



*European Softball Federation  
Fédération Européenne Softball*

## **ESF President Report 2013**

Dear ESF Federation Members,

I first would like to welcome all of you to this year's ESF Congress and as always, appreciate all the hard work you are doing for softball in your respective countries.

The results of last years elections in Bled, had major changes in the members of the ESF Board. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Francesca Fabretto, Totoni Sanna, Michael Schmidt and Slava Smagin for their contribution to the ESF Board and Federations . A new ESF Board was installed with Gabriel Waage voted in as our 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President.

The EC held their quarterly board meetings in 2013. One directly after the Congress in Bled, a spring meeting in Brussels, a summer meeting at the Men's Super Cup in Triest, Italy and an autumn meeting in Copenhagen, Denmark. Many issues have been on the EC agenda and we have tried to deal with all the issues as best as we could and prepare the next season of tournaments with more innovative ideas in order to make our game a more popular and interesting one for the coming years.

The new Board started to work with the continuation of the 2009 Working Plan with our 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Gabriel Waage, responsible for Technical and Competitions, Ami Baran as Secretary General, Eddy van Straelen as Treasurer, Mette Missen-Jacobsen as VP Operations, John Austin VP Development, Youri Alkaly VP Marketing, Gilbert Tobback VP Rules and Regulations and Dejan Jesic as VP Media and Public Relations.

22 European Federations attended the ISF congress in Cartagena where Francesca Fabretto and your President were chosen to represent Europe in the ISF Board as Vice-Presidents. Dale McMann, Canada, was elected as the third ISF President, after Don Porter, United States, announced his retirement from the position. Don Porter joined the ISF as Secretary General in 1965 before being elected President in 1987. Porter has been instrumental in developing the sport of softball throughout his tenure, including softball's presence in the Olympic Games from 1996 to 2008. It should be noted that Porter will continue to serve as co-president of the WBSC with IBAF president, Riccardo Fraccari. The newly formed World Baseball Softball Confederation also held an interim Executive Board meeting prior to the start of the ISF Congress discussing on-going arrangements with the new Confederation, as well as the upcoming General Assembly to be held in 2014.

After the election of Mr. Bach as new IOC President, it has been widely reported in the media that Baseball and Softball are still being considered to be included in the 2020 Olympic Games in Tokyo. The IOC Executive Board will hopefully bring this idea to the IOC Session (Congress) in Sochi, Russia in February for discussion among all the IOC members. An extraordinary IOC Congress has been confirmed for December 6-7, 2014, where a formal vote to amend the 2020 sports programme would hopefully take place. Let's keep our fingers crossed!!!



## **Development and Operations**

One of the most difficult tasks on the ESF agenda is always development. There are so many different aspects to development and it is usually one that is long term with some short term issues. VP John Austin , VP Operations Mette Nissen Jakobsen and Secretary General Ami Baran have taken upon themselves the task of implementing the different projects/programs and we are sure we will see some important changes in the way development is done.

We have continued this year some of the projects which have been in our plans for some years now. The Bee Ball project, lead by Anton Kops, the combined development program of CEB and ESF, held several clinics which you can read in the BeeBall activity report.

The Big Sister project with the ASA came this year to some conclusions. After the Bled Congress the ASA local associations sent most of our Federations the instructional DVD's and it looks like we are waiting for a first container with equipment to be delivered soon. This has been a long process , more than expected , but we have already had some very nice exchanges such as the Russians in Florida, Massachusetts assisting slow pitch in GB and Ireland, Coaching to Denmark and a few other quite good exchanges. I understand from Mette, that contact information for implementation has finally be dispersed and now it is up to you to move things forward.

Our Slow Pitch program is also moving forward with possibly new innovative ideas so other federations will be able to participate in our yearly tournaments.

We are planning on assisting all those in need of help with development based on the past and present requests we have had and can only hope that this will be just another part of that development.

## **Competition and Technical**

Our 1st Vice President, Gaba Waage, has continued his dedicated work for Competition and Technical issues ,and along with Gilbert Tobback and a team of TC's (Mike Jennings, Jacques Rheinenberg, Connie Chowjka , Bob Kessler, Jens Terkelsen) have finally produced the new Competition and Technical Regulations. The competition year, is almost set , and we are on our way to a hopefully, succesful competition period starting in july.

The Umpires Conference will be held in Rome and the plans for future TC and UIC meetings is being set.

The Scorekeepers have an official place at all our ESF tournaments. Details can be found on the Scorekeepers activity report.

## **Marketing, Media and P/R**

Our VP Marketing , Youri Alkalay , has prepared for the ESF a corporate identity package putting us on the professional level we started out in 2009 and we should soon see the new ESF Logo and colors. We of course will continue to seek different avenues to increase the ESF market value.

Website : The technical part of the website is finished. We have tried to keep it updated and based on input from several federations we will continue our efforts into making it more attractive for viewers.

FaceBook: We hope you have noticed the consistent updating of the ESF FaceBook page and we encourage all of you to pass this on and share it with all your teams ,players and their families in order to give us more visibility and exposure to the people in Europe.

Twitter: Our VP Media , Dejan Jesic , is trying to revive not only the website and facebook but also twitter and in the past few months we have more followers and like I mentioned before please involve all your people in your country.

Newsletter: We have continued the tradition of our newsletter with the help of Anton Kops and Bob Fromer. We hope we will receive more materials from you so we can make it a more interesting part of our updated information.

## **Financial**

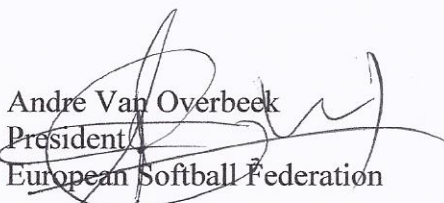
Our Treasurer, Eddy Van Straelen is continuing to hold us on course with our financials and keeps all of us aware of what we should be doing as his expertise is not only in the financials but the many years of experience is an asset for the ESF . We can only hope that the future income from other sources will emerge so that we can continue in this positive direction.

As you all know we are all lining up for the World Championship Women at Haarlem in August 2014. It will be the first time in history that the top of International softball can be seen in Europe. For information and requests, our members can contact Ruud van Zetten as our ESF liaison in the WC organizing committee. We have established some communication with Eurosport and are exploring the different possibilities for a european production.

Our future plans are your future plans. We will continue to move forward in the areas you need help and we will do our best to keep communications up and running so we can all benefit from the work we are all doing together.

Last but not least, I want to thank my past and present colleagues on the Board and National Federations for helping me to work as your President.

There is still a lot to do. Thank you for all your help.

  
Andre Van Overbeek  
President  
European Softball Federation





*European Softball Federation*  
*Fédération Européenne Softball*

## **ESF 1<sup>st</sup> VP report**

My report contents from two parts – managing report and review ESF competitions 2013.

### **Managing report**

Main task of management of ESF structure was build up commissions needed for operating ESF competitions. Great time for it was TC / UIC meeting held in Roma on March. It was also good time to make good start of co-operation with FIBS after election in Bled, because atmosphere after election wasn't so co-operative. I had the meeting with new FIBS Secretary General with intention to discuss about future co-operation. Meeting was very good even it was just one month after Bled. But unfortunately future steps – recommendation to Italian by FIBS to leave ESF / CEB positions – don't look so co-operative. From other hand every events held in Italy in 2013 were very successful, mainly ESCM. I really hope the tension, which coming from political part mainly, will be reduced and didn't impact to daily business.

### **TC's and UIC's meeting in Roma:**

TC's and UIC's meeting was held in Roma on March 15<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup>, 2013. This meeting is held every 2 years with intention to unify all work around ESF competitions. Meeting was very productive and run in co-operative atmosphere, which is very important for working together.

The meeting included 3 big parts: First was together and included introduction of ESF Organization structure, Specific role ECs, TCs, UICs and SICs, Working together and ESF website – information service for ESF staff. Second part was divided into two groups – TC's and UIC's separately. Both groups discussed issued based on their role at the ESF tournaments. Third final part was together again and approved conclusions, discussed common topics and finance.

### **ESF Organization structure:**

For better understanding the ESF Organization structure was presented in Roma. All of you know the structure and responsibility of ESF Executive Board. But for other work is established structure mainly for running of the ESF competitions. The committees including chairs and responsibilities follow:

**Technical Commission:**

- **Technical Director: Mike Jennings**
- Organize ESF European TC meeting
- Taking advantage of new technology to improve communication among TC members
- Increasing the size of the TC to enable proper coverage of all scheduled competitions
- Continued enhancement of the Handbook for ESF Technical Commissioners, including the addition of improved procedural checklists
- Investigate the option of an on-line system for player licensing
- Investigate possibilities for more efficient procedures with the ESF's player eligibility regulations
- Development of a formal disciplinary process for dealing with game ejections and other forms of Misconduct

**Umpires Committee:**

- **Director of Umpires: Andrea Marcon**
- Umpiring Scheduling
- Umpiring Clinics in cooperation with development
- International Umpiring clinics recommendations:
  - Organize Basic Umpire Clinics
  - Organize Slow pitch umpire clinics
  - Development of procedures for re-certification of ESF umpires and re-certification of ESF umpires, to encourage improvement;
  - More pro-active involvement by the ESF Umpire Administration Staff in facilitating umpire training at the national and regional levels;
  - For ESF competitions, continued emphasis on the appointment of Assistant Umpire in Chiefs;
  - From the hosting National Federations, to open an additional path between the ESF and its member federations for umpire training and development

**Competition Committee:**

- **Chair: Cornelia Chwojka**                      **ass.: Jens Terkelsen**
- Responsibility of providing ideas on developing competitions and the running of the competitions
- Scheduling; Register and all Formality duties
- Recommend updates of Addendum to ESF Rules and Regulations
- Implementation of the "Tournament Manual" and "Organizers feedback form";

**Scoring Committee:**

- **Co-Chairs: Dennis Duin and Marco Batistella**
- Scorekeeper Scheduling
- Scorekeeper Clinics

# Review ESF competitions 2013

## Sources:

This report is written based on TC reports of each tournament; on Director of Umpires report including reports of all UICs reports, on Player Licences Report and on Scorekeeper Committee Report.

Let me thank to all of them for the service for ESF during 2013.

## Enumeration of the competitions:

<b>Jul. 7<sup>TH</sup> – 13<sup>TH</sup></b>	<b>XVIII. European Championship Women</b>	<b>Prague (CZE)</b>
<b>Aug. 5<sup>TH</sup> – 10<sup>TH</sup></b>	<b>VII. European Championship Cadet Girls</b>	<b>Ostrava (CZE)</b>
<b>Jul. 8<sup>TH</sup> – 13<sup>TH</sup></b>	<b>VIII. European Championship Junior Boys</b>	<b>Stenløse (DEN)</b>
<b>Jul. 17<sup>TH</sup> – 20<sup>TH</sup></b>	<b>IX. European Championship Coed Slowpitch</b>	<b>Pardubice (CZE)</b>
<b>Aug. 19<sup>TH</sup> – 24<sup>TH</sup></b>	<b>XXXVI. European Cup Women "A"</b>	<b>Prague (CZE)</b>
<b>Aug. 19<sup>TH</sup> – 24<sup>TH</sup></b>	<b>XX. European Cup Women "B"</b>	<b>Dupnitsa (BUL)</b>
<b>Aug. 19<sup>TH</sup> – 24<sup>TH</sup></b>	<b>XXII. European Cup Winners Cup Women</b>	<b>Montegranaro, Fermo (ITA)</b>
<b>Aug. 14<sup>TH</sup> – 17<sup>TH</sup></b>	<b>II. European M.Romeo Youth Trophy</b>	<b>Collecchio, Parma (ITA)</b>
<b>Aug. 26<sup>TH</sup> – 31<sup>ST</sup></b>	<b>II. European Super Cup Men</b>	<b>Castions di Strada, Udine (ITA)</b>
<b>Jul. 30<sup>TH</sup> – Aug.3<sup>RD</sup></b>	<b>VII. European Cup Coed Slowpitch</b>	<b>Cancelled due no organizer</b>

## Allocation of the tournament:

In total, nine ESF tournaments were played in 2013: four in the Czech Republic, three in Italy and one each in Denmark and Bulgaria. In total, 93 teams participated across the nine events.

ECCS didn't find its location. The reason was adopted new format of European Super Cup Coed Slowpitch with 2 years period. ECCS 2013 was cancelled.

Due to lack of number of the teams at ECWCW – the progress during last 5 years was deeply discussed at EC meeting in Rosmalen July 28<sup>th</sup>, 2012 – we decided to play this tournament in 2013 merged (A and B pool). After this year experience we decided to continue with this format of the tournament.

## Game schedules:

After election in Bled ESF prepared and introduced at TC's and UIC's meeting in Roma new structure of Committees (see below). And because of this Conny Chwojka became new

game schedule creator. Because better communication between organizers and game schedule creator the potential problems was reduced to minimum. We faced only the problems with cancelling of participations. The number of withdrawals dropped down from last year. We recognized **in total 22 withdrawals**, 13 before February 28<sup>th</sup> and 9 after this deadline. Unfortunately 5 teams from 4 countries withdrawn after 90 days deadline and those teams – Amager Vikings (DEN) twice, Deurne Spartans (BEL), Riching Park (GBR) and UKS Caper (POL) – are excluded from ESF competitions 2014 according article CR 08.05.05.

Newly established option for substitution was used by 3 National Federations. Sweden, Czech Republic and Greece used this option and substituted entered teams. Even wasn't sufficient time for this we had 3 substitution and I believe if any problems in the future, the NFs will be more active to use this option.

## Scorekeeper Committee:

We continue with scorekeeping after the biggest step forward in last two years, when was fully adapted live scorekeeping at all ESF competitions. Scoring Director nominated ESF Scoring Committee and nominated Scorer In Chief at each ESF tournament 2013, which surely improved work of scorers at the tournaments and especially guaranteed unity with publication of results. Activities follow:

<b>Clinics</b>	In July 2013, the scorekeeper committee has given a clinic to the local scorekeepers before the start of the EChW – Prague. A group of young scorekeepers attended the clinic given by Dennis Duin. The objective of the clinic was to prepare the local scorekeepers for the tournament, so they can worked independently. The results were very good. The preparations for the clinic (translation of the ESF manual / TAS manual into the Czech language were done by Lenka Richterova).
<b>Website</b>	In cooperation with Fausto Nardi (ITA), who setup the website and give support to the committee, and with the SIC's, we maintained the play-by-play, results and the statistics for every tournament.
<b>Tournaments</b>	For every tournament the SIC's received instructions for the tournaments, template daily report, player licenses for the setup of TAS, so that they can prepare the tournament.
<b>Play-by-play</b>	During the tournament the committee was available for support. Due to connection problems in 2012, in cooperation with Davide Dozza, we changed the procedure to upload the files (play-by-play, stats etc.) The was tested and worked perfectly in 2013.

## Tournament Summaries:

Here is a brief rundown on how the different ESF tournaments went:

The major event of the summer was the **European Women's Championship (EChW)** that was held in Prague from July 7-13. ESF President André van Overbeek has already mentioned the success of this event in the previous ESF Newsletter. The tournament had excellent media coverage by Czech National TV and on the internet. Every evening, a very large number of spectators found the way into the bleachers and those who couldn't get a seat were lined up along the fences, making it a real celebration of softball.

The Dutch confirmed their current domination in Europe and gained their third European title in the row.

Twelve teams participated at the **European Cadette Girls' Championship (EChCG)** in Ostrava from August 5-10, the largest number of teams we have had over the seven times the tournament has been held. Russia, the only country to gain a medal from all of the previous Cadette Championships, took home the gold on this occasion.

Great Britain won its ninth consecutive title at the **European Coed Slowpitch Championship (EChCS)** in Pardubice from August 17-20. No one else has ever won this event, but Slovenia is closer and closer!

The Eagles from the Czech Republic gained a historic first medal for the country at the most prestigious club event – the **European Women's A Pool Cup (ECWA)**. And not just a medal, but a gold medal. This tournament has been dominated by Italian and Dutch teams since 1978 (with the sole exception of 2009, when Sharx from Austria won), so it was quite a feat for the Eagles to gain the title of European Cup Champions.

Softball first came to Dupnitsa, Bulgaria in 2008 and the town has hosted an ESF tournament almost every year since. The facilities at Dupnitsa have gotten better step by step, from practically nothing to the excellent complex and infrastructure that is now in place, almost ready to host major events. This year, Dupnitsa was the site for the **European Women's B Pool Cup (ECWB)**, and there was a first-ever European Cup win here as well, for the British team London Angels.

Finally, the **Men's Super Cup (ESCM)** from August 26-31 was played in Italy to showcase men's fastpitch on a high level and promote this format to the Italians – a goal that was 100% achieved. The tournament was played in three different locations, with a great deal of interest from spectators, local authorities and the Italian Federation (FIBS). And the enthusiasm and effort of the organizers was crowned with success, as the Italian team Lupi Roma won the event and brought a first men's fastpitch title to the country. Also Chicaboo's gained for Belgium historical gold medal from ECM.

## Player Licences:

We have one big problem with Player Licences in this year – Lithuania. Lithuania were entered in the EChCG. I received their Application for Licences on 4 August 2013, the day before the tournament was due to commence. This is not acceptable for me as it means I am under enormous pressure to process the Application. If the Application had been received 2 weeks prior to the tournament commencing, it would not have been so stressful, but the day before is too stressful.

Duplicate Players – There was only 2 duplicates for all the tournaments. This was satisfactorily sorted out by the 2 clubs.

Pick Up Players – The decision to charge clubs €50 per PUP on the Application Form for Provision of Member Licence definitely helped reduce the duplicate players.

There is, however, the recurring problem with PUPs. This year 1 club listed players as non-PUPs, who's Federation were members of the ESF, but the players were not members of that club's own Federation.



## **Umpires:**

2013 was a really tough year for the ESF umpiring system. Following the line guide defined in 2012, this year signed a very important turning point on the European way of umpiring, marking a new and better working method.

During the UIC-TC meeting of Rome (15th to the 17th of March) a great part of the job was planned. The UIC-TC meeting was a very advantageous opportunity to share different experiences and ideas in an interesting and proactive way. The decisions taken during the meeting has been respected during all the ESF tournaments, to produce a new coherent and proper attitude inside and outside the field. Unfortunately, due to a lot of reasons no chargeable to the ESF, the Umpire's Convention didn't take place. It would have been the most important moment of the year for the technical growth of each and every one of the umpires. We are organizing this event for 2014 as it will be useful also to discuss the new ISF rules.

The national clinic with their classes in Croatia and Denmark, where very advantageous too, in fact, after the 2012's stop, in 2013 we organized a basic clinic and now the ESF can rely on 7 new Umpires.

Furthermore, for the first time we had a slowpitch ISF Clinic in Great Britain. This clinic, held by the ISF Director of Umpires Bob Stanton, allowed to 6 European Umpires to obtain the slowpitch ISF qualification. In 2014 we will organize a similar clinic for fastpitch.

Moreover, the Umpires exchange with the Canadian Federation, was very important too. A Fastpitch ESF Umpire and a Slowpitch one had the chance to umpire in Canadian games, while Canadian Umpires did the same in our European Female Championship and European Championship Coed Slowpitch. This exchange is a very important moment for the ESF job. We need to propose this initiative again in the future trying to conclude new agreements with the USA or even with Japan or Australia. During my participation to the Uic Convention of Okhaloma City (February 2013), we set an Agreement with the USA. In this occasion I had a great opportunity to improve my personal skills and to relate with the most important softball organization.

## **Final words:**

Finally let me thank to all of organizers to host the ESF tournaments in 2013. It is very important to have you, because this is the place for the games and meeting of our players. Thank you so much for hosting!

Also thank to all of the officials – TC's, UIC's, SIC's, EC's, umpires, scorers, locals and so many volunteers – for you assists at ESF tournaments in 2013! Your work is invaluable help!

Special thanks to DoU in Europe Andrea Marcon for his excellent contribution, Conny Chwojka, game schedule creator and to Dennis Duin for excellent job with scorekeepers and arrangement of Play By Play.



Gabriel Waage  
ESF 1<sup>st</sup> VP

## Slow pitch Development Update – ESF Congress 2014

*By John Austin – ESF Vice President - Development*

### **Tournaments:**

**The European Co-Ed Championships** were held in Pardubice in the Czech Republic. The number of participants was a disappointment, with only 6 Federations sending teams to the tournament. Despite the low number of entries, which included tournament debutants, Serbia, the overall standard was higher than in previous years and provided for an excellent tournament.

The Development Commission will continue to encourage a better participation by our member Federations in order to grow this tournament.

#### Final Standings:

1. Great Britain (GBR)
2. Slovenia (SLO)
3. Germany (GER)
4. Ireland (IRL)
5. Czech republic (CZE)
6. Serbia (SRB)

**The ISF Slow Pitch Co-Ed World Cup** was held in Plant City in Florida in January. 8 teams entered, 3 for Europe – Great Britain, Bulgaria, and France. The remaining teams comprised of representative from USA (2 teams), Canada, Curacao, and Turks & Caicos.

While the number of participants was disappointing, nonetheless the tournament took place and therefore we can call it a start and look forward to developing the competition as a mainstay in the slow pitch calendar going forward.

There were a number of other European Countries interested in taking part and we will be looking to see if we can encourage and develop their participation in the future.

#### The Final Standings:

Gold:	USA - Ink Daddyz
Silver:	Great Britain National Team
Bronze:	USA - Fort Walton Beach
4th:	Curacao - SBAB
5th:	France - AS BREVANNES
6th:	Turks and Caicos
7th:	Canada - Team VPD
8th:	Bulgaria

**The European Co-Ed Cup:** Following the recommendations to the ESF Congress in 2013, the ECCS was moved to every two years, with 2 participating teams from each member federation in order to bolster participation levels. Based on the number of teams entered, which stands at 15, this has proved to be a successful.

We look forward to a great festival of slow pitch softball and I look forward on reporting to you on it at next Congress.

**European Championship All Male Slow Pitch:** As part of our stated programme of building a European team to participation in the Border Battle with the USA and Canada as well as to provide a better choice of competitive softball formats for our members, the ESF will be reviewing the Competition Calendar to see if it is possible to include a European Championships All Male in the coming seasons.

A lot of work on developing the All Male Slow Pitch format has already been done by the ESF Assistant Commissioner for Slow Pitch, Marc Stein. His efforts have culminated in a private tournament starting next season with participation by teams from Austria, Germany and Slovenia.

### **Development Programmes**

**Development Clinics:** Despite an active 2012, and initial interest there were no clinics held last year. 2014 will see a clinic held in Holland at the end of March as part of the Dutch Federation's slow pitch development programme.

If your federation is interested in hosting a slow pitch development clinic, please come and see me.

**Slow Pitch Coaching Programme:** Work is continuing on this coach the coach programme.  
\*umpires note

**European Team** to compete in the Border Battle with USA and Canada: This is a longer term ESF development programme and work is continuing as stated above with the development of the All Male slow pitch format.

### **Technical Developments**

Following recommendations by the Slow Pitch Development Commission, the following motions were submitted and passed at the recent ISF Congress...

- 1: 12" Ball specification for international competition of COR .52 with 300 pounds compression along with the existing COR .47 and under with 375 pounds compression.
- 2: In Co-ed Slowpitch play, Males batters will be pitched with the 12" ball and Female batters with the 11" ball.  
GBR propose that the ISF, through its Technical Commission, institute the preparation
- 3: of a Slowpitch Softball Rulebook specifically for that discipline, covering both Single-Sex and Co-ed play.

Our thanks to the British Softball Federation for drafting and submitting the motions to the ISF Congress.



# *European Softball Federation* *Fédération Européenne Softball*

Tel. +972 52 275 1387 – Fax +972 77 558 2703  
e-mail : [sg@europeansoftball.org](mailto:sg@europeansoftball.org) – website : [www.europeansoftball.org](http://www.europeansoftball.org)

## **CONGRESS 2013**

BLLED (SLO) – February 16<sup>th</sup> 2013

Andre Van Overbeek opens the Congress  
Slovenian Federation welcomes delegates and guests

### ***I. Roll Call***

Affiliated Federations represented by Accredited Delegates with Credentials:  
AUSTRIA, BELGIUM, BULGARIA, CROATIA, CZECH REPUBLIC, DENMARK, GREECE  
HUNGARY, SPAIN, FRANCE, GREAT BRITAIN, GERMANY, IRELAND, ISRAEL, ITALY,  
MALTA, LITHUANIA, NETHERLANDS, NORWAY, POLAND, ROMANIA, RUSSIA,  
SLOVENIA, SAN MARINO, SERBIA, SLOVAKIA. SWITZERLAND, SWEDEN, TURKEY,  
UKRAINE.

Affiliated Federations absent:  
FINLAND, GUERNSEY, JERSEY

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

There are 33 Federations affiliated, 30 Federations duly represented, 30 Federations with the right of vote, the Congress is quorate. (ABSOLUTE MAJORITY IS 16)

### ***II. Approval of the Minutes of 2012 Congress***

The Minutes of 2012 Congress is approved by unanimity

### ***III. Admission of new Federations***

The Secretary General informs the Congress that she has received all necessary documents for the affiliation of LITHUANIA and that the Executive Council has affiliated LITHUANIA on a provisional basis, contingent to confirmation by the Congress.

The final affiliation of **LITHUANIA** to the ESF is approved by unanimity.

### ***IV. Suspension or exclusion of Federations***

None.

### ***V. Approval of the activities report 2012***

The activities report is approved by unanimity

### ***VI. Approval of the financial report 2012***

The financial report is approved by unanimity





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Tel. +972 52 275 1387 – Fax +972 77 558 2703  
e-mail : [sg@europeansoftball.org](mailto:sg@europeansoftball.org) – website : [www.europeansoftball.org](http://www.europeansoftball.org)

## **VII. Approval of the budget 2013**

The budget 2013 is approved by unanimity

## **VIII. Appointment of the Auditor**

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

## **IX. Membership fees and special contributions**

Secretary General gives update on ne fees (Financial Appendix)

## **X. Approval of activities to be carried out**

Intervention of the ISF President Don Porter, and 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President, Dale Mc Mann.

## **XI. Amendments to the Statutes**

None

## **XII. Motions and other Matters**

*XII. 1 – MOTIONS FOR AMENDMENTS TO REGULATIONS proposed by Affiliated Federations*

Motions BULGARIA: (Letter of Guarantee) 22 – 2 – 2 motion passed

*XII. 2 – MOTIONS FOR AMENDMENTS TO REGULATIONS proposed by the Executive Council*

None

*XII. 3 – MATTERS BY CONGRESS COMMITTEES*

Gabriel WAAGE presents the amendments to the regulations as approved the day before by the Congress Competitions and Technical Committee. Report attached to the Congress Minutes.

*XII. 4 – HALL OF FAME*

None



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e-mail : [sg@europeansoftball.org](mailto:sg@europeansoftball.org) – website : [www.europeansoftball.org](http://www.europeansoftball.org)

### ***XIII. Appointment of Organizers of Competitions***

#### **XIII. 1 Calendar of 2013 Events:**

##### **Calendar of 2013 Events:**

The Championship Women – EChW is allotted to Prague (CZE), Jul. 7<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup>.

The Championship Cadets Girls – EChCG is allotted to Ostrava (CZE), Aug. 5<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup>.

The Championship Junior Boys – EChJB is allotted to Stenlose (DEN), Jul. 8<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup>.

The Championship Coed Slowpitch – EChCS is allotted to Pardubice (CZE), Jul. 16<sup>th</sup> -20<sup>th</sup>

The Cup Women B - ECWB is allotted to Dupnitsa (BUL) August 19<sup>th</sup> - 24<sup>th</sup> .

The Cup Winners Cup Women – ECWCW is allotted to Montegranaro (ITA), August 19<sup>th</sup> - 24<sup>th</sup>

The Super Cup Men – ESCM is allotted to Pianoro, Bologna (ITA), Aug. 26<sup>th</sup> -31<sup>st</sup> .

##### **Nominations remain open for the organization of:**

Vote ECWA – 5 vs 5 – it remains open until 28/2/13

Secretary General informs that ECCS still open till 28/2/13

Secretary General informs EChU22 still open till Nov. 2013

##### **2014 Events**

The Championship Junior Girls – EChJG is allotted to Rosmalen (NED), dates TBD.

The Championship Men – EChM is allotted to Havlickuv Brod (CZE), Jul. 7<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>



# *European Softball Federation* *Fédération Européenne Softball*

Tel. +972 52 275 1387 – Fax +972 77 558 2703  
e-mail : [sg@europeansoftball.org](mailto:sg@europeansoftball.org) – website : [www.europeansoftball.org](http://www.europeansoftball.org)

## ***XIV. Election to the Executive Council***

### **Intervention Turkey – Withdraw from all nominated positions**

#### **XIV.1 - Election President**

Mike JENNINGS withdraws his candidature. Jacques REINENBERGH withdraws his candidature. Slava SMAGIN withdraws his candidature.

Two candidates remain: André VAN OVERBEEK and Giovanni Antonio Sanna  
André VAN OVERBEEK is elected President by the Congress 17 in favor -11 for Giovanni Sanna and 2 invalid votes.

#### **XIV.2 - Election Secretary General**

Francesca FABRETTO withdraws her candidature  
Ami Baran is elected by the Congress 22 in favor - 8 invalid votes.

#### **XIV.3 - Election Treasurer**

Eddy VAN STRAELEN is elected by the Congress 30 in favor

#### **XIV.4 - Election Vice Presidents**

Ami BARAN withdraws his candidature. Juergen ELSISHANS withdraws his candidature. Kristian PALVIA Withdraws his candidature. Giovanni SANNA Withdraws his candidature. Michael SCHMIDT Withdraws his candidature .

There are 7 candidates remaining for 6 positions:  
Youri ALKALAY, Viatcheslav SMAGIN, Gabriel WAAGE, Dejan JESIC, John AUSTIN, Mette JAKOBSEN, Gilbert TOBBACK.

6 with the highest amount of votes elected;

Youri ALKALAY (25), Gabriel WAAGE (25), Dejan JESIC (24), John AUSTIN (23), Mette JAKOBSEN (22), Gilbert TOBBACK (18).

#### **XIV.5 - Election First Vice President**

The elected members of the Executive Council retire to define the candidates for First Vice President.  
Gaba WAAGE , only candidate, is elected First Vice President by the Congress by acclamations.



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**XV. Place of 2012 Congress**

The location of the next Congress is open for the EC to decide including considering the possibility again of a Joint Congress with CEB

**XVI. Various**

None

Closing of the Congress

André VAN OVERBEEK  
President

Francesca Fabretto  
Outgoing Secretary General





## **MOTIONS FOR ESF CONGRESS**

**PROPOSING FEDERATION:**

British Softball Federation

### **GB MOTION 1**

#### **CURRENT REGULATION (if applicable):**

**Section 10.03** in ESF Competition Regulations (Official Edition 2011).

#### **PROPOSED CHANGE TO REGULATION:**

The regulation says: "The composition of the groups [in fastpitch competitions] is made up by the Technical Commission ... based on the rating of the Federations' teams." This is followed by a table which illustrates how this would work for two pools, but we all know how it would work for four pools:

1	2	3	4
8	7	6	5
9	10	11	12
16	15	14	13

etc.

This motion is for the ESF to follow its own regulations and to make up groups in ESF Championship tournaments strictly according to the seeding positions won at the preceding competition.

In other words, to stop distorting the seedings by drawing teams out of hats at the Congress to determine which pool they go to, and let that be determined by the seedings alone.

#### **REASON FOR CHANGE:**

National teams invest a lot of money to attend ESF Championships and play as hard as they can to finish as high as they can in the final standings. The position they achieve should determine the calibre of opposition they will be required to face in the next such Championship in two years' time. The system used at the last three ESF Congresses, where teams are set up in tiers and pools are assigned by random draw, distorts the effect of the seeding positions gained at the previous Championship and thus creates unfairness. Some teams may be "winners" from the effects of the random draw by gaining easier opposition and others may be "losers" by gaining harder opposition, but in either case the effect is unfair. The momentary excitement and tension of the draw at Congress should not be more important than teams being allowed to face precisely the calibre of opposition that their result at the previous competition has earned for them.

<b>DATE CHANGE SHOULD TAKE EFFECT:</b>
For the 2014 season.



# *European Softball Federation* *Fédération Européenne Softball*

**Subject : Scorekeeping and Statistics**  
**C.R. 39.02**

**Author : ESF Scorekeeper Committee**

## **Present writing :**

**39.02.** All personal awards excluding *the MVP award* shall be determined *before the Page Playoffs begin* by a Committee presided over by the Chief Technical Commissioner at the Competition.

## **Proposed writing :**

**39.02** For the determination of the personal awards, all games during the tournament will be included. For the determination of the best batter and best pitcher, the best batter and the best pitcher and most valuable player will come from the teams who are qualified to play in the page system.

## **Reasons for change**

At the EChW – Prague, the best pitcher is awarded to a French pitcher. The French team became 18<sup>th</sup>. Due to the current rule, you will exclude the best teams for the personal awards. The French pitcher had an ERA of 0.00 in Prague, but pitched in a game where she got 7 unearned runs, because the opponent scored runs all on errors. So can't say the player was the best pitcher.

If you are the best pitcher or batter, the more difficult games are played in the page system. If you are really the best player/pitcher, you will need to perform also in these games.

The same thing happened at the ECWCW – Montegranaro.

## **Date of effect**

At the close of the 2014 Congress.



*European Softball Federation*  
*Fédération Européenne Softball*

**Subject : Personal Awards**  
**C.R. 39.03.03.01**

**Author : Scorekeeper Committee**

**Present writing :**

**39.03.03.01.** Award for the Best Pitcher, on the basis of the "Earned Runs Average", with a minimum of 1.6 "Innings Pitched" per game in Youth categories (Minime, Cadet, Junior) and a minimum of 2.1 "Innings Pitched" per game in Senior category.

**Proposed writing :**

**39.03.03.01.** Award for the Best Pitcher, on the basis of the "Earned Runs Average", with a minimum of ~~1.6~~ 1.2 "Innings Pitched" per game in Youth categories (Minime, Cadet, Junior) and a minimum of 2.1 "Innings Pitched" per game in Senior category.

**Reasons for change**

The average game in Youth competitions is approx, 4 innings due to the Run-Ahead rule which happened in many youth games this year. There is a big difference in level of play between the countries. Due to the Run-Ahead rule, it can happen that the best pitcher of the tournament does not apply to the minimums innings pitched.

**Date of effect**

At the close of the 2014 Congress.,





*European Softball Federation*  
*Fédération Européenne Softball*

**Subject : Personal Awards**  
**C.R. 39.03.03.02**

**Author : Technical & Competitions Commission | Scorekeeper Committee**

**Present writing :**

**39.03.03.02.** Award for the Best Batter, on the basis of the "Batting Average", with a minimum of 2.0 "Total Appearances" per game in Youth categories (Minime, Cadet, Junior) and a minimum of 2.5 "Total Appearances" per game in Senior category.

**Proposed writing :**

**39.03.03.02.** Award for the Best Batter, on the basis of the "Batting Average", with a minimum of 1.6 in Junior games, a minimum of 1.2 "Total Appearances" per game in Minime and Cadet games and a minimum of 2.5 "Total Appearances" per game in Senior category.

**Reasons for change**

The average game in Youth competitions is approx, 4 innings due to the Run-Ahead rule which happened in many youth games this year. There is a big difference in level of play between the countries. Due to the Run-Ahead rule, it can happen that the best batter of the tournament does not apply the minimums Plate Appearances.

**Date of effect**

At the close of the 2014 Congress.,

# Amateur Softball Association USA Softball European Softball Association

Development Update

# Overview

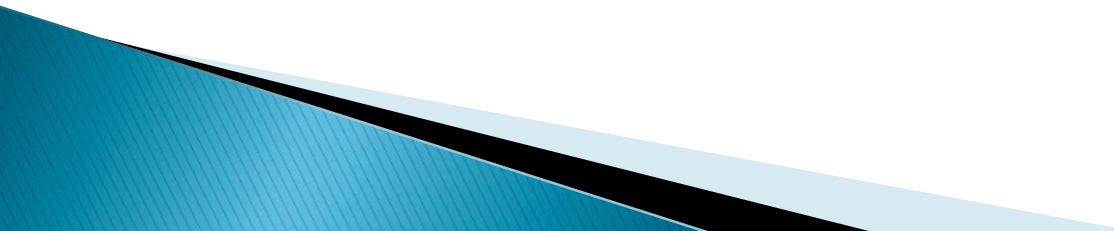
- ▶ Members of the ASA/USA Softball led by Executive Director Ron Radigonda attended the ESF Congress in Slovenia in February 2013
  - ▶ Discussion and meetings from 2011 were held prior to the ESF Congress to formulate a plan and agreement for ESF and ASA/USA Softball to work on assisting countries in the ESF in the development efforts
- 

# Overview

- ▶ ESF Representative attended previous ASA/USA Softball Annual Council Meetings to discuss and evaluate programs in Europe
- ▶ ESF Representatives and a delegation from ASA/USA Softball met in Houston during the Special Congress of the ISF setting up the protocol and meetings that would be held in Slovenia



# Overview

- ▶ The group strategized and assigned potential matchups of ASA Local Associations and countries in Europe
  - ▶ Meetings were scheduled in Slovenia with the European Federations and the delegates from ASA/USA Softball to explain the final concept and obtain contact and mailing information
- 

# Phase I

- ▶ ASA/USA Softball donated a complete set of training DVD's for players, coaches, and umpires for 33 European Federations. Retail value of each set is \$300 USD
- ▶ ESF and ASA secured 33 local associations of the ASA to donate the shipping costs to send the materials to the 33 countries

# Phase I

- ▶ The materials were sent to the said countries in March 2013 and their ASA/USA Softball Local Association Partner is listed as well.
- ▶ 18 were originally sent and another 15 were sent after receiving correct postal addresses.

# ESF / ASA USA Softball Partners

- Lithuania/Kentucky
- Serbia/West Virginia
- Hungary/Sacramento
- Norway/Wisconsin
- Poland/Central California
- Finland/Tennessee
- Austria/Missouri
- France/Louisiana
- Croatia/Massachusetts

Turkey/Maryland  
Slovenia/Mississippi  
Sweden/Florida  
Romania/Seattle  
Greece/Kansas  
Bulgaria/Oregon  
Germany/Detroit  
Ukraine/Washington  
Russia/New York

▶ Materials sent in March 2013

# ESF / ASA USA Softball Partners

- Switzerland/Nebraska
- Malta/Piedmont Virginia
- San Marino/Dayton
- Denmark/Ohio
- Israel/South California
- Spain/San Antonio
- Slovakia/Minnesota
- Belgium /North California

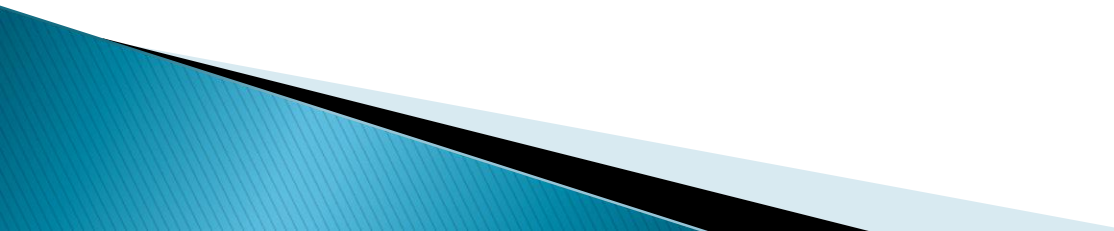
Italy/Rhode Island  
Netherlands/Indiana  
Czech Republic/Michigan  
Great Britain/Massachusetts  
Jersey/Portland  
Guernsey/Idaho  
Ireland / New Hampshire

► Materials sent in November 2013

# Phase II

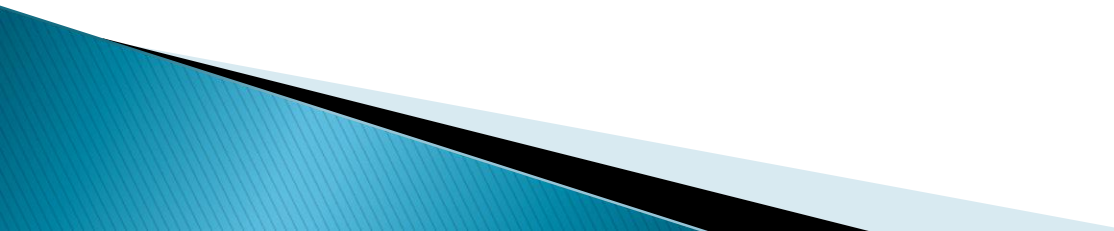
- ▶ Part of the strategic plan has been to find a solution to collecting and delivering softball equipment to countries in Europe
  - To date no real solution has been found due to complexities of duties and tariffs charged in Europe
  - The plan nearly came to fruition through the US Military as one of the USA Slow Pitch Players was a loadmaster and shipped materials to Germany on a regular basis.
    - Unfortunately he was reassigned and the plan was never executed

# Phase II

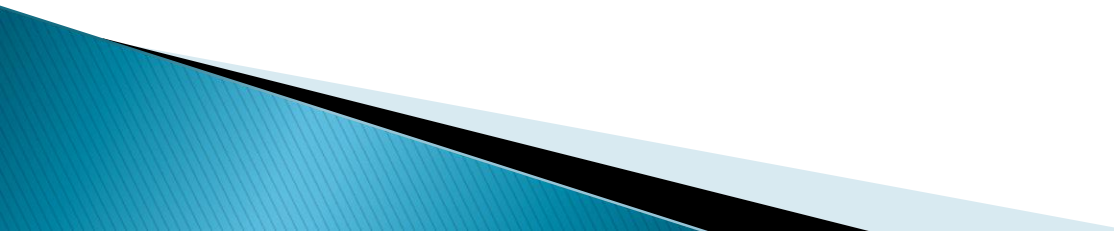
- ▶ The concept of getting equipment donated from local leagues in the USA and sending the equipment to Europe is still a work in progress and we are confident we will find the best solutions for us.
  - ▶ We have agreed to have equipment collected and stored either in Pennsylvania or the ASA storage .
- 



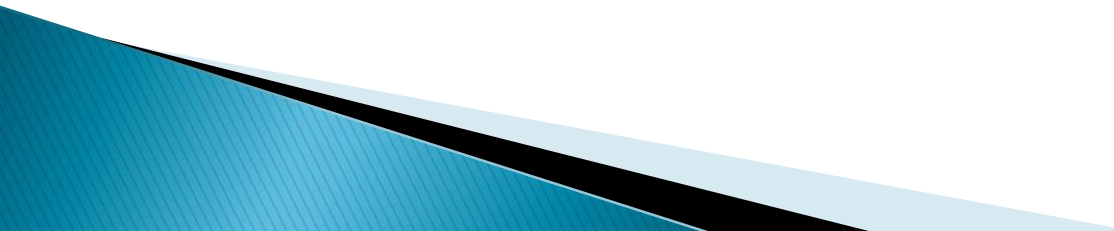
# Additional Programs

- ▶ Coach Training
  - ▶ In the past prior to the agreement :
    - Working with colleges and universities National Team Coaches from European Federations have trained with college coaches in the USA.
    - Great Britain has trained at both the University of South Florida and Florida State University in the past and Sweden also has their Head Coach shadow coaching in Florida this year
    - The formalization of this agreement will hopefully open more doors to all the Federations to do the same.
- 

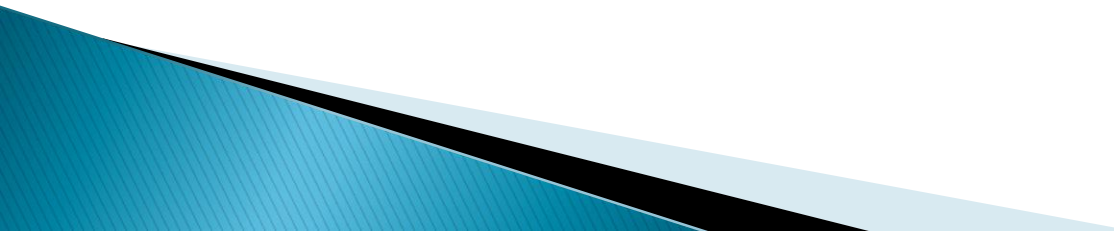
# Additional Program

- ▶ As part of the main agreement the ASA/USA Softball has coordinated coach visits to Europe to assist with player and coach development
    - Jen Schroder instructed at a coach's clinic in Denmark with the assistance of the ISF
    - Team Combat toured Great Britain and provided a series of slow pitch clinics
    - Two members from the USA Armed Forces Softball Teams provided Co-Ed Clinics in Great Britain
- 

# World Cup

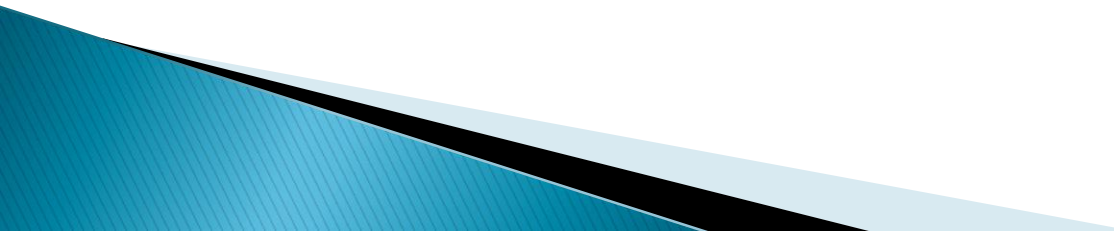
- ▶ Since 2005 ESF Teams have participated and in some circumstances have received financial help in attending the World Cup and in some years additional funding was raised when ESF teams were short of money
  - ▶ We are hoping that the future will open these doors to other Teams participating.
- 

# Additional Support

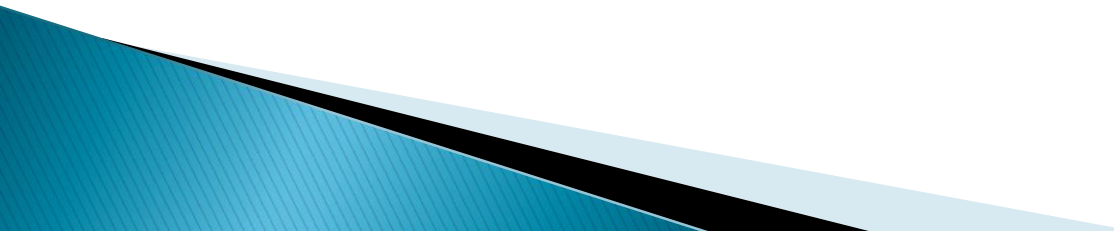
- ▶ Florida ASA extended based on the current agreement a quality visit Russia who brought their Jr. Women's Team to Florida in December 2013 where they also played games and had practice times as they work on developing a stronger team in the future
  - ▶ Already we are working on a plan for the National Team of Russia to go to Florida.
  - ▶ Michelle Smith was present with these girls
  - ▶ Croatia will be sending 3 players to ASA Massachusetts and Southern California where they will receive extra coaching and game time
  - ▶ More coming and already being requested
- 



# Next Steps

- ▶ The shipping of softball equipment to the European Federations is a high priority.
    - Still need to find the solution to shipping and tariffs/duties to make this project feasible
  - ▶ Having more teams and individual players from Europe visit and play in the USA will be forthcoming along with having club teams from the USA visiting Europe in the future
  - ▶ Coaches and Umpires will be able to make exchanges and the further development of this program depends on all of us.
- 

# Future

- ▶ It is imperative that the cooperation between the ESF and ASA/USA Softball continue and that the ISF get involved to incorporate the other countries around the world in promoting development in the same manner.
  - ▶ Thank You
- 





Mass. ASA Softball  
265 Winn St. Suite 303  
Burlington, MA 01803



14 October 2013

To: All Concerned

This is a brief memo to report on Mass. ASA's actions during the calendar year 2013 in regards to the ASA's 'adopt a country' action plan to promote softball.

Mass. ASA was chosen to work with Great Britain in the slow-pitch venue and Croatia in both the fast pitch and slow-pitch programs. Mette Nissen Jakobsen, John Austin and Ami Baran of the ESF have been the point-of-contact in getting this off the ground with Mike Jennings being the Great Britain contact and Maja Cizmic the Croatian.

During the year Mass. ASA was pleased to provide gifts to Croatia of the following:

- 5 DVD instructional series
- Fundamentals of Catching DVD
- Animated Playbook DVD
- Umpire Training DVD
- Slow Pitch Mech 1&2 Man DVD
- Fast Pitch Mech 2 man DVD
- Fast Pitch 3 Man DVD

Mass. ASA was also pleased to sponsor from the U.S. Men's National Team Coach Stephen Shortland and Ms. Cheryl Trapnell on a 'Coach's Corner' tour of the United Kingdom where they were able to go to multiple cities within the U.K. and speak at clinics on a coach's view of organizing team's and games. In regards to this specific action, Ron Radigonda was instrumental in getting Coach Shortland on short notice when the two Massachusetts candidates backed out at the last minute.

In early August, I had the opportunity to travel to both Scotland and Ireland and got a chance to sit and talk with Mike Jennings as well as some members of the Irish Softball Federation. We had a chance to discuss future endeavors between Mass. and Great Britain as well as we were able to donate almost £200 to the Irish Federation in support of their hosting the World Police and Firefighter Games.

Mass. ASA is also working together with the ESF Representatives and arranging softball equipment donations from U.S. states which will be sent to a warehouse in Pennsylvania and then forwarded to Europe to support their programs.

Respectfully,

  
Joe Alfonse  
Commissioner  
Mass. ASA Softball

Visit our web-site at [www.Mass-ASAsoftball.com](http://www.Mass-ASAsoftball.com)

Call us at 1-800-931-6148