**2019 Men’s World Championship Series (WCS):**

## **Event #1: Baseball World Cup**

* March-April
* Format:
  + The first and second rounds of the tournament were played in round-robin format, with each team playing each other team in their 4-team pool once. However, in an effort to reduce the likelihood that a team would be eliminated on statistical tiebreakers, the tournament schedule allowed for a seventh game at each pool-play site.
    - If there is a two-way tie for first, since both teams advance, there would be no extra game. The team that won the original game between the teams would be declared the pool winner, and the other team the pool runner-up.
    - If there is a three-way tie for first (all three teams being 2–1, and the last team 0–3), head-to-head results would not help to break the tie. In this case, statistics would determine the first-place team, and the other two would play to determine the pool runner-up.
    - If there is a three-way tie for second (all three teams being 1–2, and the first team 3–0), statistics would determine the top two teams who would then play to determine the pool runner-up. The team ranked worst on the calculation would be eliminated.
  + In either of the latter cases, the statistics used to rank the tied teams were:
    - Fewest runs allowed per inning of defense in head-to-head games
    - Fewest earned runs allowed per inning of defense in head-to-head games
    - Highest batting average in head-to-head games
    - Drawing of lots
* 16 nations compete at the Baseball World Cup:
  + The same rules used by the World Baseball Classic will be used.
* Qualification takes place the year prior to the tournament, which itself is played every 4 years:
  + The 12 nations that win at least one game at the tournament qualify for the next edition; the remaining four slots are filled by the winners of the 4 four-team qualifying tournaments.
  + Therefore, 28 nations enter the tournament at any point. To date, 29 nations have entered either qualifying or the main tournament.
  + Host nations qualify automatically.

## **Event #2: Soccer World Cup**

* June-July
* Format:
  + The first round, or group stage, was a competition between the 32 teams divided among eight groups of four, where each group engaged in a round-robin tournament within itself. The two highest ranked teams in each group advanced to the knockout stage. Teams are awarded 3 points for a win and 1 for a draw. When comparing teams in a group over-all result came before head-to-head. In the knockout stage, there is a 16-team single -elimination tournament.
  + Tie-breaking criteria for group play -- The ranking of teams in each group was based on the following criteria:
    - Number of points
    - Goal difference
    - Number of goals scored
    - Number of points obtained in matches between tied teams
    - Goal difference in matches between tied teams
    - Number of goals scored in matches between tied teams
    - Drawing of lots
* 32 nations compete at the Soccer World Cup.
  + Qualification takes place over the 3 years prior to the tournament, which itself is played every 4 years:
  + Qualifying tournaments have been held to thin the field for the final tournament.
  + They are held within the six FIFA continental zones (Africa, Asia, North and Central America and Caribbean, South America, Oceania, and Europe), overseen by their respective confederations.
  + For each tournament, FIFA decides the number of places awarded to each of the continental zones beforehand, generally based on the relative strength of the confederations’ teams.
  + Host nations qualify automatically.

## **Event #3: Cricket World Cup**

* May-July (Northern Hemisphere); February-March (Southern Hemisphere)
* Format:
  + One Day International cricket rules will be used.
  + The first round is a round-robin tournament, where teams divided into two groups of 5; the 5 teams play each other once before the top 2 teams from each group qualify for the semi-finals.
  + The second round is a 4-team single elimination tournament.
* 10 nations play in the Cricket World Cup:
  + The Test-playing nations qualify automatically for the World Cup main event while the other teams must qualify through a series of preliminary qualifying tournaments.
  + Host nations qualify automatically.

## **Event #4: Basketball World Cup**

* August-September
* Format:
  + In the first stage, the 32 qualified teams will be sorted into eight groups of four (A-H), each team in a group will play each other once. The top two teams from each group will then advance to the second group stage.
  + In the second group stage, there will be four groups (I-L) of four made up of the teams that advanced from the first round, again playing each other once. The top two teams from groups I to L will qualify for the final knockout phase (8-team single elimination).
* 32 nations play in the Basketball World Cup:
  + FIBA EuroBasket (Europe) – 7 berths
  + FIBA Africa Championship (Africa) – 4 berths
  + FIBA Asia Championship (Asia) – 4 berths
  + FIBA Americas Championship (North, Central, and South America) – 6 berths
  + FIBA Oceania Championship (Oceania) – 3 berths
  + Defending Olympic Champion – 1 berth, removed from the zone of the Olympic champion
  + Host team – 1 berth
  + FIBA-selected wild cards – 6 berths

## **Event #5: Rugby World Cup**

* September – November
* Format:
  + The first round, or pool stage, saw the 20 teams divided into four 5-team pools. Each team played one match against each of the other teams in the same pool. Teams are awarded 4 points for a win, 2 points for a draw and none for a defeat. A team scoring four tries in one match scored a bonus point, as did a team that lost by fewer than eight points. The teams finishing in the top two of each pool would advance to the quarter-finals. The second round is an 8-team single elimination tournament.
  + Tie-breaking criteria:
    - If two or more teams were tied on match points, the following tiebreakers would apply:
      * The winner of the match between the two teams;
      * Difference between points scored for and points scored against in all pool matches;
      * Difference between tries scored for and tries scored against in all pool matches;
      * Points scored in all pool matches;
      * Most tries scored in all pool matches;
      * Official World Rugby Rankings
    - If three teams were tied on points, the above criteria would be used to decide first place in the Pool, and then the criteria would be used again (starting from criteria 1) to decide second place in the Pool.
* 20 nations play in the Rugby World Cup:
  + 12 qualify by finishing in the top three places in their pools in the 2011 Rugby World Cup.
  + The other 8 teams qualified through regional competition.
  + Host nations qualify automatically.
  + The qualification process for the remaining teams incorporated existing regional competitions such as the European Nations Cup.