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WBSC reveals Game Schedule for U-15 Baseball World Cup 2018 in Panama

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The World Baseball Softball Confederation today unveiled the Official Game Schedule of the IV WBSC U-15 Baseball World Cup® 2018, to be staged from 10-19 August in the Panamanian cities of David and Chitre.

The world's top tournament in the U-15 youth category and Official World Championship – which will feature the world's best baseball players born in 2003-2005 — will be contested over 50 games and in three stages: Opening Round (group stage/round-robin), Super Round and World Championship Medal Round.

“These 50 games of the IV WBSC Baseball World Cup in Panama will determine which nation possesses the best U-15 baseball team and players on the planet,” said WBSC President Riccardo Fraccari. “This global tournament – with nations participating from all corners of the earth – also showcases our sport’s geographic footprint, connection to youth and bright future of hitting one billion players, fans and followers by the next decade.”

Through the Continental Championships/Qualifiers, the U-15 Baseball World Cup features the top nations and young players from the Americas — North, Central,

South and the Caribbean – Asia, Africa, Europe and Oceania.

Nations in Group A — host/No. 14 Panama, No. 1 United States, No. 6 Chinese Taipei, No. 19 Brazil, No. 21 Germany and No. 22 China — will begin the global competition For the Title of World Champion at the new US\$ 16 million, 8,500-seat Estadio Kenny Serracín in David (Province of Chiriquí).

Nations in Group B — No. 2 Japan, No. 4 Cuba, No. 8 Australia, No. 9 Netherlands, No. 12 Dominican Republic and No. 26 South Africa — will battle at the 3,000-seat Estadio Rico Cedeño in Chitré (Province of Herrera).

### **Opening Round – Day 1**

Game 1: South America's Brazil and European U-15 champion Germany will meet to open the youth World Championship.

Game 2: Asia and Oceania's U-15 continental champions — Japan and Australia — will collide.

Game 3: Wild card China will make its U-15 Baseball World Cup debut against Americas U-15 co-champion USA.

Game 4: European U-15 runner-up Netherlands will face two-time defending U-15 World Champions Cuba.

Game 5: Americas U-15 co-champion Dominican Republic will meet Africa's top baseball nation, South Africa.

Game 6: Host Panama will open with the Asian continent's U-15 runner-up, Chinese Taipei.

Day 3 will feature the re-match of the U-15 Baseball World Cup 2016 Final, Cuba versus Japan, which Cuba won, 9-4, to repeat as the top U-15 baseball team in the world.

### **Super Round**

Following the 30-game Opening Round, the top three finishers from Group A will battle the top three finishers from Group B in a three-day Super Round at David's Estadio Kenny Serracín. The 7th-12 Place Consolation Round will be staged at Estadio Rico Cedeño in Chitre.

### **World Championship Medal Round**

The top two nations in the standings following the Super Round will play For the Title of World Champion on Sunday, 19 August, at 18:00. The 3rd/4th Place Bronze Medal Match will be staged at the same venue at 13:00.

The broadcast and live-streaming schedule will be announced in a future news release.

The previous U-15 Baseball World Cup (2016) had a total broadcast reach of over

60 million households and attracted online viewers from 192 countries and territories.

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