



European Softball Federation
Fédération Européenne Softball

EUROPEAN SUPER CUP MEN

30 November 2011

We are writing to provide you with the details of the European Super Cup Men, which was approved at this year's ESF Congress in Antwerp. This event will take place annually, starting in 2012. The Competition Regulations for 2012 will be amended to include this event.

Name of the competition: EUROPEAN SUPER CUP MEN (ESCM)

Starting in 2012, the European Super Cup Men will *replace* the European Cup Men and the European Cup Winners Cup Men. This new competition will be played as a single tournament but with the finals divided in two sections: the SUPER CUP; and CUP II.

Participants:

ESF Affiliated Federations may enter their two best teams from their national championship played in the year before each ESCM competition (ex: the two best teams from 2011 participate in the 2012 event, and so on). The executive council of each Affiliated Federation must nominate and approve each team entering this competition.

As a concession to the Czech Republic, Denmark and Netherlands and because teams from these nations are the leaders of men's club fastpitch in Europe, three teams may be entered.

The winners of the 2011 ECM 2011 and ECWCM automatically qualify for the 2012 ESCM.

For 2012 and onward, the winners of the previous year SUPER CUP and CUP II automatically qualify to participate at next event (i.e. 2012 winners automatically qualify for 2013).

The host country for each ESCM may enter one extra team.

Players:

CR player license requirements apply for all participants. Each club team that qualifies for participation in an ESCM shall be entitled to include a maximum of three (3) Pick-Up players on its final competition roster (CR 14.06.03).

Competition format:

Competing teams will be seeded and divided into pools. Seeding will be done based on the ranking of the previously completed ESCM.

Teams that did not play in a previous year's ESCM competition will receive consideration as regards seeding.

The competition format depends upon number of participant teams: between four (4) and 11 teams, > 2 pools; 12 to 24 teams, > 4 pools, 25 and more teams, > 6 pools.

Pools shall be structured to avoid, if at all possible, teams from the same Affiliated Federation playing against each other. At the end of pool games, teams shall be sorted by ranking and play a double elimination round for each of the SUPER CUP (top 8 teams) and the CUP II (remaining teams).

Fields:

To be able to run a tournament of this size (we expect there to be between 18 and 25 teams), the organizer must have three to six fields fairly close to each other. Only two of these are required to comply with ESF field requirements (TR 09.01, Playing Field Requirements, Level B). The other fields may have grass infield/outfield. After pool games, the best fields will be used solely for the SUPER CUP. However, the CUP II final will be played immediately before SUPER CUP final on the main field.

Responsibilities and finances:

Participant teams are responsible for their own accommodation, meals and transportation to and from the venue and during the competition. Extra-contribution to the organizer is not due for this tournament (like for the other Cups).

Upon request of participant teams, the organizer is responsible to provide contact names and special rates for local transportation companies.

The organizer is responsible for organizing and paying for the accommodation, meals and transportation for umpires and the five ESF officials to and from the venue and during the competition.

To be eligible for the ESCM, teams must complete the relevant Entry Form and pay the Entry Fee of EUR 675 as required by Financial Appendix and according to CR 8, "Entries of Competitions". The ESF will refund the organizer with EUR 100 per participant team, as special contribution. The ESF is responsible for game balls, line up cards and other items.

Officials:

Five ESF officials shall be appointed, including one member of the Executive Council, two Technical Commissioners and two Umpire in Chiefs.

To help reduce costs, all pool games and (unless otherwise notified before the start of the CUP II), all games of the CUP II other than the CUP II final shall be umpired with a 2-man system. All double elimination round games of the SUPER CUP and the final of the CUP II shall be umpired with the 3-man system.

Trophies for each of the SUPER CUP and CUP II:

The organizer is responsible for the following awards: trophy for the top three teams (CR 39.03.01), personal awards for Best Pitcher, Best Hitter and MVP (CR 39.03.03) and a trophy for the winner of the CUP II.

The ESF will provide medals for first, second and third places (gold, silver and bronze).

Date:

The ESCM shall be played each year, as is the case with all other ESF Cup Competitions.

The ESCM shall start the first Monday after each 25 August, to help avoid potential conflicts with ISC tournament.

Date of effect:

1 January 2012

Gabriel Waage
ESF VP Technical and Competitions