



WBSC

WORLD
BASEBALL SOFTBALL
CONFEDERATION

Game Time!

**ATHLETE
TRANSFER
RULES**



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Approved by the WBSC Executive Board on 11 May 2024.
It shall apply from 1 January 2025.

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CHAPTER 1 DEFINITIONS

Article 1 Definitions

- 1.1 For the purposes of these Rules, the following terms are defined as follows:
- 1.1.1 Athlete: any person participating in a competition, match, game, tournament under the jurisdiction of the WBSC.
- 1.1.2 Athletes Management System (AMS): a data collection platform managed by the WBSC containing data and information useful to monitor the transfer of Athletes.
- 1.1.3 Athletes Registration (AR): a record on the AMS containing:
- The start date of the registration (format: dd/mm/yyyy);
 - The full name (first name, middle name and surname) of the Athlete;
 - The date of birth, gender, nationality and status (signed or unsigned);
 - The discipline(s) of the athlete (Baseball, Softball, Baseball5); and
 - The name of the Club in which the athlete will play.
- 1.1.4 Club: A registered group of persons associated together for the purposes of playing Baseball/Softball and affiliated to a WBSC National Federation.
- 1.1.5 Continental Association (CA): Governing body for Baseball/Softball recognised by the WBSC on a continental level and as such has proper authority within the limits of its jurisdiction following the WBSC policies.
- 1.1.6 Contract: any agreement in written, between the Athlete and the Club by which the Athlete undertakes to play a competitive season, a championship or to play during a specific period within the Club.
- 1.1.7 Former Club: The Club that the athlete is leaving.
- 1.1.8 Former National Federation: The National Federation to which the Former Club is affiliated/belong.
- 1.1.9 International transfer: A movement of the registration of an athlete from one Club affiliated to a National Federation to another Club affiliated to a different National Federation.

- 1.1.10 International Athlete Transfer Officer: WBSC officer responsible for the administrative management of the International Transfer Certificate release process.
- 1.1.11 International Transfer Certificate (ITC): a document certifying the existence of the conditions for the International Transfer of Athletes and authorising it.
- 1.1.12 National Federation (NF): Governing body for Baseball/Softball on a national level.
- 1.1.13 New Club: The Club that the athlete is joining.
- 1.1.14 New National Federation: The National Federation to which the New Club is affiliated/belong.
- 1.1.15 WBSC License Number: Identification number assigned to each Athlete, under the jurisdiction of the WBSC.
- 1.1.16 WBSC Affiliated Member: A national or territorial body (Federation, Association or Organisation) governing Baseball or Softball or both and recognised by the WBSC as the sole governing body for Baseball/Softball in its particular country or territory.

CHAPTER 2 GENERAL PRINCIPLES

Article 2 Scope of the Rules

2.1 These rules apply to and are binding to all WBSC Affiliated Members, Continental Associations, Club and Athletes. They set out general principles concerning the International Transfer of Athletes between different Clubs affiliated to different National Federations.

Virtual/electronic Baseball/Softball Athletes and Athletes under eighteen, do not fall within this scope.

2.2 The transfer of athletes between Clubs belonging to the same National Federation is governed by specific rules issued by the concerned NF.

Article 3 Common Principles

3.1 The purposes of these rules are to monitor and regulate the procedure of Athlete's transfer and to increase the transparency and efficiency of the International Baseball/Softball transfer system.

3.2 The following principles must be considered:

3.2.1 Every Athlete has the right to international transfer between Clubs, subject to the provisions of these Rules;

3.2.2 Contracts must be respected; and

3.2.3 National and international legislation must be respected.

3.3 The WBSC actively endeavours to ensure that all Athletes can participate in tournaments and events organised by the WBSC, while respecting fundamental principles of human rights.

Article 4 National Regulations

4.1 National Federations are responsible for the regulation of national transfers, i.e. transfers between Clubs affiliated to the same federation. This autonomy allows National Federations to adapt their regulations to the specific conditions and circumstances of the country in question. As a general rule, the WBSC does not interfere in the day-to-day business of the National Federation as long as there are no serious violations of the WBSC Statutes, By-Laws, Rules and Regulations.

4.2 The autonomy of the National Federation is, however, limited by the principles of these Rules, which must be observed at all times, and in particular by the provisions that are particularly binding at national level and must be included in the rules of the National Federation without modification.

Article 5 Status of the Athletes

5.1 Athletes may be either signed or unsigned.

5.1.1 A signed Athlete is an Athlete with a valid and effective contract/agreement with a Club, deposited with or declared to the relevant National Federation. In the contract/agreement, its duration and the transfer terms must be clearly stated.

5.1.2 An unsigned Athlete is an Athlete without a valid and effective contract/agreement with any Club. The unsigned Athlete is free to transfer to a New Club without the consent of the former Club provided that it aligns with the national legislation of the former Club.

CHAPTER 3 REGISTRATION OF ATHLETES

Article 6 Registration Procedure

6.1 Every Athlete, in order to play for a Club, must first be registered with the National Federation to which they belong.

6.2 The duration of Athlete's membership of a National Federation is determined by the rules of that federation. The National Federation must ensure that registered Athletes agree to always comply with the WBSC Statutes and Regulations.

6.3 An Athlete registered with a Club may also be registered with another Club in another Country during the same season in full compliance with the contractual obligations towards the Clubs to which they belong, and the regulations of the National Federations concerned.

6.4 Clubs must register their Athletes playing at the international level in the Athletes Management System (AMS) managed by the WBSC.

6.5 Each Club when registering the Athletes in the AMS, shall ensure and guarantee that the collection and processing of the Athletes data and their treatment for the purposes envisaged by the Rules have been carried out in full compliance with the data protection and privacy legislation and shall update the rules and the consents of the persons concerned according to the evolution of the relevant legislation.

6.6 Each registered Athlete is assigned a WBSC License Number.

6.7 When registering an Athlete, the Club must have the permission of the National Federation which ensures that there are no ongoing sanctions or disciplinary proceedings concerning the Athlete and/or no ongoing economic disputes.

6.8 The AMS must be constantly and promptly updated by the Club, notably in case of a renewal of contract with the same Club and in case of transfer between Clubs belonging to the same National Federation or belonging to two different National Federations.

6.9 The AMS can be consulted by any Club. In particular, the Club will be able to verify the Athlete's status, the duration of the contract with other Clubs and the existence of causes preventing the transfer.

CHAPTER 4 INTERNATIONAL TRANSFER CERTIFICATE (ITC)

Article 7 Administrative Management of Proceedings

7.1 The transfer of an Athlete from one Club of one National Federation to another Club of another National Federation can only take place after the issuance of a regular and valid International Transfer Certificate (ITC) by the competent authority:

7.1.1 In the case of a transfer between Clubs belonging to National Federations on the same continent, the ITC must be issued by the competent Continental Association which is responsible for the administrative management of the procedure in question. An ITC issued by a CA must be approved by the WBSC Executive Board.

7.1.2 In the case of the transfer of an Athlete between Clubs belonging to National Federations of different Continental Associations, the ITC must be issued by the WBSC, which is responsible for the administrative handling of the relevant procedure.

Article 8 Request and Requirements for Issuance of ITC

8.1 A request of an ITC shall be initiated by the New Club and addressed by the National Federation to the competent authority (*Appendix 1*).

8.2 The ITC application must contain the:

- Request from the New Club;
- Consent from the Athlete;
- Consent from the former Club:
 - in the case of a signed Athlete; or
 - in the case of an unsigned Athlete if it is required by the national legislation of the former Club.
- And, the approbation of the National Federation certifying that there are no ongoing sanctions or disciplinary proceedings concerning the Athlete and/or no ongoing economic disputes.

8.3 There are no annual restrictions or limits on ITC applicable to an Athlete.

8.4 The validity of an ITC is limited to the transfer for which it was requested.

Article 9 Grounds for Interruption of ITC

9.1 The ITC can be interrupted if:

- Disciplinary measures or proceedings are pending against the Athlete; and/or
- The signed Athletes wishing to leave the former Club have failed to fulfil their obligations under their contract with their former Club. For validity, this ground must be attested by the National Federation.

Article 10 Administrative Fee

10.1 The issuance of the ITC is conditional on the New Club paying the fees set by the WBSC Executive Board (*Appendix 2*).

10.2 After proof of payment of the required fees, the competent authority will issue the ITC.

10.3 The WBSC reserves the possibility to exempt the fees in the following situations:

10.3.1 In the case of a transfer lasting up to 31 days ("Short Transfer"). The Short Transfer includes both the movement from the Athlete's former club affiliated to a National Federation to the new club affiliated with another National Federation and the return movement from the new club to the former club. This exemption is limited to three transfers per Athlete per calendar year.

10.3.2 In the case of a signed Athlete, during the validity of their contract and subject to its terms, the Athlete may transfer to another club affiliated to a different National Federation which will request an ITC and the administrative fees. However, the return transfer to the Athlete's signed club will be exempt from fees.

CHAPTER 5 DISPUTES RESOLUTION

Article 11 Competence

11.1 The International Athletes Transfer Officer nominated by the WBSC is competent to administratively resolve all issues and disputes relating to the issuance of ITCs. In particular, the International Athletes Transfer Officer is competent to verify the correctness of the administrative procedure concerning the issuance or interruption of ITCs.

11.2 Jurisdiction over disputes between National Federations, Clubs and Athletes and over the existence of the prerequisites for the issuance of ITCs and the presence of impeding causes lies with the individual National Federations or Continental Associations.

11.3 Any appeal against the decision of the CA related to the Athletes transfer shall be made to the WBSC Executive Board in accordance with Chapter 3 of the WBSC Disciplinary By-Laws.

11.3.1 In case of an appeal, the WBSC Executive Board requires procedural costs ranging from a minimum amount of 100 USD to a maximum amount of 1000 USD. The specific amount of procedural costs will be determined in the decision and shall be borne by the losing party or depending on the circumstances they may be allocated differently. The WBSC Executive Board may ask for an advance of the costs from the appellant. The advance corresponds to the full amount of the presumed procedural costs. The deadline for payment of the advance must be respected, if it is not, the appeal is declared inadmissible. At the end of the process, a more accurate calculation of procedural costs shall be made by the WBSC to reimburse the appellant or be reimbursed.

11.3.2 Individuals who have insufficient financial means are exempted from procedural costs. Insufficient financial means that the individuals can't pay the procedural costs without depriving themselves or their family of the necessities of life.

11.3.3 Each party shall bear their own fees, costs and expenses link to the appeal.

11.4 Any appeal against the decision of the WBSC Executive Board related to the Athletes transfer shall be made to the CAS in accordance with Chapter 3 of the WBSC Disciplinary By-Laws and the procedural rules of the CAS.

Article 12 Non-Compliance with the Regulation

12.1 The WBSC can sanction Clubs' Members/Individuals, National Federations and Continental Associations that do not respect and enforce the provisions of the regulations.

12.2 The nature and extent of sanctions that may be imposed should be in accordance with the WBSC Statutes and Disciplinary By-Laws.

CHAPTER 6 FINAL PROVISION

Article 13 Integrity of the Transfer

13.1 The transfer of Athletes must consistently adhere to the highest ethical standards and shall not involve illegal activities including but not limited to corruption, human trafficking, money laundering, fraud and tax evasion.

Article 14 Official Languages

14.1 As per Article 5 of the Statutes, these rules are published in the two official languages of the WBSC which are English and Spanish. In the event of discrepancies in the wording of the different commentary texts, the English text shall prevail.

Article 15 Implementing Provisions

15.1 The WBSC reserves the right to issue all acts, regulations, provisions, circulars and any other documents in general that may be necessary for the implementation of these rules.