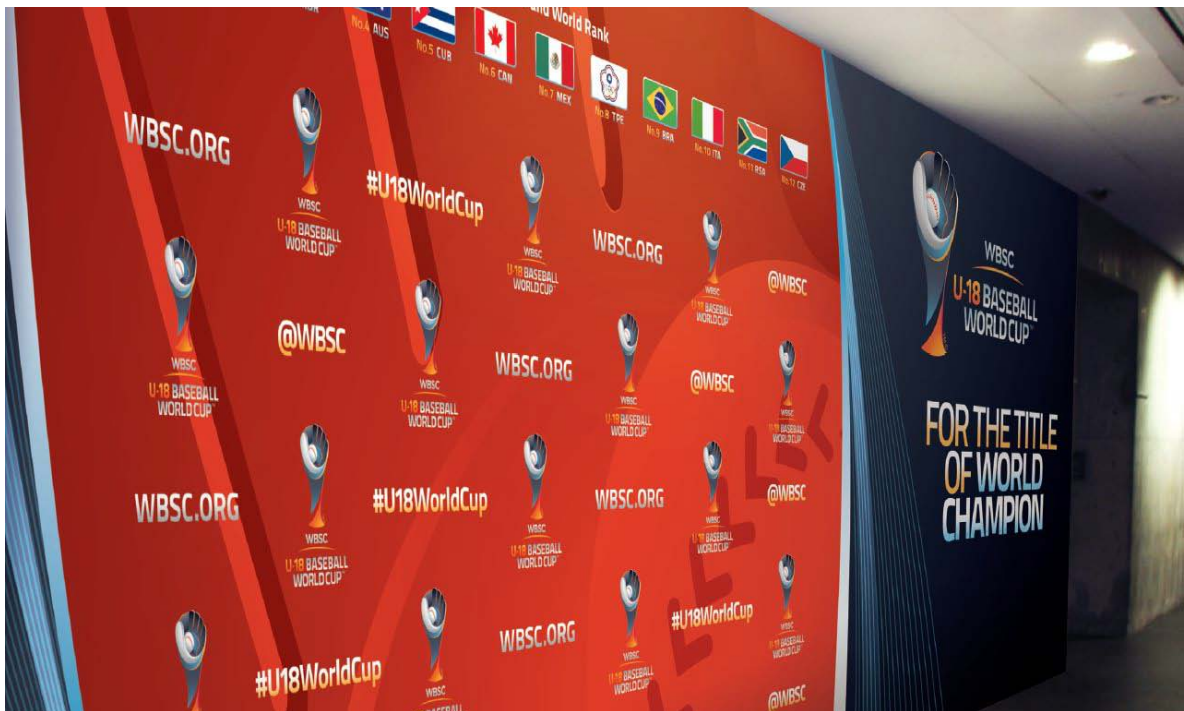


### Ticket sales launched, 10 Official Partners, new branding revealed for WBSC U-18 Baseball World Cup 2017



WBSC unveiled the launch of the first phase of ticket sales, 10 regional partners and the Official Look for the [XXVIII WBSC U-18 Baseball World Cup® 2017 Thunder Bay, Canada](#).

Baseball's most prestigious youth international event, which brings together the top young players and future superstars of the world, will be staged from Friday, 1 September to Sunday, 10 September across the two venues of Port Arthur Stadium and Baseball Central.

Early tournament packages for all 50 U-18 Baseball World Cup games are now available for purchase at the newly launched and branded portal, [www.thunderbay2017.com](http://www.thunderbay2017.com).

The U-18 Baseball World Cup has secured 10 official regional partners, including three in the top-tier category: Tbaytel, the largest independently owned telecommunications provider in Canada; Canadian National Railway Company ("CN"), Canada's largest freight railroad, provides transportation and intermodal service throughout North America; and Goldcorp, one of Canada's biggest gold producers, with mining operations across the Americas. All levels of government in Canada, including the Government of Canada, the Province of Ontario and the City of Thunder Bay, are also official partners of the U-18 Baseball World Cup. [Read more...](#)

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## Yokohama Stadium confirmed for Olympic Baseball, Softball at Tokyo 2020 Games



The 30,000-seat Yokohama Stadium has been confirmed as the main venue for baseball and softball events at the Olympic Games in 2020.

Approximately 40 km/25 miles south of Tokyo and located in the city centre, Yokohama Stadium is the home of Nippon Professional Baseball (NPB) club Yokohama DeNA BayStars.

Collaborations will continue between WBSC and Tokyo 2020 on the tournament format and the venue plan in the Tokyo Metropolitan area and how a game(s) in Fukushima could potentially be realised.

The venue process for baseball and softball events has been generating a media buzz in Japan and internationally. [Read more...](#)

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## USA Softball celebrates 20th anniversary of Olympic Softball



On Saturday, 10 Dec., softball fans had the unique opportunity to see their favorite USA Softball Olympians take the field in a slow-pitch exhibition game against the Louisville Slugger Warriors Team.

Held in conjunction with the National Fast Pitch Coaches Association (NFCA) Convention, the game was the first of its kind to commemorate the 20th anniversary of Olympic softball while celebrating softball's return to the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games.

The game brought together USA Olympians for softball from all four Olympics -- 1996, 2000, 2004, and 2008.

The game also welcomed the Louisville Slugger Wounded Warriors, a team composed of injured veterans and active duty military personnel. [Read more...](#)



## Japan defeats Korea to win Asia U-12 Championship; Top 3 advance to WBSC U-12 Baseball World Cup 2017



ZHONGSHAN (China) -- Top-ranked Japan defeated world No. 3 Republic of Korea, 4-1, in the final of the IX Asia U-12 Baseball Championship 2016, while No. 4 Chinese Taipei defeated host/No. 18 China, 4-0, to capture the bronze medal.

The Finals and tournament highlights from the newly constructed 2,000-seat Panda Youth Baseball Stadium were featured across Chinese giants LeSports and NetEase, and generated over one million views across all online platforms.

Claiming the top three positions in the youth continental championship, Japan, Korea and Chinese Taipei will represent Asia and compete *For the Title of World Champion* in the 12-nation [WBSC U-12 Baseball World Cup® 2017](#) in Tainan, Taiwan (28 July - 7 August). [Read more...](#)

### ASIA U-12 2016 -- FINAL STANDINGS

1. Japan
2. Korea
3. Chinese Taipei
4. China
5. Philippines
6. Pakistan
7. Indonesia

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## Malaysia: Olympians conduct softball seminář



Japan Softball legend Taeko Utsugi, together with Olympians Mariko Masubuchi (2000 Sydney Olympics) and Sachiko Ito (2008 Beijing Olympics), conducted a softball seminar for more than 60 softball athletes (male & female) and coaches (male & female) in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

Batting, Throwing, Catching and Pitching skills were demonstrated on the field and discussed in an indoor arena.

The instructors also distributed softball equipment and resources to those who attended the course. [Read more...](#)



## NPB West wins AWB international baseball winter league title



Nippon Professional Baseball (NPB) West defeated NPB East, 6-1, in the championship game of the Asia Winter Baseball League (AWB) at Taichung Intercontinental Stadium.

In the battle for 3rd Place, the 2015 AWB champ, Chinese Taipei National Training Team, edged the Korea Baseball Organization (KBO), 7-6, after a back-and-forth game that saw a total of 19 hits.

The Chinese Professional Baseball League (CPBL) pounded Europe, 13-0, in the 5th/6th Place game.

With interest growing in the league, CPBL, the organiser of the 6-team AWB, has stated there is a possibility to expand the WBSC-sanctioned international league in 2017, with U.S. and Japan-based teams expressing interest to compete in the AWB.

[Read more...](#)

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## Play for Change, WBSC launch Official Charity Partnership



LONDON -- The Play for Change ([PFC](#)) Charitable trust and WBSC announced a new partnership that will enable more children around the world to benefit from PFC's sports programmes, which aim to improve health, education, employment and inequality outcomes.

With baseball and softball's global positioning across more than 140 countries, the PFC and WBSC partnership will be able to increase availability of educational/health/social sports programmes to reach the lives of more children and their communities around the world.

PFC, through their carefully designed sports programmes, has seen participation from over 6,000 children this year through sports such as badminton, basketball, football and volleyball. PFC will be able to further expand the reach of the programmes in 2017 with the addition of baseball and softball. [Read more...](#)

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## Malta secures EU grant for Softball project to improve gender equality in sports



The Ghajnsielem Redcoats, a Malta sports club established in 2012, has secured a grant worth over €58,000 (US \$62,300) through Erasmus+ Sports: Small Collaborative Partnerships, for a project aimed to improve gender equality in sport, especially softball.

The project titled Inclusion and Gender Equality Through Softball (IGETS) will bring together three softball clubs coming from different parts of Europe -- Ghajnsielem Redcoats from Gozo, Malta, Olympia Haarlem from the Netherlands and Softball Klub Princ Zagreb from Croatia.

The project involves the exchange of ideas relevant to gender equality in sports, efforts to encourage youths to play softball and sports in general, and to increase the participation rate in sports -- especially among women and girls -- by working with key stakeholders in each country. [Read more...](#)



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## Nepal and Sri Lanka crown 2016 national baseball champions



The 2016 national baseball champions in the Asian countries of Nepal and Sri Lanka were crowned.

At the inaugural Nepal Baseball Championship, the Armed Police Force defeated the Nepal Army, 14-4, to win the first-ever title as the nation's best team. The new national tournament was launched by the newly merged Nepal Baseball and Softball Association, with the support of the Nepal National Sports Council and Nepal Olympic Committee.

In the final of the 10-team, double-elimination Sri Lanka Baseball Championship, the Old Royalist Baseball Club defeated the Ranabima Baseball Club to be crowned the nation's top baseball team in 2016. The 18-game national tournament was organised by the Sri Lanka Baseball Softball Association. [Read more...](#)

## WBSC unveils End-of-Year Baseball World Rankings 2016: From No. 1 to 70



WBSC revealed the 2016 end-of-the-year Official WBSC Baseball World Rankings, which weigh a country's complete National Team results (from U-12 to Professional) in international competitions over a four-year period (2013-2016).

Baseball's growing global trend and rising popularity of National Team competitions brought record activity in 2016, with 60 of the 70 ranked countries having moved up or down the rankings within the 12-month period.

Five continents -- Asia, Europe, North and South America, and Oceania -- are represented within the Top 12 -- the critical cut-off (in 2018) for qualifying for the flagship PREMIER12® 2019, which will be a main qualifier for the Olympic Games Tokyo 2020. [Read more...](#)

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## Hall of Fame pitching great Mike White returns to help New Zealand softballers



Former Black Sox ace Mike White returned to his home country of New Zealand to conduct a 10-day series of pitching and catching seminars for Softball New Zealand in Auckland, Christchurch, and Wellington.

White participated in four Men's Softball World Championships representing both New Zealand (1984 and 1988) and the United States (1992 and 1996). While representing New Zealand, he won two gold and two silver medals and was the first pitcher to pitch a perfect game in a final of a world championship -- in 1996 against Canada.

New Zealand -- ranked No. 1 for men and No. 5 for women in the [WBSC Softball World Rankings](#) - once had a proud pitching production line. [Read more...](#)



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## **WBSC WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS 2017**

### **WBSC Men's Softball World Championship**

Whitehorse, Canada - 7 to 16 Jul #2016MWC

### **WBSC U-19 Junior Women's Softball World Championship**

Clearwater, FL, USA - 24 to 30 Jul #2016JWWC

### **WBSC U-12 Baseball World Cup**

Tainan, Chinese Taipei - 28 Jul to 6 Aug #U12WorldCup

### **WBSC U-18 Baseball World Cup**

Thunder Bay, Canada - 1 to 10 Sept #U18WorldCup

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### **About World Baseball Softball Confederation**

Headquartered in Lausanne, Switzerland -- the Olympic Capital -- the World Baseball Softball Confederation (WBSC) was established in 2013 and granted recognition as the sole competent authority for the sport of Baseball/Softball by the International Olympic Committee at the 125th IOC Session on 8 September 2013. The WBSC has 213 National Federation and Associate Members in 142 countries and territories across Asia, Africa, Americas, Europe and Oceania.

