



Newsletter

ESF Newsletter 2nd issue, March 2015

- Editorial about technical requirements of the ESF tournaments.
- Photofest, ESF Congress, Umpires Clinic and other ESF News
- Player's and coaches exchange using Erasmus+ program
- News form National Federations
- Official and Unofficial Competitions



Like us on Facebook



Follow our Twitter



ESF Website



Subscribe YouTube



EDITORIAL

Gabriel Waage;

1st Vice President,

Technical and Competitions Committee

Dear friends,

It is my pleasure to connect with you through this editorial. Most of you participate at ESF tournaments, which is the most visible part of the ESF's work. But many things have to be done before the first pitch of each tournament, so let me briefly introduce you to the procedures and the people behind the scenes.

The Technical Commission (TC), headed by Mike Jennings, has general responsibility for the successful running of ESF tournaments. The Technical Commission prepares all the necessary documents for each competition and members of the TC physically supervise each game of every single ESF tournament. A total 390 games were played at ESF tournaments in 2014.

The Umpires Committee, headed by Andrea Marcon, is responsible for umpiring schedules at tournaments and organizing umpire clinics. Umpires-in-Chief are evaluating umpires at each ESF tournament to give them feedback and improvement advice.

The Competitions Committee, headed by Cornelia Chwojka, provides ideas for developing ESF competitions and also does game scheduling.

The Scorekeeper Committee, headed by Dennis Duin, is responsible for the scorekeeping of all games at ESF competitions and also for scorekeeper clinics.

Last but not least is the Disciplinary Committee, headed by ESF VP Gilbert Tobbach. This Committee has responsibility for all rule-related issues raised on and off the field.

All of these Committees are made of up of volunteer members from across Europe and deal with all the issues that come under their job description. I want to thank all of them for the work they do. Every two years a meeting of TCs and UICs is held to unify views on all aspects of running ESF tournaments and to devise and implement new policies.

Finally, let me invite you to attend any of the ESF tournaments that will be held this year. We have a very diverse offer -- fastpitch and slowpitch, youth and adults, Championships and Cups. The European Women's Championship in Rosmalen will be an excellent presentation of women's fastpitch, which will hopefully be back on the Olympic programme in 2020. The Prague Softball Summer will present three top Cup competitions in one city, and these Cups are opening the door for non-European teams invited by the ESF. So the Men's Fastpitch Super Cup will feature the Junior Black Sox from New Zealand and attendance by the Botswana Women's Team in Rosmalen is currently under discussion.

Some tournaments will also be live-streamed this year, which will bring ESF tournaments into your home! The live streaming is the next step in promoting our sport after the successful implementation of play-by-play for all our tournaments since 2010.

I wish all our teams good luck at in ESF tournaments this summer and hope to see you at any of them!

Gabriel Waage, ESF 1st Vice President

ESF News

Fastpitch Umpire Clinic

A Fastpitch Umpire Clinic will be held in Collecchio, Italy from 9-15 August. National Federations can send umpires to this clinic by contacting ESF Director of Umpires Andrea Marcon at: amarcon@europeansoftball.org. For more details, click [here](#).



ESF Facebook Challenge

The ESF Facebook page got off to a new start with the National Federations Facebook Challenge. During the second week of February, all National Federations were competing to increase the number of likes on the ESF Facebook page. The winner of this challenge was France with a respectable increase of 225 likes.



ESF Photofest 2015

Shortly after the Facebook Challenge, a new season-long project, ESF Photofest 2015, was started, a photo contest organized by the ESF. There will be four themed rounds in which photographers can compete to reach the Grand Final round and win a trip to an ESF tournament of their choice. More information [here](#).

TC and UIC Meeting

The fourth edition of the ESF's TC and UIC Meeting was held in Rome in the middle of March. The first session was led by ESF Technical Director Mike Jennings and the second session was broken down into UICs headed by Director of Umpires Andrea Marcon and TCs headed by Mike Jennings. These groups discussed many different issues, including the question of scouting from behind backstops, which is now prohibited. You can find more details about the matters discussed [here](#).

The final session reviewed the conclusions reached on the topics discussed, and set out the final assignment of TCs and UICs to ESF tournaments and locations that need to be inspected.

This meeting has been very successful for all parties and has led to more professionally-run ESF competitions. The ESF is now running the highest number of annual events (10 in 2015) of any of the international softball confederations. We want to be a model for competition organization and share knowledge with other softball and baseball organizations if requested.

ESF Congress

The 2015 ESF Congress was held in Dublin, Ireland on 6-7 February together with the CEB Congress, with representatives from the ISF, IBAF and WBSC present.



WBSC Session

Delegates from both Congresses met for a joint session on Friday afternoon, 6 February, and heard from WBSC Vice President and International Softball Federation President Dale McMann and World Baseball Softball Confederation and International Baseball Federation President Riccardo Fraccari that the logic of potential Olympic reinstatement means that baseball and softball “not only have to be together in the WBSC, but have to be seen to be together”.

On a world level, and from a public point of view, this means that the International Baseball and Softball Federations will now be known as WBSC Baseball Division and WBSC Softball Division.

Presentations

Michelle Smith and Kevin Smith, representing the Clearwater (Florida) Sport Commission, are working on plans to improve the level of softball in Europe by offering more clinics and much needed know-how, both for developing countries and the top softball nations in Europe. The Clearwater Sports Commission was one of the sponsors of the ESF Congress, along with Musco Lighting, a company that provides lighting solutions for sports facilities. Musco has developed a special type of lights for softball and baseball fields that create the best possible conditions for players.

Player and Coach Exchange Possibilities

Erasmus+ is the European Union's new programme for boosting skills and employability through education, training, youth and sport.

There are many possibilities in the Erasmus+ Programme: youth exchange (sport camps), European Voluntary Service (players / coaches living in another country for a maximum of one year), large-scale European Voluntary Service Events (European tournaments) and mobility of youth workers (clinics).

The Erasmus+ Sport programme offers support for collaborative partnerships and support for not-for-profit European sport events.

Petra Cizmic from Croatia has already implemented player and coach exchange programs and recently secured European funding to organize an event for 60 players from three countries. This event was called "EU Softball Style" and involved players aged 13-25 from Croatia, Bulgaria and Hungary spending 10 days together, not only doing softball but also learning about each other's cultures.

At the Congress, Petra (pcizmic@gmail.com) presented ideas and experiences from working with European Commission programs such as Erasmus Plus and Erasmus Plus Sports and she can provide information and advice on securing European funding for softball projects, along with Mette Nissen-Jakobsen (MNissen@europeansoftball.org).



Coaches Committee

Mattias Grimstoft from Sweden has been asked to start an ESF Coaches Committee to connect coaches in Europe and to establish a European Coaches Convention that can be held on a regular basis. As softball grows in Europe, there is a pressing need to improve coaching skills and knowledge to help our players develop.

Development Commission

The Development Commission heard presentations on strategies and programs to grow softball participation has been grown in European countries.

Anton Kops talked about the impact that Beeball has had in the Netherlands and elsewhere, and John Austin talked about slowpitch development. Anton Kops now has a new email address for all beeball issues:

beeballdevelopment@gmail.com. For further development information, follow this link to our [development brochure](#).

Marketing Committee

The ESF Marketing Committee presented a new look to the ESF logo, and announced that the ESF website also now features a new [Competition Locator](#).

Technical and Competitions Committee

It was announced by the Technical and Competitions Committee that individual awards will no longer be presented by the ESF at its tournaments, as these awards have proved controversial in the past and it is difficult to find a formula for deciding them over the course of a short event. However, tournament organizers can present individual and other awards as they choose.

Members and Awards

Jens Terkelsen from Denmark was elected to the ESF Hall of Fame and the Czech Republic was recognized as the Little League Country of the Year.



Jens Terkelsen

News from National Federations



GERMANY

The German Baseball and Softball Federation (DBV) has added André Prins to the coaching staff for their Women's National Team. Prins will coach the team's offense on the staff of Head Coach Udo Dehmel. "We're very happy that we were able to add such an extraordinary coach as André to our staff", said Dehmel in a DBV press release. "I am sure he will help to improve our team to make the next step towards our goal."



LITHUANIA

The Lithuanian Softball and Baseball Federations have parted ways and the newly-established Lithuanian Softball Federation was approved as an ESF member during the ESF Congress. President of the Lithuanian Federation is Diana Pupinienkene.



CROATIA



The SportMania Youth Exchange will be held in Zagreb at the Sports Center Jarun from 28 March-3 April 2015. Participants will be from Slovakia (Trnava Panthers), Spain (Softball Club Fenix) and Croatia (Špansko Pink Panthers). The project's aim is the education of young people in sport on behavior, tolerance and teamwork through non-traditional and informal methods of learning. In addition to sporting activities at the Exchange, personal development and differences in cultures and traditions will be explored, as well as problems faced by young people in all European countries.

This project is co-funded by the European Union. More information is available on <http://pink-panthers.hr/sportmania-projekt/>





AUSTRIA

Austrian Baseball Federation elected a new board:
 President: Rainer HUSTY
 Vice President Baseball: Christoph WIESER
 Vice President Softball: Gabriele HARDINGER
 Vice President Youth Program: Peter FERA
 Vice President Finances: Rainer KRANKL
 Smajo PASALIC stays on as Secretary General of the Austrian Baseball Federation.



SLOVENIA

The Slovenian Baseball and Softball Association recently held an Electoral Assembly, and the results were as follows:
 President ZBSS: Boris VEHOVEC
 Vice President: Marko MRDJENOVIC
 General Secretary: O. Klemen ZELEZNIKAR



SERBIA

On March 1st, Softball Federation of Serbia held its first meeting with coach Lawrence Allen from New Zealand.

The Federation was represented by President Djuric and member of the Board Stupar. Mr. Allen has agreed to work on improving the level of softball in Serbia for the next six months. Clinics will be run every weekend, starting in March with three mini clinics planned in Belgrade and one in the city of Sombor.



ITALY

ESF Director of Umpires Andrea Marcon spoke at the 11th Italian Umpire Convention, held in the city of Parma from 28 February-1 March 1. His speech was titled "The ESF: Past and Future".



Marcon was also one of the instructors during the tests that umpires from the Italian Softball League went through on 7-8 March in Rimini.



SWEDEN

The Swedish Softball Federation organized their Indoor Championship in February and the event featured an interview with Mattias Grimstoft live on TV from the tournament. Leksand became the Swedish Indoor Champion for 2015.



FINLAND

Finnish Baseball and Softball Federation attended sports and activities expo, Go Expo, in Helsinki. One part of it is Ball Sports Expo and the Finnish Baseball and Softball Federation set up the batting cage and had nearly 800 people tried hitting in the cage. This is the third year in a row that they have participated in this event and it has been very popular. Although Finland is more baseball-based, the Federation is planning on sending 8 pesäpallo players to Sweden to learn about softball, so softball can start developing.





Nice was chosen in 2011 by the International Masters Games Association (IMGA) to organise and host the European Masters Games in 2015. The IMGA is a non-profit association based in Lausanne, Switzerland, which has organised World Masters Games for more than 20 years.

There will be a softball tournament organized as a part of this event. The tournament will be played in two categories age 35+ and 45+, both men's and women's softball, October 1st - 11th.



Official Competition Information

Championship Draws

Draws took place at the Congress to allocate teams to pools for the European Women's and Cadette Fastpitch Championships. After some changes, the final allocation of participants was announced after 28 February, which was the latest date for withdrawals without penalty.



EChW. 19-25 July, Rosmalen (NED) EChW. 19-25 July, Rosmalen (NED)

Pool A	Pool B	Pool C	Pool D
Netherlands	Russia	Czech Republic	Italy
Sweden	Spain	Austria	Great Britain
Germany	Poland	Ukraine	Slovakia
Denmark	Croatia	Slovenia	Switzerland
Israel	France	Ireland	

EChCG, 29 June-4 July, Nuoro (ITA)

Pool A	Pool B
Czech Republic	Russia
Belgium	Great Britain
Ukraine	Slovakia
Italy	Spain

EChJM, 13-18 July, Most (CZE)

Czech Republic
Denmark
Croatia
Israel
Great Britain
Poland

EChCS, 28 July- 1 August, Dupnitsa (BUL)

Great Britain
Slovenia
Germany
Ireland
Czech Republic
Bulgaria
Lithuania

Entries are still open (until 15 April for the EMRYT, 12-15 August, Collecchio (ITA))

The poster for the EMRYT Festival of Youth 2015 features the European Softball Federation logo on the left. The central text reads 'EMRYT FESTIVAL OF YOUTH' with a large '#4' and a starburst graphic. To the right is a circular badge for '12TH-15TH AUGUST 2015' and 'COLLECCHIO ITALY'. Below the main text, it says 'NO ENTRY FEE | FREE T-SHIRTS FOR THE ATHLETES' and 'YOUR COMPETITION LEVEL IS YOUR CHOICE | BRAND NEW SYSTEM'. A blue banner at the bottom states 'ENTRIES ACCEPTED THROUGH ESF TILL APRIL 15TH 2015'. At the very bottom, contact information for Carlo Levati is provided: 'FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT CARLO LEVATI AT POSTA@COLLECCHIO-BS.IT'. Logos for 'Collecchio Baseball & Softball' and 'S. Giovanni Collecchio Softball' are also present.

Unofficial International Competition

Senior Women Fastpitch

CROATIA, HUNGARY, SLOVAKIA: Interleague, three tournaments, one in each country: 18-19 April in Slovakia, 13-14 June in Hungary, and 29-30 August in Croatia, michal.klasek@gmail.com (Slovakia) or pcizmic@gmail.com (Croatia).

CROATIA: 8th Forever Fastpitch Tournament 1-3 May info@softball-princ.hr
<http://softball-princ.hr/en/turniri/invitation-8th-forever-fastpitch/>

CZECH REPUBLIC: Prague Softball Week 24-27 June eagles@eagles.cz

FRANCE: European Masters Games – age 35+ and 45+ 1-11 October simulog@yahoo.fr

GERMANY: European-American Friendship Cup 10-12 April joe_puckett@hotmail.com,
(http://europeansoftball.org/data/competitions/schedules/30_European-American-Friendship-Cup-Invitation.pdf)

SWEDEN: Baltic Open 13-14 June <http://www.skovdesaints.com/>

GREAT BRITAIN: 2015 London Cup Women's Fastpitch Tournament, 6-7

June, <http://www.britishsoftball.org/news/view/2015-london-cup-womens-fastpitch-tournament>. This tournament is now full.

Senior Men Fastpitch

FRANCE: European Masters Games – age 35+ and 45+ 1-11 October

simuloq@yahoo.fr

SWEDEN: Baltic Open

13-14 June

<http://www.skovdesaints.com/>

Senior Co-ed Slowpitch

GREAT BRITAIN: The 2015 Co-ed Slowpitch Softball World Series Tournament 12-13 September
bob.fromer@bsuk.com

GUERNSEY: Guernsey Softball Association Open Co-Ed Slowpitch Tournament 23-25 May
sfish@arm.co.gg

JERSEY: Jersey Softball Association Tournament
jerseytournament2015@gmail.com

2-3 May

Senior Co-ed Fastpitch

CZECH REPUBLIC: Interpohar (a set of tournaments, with no need to participate in all of them, women allowed in the teams), age 15+, on 4-5 April, 11-12 April, 18-19 April, 9-10 May, 16-17 May, 13-14 June, 27-28 June.
slavomir.novotny@gmail.com

U17 Girls Fastpitch

CZECH REPUBLIC: Joudrs Cup 17 28-30 August

eva.rendlova@seznam.cz

GERMANY: KMC Invitational Cup 3-5 July

ajstrmd_ke@yahoo.com

(<http://europeansoftball.org/articles/detail/266>)

GERMANY: European-American Friendship Cup 10-12 April

joe_puckett@hotmail.com

(http://europeansoftball.org/data/competitions/schedules/30_European-American-Friendship-Cup-Invitation.pdf.)

U15 Girls

ITALY: 30th Due Torri Youth International Tournament, <http://www.oltretorrentebaseball.it/torneoduetorri.htm>

POLAND: Jacek Cup, 13-14 June, jacekkrzciuk13@wp.pl, <http://europeansoftball.org/articles/detail/271>

U13 Girls

ITALY: 30th Due Torri Youth International Tournament, <http://www.oltretorrentebaseball.it/torneoduetorri.htm>



Share



Tweet



Forward



+1

Copyright © March 2015, European Softball Federation, All rights reserved.

Newsletter created by Helena Novotna, ESF Communications Director, hnovotna@europeansoftball.org

