

9 December 2011

## WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP UNDERWAY IN SOUTH AFRICA

It's Day 3 of the International Softball Federation IX Jr. Women's World Championship in Cape Town, South Africa. The (age) 19-and-under fast pitch tournament will conclude on December 17<sup>th</sup>. The event is being played at the renovated Turfhall complex, which had been part of the region's unsuccessful bid to host the 2004 Olympic Games.

Opening Ceremonies were held two nights ago, followed by the host team taking on Botswana in a game that required an extra inning to decide, with South Africa winning, 6-5. Government officials were on-hand for the festivities on Wednesday night, along with ISF President Don Porter, ISF Secretary General Ms. Low Beng Choo, and ISF vice presidents Guillo Marapjane & Marumo Morule (Africa) and Mme. Jiang Xinyun & Mme. Taeko Utsugi (Asia).



*Western Cape Minister of Cultural Affairs and Sport Dr. Ivan Meyer declared the tournament open during Wednesday night's Opening Ceremonies.*

At no cost to the viewer, webstreaming, which was done for the Opening Ceremonies, is being done for all games being played in the main stadium. The tournament website, <http://jwwc2011.co.za>, has a Live Streaming page where these games can be watched. Fans around the world are interacting with the tournament with a comment area on that page (below the player) and through the 2011 Jr. Women's

World Championship page on Facebook. In addition, the tournament mascot is tweeting at [twitter.com/sonke2011](http://twitter.com/sonke2011). The 15 participating countries are rounded out by Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, Chinese Taipei, Czech Republic, Germany, Japan, New Zealand, Puerto Rico, Russia, and USA.



*A capacity crowd at the junior women's world championship in South Africa.*

## TWO CLINCH BERTHS IN MEN'S WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP

Australia and Samoa have qualified for the ISF XIII Men's World Championship, which will be held in Auckland, New Zealand, from March 1-10, 2013. The pair gained a spot in the marquee fast pitch event through a qualifying tournament held this week in Canberra, Australia. By virtue of their hosting the ISF tournament in 15 months, New Zealand gets an automatic berth. Australia is the defending ISF men's champion from the 2009 event in Canada. They went undefeated at the qualifier, while Samoa cemented their spot in 2013 with a victory over Papua New Guinea. The official tournament website for the ISF XIII Men's World Championship is [www.2013worldmensfastpitch.com](http://www.2013worldmensfastpitch.com).



*Australia's Drew Faulkner bats in the team's first game, a win over Papua New Guinea. (Photo by Sportographs)*

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