

For Players

<u>Topic</u>	<u>MLB / OBR (what you're used to)</u>	<u>WBSC Difference</u>
<u>Tournament game length</u>	Standard 9 innings.	Many WBSC tournaments are 7 innings (U15, U18, U23, Women's World Cups), and U12 is 6 innings .
<u>Mercy Rule / Run Difference Rule</u>	No mercy rule in normal OBR games.	Games can end early if a team trails by a large margin (e.g. 10 runs after 5 innings in many WBSC events).
<u>Extra Innings</u>	MLB "ghost runner" starts on 2nd base only .	WBSC starts extra innings with runners on 1st and 2nd , no outs in many competitions.
<u>Bat Approval</u>	Any legal OBR-compliant wood bat.	Players must use bats from the WBSC approved wood bat list . Composite wood bats are prohibited.
<u>Illegal Bat Penalty</u>	Usually bat removed; no progressive manager penalty.	First offence = warning. Second offence = manager ejection.
<u>Double Ear-Flap Helmets</u>	MLB allows single-ear helmets.	Double-ear helmets are generally mandatory in WBSC competitions (with limited exceptions such as U23, Premier12 and Olympics).
<u>Pitch Clock</u>	MLB pitch clock applies with runners and without runners.	WBSC pitch clock applies only when bases are empty . 20-second clock.
<u>Batter's Box Enforcement</u>	Similar concept but different procedures.	WBSC has detailed batter's-box timing requirements tied directly to the pitch clock. Strike penalties can result.
<u>Protective Equipment</u>	MLB-specific standards.	WBSC contains additional tournament-specific equipment requirements and restrictions.

<u>Video Review Challenges</u>	MLB challenge system.	WBSC has its own challenge system with specific time limits and procedures. Players should expect reviews to be more formalized within tournament operations.
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For Managers

<u>Topic</u>	<u>MLB / OBR</u>	<u>WBSC Difference</u>
<u>Who may argue or challenge?</u>	Managers commonly handle disputes; coaches sometimes become involved.	Only the manager may argue, challenge, or protest an umpire decision. Coaches are prohibited unless acting as the designated replacement manager.
<u>Video Challenge System</u>	MLB challenge procedures.	WBSC has formal challenge windows: managers have only seconds to signal and initiate a review.
<u>Technical Commissioners</u>	Not part of standard OBR games.	WBSC tournaments use Technical Commissioners who have authority regarding scheduling, field conditions, protests, tournament operations, etc.
<u>Run Difference Strategy</u>	No mercy-rule considerations.	Managers must actively manage around mercy-rule thresholds because games may end early.
<u>Extra Inning Strategy</u>	Runner starts on 2nd.	Managers begin extras with runners on both 1st and 2nd, dramatically changing bunt, steal, and bullpen strategy.
<u>Approved Bats</u>	OBR legality standards.	Managers are responsible for ensuring players use approved WBSC bats. Repeated violations can lead to ejection.
<u>Pitching Change Clock</u>	MLB pace-of-play procedures.	WBSC imposes a 120-second pitching change clock with ball/strike penalties for delays.

<u>Mound Visit Clock</u>	MLB mound-visit limitations.	WBSC uses a 30-second manager/coach mound visit clock. Violations result in a ball being awarded to the batter.
<u>Between-Innings Clock</u>	MLB timing procedures.	WBSC uses a strict between-innings clock with penalties for delays.
<u>Pregame Administration</u>	Lineup exchange largely umpire-driven.	WBSC tournaments involve formal pregame meetings, Technical Commissioners, lineup submission procedures, and tournament protocols.
<u>Fight Rule</u>	Covered generally under unsportsmanlike conduct/ejections.	WBSC has a dedicated Fight Rule section with tournament implications.

The "Big 5" Differences Most People Notice Immediately

Players

1. Games may be **7 innings instead of 9**.
2. **Mercy rule** can end games early.
3. Extra innings start with runners on **1st and 2nd**.
4. Stricter helmet and bat regulations.
5. Different pitch-clock procedures.

Managers

1. Challenge/video review procedures are different.
2. Only the manager may challenge or protest.
3. Mercy-rule strategy becomes important.
4. Extra-inning strategy is completely different.
5. Tournament timing clocks (mound visits, pitching changes, inning breaks) require much tighter game management.