



Photos: [www.fastpitch.it](http://www.fastpitch.it)

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*If your federation would like to publish information on tournaments, clinics, etc. in this newsletter please send your information and pictures to Michael Schmidt at: [mschmidt@europeansoftball.org](mailto:mschmidt@europeansoftball.org)*

## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Dear Sport Friends,

The first European Champions in 2009 are the Danish Softball Boys who won this title at Ledenica in the Czech Republic.

The Tournament started for the Cadette Girls at Alkmaar in the Netherlands. At the opening evening 700 softball fans watched the Dutch playing Russia.

The organizing committee at Alkmaar did a great job to organize this tournament in only 8 weeks. You can follow all the games play by play at: [http://www.ilovesoftball.nl/en\\_EN/home/](http://www.ilovesoftball.nl/en_EN/home/)



The coming two weeks, the eyes of the Softball World are on Saskatoon Canada for the World's Men Softball with the Czech Republic, Denmark and Great Britain representing Europe.

In Europe 21 National teams are preparing for the European Championships Woman at Hoboken in Belgium and Valencia in Spain.

The ISF supported the ESF by sending the Mizuno game balls at a reduced price to be used at the European championships in 2009.

The regional development commissioners started their work and the first clinic, with Kevin Henderson as the main instructor, will

July 2009

be held in the Ukraine, organised from August 5th until August 12th.

A coaching task force is being set up in Europe to bring a pool of coaches of different levels together who will help to improve the level of coaching in all European areas. Read more about it in this newsletter.

Right after the European tournaments in September a schedule will be made for regional clinics for umpires, coaches and players. At the same time a score-keeping committee will investigate the possibility to implement one European system for score keeping and "play by play" to be used at the European Competitions starting in 2010.

The Executive Council of the ESF will meet in Valencia, Spain on the 30th of July.

Any contribution to this Meeting can be sent to Francesca Fabretto at: [assistantsg@europeansoftball.org](mailto:assistantsg@europeansoftball.org)

On August 13th, the International Olympic Committee will meet in Berlin, Germany. At this meeting the IOC Board will announce the sports that they will recommend to bring in for the voting at the IOC session in October in Copenhagen, Denmark.

The BackSoftball commission had an excellent presentation last month at Lausanne. Let's hope that sport arguments will be stronger than commercial interests.

Enjoy the games in your country and leagues or at one of the European Tournaments.

Hope to see you somewhere at the fields.

Your President  
André van Overbeek



## TO ALL ESF MEMBER FEDERATIONS AND COACHES

The ESF is pleased to inform you that a Coach Committee is now being set up in Europe. The Committee will organize coaching clinics to help upgrade softball skills and eventually bring European players to a higher level.

The Federations are asked to inform their coaches about an opportunity to become part of the Committee, where they could share their softball experience with other federations.

It is expected that the coaches who will be part of the Committee have a sufficient experience in coaching softball teams and be able to communicate in good English.

As members of the Coach Committee, coaches will be delegated to conduct clinics in European countries, which will be done on a voluntary basis, with travel expenses covered by the ESF and board and lodging by the Federation hosting the clinic.

All potential candidates who are interested in becoming part of the Committee are invited to send their CV no later than August 10, 2009 to [tsanna@europeansoftball.org](mailto:tsanna@europeansoftball.org)

## ISF DEVELOPMENTS

by Ami Baran

We have been active on the international front with the ISF.

Legislative Commission: Jacques Reinenbergh (Belgium) and Ami Baran VP ESF (Israel) represented Europe with distinction at the ISF Legislative Commission meeting in Plant City on 26-27 June. This Commission was charged with reviewing and updating the current ISF Code to revise it and bring the governing body more in line with current trends, including governance and competition structure, plus provide for future development and growth of the sport. The 16 members of this Commission, including recording secretary and advocate Mark Berman, worked through the Code revision proposals submitted to the ISF Congress in Manila in 2007 and produced a draft Code for consideration in Caracas. ISF President Don Porter noted that he was "pleased with the deliberation and discussion ... that ... brought forth a very strong, positive, and progressive document to bring before the ISF Congress later this year."

This revised Code will be submitted to all National Federations within a few days for them to review and consider, prior to the 24 July deadline to submit proposals for consideration at Caracas. It will be important for everyone to review this document carefully. If you have any questions on this, please direct them to [Ami abaran@europeansoftball.org](mailto:Ami abaran@europeansoftball.org).

ISF Council: the ISF Council also met in Plant City concurrent with the Legislative Commission. Ami attended this meeting in his capacity as Interim Vice President (he was appointed by the ISF Executive Committee until Venezuela, where there will be elections). A considerable amount of work was done at this meeting, which included an update on the Back Softball campaign, reports on commissions and preparation work for the forthcoming Congress in Caracas.

## KNOCKOUT TOURNAMENT IN ZAGREB, JUNE 2009

by Maja Cizmic

At the end of last year we decided it was time to organize a FIRST men's international softball tournament in Croatia, since we had hosted several women's tournaments over the past 15 years. The date was chosen to coincide with the fifth World Softball Day.

So the K-OUT (Knockout) TOURNAMENT was organized by two Zagreb teams from June 12-14 on the softball fields in Jarun, with five teams competing: two teams from Croatia (Princ and Medvednica), Ljubljana Kings from Slovenia, the Die Hards from Switzerland and Roma from Italy.

Team Princ and Roma opened the tournament with a very interesting and tight game, and in fact most of the games ended with close results. After round-robin games were played on Friday and Saturday we got our ranking for the playoffs: 1) Princ, 2) Die Hards, 3) Medvednica, 4) Slovenia, 5) Roma.



Sunday was a thrilling day because almost all the playoff games were decided in the final innings. The most interesting game was the semi-final between Princ and Medvednica, where two extra innings were required to get a result.

Team Princ won and went to the final and eventually took the first place trophy.

A highlight of the weekend was the Croatian National Boys' Team playing their first game against the tournament's fifth place team, Roma, on Sunday before the semi-finals. The boys, who are competing in European Championships in the Czech Republic, showed a good level of hitting and baserunning and beat the Italian team. In this game, we had boys 15 years of age playing against men up to the age of 60, which shows that softball is a game for all ages!

All the teams were very satisfied with level of the games, organizing and fields at the K-Out Tournament, so they promised to come back next year.

Here's hoping that we see softball again in the Olympics!

*Best regards from Croatian clubs*

*Princ Jarun, Princ Zagreb, Medvednica and Dubrava*



## SLOWPITCH IS ON THE MOVE IN BELGIUM

Efforts to develop slowpitch softball in the Flanders area of Belgium are gaining momentum.

The project began with a visit by Belgian Softball Federation officials to the first European Slowpitch Cup played near Paris in September 2007.

This was followed by slowpitch rules and skills clinics held in Belgium in March 2008 and April 2009, delivered by British clinicians and paid for by the European Softball Federation.

An eight-team slowpitch league was organised among established baseball/softball clubs in Belgium in the spring of 2008 and in September last year, one of those club teams, the Afterburners, played in the annual Softball World Series at the BA Concorde Club in London and unexpectedly won the third-level Cup competition.

### ***Building a Structure***

Now, Pieter Debaets, who has been a key figure in promoting slowpitch in Belgium, says: "This year we will be more prepared for playing in the World Series. And we are having try-outs this month to select our best slowpitch players to work with to prepare a Belgian team for the European Slowpitch Championships next year. The World Series will be our first important goal in preparation for the Europeans.

"We hope with a good structure that the level of slowpitch will grow in Flanders," Pieter continued, "and also in the future in the whole of Belgium. We have a Head Coach and two Assistant Coaches who are busy creating and training the World Series team, this year to be called the Flanders All-Stars. Behind these coaches we have also two managers (me and Stijn Van Woensel).



This structure will be presented to the Belgium Softball Division to build a national slowpitch team for next year."

### ***Gaining Momentum***

Bob Fromer, European Softball Federation Commissioner for Slowpitch Development, said: "This is great news from Belgium, and is another sign that the campaign to grow slowpitch on the continent of Europe is gaining momentum. With the Dutch hosting the European Slowpitch Championships next year, and Belgian and Dutch teams taking part, we should have the highest entry the competition has seen since it began in 1998."

More good news is the fact that the European Softball Federation will be investing money in a four-year Slowpitch Development Plan for Europe, which should increase the number of slowpitch clinics, competitions, teams and leagues on the continent.

## ESF WEBPAGE

NEW section created: „across Europe“

A new section has been created in the main menu of the website of the ESF - europeansoftball.org to provide a space for softball related news across Europe

Federations and clubs are welcome to submit to the ESF webmaster their stories, including photographs.

## ESF TOURNAMENT RESULTS

### **European Championships Junior Boys, Ledenice, CZE June 30 - July 4th**

European Champion	DENMARK
2nd Place	CZECH REPUBLIC
3rd Place	ISRAEL
4th Place	CROATIA

#### Individual Awards

Best Batter	Pavel Cermak
Best Pitcher	Valdemar Terkelsen
MVP	Valdemar Terkelsen

### **European Championships Junior Girls, Alkmaar July 13th - July 18th**

European Champion	RUSSIA
2nd Place	NETHERLANDS
3rd Place	SPAIN
4th Place	CZECH REPUBLIC
5th Place	GREAT BRITAIN
6th Place	SLOVAKIA
7th Place	BELGIUM

*comig next - European Championships Women A+B. Valencia, Spain and Hoboken, Belgium - July 27th - August 1st*



## THE NEXT ISSUE OF THE NEWSLETTER

If you would like to publish articles and information of your federations please send your inputs until July 31st to: [mschmidt@europeansoftball.org](mailto:mschmidt@europeansoftball.org)

