

Umpiring at the WBSC Junior Women's World Championship

Bridget Cameron

I was honoured to be selected to umpire at the WBSC Junior Women's World Championship last summer in Oklahoma City. It was my first WBSC appointment, and I can only wish for future allocations, as working with other international umpires was truly amazing.

Two days prior to the commencement of the Championship, I volunteered to assist the Great Britain Junior Women's Team with preparation. I was able to share my knowledge of umpiring with the team, and what an umpire looks for in judgement calls. I believe the team valued this insight to the technical side of the game.

Additionally, working with the team for these couple of days enabled me to develop a relationship with the coaching staff and players. This was special later in the week as the team followed and showed their support for me when I was appointed to finals games. Their cheering and support was a special moment.

The crew

The Championship crew consisted 24 on-field umpires and three management, including ISF Umpire-in-Chief Bob Stanton. The management crew, all of whom had varied experience at different levels of the game, were on hand during most games to provide valuable feedback.

Assignments

The first several days were round-robin pool games. I was very fortunate to be appointed to officiate over some of the world's top teams: the USA, Japan, Australia and Canada. I enjoyed watching the GB side, who fought some tough games and only lost to some of the top teams by small margins.

During this period I learned a lot about my ability to communicate with non-English-speaking umpires and teams! But by the end of the week, I picked up methods of communication which made it easier during games.

With two teams pulling out days before the Championship began, I was lucky to be appointed to two plates.

I was then very fortunate to be appointed to umpire bases on the Preliminary Final and Bronze Medal games, as there were many umpires who missed out on such allocations.

I really enjoyed developing a working relationship with the teams and coaches, which made officiating the games very enjoyable.

Lessons learned

From feedback I received, I need to continue to work on my stance by being more upright, which will allow me to stand closer to the catcher.

On the bases, I need to work on more hustle on the relocation to home by releasing the batter-runner early to the care of the second base umpire if necessary.

I am truly grateful and would like to thank GB Management Committee and the BSF for their financial support so that I could attend this Championship.