



SOFTBALL ASIA

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MINUTES OF THE 4TH SOFTBALL ASIA EXECUTIVE COUNCIL (EXCO MEETING (04/2018-2022))

Date: 16 November 2021
Time: 02.30pm (Malaysia time)
Venue: **ONLINE** via Zoom

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEMBERS

- | | | |
|----|-------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. | Mr. PAN Yi Chuan | Chairman |
| 2. | Dato' LOW Beng Choo | President |
| 3. | Ms. Taeko UTSUGI | 1 st Vice President |
| 4. | Ms. Susan ZHANG Xuan | Vice President |
| 5. | Ms. KIM Eun Young | Vice President |
| 6. | Ms. Sally LIM Swee Gaik | Secretary-General |
| 7. | Mr. CHANG Chia Hsing | Secretary to Chairman |

SA COMMITTEE CHAIRS

- | | | |
|----|------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. | Mr. Yutake MIYAKE | SA Coaching Committee Chair |
| 2. | Mr. SEE Kok Wooi | SA Technical Committee Chair |
| 3. | Ms. Heidi IP Ching Kit | SA Technical Committee Co-Chair |
| 4. | Mr. Paulo TABIRARA | SA Umpire Committee Co-Chair |
| 5. | Ms. TAN Chia Mien | SA Scoring Committee Chair |

BY SPECIAL INVITATION

- | | | |
|----|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. | Mr. Riccardo FRACCARI | WBSC President |
| 2. | Mr. Michael SCHMIDT | WBSC Executive Director |
| 3. | Ms. Aki HUANG | WBSC |
| 4. | Mr. Sam Bich KIM | WBSC |

ALSO PRESENT

- | | | |
|----|-------------------------|---|
| 1. | Mr. Tomohiro HISAKA | Japan SA Secretariat |
| 2. | Ms. Taeko ONO | Japan SA Secretariat |
| 3. | Ms. Francesca ALTOMONTE | ASAPHIL Sec. Gen. representing Jean Henri Lhuillier |
| 4. | Ms. Hyemin KIM | Korea BSA Staff/Interpreter |
| 5. | Ms. Justine TSAI | CTSA Sec. Gen./Interpreter |
| 6. | Mr. Tony MARIADASS | SA Media Officer |
| 7. | Ms. Akiko ITO | JSA Interpreter |

ABSENT WITH APOLOGIES

- | | | |
|----|--------------------------|----------------|
| 1. | Mr. Jean Henri LHUILLIER | Vice President |
| 2. | Mr. Jimmy Fong | Vice President |
| 3. | Mr. Kosol YIMPAIBOON | Vice President |

1. ROLL CALL

- 1.1 Softball Asia (SA) Secretary-General Ms. Sally Lim completed the Roll-call and confirmed that a quorum was present for this SA EXCO Meeting to proceed

2. IN MEMORIUM

- 2.1 Before the Meeting proceeded, the attendees paid tribute and observed a minute of silence in memory of the late Mr. Hiromi Tokuda, who had served with unfailing commitment and deep dedication in the various capacities, including the following, and passed away on 09 October 2021:

- Vice President for Asia in the World Baseball Softball Confederation (WBSC) Softball Division Board.
- Advisor for Softball Asia.
- President of Japan Softball Association.

- 2.2 All attendees conveyed their condolences to the family and loved ones of the late Mr. Tokuda.

3. SOFTBALL ASIA PRESIDENT WELCOME ADDRESS AND WBSC OPENING REMARKS

SA President Welcome Remarks

- 3.1 In her welcome address, SA President Ms. Low thanked all the EXCO members and delegates present for taking the time to attend this Meeting which she informed was important as it was to discuss and approve some significant documents which would be brought to the SA Extraordinary Congress (online) to be held on 21 December 2021. She welcomed the WBSC President, Mr. Riccardo Fraccari, WBSC Executive Director Mr. Michael Schmidt, and WBSC officers, Ms. Aki Huang and Mr. Bich Sam Kim.
- 3.2 She said that SA was honoured that WBSC President Mr. Fraccari had accepted the special invitation to attend this online SA EXCO Meeting despite it being early in the morning in Italy/Lausanne and invited him to give his welcome remarks.

WBSC President Opening Remarks

- 3.3 WBSC President Mr. Fraccari thanked SA for the invitation to attend this Meeting. He conveyed WBSC and his condolences on the passing of the late Hiromi Tokuda who served WBSC and global softball well. He said that the past 2 years has been very difficult for many due to the global Covid-19 pandemic, which has also claimed many victims, caused tremendous losses to economies and personal lives.
- 3.4 He said sports was also deeply affected as many events and activities were locked down but fortunately, the Tokyo2020 Olympics (Tokyo2020) were able to be held and completed successfully with Baseball and Softball able to showcase the strengths of our sport. He congratulated SA not only for the gold medal won by Japan in both Men Baseball and Women Softball in Tokyo2020, but also for SA remaining active and also taking time to review its structure and take the necessary steps to update its governance and administration. He said SA was a good practice Continental Association (CA) to be proud of.

- 3.5 He expressed hope that next year (2022), sports events and activities will resume as WBSC has a very busy year scheduled, including the WBSC Congress and elections in March 2022. He stated that with everyone's cooperation and unified efforts, it would be another successful year for WBSC. He reported that WBSC was in discussion with Chinese Taipei Baseball to host the WBSC Congress in March – April 2022 in Taipei TPE, and said he looked forward to seeing everyone at that WBSC Congress.
- 3.6 He stated that in the continuing challenging times due to the prolonged Covid pandemic situation, it was even more important for all parties to come together to work in cooperation to move sports forward. He thanked SA President and SA EXCO, and all SA Members and others in Asia, who have supported WBSC and continued to work in unity to show that Asia was a column of strength for WBSC.
- 3.7 SA President Ms. Low thanked WBSC President for his encouraging words and for his and WBSC's support to SA and SA Members as it has been very challenging times the past 2 years.

4. TO CONSIDER AND APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE 3rd SA EXCO MEETING HELD (ONLINE) ON 01 DECEMBER 2020

- 4.1 SA Secretary General Ms. Sally Lim informed that the Minutes of the 3rd SA EXCO Meeting held (online) on 01 December 2020 was sent prior to this Meeting to all the EXCO Members and that no requests for amendments were received by the SA. There were no amendments requested by the EXCO Members present.

Proposal:

To consider and approve the Minutes of the 3rd Softball Asia Executive Committee Meeting held online on 01 December 2020 as proposed by Ms. Kim Eun Young and seconded by Ms. Taeko Utsugi.

DECISION

The SA EXCO unanimously approved the Minutes of the 3rd Softball Asia Executive Committee Meeting held online on 01 December 2020.

5. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

- 5.1 There were no matters arising from the above Minutes raised by the EXCO Members present.

6. TO CONSIDER THE WBSC REPORT ON SOFTBALL ASIA IN THE WBSC CONTINENTAL SURVEY

- 6.1 SA President Ms. Low briefed the EXCO on the WBSC Survey Report on Softball Asia in the WBSC Continental Survey, which Report was sent to all EXCO Members (Attachment 1), and based on that report, the following important points were noted:

6.1.1 Total moderated overall score for Softball Asia: 23 out of 80.

- 6.1.2 Positives:
- Strong integrity & transparency section.
 - Gender balance in governing body.

- National member federations listed on the website.
- Website easy to understand and user friendly.

6.1.3 Areas for Improvement:

- To amend the SA Constitution to address matters raised (for example, election/appointment of Athletes' Representatives onto Executive Committee and to attend Congress).
- To develop a SA Strategy Plan with defined strategic goals, vision, mission and values, defined rules and regulations, and policies, such as Conflict of Interest Policy, Policy for Allocation of development resources, Anti-discrimination Policy, etc..
- To have better control mechanisms and risk management tools.
- To link SA website to SA Members respective website where possible.
- To improve education programmes and assistance.
- To make publication of documents to be more accessible and easier to locate on SA website – for example, a separate “Documents” section).
- To publish SA decisions and voting numbers of elections.
- To establish a more open and transparent process for the bidding and awarding of SA events.
- To incorporate data protection practices and for information technology (IT) security.
- To establish principles for sustainable development and environmental protection.
- To establish an appeals mechanism, rules and regulations.
- To show evidence of implementation.

7. TO CONSIDER AND APPROVE THE PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE SOFTBALL ASIA CONSTITUTION TO BE TABLED TO THE SA EXTRAORDINARY CONGRESS FOR APPROVAL

7.1 SA President Ms. Low reported that based on the WBSC Survey Report as stated in paragraph 6.1 above, SA took the opportunity to review the SA Constitution and was proposing amendments to update the documents as per Attachment 2, with 3 documents attached:

7.1.1 The Comparison document, which showed the current provisions and the proposed amendments in a table form to highlight the proposed amendments.

7.1.2 The Tracked Document, with the proposed amendments tracked therein.

7.1.3 The Untracked documents, with all the proposed amendments incorporated – clean copy.

7.2 She informed that the proposed amendments as recommended by the EXCO would have to be tabled to the SA Congress for approval and as such SA was proposing an SA Extraordinary Congress to consider the matter. She highlighted the following important amendments:

7.2.1 Article 1 & Interpretation – “**Sport**” – To clarify SA’s governance over all disciplines and events of Softball and Baseball5, including eSports versions and para-Sports versions. This is in line with the amendments to the WBSC Statutes

to include all disciplines, events and versions of Softball and Baseball⁵ (*Note: Baseball in Asia is under the authority and governance of Baseball Federation Asia – BFA*).

- 7.2.2 Article 1 & Interpretation, Article 3 – “Members” – To provide for 2 different categories of membership, namely **Ordinary Membership** with nominating and voting rights (Full and Provisional Membership) and **Associate Membership** (with no nominating nor voting rights). This is in line with WBSC’s 2 categories of membership, where the associate membership is for others which are not the national governing federations, such as professional leagues.
- 7.2.3 Article 3.5 – The Executive Board would be empowered to approve Provisional Membership pending approval of Full Membership at a Congress.
- 7.2.4 Articles 3.6 to 3.10 – To clarify the provisions for termination and resignation of Membership.
- 7.2.5 Article 4 – To clarify provisions for recognition of Members’ authority over the Sport, which includes Softball and Baseball⁵.
- 7.2.6 Article 5 – To clarify the authority to vary (increase or decrease) the amount payable for the one-time affiliation fee as well as the annual membership subscription fee.
- 7.2.7 Articles 7.1, 7.8, 9.1, 9.4 – To provide for the election of Athletes’ Representatives (1 male and 1 female) onto the SA EXCO and to attend SA Congress, with the right to vote, with elections to be held at SA Asia Cups. The athletes’ representation (with voting right) on the SA EXCO is in line with the WBSC Statutes provisions. The Athletes’ Representatives would be elected by the athletes at Asia Cup tournaments, which is also in line with the practice of the WBSC where the Athletes’ Representatives are elected by the athletes at WBSC World Cups.
- 7.2.8 Articles 7.4, 7.9 – To define what constitutes an Ordinary (Full) Member in good standing to be eligible to nominate and vote, and an EXCO Member in good standing to be eligible to vote. This would also include the exiting provision that only SA Members that were active (participate in at least 1 event in the 4 years) to be eligible to vote – this is to encourage SA Members to remain active, and not be dormant.
- 7.2.9 Articles 7.6, 7.7, 7.9, 7.10., 7.11 – To clarify the rules, process and procedure relating to nominations for election to positions on the EXCO. This includes fair representation of posts on the SA EXCO amongst the various National Federation-Member so that the SA EXCO is represented by as many NFs as possible.
- 7.2.10 Meetings and Voting – This also includes provisions for meetings and voting in person and/or by electronic form.
- 7.2.11 Article 9.4 – To clarify the term of office of the SA EXCO officers, including the Athletes’ Representatives.
- 7.2.12 Article 9.6 – To clarify the powers of the SA EXCO, including for the establishment of a new Athletes Committee.
- 7.2.13 Article 9.7 – To shorten the notice for SA EXCO Meetings from 45 days to 14

days.

7.2.14 Article 10 – To change the quorum:

- For SA Congress to 1/2 of Ordinary Members in good standing.
- For SA Extraordinary Congress to 2/3s of Ordinary Members in good standing.

If there is a lack of a quorum, the Congress/Extraordinary Congress may be postponed for 24 hours and the revised quorum would be as follows:

- For SA Congress – 40% of Ordinary Members in good standing.
- For SA Extraordinary Congress – 1/2 of Ordinary Members in good standing.

7.2.15 Article 14 – To clarify the authority for SA to open bank accounts, and the mandate of signatories of bank accounts. To include provisions for SA to own and hold assets and properties.

7.2.16 Article 15 – To clarify the appointment of honorary positions and advisor for SA. To also include the authority for SA EXCO to appoint patrons for SA.

7.2.17 Article 17 – To clarify the voting on amendments to the SA Constitution by Ordinary Members of good standing.

7.2.18 Article 18 – To clarify the entrusting of SA funds if there is a dissolution.

7.3 Ms Susan Zhang pointed out that in Articles 7.8.10.2 and 9.1.7, there was an error as the election of the Female Athletes' Representative ought to be held during the Asia Cup Women Softball competition (and not at the Men's competition). The change was duly made. There were no other requests for further amendments or corrections.

Proposal:

Subject to the amendments as stated above, to consider and approve the Proposed Amendments to the Softball Asia Constitution and recommend that they be tabled to the next SA Congress/Extraordinary Congress for approval as proposed by Ms. Taeko Utugi and seconded by Ms. Susan Zhang.

DECISION

The SA EXCO unanimously approved the Proposed Amendments to the Softball Asia Constitution and recommend that they be tabled to the next SA Congress/Extraordinary Congress for approval.

7.4 Mr. Schmidt reminded those present that the WBSC recently sent out a notice regarding the WBSC Extraordinary Congress to approve the proposed amendments to the WBSC Statutes which required written votes to be submitted by the WBSC Ordinary Members. He requested SA Members to respond and submit their respective vote, which was online conducted on a secure channel through Lumi, and appealed to SA Members to support the proposed amendments and that the deadline for submission was 18 December 2021.

7.5 SA President Ms. Low said that SA would send reminders to SA Members to support and vote by the deadline.

8. TO CONSIDER AND APPROVE THE FOLLOWING:

8.1 Softball Asia Strategy Plan

- 8.2 **Softball Asia Elections By-Laws**
- 8.3 **Softball Asia Rules Relating to Duties and Functions of Committees, Commissions, Working Groups and Task Forces**
- 8.4 **Softball Asia Conflict of Interest Policy**

8.1 To consider and Approve the Softball Asia Strategy Plan

8.1.1 SA President Ms. Low reported that based on the WBSA Survey Report as stated in paragraph 6.1 above, SA took the opportunity to draft the SA Strategy Plan as per Attachment 3 for the EXCO's consideration and approval. She highlighted the following from the Strategy Plan:

- (i) SA Vision: "Unity through Softball and Baseball5"
- (ii) SA Mission: "To Grow and Strengthen Softball and Baseball5 in Asia at all levels"
- (iii) SA Values: SA shared the same values as the WBSA Values:
 - Team Spirit and Community
 - Integrity and Fair Play
 - Authenticity and Tradition
 - Equality and Honour
 - Ambition and Innovation
- (iv) 5 Strategic Goals:
 1. To be permanent sports/events on all Continental-Asian/Regional multi-sports Games programmes.
 2. To strengthen Softball Asia's governance and leadership.
 3. To enhance Softball Asia's capacity and consolidate the Softball Asia Family.
 4. To grow and strengthen all events of Softball and Baseball5 at all levels in Asia.
 5. To increase Softball Asia's audience and media engagement.
- (v) Each strategic goal had a specific action plan and key performance index as outlined in the document presented.

8.1.2 There was some discussion on the proposed SA Strategy Plan, which SA President informed was a living document and subject to review and adaption with changes and time. There was no request for any amendment or change.

Proposal:

To consider and approve the Softball Asia Strategy Plan as proposed by Ms. Susan Zhang and seconded by Ms. Taeko Utsugi.

DECISION

The SA EXCO unanimously approved the Softball Asia Strategy Plan.

Note: WBSA President informed that WBSA had developed a first-ever mobile version of eSoftball, which would be launched in the future.

8.2 To Consider and Approve the Softball Asia Elections By-Laws

8.2.1 SA President Ms. Low reported that based on the WBSC Survey Report as stated in paragraph 6.1 above, SA took the opportunity to draft the SA Elections By-Laws as per Attachment 4 for the EXCO's consideration and approval. She informed that the By-Laws incorporated the rules, regulations and practices that had been carried out during the previous SA Elections and highlighted the following from the Elections By-Laws, which she informed incorporated the good practice provisions of the WBSC Elections By-Laws.:

- (i) By-Law 1 – General provisions, including the right to nominate and vote by Ordinary Members of good standing, and the appointment of an independent Election Commission.
- (ii) By-Law 2 – The positions in SA EXCO concerned by elections at a SA Congress and ratification of Athletes Representatives at a SA Congress.
- (iii) By-Law 3 – The nomination process and procedure, and provisions regarding vacancy after nominations close. This includes provisions for fair representation from the various National Federation-Members so that the SA EXCO is represented by as many NFs as possible.
- (iv) By-Law 4 – The preliminary process prior to the elections and conduct of elections by Election Commission.
- (v) By-Law 5 – The eligibility to vote by Ordinary Members of good standing present through accredited delegates.
- (vi) By-Law 6 – The voting procedure for the election.
- (vii) By-Law 7 – The counting of votes and its procedure, and includes provisions for a tie in votes count.
- (viii) By-law 8 – The taking of an oath of office by elected officers.
- (ix) By-Law 9 – The term of office of elected officers, and suspension from office.
- (x) By-Law 10 – Attendance at Meetings and consequence of absence from Meetings.
- (xi) By-Law 11 – Grounds for suspension and removal from office of elected officers.
- (xii) By-Law 12 – Vacancy of an elected position on the SA EXCO (except for the President).
- (xiii) by-Law 13 – Vacancy of the position of President.

8.2.2 There were no request for amendment or change.

Proposal:

To consider and approve the Softball Asia Elections By-Laws as proposed by Ms. Taeko Utsugi and seconded by Ms. Sally Lim.

DECISION

The SA EXCO unanimously approved the Softball Asia Elections By-Laws.

8.3 To Consider and Approve the Softball Asia Rules Relating to Duties and Responsibilities of Committees, Commissions, Working Groups and Task Forces

8.3.1 SA President Ms. Low reported that based on the WBSA Survey Report as stated in paragraph 6.1 above, SA took the opportunity to draft the SA Rules Relating to Duties and Functions of Softball Asia Committees, Commissions, Task Forces and Working Groups as per Attachment 5 for the EXCO's consideration and approval. She informed that the amended Rules was to update the existing Rules already in force:

- (i) Rule 1.0 and sub-sections: Committees and Commissions.
- (ii) Rule 2.0 and sub-sections: Working Groups and Task Forces.
- (iii) Rule 3.0 and sub-sections: Coaching Committee.
- (iv) Rule 4.0 and sub-sections: Development Committee.
- (v) Rule 5.0 and sub-sections: Finance Committee.
- (vi) Rule 6.0 and sub-sections: Law Committee.
- (vii) Rule 7.0 and sub-sections: Scorers Committee.
- (viii) Rule 8.0 and sub-sections: Technical and Competitions Committee.
- (ix) Rule 9.0 and sub-sections: Umpires Committee.
- (x) Rule 10.0 and sub-sections: Athletes Committee (which was a new Rule for the new SA Athletes Committee)

8.3.2 Ms Susan Zhang pointed out that in Rule 8.5, regarding the Technical and Competitions Committee, it should be amended from "registering scorers" and "qualified scorers on the Roll of Technical Commissioners" to "registering technical commissioners" and "qualified technical commissioners on the Roll of Technical Commissioners". The change was duly made. There was no other request for amendment and change.

Proposal:

To consider and approve the Softball Asia Rules Relating to Duties and Functions of Softball Asia Committees, Commissions, Task Forces and Working Groups as proposed by Ms. Susan Zhang and seconded by Ms. Taeko Utsugi.

DECISION

The SA EXCO unanimously approved the Softball Asia SA Rules Relating to Duties and Functions of Softball Asia Committees, Commissions, Task Forces and Working Groups.

8.4 To Consider and Approve the Softball Asia Conflict of Interest Policy

8.4.1 SA President Ms. Low reported that based on the WBSA Survey Report as stated in paragraph 6.1 above, SA took the opportunity to draft the SA Conflict of Interest Policy as per Attachment 6 for the EXCO's consideration and approval. She informed that the Policy was based on the WBSA Conflict of Interest Policy and highlighted the following:

- (i) Policy 1 – Introduction on the setting out of the Policy affecting all persons involved with SA, and the importance of management of a conflict.
- (ii) Policy 2 – Identifying the 2 types of conflict, namely, a conflict of interest, and, a conflict of duty.
- (iii) Policy 3 – Defining who a connected person is.
- (iv) Policy 4 – Parties under duty to avoid a conflict.
- (v) Policy 5 – Parties duty to make declaration of interests in the prescribed form.
- (vi) Policy 6 – How to manage a conflict of interest, and who has the authority.
- (vii) Appendix 1 – Prescribed Declaration of Interest Form.
- (viii) Appendix 2 – Prescribed Declaration Form – SA

Proposal:

To consider and approve the Softball Asia Conflict of Interest Policy as proposed by Ms. Taeko Utsugi and seconded by Ms. Sally Lim.

DECISION

The SA EXCO unanimously approved the Softball Asia Conflict of Interest Policy.

9. TO DISCUSS AND CONSIDER THE APPOINTMENT OF THE ATHLETES' REPRESENTATIVES ONTO THE SA EXCO:

9.1 The Male Athletes' Representative

9.2 The Female Athletes' Representative

There was general discussion and agreement that the election of the Athletes' Representatives should be by the athletes themselves, and the best possible time would be at the Asia Cups senior Men and Women tournaments. SA President informed the EXCO that she would refer to the criteria by the WBSC for the eligibility of candidates and draft a proposal for the EXCO's consideration and approval in due course regarding the election of the SA Athletes' Representatives (1 Male and 1 Female).

10. TO CONSIDER AND DECIDE ON THE POSITION OF THE CONTINENTAL VICE PRESIDENT FOR ASIA ON THE WBSC SOFTBALL DIVISION BOARD

10.1 SA President Ms. Low informed that with the demise of the late Mr. Tokuda, the position of the Continental Vice President for Asia on the WBSC Softball Division Board was vacant until the next election for that position by Softball Asia at the coming WBSC Congress in 2022. She stated that although it was only a short period to the next WBSC Congress, which was scheduled for March/April 2022, and there was no necessity to fill that position. However, she would like to recommend that Softball Asia propose a candidate to fill that vacancy for the rest of the term until the 2022 elections so that more officials could participate at the WBSC level and explained that under the WBSC Statutes, that position was to be decided by Softball Asia.

10.2 She informed the EXCO that she would like to recommend that Dr. Yang Xu, who is the

current President of Chinese Softball Association (CSA), be appointed by Softball Asia to fill that vacant position of Continental Vice President for Asia on the WBSC Softball Division Board for the rest of the term until the 2022 elections. She stated that China has been supportive in hosting SA events and activities, such as the Asia Cups, and that China was host of the coming Hangzhou Asian Games 2022, as well as the Asian Youth Games and Asian Beach Games in 2022, and that Dr. Yang would be a good SA representative.

Proposal:

To consider and approve the appointment of Dr. Yang Xu, who is the current President of Chinese Softball Association (CSA), to fill the vacant position of Continental Vice President for Asia on the WBSC Softball Division Board for the rest of the term until the 2022 elections, as proposed by Ms. Kim Eun Young and seconded by Ms. Sally Lim.

DECISION

The SA EXCO unanimously approved the appointment of Dr. Yang Xu, who is the current President of Chinese Softball Association (CSA), to fill the vacant position of Continental Vice President for Asia on the WBSC Softball Division Board for the rest of the term until the next election for that post in 2022.

11. TO CONSIDER THE APPLICATIONS OF THE FOLLOWING AS SOFTBALL ASIA MEMBERS

11.1 Palestine Baseball Softball Federation

11.2 Bhutan Baseball Softball Association

11.3 Saudi Arabia Baseball Softball Federation

SA President Ms. Low informed the EXCO that SA had received the applications from the following National Federations for SA membership and that those NFs were already approved as WBSC Ordinary Members. She said that she was still reviewing the documents submitted and would update the EXCO and Congress accordingly in due course:

11.1 Palestine Baseball Softball Federation.

11.2 Bhutan Baseball Softball Association.

11.3 Saudi Arabia Baseball Softball Federation.

She stated that there was been no further progress nor response from the following NFs as regards their respective applications for SA membership, although they were already approved as WBSC Members:

- Bangladesh Baseball Softball Federation.
- Jordan Softball Union.
- Mongolia Baseball Softball Federation.
- Nepal Baseball Softball Association.
- Sri Lanka Amateur Baseball Softball Association.

Note: WBSC President Mr. Fraccari informed that the WBSC has been in contact with the organisers of LA2028 Olympics and he would update everyone on its progress. He apologised that he had to leave the Meeting as he has another meeting with

the IOC to attend. He left about 3.30 pm.

SA Chairman's Remarks

SA Chairman Pan Yi Chuan stated that he was happy to see everyone online and noted the progress for improvement by SA. He looked forward to seeing everyone in person at a physical SA EXCO Meeting early next year.

12. TO CONSIDER AND DISCUSS THE SA CALENDAR FOR 2022

12.1 SA President Ms. Low stated that the uncertainties caused by the global Covid-19 pandemic and the many restrictions and countermeasures imposed by the health and other governmental authorities had caused many sports events and activities to be either cancelled or postponed indefinitely, and Softball Asia was also affected.

12.2 She said that she hoped that the situation would get better as many countries were moving to treat the infection as endemic and more events and activities were permitted. She then tabled the proposed SA Calendar for 2022 as per Attachment 7, and hoped that SA would be able to resume its events and activities in 2022, with the following highlighted:

	<u>Proposed Dates</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Host/Place (TBC)</u>	<u>Remarks</u>
(i)	Feb/Mar 2022	SA EXCO Meeting	Kuala Lumpur	TBC
(ii)	Mar/Apr 2022	WBSC Congress & Elections	Taipei	TBC
(iii)	May/June 2022	WBSC-SA Baseball5 Joint Technical-Umpires-Scorers Seminars	Kuala Lumpur	TBC
(iv)	May/June 2022	Asia Cup Baseball5 (Mixed Gender) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open category • Youth category 	Kuala Lumpur	Qualifier for WBSC World Cups – TBC (2022 – TBC) (2023 – TBC)
(v)	10 – 14 Aug 2022 (TBC)	WBSC World Cup U12 Mixed Gender SB	Taichung	Asia Cup qualifier NOT necessary
(vi)	TBC	Asia Cup U23 Men SB	TBC	Qualifier for WBSC World Cup U23 Men SB (Nov 2022)
(vii)	TBC	Asia Cup Men SB	TBC	Qualifier for WBSC World Cup Men SB (Dec 2022)
(viii)	TBC	Asia Cup U15 Girls SB	TBC	Qualifier for WBSC World Cup U15 Girls SB (2023)
(ix)	09 – 12 Jul 2022	World Games Women SB	Birmingham USA	CHN, JPN, TPE invited to participate
(x)	12 – 18 Sep 2022	Asian Games Women SB	Hangzhou	AG Opening – 10 Sep AG Closing – 25 Sep

- | | | | | |
|--------|-----------------|--|--------------|-----|
| (xi) | Dec 2022
TBC | Asia Cup Asian
Universities Women SB | Pattaya | TBC |
| (xii) | Dec 2022
TBC | SA Congress &
Elections | Kuala Lumpur | |
| (xiii) | TBC | Technical – Umpires –
Scorers SB Seminars | TBC | |

12.3 She requested any NF interested to host any of the above events and activities to contact the SA Secretariat for follow-up discussion.

12.4 Ms. Tan Chia Mien informed that Singapore was looking at hosting the U23 Men Softball Asia Cup and was in discussion with the Singapore authorities, but would need another 5 – 6 months for more discussions, and will further discuss with SA regarding the high costs and possible dates for the event. It was noted that the proposed venue for the tournament in Singapore had yet to be completed as there was delay caused by the Covid-19 lockdowns (which resulted in construction works being stopped) SA President informed that the WBSC World Cup was scheduled for November 2022 and that SA would need to give sufficient notice to teams to participate in the proposed Asia Cup-qualifier to be scheduled by mid-2022.

13. TO CONSIDER AND APPROVE THE SOFTBALL ASIA EXTRAORDINARY CONGRESS TO BE HELD ON 21 DECEMBER 2021

13.1 In follow-up of the recommendation of the EXCO for the amendments to the SA Constitution as discussed in para 7 above, the appointment of Continental Vice President for Asia in the WBSC Softball Division Board as discussed in para 10 above, and the pending membership applications as discussed in para 11 above, and after discussion, the EXCO agreed and approved for SA to hold an SA Extraordinary Congress online on 21 December 2021 to consider and approve those matters.

Proposal:

To consider and approve the holding of an SA Extraordinary Congress online on 21 December 2021 to consider and approve the matters as discussed and approved by the EXCO.

DECISION

The SA EXCO unanimously approved the holding of an SA Extraordinary Congress online on 21 December 2021 to consider and approve the matters as discussed and approved by the EXCO.

14. TO CONSIDER AND APPROVE THE PARTICIPATION OF THE TEAMS FOR THE FOLLOWING:

14.1 Softball Competition in the Asian Games Hangzhou 2022

14.2 WBSC U12 Mixed Gender Softball World Cup 2022 – Re: Asian Teams

14.1 Softball Competition in the Asian Games Hangzhou 2022

14.1.1 SA President Ms. Low informed the EXCO that based on the SA Survey conducted in mid-2021, and based on the preliminary entries by the respective National Olympic Committees (NOCs), the following NFs have obtained their respective NOCs

approval to participate in the Softball competition in the Hangzhou Asian Games 2022 (HAG2022):

- CHN, HKG, JPN, KOR, PHI, THA and TPE.

14.1.2 She also informed that there was no response to the SA Survey from the NFs of BRU, INA, IRA, IRQ, MAS, PAK and SGP, whilst IND stated that IND would not participate. She also informed that Lao Baseball Federation wrote to SA to ask about the possibility of LAO participating in the Women Softball in the HAG2022, to which she responded to LAO to inquire whether the LAO National Federation included governance over Softball and also requested it to check with the LAO NOC regarding participation in the HAG2022 as entry for participation in the HAG2022 is by the respective NOC.

Proposal:

To consider and approve the participation of CHN, HKG, JPN, KOR, PHI, THA and TPE in the Softball competition in the Asian Games Hangzhou 2022.

DECISION

The SA EXCO unanimously approved the participation of CHN, HKG, JPN, KOR, PHI, THA and TPE in the Softball competition in the Asian Games Hangzhou 2022.

14.2 WBSC U12 Mixed Gender Softball World Cup 2022

14.2.1 SA President Ms. Low informed the EXCO that based on the SA Survey conducted in mid-2021, only 2 NFs, namely, from HKG and TPE, confirmed that they were interested to participate in the U12 Mixed Gender Softball competitions, whereas, CHN, JPN, KOR and PHI informed that they would not participate, with IND indicating they may be interested but did not later confirm within the deadline; there were no responses from the NFs of INA, MAS, SGP and THA.

14.2.2 She also informed that for the WBSC World Cup, TPE would be eligible to participate, whereas Softball Asia was allocated 1 slot for an Asia team to participate and that there was only 1 team who had stated and confirmed interest, namely HKG.

Proposal:

To consider and approve the participation of HKG as the Asian team eligible to participate in the WBSC U12 Mixed Gender Softball World Cup 2022 and TPE also being eligible as host.

DECISION

The SA EXCO unanimously approved the participation of HKG as the Asian team eligible to participate in the WBSC U12 Mixed Gender Softball World Cup 2022 and TPE also being eligible as host.

15. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

15.1 Appointment of new Technical and Competitions Committee Member

15.1.1 SA President Ms. Low informed that Japan Softball Association submitted the

nomination of Mr. Shinsuke Yabata (with his brief curriculum vitae attached) for appointment as a member of the SA Technical and Competitions Committee. She said that as there was no JSA representative on that Committee, she recommended his appointment.

- He was the Team Leader of the Japan Women Softball team that won gold at the recent Tokyo 2020 Olympics.
- He is currently a member of the JSA Executive Board and serves on the JSA Coaching Committee, Technical Committee and National Team Committee. His current affiliation to the Japan Olympic Committee (JOC) is as Coaching Director – National Coach for Softball.

Proposal:

To consider and approve the appointment of Mr. Shinsuke Yabata (from Japan Softball Association) as a member of the SA Technical and Competitions Committee as proposed by JSA and seconded by Ms. Sally Lim.

DECISION

The SA EXCO unanimously approved the appointment of Mr. Shinsuke Yabata (from Japan Softball Association) as a member of the SA Technical and Competitions Committee.

15.2 Korea Baseball Softball Association

Ms. Kim Eun Young informed that Korea Baseball Softball Association was looking into the possibility of hosting a SA event or activity and would inform SA in due course.

15.3 U12 Mixed Gender Softball World Cup in Taichung

Ms. Justine (on behalf of the Chinese Taipei Softball Association) informed that their proposal to host the U12 Mixed Gender Softball World Cup in Taichung to the authorities there but they are facing very strict conditions for hosting.

Mr. Schmidt stated that Chinese Taipei Baseball would be hosting the U12 Men Baseball in Tainan in August 2022 and that both CT Baseball and CT Softball have further discussions with the TPE authorities early next year, as currently it may not be good timing in view of the current new waves of the Covid-19 Omicron infection.

16. ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING

16.1 SA President Ms. Low thanked everyone for attending the meeting, and also the respective interpreters for their support.

16.2 There being no other matters, the Meeting adjourned at 04.20 pm, with a vote of thanks to the Chair.

MINUTES CONFIRMED AS CORRECT

Beng Choo
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(*Beng Choo LOW*)
President, Softball Asia

(*Minutes prepared by Ms. Sally Lim, SA Secretary General*)