



European Softball Federation
Fédération Européenne Softball

Memorandum for European Softball Competitions, 2010

The games of ESF Competitions shall be played in accordance with I.S.F. Playing Rules and Technical Code (2010-2013 edition) unless otherwise stated in ESF Competitions Regulations or in this Memorandum.

Remind following rules and regulations:

1. **ID Control (ESF CR 14.05.03).** As soon as possible after the ID control, each team will receive copies of the Official Competition Rosters (containing full names and all uniform numbers) of all teams in the competition.
2. **Pick-Up Players (ESF CR 14.06).**
3. **Uniforms (ESF CR 23.02):** the home team shall wear dark jerseys and the visiting team shall wear light jerseys.
4. **Shoes (Rule 3 sec 5):** Metal cleats are not allowed in any youth competition (junior, cadets, minime).
5. **JEWELRY (Rule 3.8.g) - no jewelry may be worn by players.**
6. **Protests (ESF CR 31.03):** Protests concerning a game must be handed over to the T.C. in writing no later than 15 minutes after the notification to the plate umpire of intent to lodge a protest.
7. **Affidavit of Insurance (ESF CR 38.01).**
8. **Under aged Players (ESF CR 40.05).**
9. **First Aid Personnel (ESF Technical Regulations 15.04).**

New rules approved by ISF Congress 2009:

At the ISF congress 2009 a total of 65 rule change proposals were submitted to the 2009 ISF Congress Playing Rules Commission for consideration.

The most significant changes relate to:

- There is no charged conference anymore when a coach crosses the line, and after talking to the pitcher decides to substitute the pitcher (rule 1 sec 17);
- The pitcher may leap (rule 1 sec 20 and sec 61; rule 6 sec 3).
- The runs ahead rule for fast pitch will be 15-10-7 (rule 5 sec 5); for slow pitch, 20 runs after 4 innings, 15 runs after 5 innings
- The intentional base on balls may now also be asked by the catcher and coach (rule 6 sec 8);

The new rule book can be found On the ISF website <http://www.internationalsoftball.com/index.asp> at rules & standards - playing rules - slow/fast/modified

Be aware of following regulations:

1. **Pre-Game Protocol:** Before the start of each game, both complete teams will line up upon a signal from the Plate Umpire: Visiting team between 1st base and the pitcher's plate, home team between 3rd base and the pitcher's plate. Exchange of souvenirs between players will take place immediately after this upon a signal by the plate umpire. The teams will then return directly to their dugouts, so that the game can begin. The first base dugout is for visiting team and the third base dugout for the home team. Home team is the first written team in the game schedule unless a toss has to be made. **(CR 20)**
2. **SMOKING OR ALCOHOL** is NOT allowed in or around the dugouts and inside the competition grounds.
3. **No BATTING PRACTICE** on playing fields.
4. **DEFENSE PRACTICE** only before the games: **first 5 minutes for the home team**, immediately followed by **5 minutes for the visiting team**. The T.C. can change these rules before a game in case of special circumstances.

5. **Official batting order:** 60 minutes before the scheduled start of the game, the teams shall hand in the yellow copy of the "Official Line-up Form" (duly completed – for each player: name, surname, uniform number, and playing position **printed legibly**) to the official scorers. A game ball will be provided to the team at that time. **If requested by representatives of the media, the official scorer shall provide a copy of the lineup cards following their transcription into the official score book.** During the pre-game meeting with the umpires at home plate (10 minutes before the game), each manager shall give the original + the pink copy for the opposing manager to the plate-umpire.
6. **Pitcher Warm Ups:** - when it is not possible outside the field, the pitcher and catcher (in FP, with mask) may warm up in foul territory; in this case, one player (spotter) with a glove must then protect them from being hit by a ball.
7. **Substitutions:** All substitutions must be reported to the plate-umpire, who will then inform the official scorer. Please mention **ONLY** the uniform numbers when reporting substitutions.
8. **On-Deck Batter** – Only **one** on-deck batter is permitted to be on the field, and he/she must occupy the **on-deck circle nearest to his/her dugout.**
9. **Contact Information:** Each team must provide a telephone or fax number to the organizers, so that they can be contacted when necessary.
10. **Ejections:** An ejected player/coach will immediately be escorted to the locker room by an official. He will be instructed to remove his uniform (minimum the shirt).
11. **Intentional Physical Contact with an Umpire or Opponent:** Any threat of physical intimidation or harm, including pushing, shoving, spitting, kicking, throwing at or attempting to make aggressive physical contact, or use of equipment in a combative manner, shall not be tolerated and is considered fighting.

Official Game Balls for ESF Competitions 2010:

1. **Official Game Ball:** The official game ball is provided by ESF, as follows:
 - Adult and Junior Fast Pitch – 12", optic yellow cover, .47 COR, 375 PSI compression
 - Minime Competition – 11" optic yellow cover, .47 COR, 375 PSI compression
 - Co-Ed Slow Pitch – 12", optic yellow cover, .44 / 47 COR, 375 PSI compression and 11" optic yellow cover, .47 COR, 375 PSI compression
2. **Co-Ed Slow Pitch Competition:** Two different balls will be used in each game – an 11-inch ball will be pitched to female batters, and a 12-inch ball will be pitched to male batters. If the wrong ball is used and detected prior to the next pitch, the manager of the offensive team will have the option of accepting the result of the play or having the last batter return to bat with the ball and strike count that existed prior to the discovery of the incorrect ball.

Bats used in the ESF Competitions 2010:

1. Bats used in ESF Competitions shall:
 - a) have the ISF logo (or other indicia of ISF approval) and/or the ASA logo (or other indicia of ASA approval)
 - b) not be on the ASA non-approved bat list.
http://www.asasoftball.com/about/certified_equipment.asp
2. ESF Bat Control Memorandum will be used during ESF Competitions in 2010.

The Technical Committee reserves the right to change the game schedule during the Competition, as appropriate (e.g., in case of problems concerning the weather, etc.).

The Technical Committee asks all teams to observe the rules to avoid useless waste of time.



Gabriel Waage
ESF VP for Technical and Competitions



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ESF Bat Control Memorandum, 2010

The ESF's bat control procedure, which involves examination of every bat from every participating team, is as follows:

1. Each participating team will be required to bring any bats that it desires to use in the competition to the mandatory Technical Meeting held prior to the start of competition.
2. While the ID control right after the TC meeting is being conducted, the umpire staff for the tournament will conduct "bat control" – they will examine all bats for legality. Those bats that are deemed to be compliant will have an ESF label affixed to the handle, just above the safety grip. The labels (which will be provided to the UIC prior to the competition) will easily identify the bat as being "approved" for use.
3. If new bats are purchased during the competition or arrive following the bat control during the TC meeting, their owners will need to make an appointment with the UIC to have the bat examined and labeled, as appropriate.
4. During games, only bats with "approved" labels on them will be permitted for use by batters. A bat without a label will be considered an *Illegal Bat*.
5. A batter who is detected using an unlabeled bat will be subject to Rule 7.6.c – the batter is out, and the bat will be removed from the game.
6. **During a game, if an illegal bat is found to have an "approved" label on it or evidence of tampering with bat labels is discovered, this will be treated as an act of extreme unsportsmanlike conduct and will result in the ejection and suspension from further participation in the competition of the team manager and any player found using such a bat.**

Note that this procedure only serves to identify non-approved bats. Umpires will still, at their discretion, examine bats prior to and during individual games for irregularities (e.g., dents, breaks, improper safety grips, altered bats, etc.) and compliance with other bat specifications.

Our intent in implementing this policy is to simplify the checking of bats for legality, while at the same time minimizing the possibility that a non-approved bat finds its way into a game and causes a serious injury. We believe that the process accomplishes both objectives, and we look forward to your understanding and support as we implement the control procedure.