



EUROPEAN SOFTBALL FEDERATION CONGRESS MINUTES

CONGRESS 2020

Vilnius, Lithuania – February 8th 2020

Gabriel Waage opens the Congress

I. Roll Call

Affiliated Federations represented by Accredited Delegates with Credentials:

AUSTRIA, BELGIUM, BULGARIA, CROATIA, CZECH REPUBLIC, DENMARK, FRANCE, GERMANY, GREAT BRITAIN, GREECE, HUNGARY, IRELAND, ISRAEL, ITALY, LITHUANIA, MALTA, NETHERLANDS, NORWAY, POLAND, RUSSIA, SAN MARINO, SERBIA, SLOVENIA, SPAIN, SWITZERLAND, SWEDEN, TURKEY, UKRAINE.

Affiliated Federations absent: GUERNSEY, FINLAND, JERSEY, SLOVAKIA

Each present Federation has provided a proof of payment of its Membership Fees.

There are 33 Federations affiliated, 29 Federations duly represented, 29 Federations with the right of vote, the Congress is quorate. (ABSOLUTE MAJORITY IS 15)

*ESF President Gabriel Waage introduces special guests:

WBSC President Riccardo Fraccari

Opening speech by the host Diana Pupininkiene

Opening speech by Gabriel Waage

Special recognition to Spanish Federation for organizing the European Masters Cup

Special recognition to Helena Novotná for her work for the ESF
Elda Ghilardi announced the new ESF Communications Director

*Little League Award presented to the Netherlands

*Pony League Award presented by Abraham Key to the Netherlands and Russia

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II. Approval of the Minutes of 2019 Congress

The Minutes of 2019 Congress approved by unanimity

III. Approval of the budget 2020

The budget is approved by unanimity.

IV. Appointment of the Auditor

On the proposal of the Treasurer, Mr. Mark de Permentier is re-appointed as Auditor by unanimity.

V. Development Report

- Ami Baran sums up the Development Commission meeting

VI. Technical and Competitions

- Mike Jennings gives summary of the TC Commission

VII. Appointment of Organizers

- Presentations from organizers: WECh, MSPECh, WEC

VIII. Championships Drawing

- **WECh**
 - pool C:** GER, SUI, SVK, HUN;
 - pool D:** ISR, CRO, UKR, BUL;
 - pool E:** POL, AUT, LTU;
 - pool F:** RUS, BEL, DEN;
- **MECh**
 - pool A:** CZE, GBR, BEL, GER, SWE, FRA
 - pool B:** NED, DEN, ISR, CRO, SVK, LTU;
- **U15ECh**
 - pool A:** NED, CZE, UKR, BEL, POL;
 - pool B:** ITA, RUS, GER, FRA, TUR

IX. Hall of Fame

- Jesper Padnuro, Denmark
- Rober Kessler, Israel
- Libby Moss, Great Britain
- Rebecca Soumeru, the Netherlands

XIV. Various

none

Closing of the Congress

Gabriel Waage
President

Ami Baran
Secretary General



2020 ESF CONGRESS, Vilnius

FINANCIAL COMMITTEE REPORT

February 7th 2020

Chair: Eddy van Straelen, ESF treasurer
Co: Carolien Stadhouders

Present: 12 federations:

AUT, BUL, CRO, CZE, DEN, GER, GBR, GRE, IRL, ISR, SLO, SWE,

General remarks by the treasurer:

- To be able to change the end of the financial year into December 31st this time we had **14 months**, so from 2018 November 1st to 2019 December 31st, although the budget was made for **12 months** only.
- Please note **Febr. 1st** for withdrawing Entry (CR 03.04.01) and **March 1st** for payment Entry Fees.
- All federations will have the right to vote at the ESF Congress..

Discussion financial result 2019 :

We had no loss but a plus of € 4400 mainly caused by the many tournament participations and by the received support of WBSC. So we were able to spend more to development (around € 7600)
The sponsoring by Teammate was done by means of game balls and uniform clothing (see expenses)

Expenses 2019:

Meetings EC : usually 4 but now 5 meetings (2 x November)
Travelling : becomes more and more expensive which impacts EC, TC, UIC, SC and other.
SC : ESF had to pay for scorers at CSPECH in Hungary (see penalty)
Special Events : two unexpected tournaments U18MQ and Masters with higher income than costs
ESCA training camp : should become self-supporting
TV / Website : this year less interest by organizers for Playo or livestream.
Various : € 10.000 for start of WBSC Europe

Discussion budget 2020 :

Affiliation fees : no income, as from now on these fees will be invoiced by WBSC Europe
Entry fees : many tournaments, no amount changes, except at Masters the participating teams now will also pay € 100 contribution for organizers.
Expenses UC : uniform changes to WBSC Europe – 2 shirts (+ maybe 1 cap)
Expenses TV/Web : depending organizers, but EC hopes to cover more tournaments than in 2019
Expenses Development : same as last year, probably also support of WBSC

Please ALWAYS download and follow the ESF excel sheet with dates and deadlines !

Question GBR : Why less interest for internet coverage ?

Treasurer : These are decisions by the organizers, mainly based on the high costs.

Question GBR : Is it co-incident that the amount of development is the same as support of WBSC ?

Treasurer : No, as this year we had to make the request to WBSC after the tournaments, so it was agreed to base this on the expenses that had been made.

Question ISR : Why there is a debt to Visa card and unpaid penalties ?

Treasurer : These are 2019 costs paid by Visa, but will only be deducted from our bank account in January 2020 January.
The same goes for the amount of penalties: made in 2019 but unpaid yet.

Question IRL : Will we get support from WBSC also in 2020 and if not will we change the budget development ?

Treasurer : We hope so, but anyway the budget for expenses development will stay unchanged.
(At February 1st the expected income Entry Fees is already more than 100.000 euro !)

Question IRL : Why ESCA training camp budget is zero?

Treasurer : This year most probably no camp as EC prefers to have it every 2 years.
And also because ESCA training camp should become self-supporting.

2020 ESF CONGRESS, Vilnius DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE REPORT

February 7th 2020

Chair: Ami Baran, Mette Nissen Jakobsen, Kristian Pälviä

Minutes: Helena Novotná

Present: 21 federations:

AUT, BUL, DEN, CZE, CRO, GBR, GER, GRE, IRL, ISR, ITA, LTH, MLT, NED, NOR, SRB, SLO, SWE, SUI, TUR, UKR, TUR

GB, Switzerland, Spain, Serbia – conventions, clinics

Northern Countries

- Baltic Open – VI. Edition, Sweden Men's NT "was born" there, as well as Lithuanian
- Norway moving forward, trying in Finland

ESCA Training Camp

- More than 50 people, in the Netherlands, 5 days
- Friendships and long-lasting relations are created
- Break for 2020, another camp in 2021
- It's supposed to be self-funded in the end

ESCA

- Cooperation with NFCA, materials, mentoring by US coaches
- Planning a 75euro membership

Equipment for Europe

- Issues, trying to solve it

Lee County Sports Development – Kevin Smith, Marc Zimmerman (Polk County Sports Park), Jeff Mielke (Lee County)

- Invitation to Central Florida with national development projects, for teams, players, and coaches
- Resources – lodging, transportation, program, contacts, fields

Slowpitch

- Coed Slowpitch Championship in Hungary – 11 teams - record
- Belgium umpiring clinic

Euroleague – Petra Cizmic - 8 countries

- Invitation to other clubs and countries to join in
- ESF provides balls, umpires fees, trophies, medals, there is no entry fee

Baseball for Blind – Eva Trevisan (ITA)

- In Italy, there is an official championship, competition recognized by FIBS
- Mission to help blind players to improve their living conditions
- Goal to make it to the Paralympics – more countries would have to start

Clinics at Championships – more planned for next year – at youth Championships on the schedule

Baseball5

- Very quick development
- Experiments in school; kids understand the rules better
- European Championship in Vilnius in February 2020 (14 teams, two qualify for WBSC World Cup)
- Youth Olympic Games
- Entries for ECh must be signed by both softball and baseball federations of the country
- Event in Bulgaria, event in Eilat (ISR)

2020 ESF CONGRESS, Vilnius

TECHNICAL AND COMPETITIONS COMMITTEE REPORT

February 7th 2020

Chair: Mike Jennings, Carolien Stadhouders, Gabriel Waage, Helena Novotná
Minutes: Elda Ghilardi

Present: 17 federations:

AUT, BUL, CRO, CZE, DEN, GER, GBR, GRE, IRL, ISR, ITA, MAL, NED, SRB, SWE, SUI, UKR

TC Report - Mike Jennings (Director TC)

- Slowpitch - Short field: limited home-run rules
- Short field: would be better if the field were of the right dimension
- Short field: games played in shorter field by a team will be balanced with games played by the same team on the regular dimension field;

Review competition situation - Mike Jennings (Director TC)

- XIII Coed Slowpitch European Super Cup does not have a bid, it will be cancelled in case of no bids;
- Voting for the host of XXVII Women's European Cup between Dupnitsa (BUL)/Moscow (RUS): winner Dupnitsa (BUL);
- Voting for the host of XXIX Women's European Cup Winners Cup between Saronno (ITA)/Moscow (RUS): winner Saronno (ITA);
- thanks to all the hosts of competitions;
- for the next 2 years European MASTERS Cup will be host by Sant Boi (SPA);
- 2022: 4 championship to be played, bid for XXIII Women's European Championship (Barcelona); Men's European Championship Denmark; the others to be allocated;
- Czech Softball Association proposes to have the allocation for MESC from 2020-2022 in Prague (already allocated for 2020) to grow the tournament - ACCEPTED; the host will be having one card;
- Women's European Championship 2020: 22 teams participating; 6 days; 8 teams are directly in Super Round based on previous WECh ranking, first two positions of the 4 pools; then 4 pools with remaining teams playing single round robin, winners will be added into Super Round; the rest will play for final standing;
- Competitions regulations changes:
 - o from 2020 the individual teams are responsible for the transportations, not the organizers anymore (who will try to make them have good deals with local companies);
 - o Championship have preferred dates/periods which can change depending on the organizer;
 - o updated regulations for EMRYT and MASTERS;
 - o greater emphasis on time regulations (20" between each pitch and 60" between inning);
 - o lineups have to be given on time, 60 minutes before the playball, possible penalties;
 - o ASA bats for slowpitch could not be allowed into 2020 competitions;
- DEN: June as a months for the youth championships is difficult as for kids go to school, ask to make a change in the period of organization of youth championships; ITA: Italian Championship has to stop many times because of international championships, ask to make a change;

Montions and issues for discussion by National Federations:

- **GBR:** page system in Coed Slowpitch; EC position is not to approve this motion since it is not a well-known system. Decision returned to the EC, 2 NF strong position in favor of the motions;
- **UKR:** NON-European players in National Teams is against development. EC: European regulation and will be discussed in another meeting;

Umpires Director – Carolien Stadhouders

- Number of tournaments increasing, necessity of a bigger number of umpires; some NF do not have new members in years; important to have a sustainable development in Softball Europe;
- Necessity to have a contact person for each National Federation responsible for umpires;
- Developing clinics connected to tournament in Europe (Euroleague, indoor...)
- WBSC assignment umpire committee;
- Exchange program AUS, CAN, ISC;
- Softball Europe can send a qualified instructor to national federations clinics;
- Intention to make a Slowpitch umpires clinic; Fastpitch clinic is announced, pay attention to it

Media requirements – Helena Novotná

- creation of Media Coverage Manual for organizers in order to get better;
- the competitions are divided into 3 different levels and each level have different rules of coverage;
- Media coverage by ESF will be held by a whole media team – Media Officials just like TCs, UICs

World Championship and consequences to Europe - Gabriel Waage

- spots for Europe are 1 to 3 on 8/12/16 teams;
- U12 World Championship will be in 2021, qualifications has to be announced in 2020.

Comments - Mike Jennings

- Europe Softball discourages the use of single water plastic bottle.