Canada (Group B) Tournament Dates: 10 – 14 July 2024 3. Place: Oklahoma City USA (Group C) Tournament Dates: 17 – 21 Sept 2024	3 Asia slots determined in Asia Cup 2023 – JPN (Grp C), SGP (Grp B), PHI (Grp A). Wild Card: HKG (Grp B) World Cup Group Stages COMPLETED Men Softball World Cup Finals 2025 Place: Prince Albert Canada Tournament Dates: 08 – 13 July 2025 <i>Group A Qualified: DOM & AUS</i> <i>Group B Qualified: ARG & NZL</i> <i>Group C: USA & JPN</i> <i>7th Team: VEN. Host Card: CAN</i>
7.	Women Softball World Cup Finals 2024	Place: Castions di Strada, Italy Dates: 15 – 21 July 2024	Finalist teams from Asia – JPN, CHN (Other finalist teams: Italy, USA, Australia, Puerto Rico, Canada, Netherlands) COMPLETED World Champion: JPN <i>Silver: USA Bronze: CAN 4th: NED</i> <i>5th: CHN 6th: PUR 7th: AUS 8th: ITA</i>
8.	U18 Women Softball World Cup Groups Stage (3 Groups) 2024	1. Group A: Place: Sao Paulo, Brazil Tournament Dates: 23 – 27 July 2024 2. Group B: Place: Pingtan, China Tournament Dates: 14 – 18 Aug 2024 3. Group C: Place: Dallas, USA Tournament Dates: 29 Aug – 02 Sept 2024	3 Asia slots determined in Asia Cup 2023 – JPN, TPE, CHN COMPLETED U18 Women Softball World Cup Finals 2025 - Place: Dallas, USA Tournament Dates: 28 Aug – 01 Sep 2025 <i>Group A Qualified: TPE & CZE</i> <i>Group B Qualified: JPN & CHN</i> <i>Group C Qualified: USA & CAN</i> <i>Wild Cards 7th & 8th Teams: PUR & MEX</i>
9.	Baseball5 Open World Cup 2024	Place: Hong Kong China	3 Asia slots determined in Asia Cup 2024 – JPN, TPE, CHN

		Tournament Dates: 08 – 13 October 2024	Baseball 5 World Cup 2024 COMPLETED Champion: Cuba; Silver: JPN Bronze: France 4 th : VEN 5 th : TPE 6 th : MEX 7 th : TUN 8 th : LTU 9 th : CHN 10 th : HKG 11 th RSA 12 th : AUS
10.	WBSC – Softball Asia Seminars 1. For Senior Scorers 2. For Technical Commissioners (Postponed to March 2025)	Place: Taichung, TPE Seminar Dates: 13 – 14 October 2024	For WBSC and SA seminar for senior scorers and technical commissioners COMPLETED
11.	Asian Universities Women Softball Asia Cup 2024	Place: Taichung, TPE Pre-tournament Meeting: 14 October 2024 Dates: 15 – 19 October 2024	• For Athletes 18 – 28 years old. Each athlete must be a full-time student in a university, with a valid student identification card COMPLETED Asia Champion: TPE Silver: JPN Bronze: PHI 4 th : KOR 5 th : SGP 6 th : HKG 7 th : IND
12. 13.	4th Softball Asia EXCO Meeting 27th Softball Asia Biennial Congress	Place: Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia EXCO Mtg Date: 05 December 2024 Congress Date: 06 December 2024	For SA EXCO Officers & Invitees For SA Members & Invitees
14.	6th Asian Indoor & Martial Arts Games 2021 (AIMAG2021) 2024: Baseball5 Competition	Place: Bangkok Thailand Competition Dates: Between 25 – 30 November 2024 (Entire AIMAG 2021 (2024) cancelled)	Participation to be determined by respective National Olympic Committees (Entry by Number (17) CHN, HKG, INA, IRQ, JPN, KSA (Saudi Arabia), KOR, LAO, Lebanon, MAS, MGL, PAK, PHI, SGP, THA, TPE, VIE

YEAR 2025

No.	Tournament / Event	Place & Dates for Event	Remarks
1.	Youth U18 Baseball5 Asia Cup 2025 (Qualifier for World Cup 2025 – 3 Asia slots)	Place: Taipei City, TPE Pre-Tournament Meeting: 10 Mar 2025 Tournament Dates: 11 – 15 March 2025	3 Asia slots to be determined for World Cup 2025 <i>WBSC World Cup 2025 in Mexico (City & dates TBD) (Please see Row #10 below in 2025 calendar)</i>
2.	WBSC – Softball Asia Technical Commissioners Seminar	Place: Puli Nantou, TPE Seminar Dates: 24 – 25 Mar 2025	For WBSC and SA seminar for senior technical commissioners
3.	U15 Women Softball Asia Cup 2025 (Qualifier for U15 WSB World Cup 2025 (1 Stage) – 2 Asia slots)	Place: Puli Nantou, TPE Pre-Tournament Meeting: 25 Mar 2025 Tournament Dates: 26 – 30 Mar 2025	To determine 2 Asia slots for World Cup 2025 <i>WBSC U15 WSB World Cup 2025 in Italy (City & Dates TBD) (Please see Row #7 below in 2025 calendar)</i>
4.	Men Softball World Cup Finals 2025	Place: Prince Albert Canada Pre-Tournament Meeting: 07 July 2025 Tournament Dates: 08 – 13 July 2025	Finalist teams determined from World Cup Group Stages 2024 Group A: DOM & AUS Group B: ARG & NZL Group C: USA & JPN 7 th Team: VEN Host Card: CAN
5.	U23 Men Softball Asia Cup 2025 (Qualifier for U23 MSB World Cup 2026 (1 Stage) – 2 Asia slots)	Place: Bangkok Pre-Tournament Meeting: 01 June 2025 Tournament Dates: 02 – 07 June 2025 (Final dates will depend on the number of participating teams)	To determine 2 Asia slots for World Cup 2026 <i>WBSC U23 MSB World Cup 2026 (Host & Dates TBD) (Please see Row #3 below in 2026 calendar)</i>
6.	Women Softball Asia Cup 2025 (Qualifier for 3 Groups Stage World Cup 2026 – 3 Asia slots)	Place: Xi'an China Pre-Tournament Meeting: 10 July 2025 Tournament Dates: 11 – 20 July 2025 (Final dates will depend on the number of participating teams)	To determine 3 Asia slots for World Cup Group Stages 2026 <i>(World Cup Group Stages 2026 Hosts & Dates TBD) (Please see Row #4 below in 2026 calendar)</i>

			Qualifier for 8 teams to participate in the 2026 Asian Games Aichi Nagoya
7.	U15 Women Softball World Cup 2025	Place: Italy (City TBD) Tournament Dates: Summer 2025 (Dates TBD)	2 Asia slots to be determined in Asia Cup 2025 (Please see Row #3 in 2025 calendar)
8.	U18 Women Softball World Cup Finals 2025	Place: Dallas, USA Tournament Dates: 28 Aug – 01 Sep 2025	Finalist teams determined from World Cup Group Stages 2024 (Please see Row #8 in 2024 calendar) Group A Qualified: TPE & CZE Group B Qualified: JPN & CHN Group C Qualified: USA & CAN Wild Cards 7 th & 8 th Teams: PUR & MEX
9.	The World Games (TWG) 2025: • Men Softball • Women Softball	Place: Chengdu China TWG Dates: 07 – 17 August 2025 Men SB Dates: 06 – 10 August 2025 Women SB Dates: 13 – 17 August 2025 TWG Opening Ceremony: 07 Aug 2025 TWG Closing Ceremony: 17 Aug 2025	8 Qualified Teams (Criteria determined by WBSC) 1. Host country - CHN 2. Top 6 ranked teams in respective WBSC Men and Women Softball Rankings as at 31 Dec 2024 3. 1 wild card to be awarded by WBSC no later than 31 Jan 2025
10.	Youth U18 Baseball5 World Cup 2025 (Qualifier for Youth Olympic Games Dakar 2026)	Place: Mexico (City: TBD) Tournament Dates: TBD	3 Asia slots to be determined in Asia Cup 2025 (Please see Row #1 in 2025 calendar)
11.	WBSC Congress & Elections 2025	Place: Bangkok, Thailand Date: October - November 2025 (Dates TBD)	For WBSC Member-NFs & Invitees
12.	Softball Asia Joint Meeting of SA EXCO and SA NF-Members	Place: Bangkok, Thailand Date: October - November 2025 (Dates TBD)	In conjunction with WBSC Congress (Please see Row #11 above in 2025 calendar)
13.	33rd South East Asian (SEA) Games 2025 • Men & Women Softball competitions • Men Baseball competition • Baseball5 competition	Place: Bangkok, Thailand SEA Games Dates: 09 – 20 December 2025 (Dates & City for Baseball, Softball, Baseball5 TBD)	For teams from the 11 South East Asian (SEA) National Olympic Committees

YEAR 2026

No.	Tournament / Event	Place & Dates for Event	Remarks
1.	3rd Baseball5 Asia Cup 2026 (Qualifier for World Cup 2026 – 3 Asia slots)	Place: TBD Tournament Dates: TBD	To be determine 3 Asia slots for World Cup 2026 (World Cup 2026 host: ITA (City TBD) & Dates TBD) (Please see Row #5 below in 2026 Calendar)
2.	U15 Women Softball Asia Cup 2026 (Qualifier for U15 WSB World Cup 2027 (1 Stage) – 2 Asia slots)	Place: TBD Tournament Dates: TBD	To determine 2 Asia slots for World Cup 2027 (World Cup 2027 event, host & dates TBD)
3.	U18 Men Softball Asia Cup 2026 (Qualifier for U18 Men World Cup 2027 (1 Stage) – 2 Asia slots)	Place: TBD Tournament Dates: TBD	To determine 2 Asia slots for World Cup 2027 (World Cup 2027 event, host & dates TBD)
4.	Asian Universities Women Softball Asia Cup 2026	Place: TBD Tournament Dates: TBD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For Athletes 18 – 28 years old. • Each athlete must be a full-time student in a university, with a valid student identification card
5.	U23 Men Softball World Cup 2026	Place: TBD Tournament Dates: TBD	2 Asia slots to be determined in Asia Cup 2025 (Please see Row #5 in 2025 Calendar)

			(World Cup 2026 Host & Dates TBD)
6.	Women Softball World Cup – Group Stage 2026	City: TBD Tournament Dates: TBD	3 Asia slots to be determined in Asia Cup 2025 (Please see Row #6 in 2025 Calendar) (World Cup Group Stages 2026 Hosts & Dates TBD)
7.	Baseball5 World Cup 2026	Place: TBD Tournament Dates: TBD	3 Asia slots to be determined in Asia Cup 2026 (Please see Row #1 above in 2026 calendar)
8.	20th Asian Games 2026 Aichi Nagoya (Men Baseball competition) (Women Softball competition)	Place: Aichi – Nagoya Asian Games Dates: 19 Sep – 04 Oct 2026 AG Opening Ceremony: 19 Sep 2026 TWG Closing Ceremony: 04 Oct 2026	(Women Softball Place: Anjo City Women Softball Dates TBD)
9. 10.	6th Softball Asia EXCO Meeting 2026 28th Softball Asia Biennial Congress – Elections 2026	Place: TBD EXCO Mtg Date: TBD Congress Date: TBD	For SA EXCO Officers & Invitees For SA Member-NFs & Invitees

9.2 She informed that after discussion, the SA EXCO unanimously approved the SA Calendar for 2025 – 2026 (SUBJECT to changes), with the awarding of the 2025 Softball Asia events and tournaments as proposed.

Proposal

To consider and approve the SA Calendar of Events for 2025 – 2026 (SUBJECT to changes), with the awarding of the 2025 events and tournaments as proposed.

DECISION

The SA Congress unanimously approved the following SA Calendar of Events for 2025 – 2026 (SUBJECT to changes), and approved-ratified the awarding of the following 2025 events and tournaments as approved by the SA EXCO:

1. **Youth U18 Baseball5 Asia Cup 2025** (Qualifier for World Cup 2025 – 3 Asia slots)
Place: Taipei City, TPE
Pre-Tournament Meeting: 10 Mar 2025
Tournament Dates: 11 – 15 March 2025
2. **WBSC – Softball Asia Technical Commissioners Seminar**
Place: Puli Nantou, TPE
Seminar Dates: 24 – 25 Mar 2025.
3. **U15 Women Softball Asia Cup 2025** (Qualifier for U15 WSB World Cup 2025 (1 Stage) – **2 Asia slots**)
Place: Puli Nantou, TPE

DECISION (Contd)

4. **U23 Men Softball Asia Cup 2025** (Qualifier for U23 MSB World Cup 2026 (1 Stage) – 2 Asia slots)
Place: Bangkok
Pre-Tournament Meeting: 01 June 2025
Tournament Dates: 02 – 07 June 2025
(Final dates will depend on the number of participating teams)
5. **Women Softball Asia Cup 2025** (Qualifier for 3 Groups Stage World Cup

10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

10.1 World Baseball Softball Confederation (WBSC) Congress 2025 in Bangkok, Thailand

10.1.1 SA President Low reported that the WBSC awarded the hosting of the WBSC Congress for 2025 to the Softball Association of Thailand (SBAT), to be held in Bangkok, Thailand. She informed that elections for the WBSC Executive Board (except for the post of WBSC President who has been elected to serve until 2028) for the new term will be also held.

10.1.2 She informed that Baseball Federation Asia and SA was working in collaboration with SBAT President (Art) Phainpanitporn to meet relevant stakeholders and other parties, including Tourism of Thailand authorities, to ensure the success of the event.

10.1.3 She requested the EXCO Members to save the date in their diaries, to attend the Congress, and also the SA Joint EXCO – NF-Members Meeting to be held in conjunction therewith.

10.2 Update on Softball competition in the 20th Asian Games Aichi-Nagoya 2026

SA President updated that the Women Softball competition included in the 20th Asian Games in Aichi-Nagoya 2026 would be held as follows:

Competition Venue: Anjo Softball Field

Dates of Competition: *To be determined*

(Note: Opening Ceremony of Asian Games 2026 – 19 September 2026 and Closing Ceremony – 04 October 2026)

Number of Participating Teams: Eight (8) – to be qualified from the Women Softball Asia Cup Xi'an China 2025, with participation subject to respective National Olympic Committee's approval-consent

She also informed that SA intended to have the Women Softball Asia Cup 2025 in Xi'an, China as the qualifying tournament, to qualify eight (8) teams to be

eligible to participate in the 2026 Asian Games, and added that participation in the Asian Games, being a multi-sports event, is still subject to the approval-consent of the respective NOCs. THE EXCO agreed to the proposal.

Proposal

To consider and approve the Women Softball Asia Cup 2025 in Xi'an, China as the qualifying tournament, to qualify eight (8) teams to be eligible to participate in the 20th Asian Games Aichi Nagoya 2026.

DECISION

The SA Congress unanimously approved the Women Softball Asia Cup 2025 in Xi'an, China as the qualifying tournament, to qualify eight (8) teams to be eligible to participate in the 20th Asian Games Aichi Nagoya 2026.

10.3 Update on Softball competition in the Olympic Games Los Angeles 2028

10.3.1 SA President informed that the Women Softball competition included in the Los Angeles Olympic Games 2028 (LA2028), would be held in Oklahoma City, USA, and not in LA as the Oklahoma City Softball stadium was one of the best venues in the USA. She also informed that the WBSC was still in discussion with the International Olympic Committee (IOC) on the qualification criteria, with six (6) teams to participate.

10.3.2 The possible criteria discussed was as follows BUT that it still needed to be approved by the IOC and WBSC:

- 1 slot for the host,
- 1 slot for the World Champion,
- 1 slot for Asia / Oceania
- 1 slot for Europe / Africa
- 1 slot for Americas
- 1 slot for a final at-large qualifier

10.3.2 She stated that with only six (6) eligible slots available, allocating one (1) slot per continent would be very difficult. Since the above proposal included a final at-large qualifier, any Asian team would have three (3) opportunities to qualify for LA28, that are, in the WBSC World Cup, the Asia - Oceania qualifier, and the final at-large qualifier. She stated that any NF interested in hosting the Olympic qualifie, should contact the WBSC for more information.

10.4 Request for Consideration to Organize West Asia Tournaments and Activities

10.4.1 Iraq Baseball Softball Federation President Ali Abdul Hussein Jasim Al-Baldawi requested SA to look into the possibility of organizing "West Asia" regional tournaments, in particular, for Baseball5 in that region, as travel costs to other parts of Asia was costly. He thanked SA President Low for her and

SA's support to Iraq Baseball Softball Federation.

10.4.2 SA President Low said that she would have further discussions with the NFs from West Asia on the matter.

10.5 **Practice Sessions for Tournaments: DECISION**

There was discussion that participating teams to Asia Cups had difficulties to arrange for training-practice sessions if the teams arrived earlier before the start of the tournament, and that better cooperation and support from host NFs and local organizing committees was requested to assist to organize such training-practice sessions.

Proposal

To consider and approve that all host National Federations (NFs) and local organizing committees of SA tournaments must assist participating teams who arrive up to five (5) days prior to the start of a tournament, to arrange for training-practice sessions in the host city, with the participating teams to pay for their own cost and expenses for the first three (3) days, with the other two (2) days being official practice days at the costs of the host NF or local organizing committee, as proposed by Chinese Taipei Softball Association Secretary General Chang, and seconded by SA First Vice President Utsugi.

DECISION

The SA Congress unanimously approved that all host National Federations (NFs) and local organizing committees of SA tournaments must assist participating teams who arrive up to five (5) days prior to the start of a tournament, to arrange for training-practice sessions in the host city, with the participating teams to pay for their own cost and expenses for the first three (3) days, with the other two (2) days being official practice days at the costs of the host NF or local organizing committee.

10.6 **Request to Work with National / Local Universities**

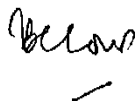
10.6.1 In response to Softball Association Malaysia's request for SA to work with the Universities in developing Softball and including Softball in the ASEAN Universities Games, SA President Low informed that the NFs would need to work with their respective National / Local Education authorities as the local – national university – sports would come under the respective local – national university authorities, and that the ASEAN sports would be under the ASEAN sports organization.

10.6.2 She clarified that the current SA Asian Universities Women Softball tournament was organized independently by SA, with the support of the SA NF-Members to encourage the women softball athletes-players to continue to play softball at a high level, whilst still pursuing university education; and that the respective SA NF-Member to work in collaboration with the local-national universities authorities.

11. **ADJOURNMENT OF THE CONGRESS**

- 11.1 SA President Ms. Low thanked everyone for their input and feedback, with the open discussions, and also for their attendance and efforts to help SA develop and grow Softball in Asia. She also thanked all those who assisted to ensure the success of this Congress.
- 11.2 There being no other matters arising, the Congress was adjourned at 12.30 pm with a vote of thanks to the Chair of the meeting.

Minutes confirmed by:



DATO' BENG CHOO LOW
President, Softball Asia

06 December 2024