



SOFTBALL ASIA

Secretariat: 46, Jalan Cenderai 1, Lucky Garden, Bangsar,
59100 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

Tel: +603-2094 1271 **Fax:** +603-2094 1275

Email: bclow@bclowco.com ; bengclow@gmail.com

MINUTES OF THE 5TH SOFTBALL ASIA EXECUTIVE COUNCIL (EXCO MEETING (05/2018-2022))

Date: 23 February 2022
Time: 12.00 noon (Malaysia time)
Venue: **ONLINE** via Zoom

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEMBERS

- | | |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. Dato' LOW Beng Choo | President |
| 2. Ms. Taeko UTSUGI | 1 st Vice President |
| 3. Mr. Jean Henri LHUILLIER | Vice President |
| 4. Ms. KIM Eun Young | Vice President |
| 5. Ms. Susan ZHANG Xuan | Vice President |
| 6. Mr. Jimmy Fong | Vice President |
| 7. Mr. Kosol YIMPAIBOON | Vice President |
| 8. Ms. Sally LIM Swee Gaik | Secretary-General |
| 9. Mr. CHANG Chia Hsing | Secretary to Chairman |

SA COMMITTEE CHAIRS

- | | |
|---------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. Mr. Yutaka 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. Mrs. Neetal NARANG | President, Softball Association India |
| 2. Mr. Yotsakrai PHAINPANITPORN | President, Softball Association Thailand |
| 3. Ms. SHENG Thong Yin | Sec Gen, Singapore Baseball Softball Association |
| 4. Ms. Aki HUANG | WBSC |
| 5. Mr. Sam Bich KIM | WBSC |

ALSO PRESENT

- | | |
|----------------------------|------------------------------------------------|
| 1. Mr. Pravin ANAOKAR | CEO, Softball Association India |
| 2. Mr. Tomoaki OKAMOTO | Executive Director, Japan Softball Association |
| 3. Mr. Hiroyuki YOKOTA | Secretary General, Japan Softball Association |
| 4. Mr. Tomohiro HISAKA | JSA Secretariat |
| 5. Ms. Taeko ONO | JSA Secretariat |
| 6. Ms. Akiko ITO | JSA Interpreter |
| 7. Ms. Francesca ALTOMONTE | ASAPHIL Sec. Gen. rep. of Jean Henri Lhuillier |
| 8. Ms. Hyemin KIM | Korea BSA Staff/Interpreter |
| 9. Ms. Justine TSAI | CTSA Sec. Gen./Interpreter |
| 10. Mr. Tony MARIADASS | SA Media Officer |

ABSENT WITH APOLOGIES

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| 1. Mr. PAN Yi Chuan | Chairman |
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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. SOFTBALL ASIA PRESIDENT WELCOME ADDRESS

- 2.1 SA President Ms. Low thanked all the EXCO members and invitees present for taking the time to attend this very urgent Meeting, which she informed was important as it was to discuss, in particular, the hosting of the Men and U23 Men Softball Asia Cups as qualifiers for the respective World Cups. She stated that as the events were very important, she had invited the Presidents or representatives of Hong Kong Softball, India Softball, Singapore Softball and Thailand Softball to also attend as their views on the events were also important. She informed that unfortunately, Hong Kong Softball President could not attend due to the short notice and other prior commitments. She welcomed the WBSA staff, Ms. Aki Huang and Mr. Bich Sam Kim.
- 2.2 She requested that since some of the EXCO Members would have to leave the Meeting earlier to attend to other urgent matters, the matters relating to both Men and U23 Men Softball Asia Cups in item 6.1 and 6.2 be discussed first, to which the EXCO Members agreed.

3. TO DISCUSS AND DECIDE ON THE FOLLOWING EVENTS:

- 3.1 SA U23 Men Softball Asia Cup**
3.2 SA Men Softball Asia Cup
3.3 Other SA Asia Cups

- 3.1 SA U23 Men Softball Asia Cup**
3.2 SA Men Softball Asia Cup

- (i) SA President Ms. Low reported that in response to a SA notice for Entry Confirmation conducted at the end of 2021, the following teams registered confirmation to participate in the following events and had paid to SA, the respective Participation Confirmation Fee of USD500.00 per team:

SOFTBALL ASIA: ASIA CUPS 2022: Entry Confirmation Survey: 2021.12.27

<u>ASIA CUP U23 MEN SOFTBALL 2022</u>		
<u>No.</u>	<u>Team</u>	<u>Remarks</u>
1.	India	No indication of number of U24 players in senior team
2.	Japan	Indication of number of U24 players in senior Men Team: 5
3.	Singapore	Indication of number of U24 players in senior Men Team: 10

<u>ASIA CUP MEN SOFTBALL 2022</u>		
<u>No.</u>	<u>Team</u>	<u>Remarks</u>
1.	Hong Kong	No indication of number of U24 players in senior Men Team.
2.	India	No indication of number of U24 players in senior Men Team.
3.	Japan	Indication of number of U24 players in senior Men Team: 5
4.	Philippines	Indication of number of U24 players in senior Men Team: 9
5.	Singapore	Indication of number of U24 players in senior Men Team: 10
6.	Chinese Taipei	No indication of number of U24 players in senior Men Team.
7.	Thailand	Indication of number of U24 players in senior Men Team: 6

- (ii) She stated that although Singapore had initially indicated interest to host the U23

Men Softball Asia Cup in Singapore, there was still uncertainty on the completion of the new Baseball/Softball field due to construction works delays and stoppages caused by the Covid pandemic. She informed that she had approached Japan Softball Association (JSA) to request JSA to consider hosting both events (namely, the Men and U23 Men Asia Cups).

- (iii) She thanked JSA, and in particular, Mr. Okamoto for coming forward to take up the challenge to host both events in Kochi (Shimanto), which is Mr. Okamoto's home-city, and about six (6) hours by chartered bus from the Kansai International Airport (KIX). However, due to strict Covid countermeasures and health requirements, JSA has informed that the budgeted costs to host the events had escalated to about USD120 – USD150 per person per day, in particular the accommodation costs (all athletes and officials have to be put in single-rooms, with quarantine requirements), the Covid tests (each athlete and official must undergo daily test (costs more than USD70 – USD80 per test), transport costs (no public transport allowed and only dedicated chartered buses may be used), local organisation and logistics costs, etc.). She informed that current preparations were for the teams to compete under a “bubble” or “closed-loop” system and anyone tested positive (whether at the airport or during the tournament) would be taken to a separate quarantine centre where there may be additional costs.
- (iv) She informed that the Asia Cup qualifiers were necessary as it would not be fair to use the WBSC World Rankings as not all the Asia teams had the opportunity to participate in past World Cups and that in any event, many teams have been locked-down for the last 2 years due to Covid restrictions and it was therefore difficult to assess team performance without playing any competitions.
- (v) In view of the long bus journey from KIX to Kochi-Shimanto and the escalating costs (which may be more than USD100 per person per day each team member has to pay for single room with 3 meals), she requested each representative from the respective registered teams to give his/her views on the matter.
 - Mr. Lhuillier said that the Philippines (PHI) teams would prefer to play in another host country/city where the costs would be much lower, even if the competition venue may not be skinned diamond softball field and the teams have to play on an “all-grass” football/rugby field, despite both competitions involving “senior” players who usually play on a proper softball field. He also confirmed that if the PHI team qualifies for the Men's World Cup in Auckland, New Zealand, the team would participate.

He informed that he would reach out to discuss with the owner of the Clark Baseball-Softball fields (where the 2019 South East Asian (SEA) Games baseball-softball competitions were played) and the hotel is within the complex, on cost to host the events and inform SA accordingly. SA President Ms. Low informed that after the SEA Games 2019, when SA reached out to them for a quote to host the SA competitions, the Clark hotel had quoted quite high costs.

- Mr. Fong reported that he had a discussion with the Hong Kong (HKG) Softball President Mr. (Patrick) Ng prior to this meeting who informed that the funding (which was tight due to the Covid situation) for the team's participation would be from the government and that the HKG government wanted the teams to participate in both events – the teams were prepared to travel to Japan and to support JSA. He said that if the amount was about

USD100 – USD120 per person per day, they would negotiate with the government for the additional funds but anything more would be very difficult. He also confirmed that if the HKG teams qualify for the Men and U23 Men World Cups (U23 World Cup in Parana, Argentina), the teams would participate.

- Mrs. Narang and Mr. Anaokar informed that the additional cost for the India (IND) teams to participate in Japan was very expensive and there was not too little time to find the additional funds. They stated that the teams want to participate in the Asia Cups for both Men and U23 Men, and if the IND teams qualify for the respective World Cups, they would participate in the World Cups. SA President Ms. Low reminded Mr. Anaokar that the team rosters for the Asia Cups must be ready by March 2022 to enable sufficient time for visa applications and approvals.
 - Ms. Sheng informed that the Singapore (SGP) teams were committed to support, and prepared to pay and travel to JPN to participate in both the Asia Cups, and if qualified, the World Cups despite the high costs as it was the right thing to do, but hoped the costs could be reduced. She said that SGP was in contact with the sports authorities regarding funding. She said that the teams were already training on grass field as the new softball field is not ready.
 - Mr. Chang informed that the Chinese-Taipei (TPE) team has been selected for the Asia Cup, and was ready and prepared to participate, and needed to know the dates and venue. However, he said that the cost was too high and hoped that it could be reduced from the USD120 – USD150 per person per day as they had already submitted an earlier lower budget. He said that the team was prepared to play on not the best venue, such as an “all-grass” field, as what was more important were what the health protocols and requirements were.
 - Mr. Phainpanitporn informed that the Thailand (THA) team was ready to participate but that the cost requested was too high. He said that the team was training and was prepared to play on grass field if the cost is lower. He informed that he would look at the possibility of THA hosting the events at venues about 1 ½ - 2 hours by road from Bangkok since the Thailand Government had opened its borders to international travel.
 - Mr. See (from Softball Malaysia) informed that there was a possibility for Malaysia to host the events in Penang, at a lower cost but that the competition field would be “all-grass” (with fairly good drainage if it rains) and the possibility of putting more than 2 softball fields.
 - SA President Ms. Low also requested that those who were looking at alternative host city to also reach out to the relevant health authorities as to what Covid countermeasures, health protocols and requirements were being implemented for international travel and for team sports events to be held,
- (vi) Mr. Okamoto from JSA thanked everyone for attending this Meeting and noted their views. He said that JSA and Kochi authorities were committed to host both Asia Cups (Men and U23 Men Softball) and apologised for the high cost to do the events in Japan as the authorities require them to do daily Covid tests and to provide single-room occupancy (instead of twin-share rooms). He said that the prominent Japanese local newspaper Kochi Shimbun has announced that Kochi would be

hosting both events and the residents of Kochi and Shimanto, were looking forward very much to the events; including the Governor of the Kochi prefecture, Mayor of Shimanto city and the Assembly and Diet members who had pledged financial and other support, and JSA was prepared to absorb the deficit as even the amount of USD150 per person per day requested by JSA was still not enough to pay for the total costs to host both events. He clarified that the bus journey from Kansai airport to Kochi city was only about 4 1/2 hours. He expressed that by June – July 2022, when the events are to be held, the costs ought to be lower as the Covid situation is expected to improve and be mitigated, when less tests may be required and twin-share rooms was possible, and there was a domestic airport in Kochi). He requested for the teams for cooperation to support Kochi as the host for both events.

- (vii) SA President Ms. Low stated that SA was still looking at supporting Kochi as the host for both events as SA was very grateful that Mr. Okamoto and JSA came forward to host both events when SA was looking for hosts and that he and his team were working very hard to host and organise both events. She stated that with the high cost requested, which has to be paid about May 2022, SA and the teams needed to find the best manner to resolve the situation as the teams had to find the finance to participate, and they had to apply to the government and private sponsors for funds. She reminded the participating teams that the arrival-departure airport in Japan is Kansai – Osaka and not Tokyo airports, and that SA would communicate with them to look into issues faced to resolve them.

3.3 Other Asia Cups

3.3.1 Asian Universities Women Softball Asia Cup 2022 – Pattaya (December 2022)

SA President Ms. Low informed the EXCO that that in response to a SA notice for Entry Confirmation conducted at the end of 2021, the following 8 teams had confirmed participation in the Asian Universities Women Softball Asia Cup 2022 – Pattaya (in December 2022) and had paid to SA, the Participation Confirmation Fee of USD500.00 per team:

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|----------------------|-----------------|
| (i) Hong Kong | (ii) India |
| (iii) Japan | (iv) Korea |
| (v) Malaysia | (vi) Singapore |
| (vii) Chinese Taipei | (viii) Thailand |

She informed Thailand Softball President Phainpanitporn that she would contact him to set up an online meeting on another date with him and his team to discuss the hosting of the event. She stated that the host cannot limit the age category of this event to 23 years as it is for female full-time University students who may be over that age.

4. TO CONSIDER AND APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE 4th SA EXCO MEETING HELD (ONLINE) ON 16 NOVEMBER 2021

- 4.1 SA Secretary General Ms. Sally Lim informed that the Minutes of the 4th SA EXCO Meeting held (online) on 16 November 2021 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 4th Softball Asia Executive Committee Meeting held online on 16 November 2021 as proposed by Ms. Ms. Taeko Utsugi and

seconded by Ms. Kim Eun Young.

DECISION

The SA EXCO unanimously approved the Minutes of the 4th Softball Asia Executive Committee Meeting held online on 16 November 2021.

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 APPLICATION OF THE SAUDI BASEBALL & SOFTBALL FEDERATION AS A PROVISIONAL MEMBER OF SA

• **Saudi Arabia Baseball & Softball Federation**

6.1 SA President Ms. Low informed the EXCO that SA had received an application from the Saudi Arabia Baseball & Softball Federation (SBSF) for SA membership and that the SBSF was recognised as the governing National Federation (NF) for Baseball and Softball by the Saudi Arabia National Olympic Committee (NOC).

6.2 She also informed that SBSF was already approved by the WBSC Executive Board as a WBSC Provisional Member and that provisional membership would be tabled for approval of full ordinary membership at the next WBSC Congress. She said that she had reviewed the SBSF documents submitted, which were also submitted to WBSC, and that SBSF had informed both WBSC and SA that the provisions relating its General Assembly and elections were pending.

6.3 She pointed out that the SBSF application for Baseball affiliation-membership of Baseball Asia is under the authority of Baseball Federation of Asia.

6.4 She requested the EXCO to consider approving SBSF as a provisional member of SA for Softball subject to the following:

6.4.1 SBSF's provisional membership with World Baseball Softball Confederation (WBSC) is approved in due course for full ordinary membership of WBSC at the next WBCS Congress.

6.4.2 SBSF approves the relevant rules and regulations relating to your SBSF General Assembly, elections, and rights and responsibilities of your SBSF Members to be incorporated into the SBSF Constitution as soon as possible and to forward to SA a copy thereof.

6.4.3 SBSF's provisional membership with SA will be tabled for consideration and approval at the next SA Congress when the SA Members will vote on SBSF's full ordinary membership of Softball Asia for Softball.

6.4.4 The provisional membership is subject to SBSF's payments of the necessary dues of the one-time SA Affiliation-Membership Fee (USD200.00) and an annual membership fee-subscription of USD200.00 per year starting from 2022.

Proposal:

To consider and approve the Saudi Arabia Baseball Softball Federation as a provisional member of Softball Asia for Softball SUBJECT to the following, and recommend that it

be tabled at the next Softball Asia Congress for consideration and approval as a full ordinary member of Softball Asia for Softball, as proposed by Ms. Susan Zhang and seconded by Ms. Taeko Utsugi:

- (i) SBSF's provisional membership with World Baseball Softball Confederation (WBSC) is approved in due course for full ordinary membership of WBSC at the next WBCS Congress.
- (ii) SBSF approves the relevant rules and regulations relating to your SBSF General Assembly, elections, and rights and responsibilities of your SBSF Members to be incorporated into the SBSF Constitution as soon as possible and to forward to SA a copy thereof.
- (iii) SBSF's provisional membership with SA will be tabled for consideration and approval at the next SA Congress when the SA Members will vote on SBSF's full ordinary membership of Softball Asia for Softball.
- (iv) The provisional membership is subject to SBSF's payments of the necessary dues of the one-time SA Affiliation-Membership Fee (USD200.00) and annual membership fee-subscription of USD200.00 per year starting from 2022.

DECISION

The SA EXCO unanimously approved the Saudi Arabia Baseball Softball Federation (SBSF) as a provisional member of Softball Asia for Softball SUBJECT to the following, and recommended that it be tabled for consideration and approval at the next Softball Asia Congress as a full ordinary member of Softball Asia:

- (i) SBSF's provisional membership with World Baseball Softball Confederation (WBSC) is approved in due course for full ordinary membership of WBSC at the next WBCS Congress.**
- (ii) SBSF approves the relevant rules and regulations relating to your SBSF General Assembly, elections, and rights and responsibilities of your SBSF Members to be incorporated into the SBSF Constitution as soon as possible and to forward to SA a copy thereof.**
- (iii) SBSF's provisional membership with SA to be tabled for consideration and approval at the next SA Congress when the SA Members will vote on SBSF's full ordinary membership of Softball Asia for Softball.**
- (iv) The provisional membership is subject to SBSF's payments of the necessary dues of the one-time SA Affiliation-Membership Fee (USD200.00) and annual membership fee-subscription of USD200.00 per year starting from 2022.**

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

7.1 Softball Competition in the Asian Games Hangzhou 2022

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

7.1 Softball Competition in the Asian Games Hangzhou 2022

7.1.1 SA President Ms. Low informed that the EXCO had, at its Meeting held on 16 November 2021, approved participation of the following teams in the Softball competition in the Hangzhou Asian Games 2022 (HAG2022) as the respective National Olympic Committees (NOCs) have confirmed agreement to the respective participation:

- CHN, HKG, JPN, KOR, PHI, THA and TPE – 7 teams.

7.1.2 She also informed that based on the Entry by Sport submitted by the respective NOCs, the respective NOCs from INA (Indonesia), IND (India), Laos (LAO) and SGP (Singapore) registered interest to participate in Women Softball. She updated that she had been in communication with Lao Baseball Federation and it has since confirmed with SA that it would only participate in the Men Baseball competition and not the Women Softball competition due to lack of funds.

7.1.3 She requested the respective IND and SGP representatives to give a brief report and clarification on the request for participation in Women Softball in the HAG2022.

(i) India

She requested IND to clarify its position as IND stated that IND would not participate in response to the SA Survey conducted in early 2021 on the matter.

Mrs. Narang informed that the Softball Association of India (SBAI) had put in a request to the India NOC to register the IND team's interest for participation in Women Softball in the HAG2022 in case any of the qualified teams are not able to participate, and the India NOC supported the Entry by Number stage. She clarified that if SA would approve the IND team for participation, then she would push and was confident that the India NOC would approve it.

(ii) Singapore

She requested SGP to clarify its position as SGP did not respond to the SA Survey conducted in early 2021 on the matter.

Ms. Tan and Ms. Sheng informed that the Singapore NOC (SNOC) had not approved its participation at this stage although the Singapore Baseball Softball Association (SBSA) and SGP Softball team had put in a request to the SNOC to participate in Women Softball in the HAG2022. They stated that there was a list of requirements and criteria set by the SNOC to be fulfilled within a timeline before the SNOC would approve participation, and the SNOC decision would only be made at a later stage.

7.1.4 She clarified that the SA EXCO could approve IND and SGP as "wild card" entries but that participation would still be subject to the respective NOC approval. She stated that SA was aware that the participation of any additional teams would be an increase of costs to the organiser of the HAG2022.

Proposal:

To consider and approve the participation of INDIA and SINGAPORE in the Women Softball competition in the Asian Games Hangzhou 2022.

DECISION

The SA EXCO unanimously approved the participation of INDIA (IND) and SINGAPORE (SGP) in the Women Softball competition in the Asian Games Hangzhou 2022.

7.2 WBSC U12 Mixed Gender Softball World Cup 2022

- 7.2.1 SA President Ms. Low informed that the SA EXCO had, at its Meeting on 16 November 2021, 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.
- 7.2.2 She informed the SGP has applied to SA for approval to participate in the WBSC U12 Mixed Gender Softball World Cup 2022 in TPE as the second team from Asia (in addition to HKG as the 1st team from Asia and TPE as host) – WBSC had informed that Asia had 2 slots for the World Cup U12 Softball, in addition to the host slot. She informed that the Chinese Taipei Softball Association (CTSA) has indicated that it may withdraw as the host and the matter was still under discussion, and that she would discuss SGP's participation as a "wild card" entry.

Proposal:

To consider and approve the participation of SINGAPORE (SGP) as the second Asian team eligible to participate in the WBSC U12 Mixed Gender Softball World Cup 2022.

DECISION

The SA EXCO unanimously approved the participation of SINGAPORE (SGP) as the second Asian team eligible to participate in the WBSC U12 Mixed Gender Softball World Cup 2022.

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- 8.1 In response to Mr. Chang's (CTSA) query on the status of the Asia Cup **U15 Women Softball** tournament, SA President and Ms. Zhang (Chinese Softball Association – CSA) informed that SA and CSA were waiting for WBSC to confirm when the World Cup U15 Women Softball would be held (whether it is 2023) before deciding on the status of the Asia Cup U15 Women Softball. Ms. Zhang informed that the Pingtan host was still interested to host the Asia Cup in 2023.
- 8.2 Mr. Mariadass requested the SA NFs to submit reports on their respective events and activities for media report on the SA website.

9. ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING

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

9.2 There being no other matters, the Meeting adjourned at 01.30 pm, with a vote of thanks to the Chair.

MINUTES CONFIRMED AS CORRECT



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(*Beng Choo LOW*)
President, Softball Asia

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