



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 6TH SOFTBALL ASIA EXECUTIVE COUNCIL (EXCO MEETING (06/2018-2022))

Date: 09 May 2022
Time: 12.00 noon (Malaysia Standard 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. Susan ZHANG Xuan | Vice President |
| 5. Mr. Jimmy Fong | Vice President |
| 6. Ms. Sally LIM Swee Gaik | Secretary-General |

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. Mr. Michael Schmidt | WBSC Executive Director |
| 2. Ms. Aki HUANG | WBSC |
| 3. Mr. Sam Bich KIM | WBSC |
| 4. Mr. Yotsakrai Phainpanitporn | President, Softball Association of Thailand |

ALSO PRESENT

- | | |
|------------------------|--|
| 1. Mr. Tomoaki OKAMOTO | Executive Director, Japan Softball Association |
| 2. Mr. Shinsuke YABATA | Secretary General, Japan Softball Association |
| 3. Mr. Hiroyuki YOKOTA | Advisor, Japan Softball Association |
| 4. Mr. Tomohiro HISAKA | JSA Secretariat |
| 5. Ms. Taeko ONO | JSA Secretariat |
| 6. Ms. Akiko ITO | JSA Interpreter |
| 7. Ms. Hyemin KIM | Korea BSA Staff/Interpreter |
| 8. Mr. Woo Jisuk | Korea BSA Staff |
| 9. Ms. Justine TSAI | CTSA Assts. Sec. Gen. |
| 10. Mr. Tony MARIADASS | SA Media Officer |

ABSENT WITH APOLOGIES

- | | |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. Mr. PAN Yi Chuan | Chairman |
| 2. Ms. KIM Eun Young | Vice President |
| 3. Mr. Kosol YIMPAIBOON | Vice President |
| 4. Mr. CHANG Chia Hsing | Secretary to Chairman |
| 5. Mr. CHANG Sy-Chau | Co-chair. Scorers Committee |

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 important up-date Meeting to discuss and decide on several matters, including the following:

2.1.1 The upcoming Asia Cup tournaments, namely, the U23 Men and Men Softball Asia Cups as qualifiers for the respective World Cups.

2.1.2 The confirmation of the participating teams for the coming Asian Games Hangzhou 2022.

2.1.3 The WBSC-Asia Baseball5 Joint Seminar and the Asia Cup Baseball5 (Open) tournament.

- 2.2 Before proceeding with the Meeting, she requested the attendees to give an update on the situation in his/her respective countries.

- 2.3 Ms. Zhang reported for China:

2.3.1 Chinese Softball Association (CSA) drafted a 5-year development plan to define CSA's main task and objects for 2021 – 2025.

2.3.2 The 14th China National Games Softball tournament was successfully organised in Xi'an; 2 more teams were added to the 6 teams prior to that, making a total of 8 teams qualifying for the final stage.

2.3.3 CSA successfully held the Panda Cup Slow Pitch Enterprise League for the second year in 2021.

2.3.4 The CHN National Women Softball Team was in preparatory training for the Asian Games Hangzhou 2022 (HAG2022). With the announcement of the postponement of the HAG2022, the athletes would break camp to return to their respective home teams to participate in the national competition to be held coming June, which was a test event for the HAG2022.

- 2.4 Ms. Tan reported for SGP. She thanked SA for the support and wild card slot which enabled them to obtain the approval of the SGP National Olympic Committee (NOC) to allow the SGP Team to participate in the Women Softball competition in the HAG2022. She said that the postponement of the HAG2022 would give the SGP Team more time to prepare and train.

2.4.1 The SGP teams were back in physical training with excitement as restrictions have been lifted (previously Covid tests were required and training was confined to groups of 5 or less).

2.4.2 The lack of playing fields remained a main concern, in particular as the construction of the new softball field has been delayed due to the restrictions in place because of the Covid-19 situation.

- 2.5 Ms. Tsai reported for TPE. She informed that the number of Covid infections-cases were still increasing and border / travel restrictions were still in place.

- 2.5.1 2 of the athlete-players in the National Women Softball team tested positive recently and as such, the rest of the team members (players and coaches) had to undergo a 7-days self-quarantine and until they all test negative.
- 2.5.2 The Team will leave for the Canada Cup in mid-June 2022.
- 2.6 Mr. Lhuillier reported for PHI. He informed that the Women Softball National Team was training in pockets, as some cities were still strict, in preparation for the Canada Cup tournament in June 2022, which was intended as a warm-up for the HAG2022. He said that the Team was gearing up for the HAG2022, whilst waiting for the new dates for the HAG2022.
- 2.7 Mr. Phainpanitporn reported for THA. He informed that THA borders were open and the THA Women National Softball Team were in training. He also informed that THA was on track to host the Asian Universities Women Softball Asia Cup in Pattaya in December 2022 as discussed with SA President Ms. Low.
- 2.8 Ms. Ip reported for HKG. She informed that the number of daily positive Covid cases had risen to 3-digits. She said that the Women Softball National Team had resumed training in preparation for the HAG2022.
- 2.9 Mr. See reported for MAS. He said that physical training for sports had resumed.
- 2.9.1 The National Men and Women Softball tournaments would be held in June 2022 in Penang.
- 2.9.2 The National Schools Softball (Boys and Girls) tournaments would be held for the U12 and U18 groups in mid-year.
- 2.9.3 The Universities would resume their sports activities and events.
- 2.9.4 The preparations for the Asia Cup Baseball5 tournament and the Baseball5 Joint Seminar to be held in Kuala Lumpur in early August 2022 were on track.
- 2.10 Mr. Schmidt informed that for Europe and most of the other countries outside of Asia, the Covid-19 restrictions and countermeasures had been lifted and movements were “quite free”, with testing and mandatory face-masks wearing no longer required; he said that in most countries there, even if a person is infected, it is his/her choice whether to go back to office to work.
3. **TO CONSIDER AND APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE 5th SA EXCO MEETING HELD (ONLINE) ON 23 FEBRUARY 2022**
- 3.1 SA Secretary General Ms. Sally Lim informed that the Minutes of the 5th SA EXCO Meeting held (online) on 23 February 2022 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 5th Softball Asia Executive Committee Meeting held online on 23 February 2022 as proposed by Ms. Taeko Utsugi and seconded by Ms. Susan Zhang Xuan.

DECISION

The SA EXCO unanimously approved the Minutes of the 5th Softball Asia Executive Committee Meeting held online on 23 February 2022.

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

4.1 The matters arising from the above Minutes would be discussed in this Meeting.

5. THE OFFICIAL RULES OF SOFTBALL (FAST PITCH) 2022 – 2025 APPROVED BY WORLD BASEBALL SOFTBALL CONFEDERATION (WBSC).

5.1 SA President Ms. Low requested everyone to take note of the implementation of the Official Rules of Softball (Fast Pitch) 2022 – 2025 approved recently by World Baseball Softball Confederation (WBSC), and which would be used for the coming Asia Cups and HAG2022.

6. TO RECEIVE UPDATE ON THE HOSTING AND ORGANISATION OF THE FOLLOWING EVENTS:

6.1 U23 Men Softball Asia Play-Off

The SA EXCO agreed with the following and noted that the competition would be held under a “bubble closed-loop management” system:

6.1.1 **Dates: 01 – 02 September 2022**

6.1.2 Place: Shimanto, Kochi, Japan (1 field only)

6.1.3 Participating Teams (3 teams only): IND, JPN, SGP

6.1.4 Competition Format: Double Round Robin - Top 2 Teams to qualify.

6.1.5 Qualifier (2 slots for Asia) for WBSC World Cup.

6.2 Men Softball Asia Cup

The SA EXCO agreed with the following and noted that the competition would be held under a “bubble closed-loop management” system:

6.2.1 **Dates: 03 – 06 September 2022**

6.2.2 Place: Shimanto, Kochi, Japan (2 fields)

6.2.3 Participating Teams (7 teams): HKG, IND, JPN, PHI, SGP, THA, TPE.

6.2.4 Qualifier (2 slots for Asia) for WBSC World Cup.

6.2.5 Competition format:

- 2 Groups for preliminary single round robin.
- The top 2 placed teams after the Group Preliminaries to play in the Super Round.
- The top 2 placed teams after the Super Round to play for the Asia Champion title.
- The 3rd & 4th placed teams after the Super Round to play for the 3rd & 4th placings.
- The 3rd & 4th placed teams after the Group Preliminaries to play in the Placing Round.

The Japan Softball Association (JSA) representatives informed that they would update SA and the participating teams soon on the latest arrangements as they expect the Covid restrictions to be eased soon.

6.3 WBSC-Asia Baseball5 Joint Seminar and Baseball5 (Open) Asia Cup

The SA EXCO agreed with the following:

- 6.3.1 **Dates for Seminar: 15 – 16 August 2022**
- 6.3.2 **Dates for Asia Cup: 17 - 19 August 2022**
- 6.3.3 Place: Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
- 6.3.4 Asia Cup Participating Teams (9 teams): HKG, KOR, JPN, MAS, PAK, PHI, SGP, THA, TPE
- 6.3.5 Competition Format: To be determined
- 6.3.6 Qualifier (3 slots for Asia) for WBSC World Cup.

6.4 Asian Universities Women Softball Asia Cup 2022

The SA EXCO agreed with the following:

- 6.4.1 **Dates: 14 - 17 December 2022**
- 6.4.2 Place: Pattaya, Thailand (Bangkok, Thailand on stand-by)
- 6.4.3 Participating Teams (8 teams): HKG, IND, JPN, MAS, PHI, SGP, THA, TPE.
- 6.4.4 Competition format: To be determined

7. TO CONSIDER AND APPROVE MATTERS RELATING TO SOFTBALL COMPETITION IN THE ASIAN GAMES HANGZHOU 2022

- 7.1 SA President Ms. Low informed that the Softball competition in the HAG2022 was intended to be the Asia Qualifier – to qualify the top 3 Asia teams for the WBSC World Cup to be held in 2023. However, with the postponement of the HAG2022, there may be a need to hold a Women Softball Asia Cup Qualifier in early 2023, depending on the new dates for the HAG2022. She said that she would get back to the SA EXCO as soon as the new dates for the HAG2022 were decided by the Olympic Council of Asia.
- 7.2 Mr. Schmidt informed that in 2023, the World Cup for Women Softball would be in 2 stages, with the Group stage in 2023 (3 Group Stages), followed by the Final Stage in 2024 (where the top 2 teams from each of the 3 Group Stage plus 2 wild card entries would compete). He informed that since all the cities bidding for the 3 Group stages were from Europe, it is likely that the 3 Group Stages would be played in summer 2023.
- 7.3 The SA EXCO noted that to-date, the following 9 teams have confirmed participation in the HAG2022 as confirmed by the respective National Olympic Committees (NOCs):
 - CHN, HKG, IND, JPN, KOR, PHI, SGP, THA, TPE
- 7.4 The SA EXCO agreed to the following competition format:
 - 7.4.1 2 Groups of 5 teams/ 4 teams each to play a preliminary single round robin.
 - 7.4.2 The top 3 placed teams after the Group Preliminaries to play in the Super Round.
 - 7.4.3 The top 2 placed teams after the Super Round to play for the gold medal and the 3rd & 4th placed teams after the Super Round to play for the bronze medal.
 - 7.4.5 The 4th & 5th placed teams after the Group Preliminaries to play in the Placing Round.
- 7.5 SA President Ms. Low informed that the placing of the teams into the Groups would be based on up-to-date WBSC ranking and in view of the postponement of the HAG2022, the grouping would only be decided later, when the new dates for the HAG2022 are confirmed, for the latest rankings.
- 7.6 Ms. Zhang shared 2 videos of the new completed Shaoxing Baseball-Softball Complex which will be used for the Baseball-Softball competition in the HAG2022. The SA EXCO Members thanked her and expressed they were very impressed by the new state-

of-the-art competition venue.

8. TO DISCUSS THE SOFTBALL ASIA CONGRESS & ELECTIONS TO BE HELD ON 03 JULY 2022

8.1 SA President Ms. Low confirmed that notice for the SA Congress and Elections to be held on 03 July 2022 in Taipei (in conjunction with the WBSC Congress – 04 – 05 July 2022) were sent out to all SA Affiliate-Members. She informed that SA was waiting for the WBSC to confirm the arrangements for the WBSC Congress before proceeding to confirm the arrangements for the SA Congress. She also reminded that the nominations for the positions in the SA EXCO up for elections had been sent and that the deadline for nominations was 19 May 2022. She also pointed out that the deadline for nominations for positions in the WBSC elections was 14 May 2022.

9. TO DISCUSS THE WBSC SOFTBALL DIVISION CONGRESS & ELECTIONS AND WBSC CONGRESS & ELECTIONS TO BE HELD ON 05 JULY 2022

9.1 SA President Ms. Low reminded everyone to register their respective delegates to attend the WBSC Congress and to exercise their vote for the candidates they support for elections in the WBSC Main Executive Board and the WBSC Softball Division Board.

9.2 Mr. Schmidt stated that the WBSC hoped to finalise all arrangements for the WBSC Congress with the Chinese Taipei Baseball Association (CTBA) organiser within the week.

10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

10.1 Mr. Schmidt informed that the **U12 Mixed Gender Softball World Cup** to be held in Taichung, TPE, would be postponed to **December 2022**, with the dates to be confirmed.

10.2 He also informed that the WBSC planned to hold the U15 Women Softball World Cup and U18 Men Softball World Cup in 2023.

11. ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING

11.1 SA President Ms. Low thanked everyone for attending the meeting, and also the respective interpreters for their support. She also thanked Mr. Schmidt and Ms. Huang for getting up so early to assist and attend the Meeting, and also Mr. Bich for his support and attendance.

11.2 There being no other matters, the Meeting adjourned at 01.10 pm, with a vote of thanks to the Chair.

MINUTES CONFIRMED AS CORRECT



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

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