



The Secretary General  
Le Secrétaire Général

# European Softball Federation Fédération Européenne Softball

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TO: European Softball Federation  
Secretary General  
Mr. Patrice Bienfait

Prague, November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2007

## MOTIONS

### MOTION # 1:

ESF Statues

Establish General Congress official language:

Create new article of ESF Statues nr. 1.6.5.4. in following wording:

The General Congress official language shall be English only.

Reasoning:

1. To save high expences for simultaneous translation during Congress sessions.  
To lower the budgets for General Congress organizers.
2. To prevent the misunderstanding during Congress sessions.
3. To speed up Congress sessions.

Personal overview:

From our experience as Congress Representatives and time after time General Congress organizers we think that all representatives are able to use English as an official General Congress language. We know how expensive is to pay for professional simultaneous translating and headphones technology. Also one language will prevent eventual misunderstandings. In our opinion there is no more reason for two language General Congress procedure and establishing only one official General Congress language will help to organizers as well as representatives.

**2008 ESF CONGRESS  
AMENDMENTS TO THE STATUTES**

**Proposed by the  
Israel Softball Association**

**AMENDMENT ISR 1**

4.1.2. The Officers of the ESF are elected by the General Congress for a four year term. They may be re-elected with no limit on the number of terms :

**PROPOSED CHANGE:**

4.1.2. The Officers of the ESF are elected by the General Congress for a four year term. They may be re-elected with no limit on the number of terms, **with the exception of the President who can not be elected for more than two consecutive full terms.**

**Reason:**

Regular turn over in Presidency positions is healthy for every organization. The infusion of new perspectives, ideas and energy are important to avoid stagnation and to encourage evolution and change within the organization. 8 years term of a President should be sufficient for the incoming President to invoke change and set standards for that time limit.

Gerson Gillett  
Secretary General  
Israel Softball Association

**2008 ESF CONGRESS  
AMENDMENTS TO THE STATUTES**

**Proposed by the  
Israel Softball Association**

**AMENDMENT ISR 2**

4.1.2.1. The Officers of the ESF are elected by the General Congress for the following positions : President, Secretary General, Treasurer, six Vice Presidents. **Each Officer can hold only one position at a time.**

**Reason:**

In order to avoid a circumstance that one of the Officers vacates his/her position and another Officer takes that position. It is not forbidden in our Constitution and should be added for correct Governance.

Gerson Gillett  
Secretary General  
Israel Softball Association

**2008 ESF CONGRESS  
AMENDMENTS TO THE STATUTES**

**Proposed by the  
Israel Softball Association**

**AMENDMENT ISR 3**

Rename 4.5.3 as 4.5.5.

Insert new 4.5.3

**4.5.3. In order to be eligible, Candidates for nomination to any elected position in the ESF shall not be tied by any contractual link with the ESF, or with any of its Members, or with any third party being itself tied by any contractual link with the ESF or with any of its Members.**

**Reason:**

Avoiding interested parties who are in 'business' with the ESF and the EC to have influence on the ESF/EC. The person running for the position may cancel his/her contract with the ESF in order to be eligible.

**Add**

**4.1.7. No Officer of the ESF may during his/her term of Office be tied by a contractual link with the ESF, or with any of its Members, or with any third party being itself tied by a contractual link with the ESF or with any of its Members.**

**Reason:**

Same as above

Gerson Gillett  
Secretary General  
Israel Softball Association

**2008 ESF CONGRESS  
AMENDMENTS TO THE STATUTES**

**Proposed by the  
Israel Softball Association**

**AMENDMENT ISR 4**

**Add :**

**4.6.1.2. Permanent incapacity of an Officer to fulfil his/her Office**

**Reason:**

Another 'reason' that a change could be authorized with the incapacity of an Officer.

Gerson Gillett  
Secretary General  
Israel Softball Association

**2008 ESF CONGRESS  
AMENDMENTS TO THE STATUTES**

**Proposed by the  
Israel Softball Association**

**AMENDMENT ISR 5**

Rename 1.6.7. as 1.6.8

Insert new 1.6.7

**1.6.7. OFFICIAL COMMUNICATION**

**Notwithstanding other Official communication, all tenders for contracts and all vacancies for employment shall be communicated to the Member Federations and shall be made public by the Secretary General**

**Reason:**

Give equal opportunities for vacancies and/or tenders to all federations.

Gerson Gillett  
Secretary General  
Israel Softball Association



# AMENDMENT TO THE STATUTES EC1

**Article to Changes :** Statutes 2.2.2.3, 2.3.2, Financial Appendix chapter I

**Suppress highlighted section :**

2.2.2.3. the Affiliated Federation shall have provided to the ESF any information required by the Statutes and Regulations, and in particular the information necessary to determine its Annual Membership Fee.

**Suppress article 2.3.2 and re-number following articles 2.3.x**

2.3.2. The annual membership fee is based on the number of members of each Affiliated Federation, and is determined according to the Regulations. of the ESF

**Modify present Chapter I of financial Appendix**

<b>I - ANNUAL AFFILIATION FEES</b>	<b>(S 2.3.1)</b>	
a) 0 to 100 members		125.00 €
b) 101 to 500 members		250.00 €
c) 501 to 2000 members		400.00 €
d) 2001 to 5000 members		550.00 €
e) 5001 and more members		950.00 €

**As follows :**

<b>I - ANNUAL AFFILIATION FEES</b>	<b>(S 2.3.1)</b>	
All Members :		350.00 €

**Additional motion ( not a statutory provision) :**

In order to compensate the extra cost of flat fees for smaller Federations, volunteer contributions are accepted from bigger Federations.

**Reason for change :**

To introduce flat affiliation fees as agreed by 2007 Congress I,n Zagreb.

**Effective date :**

For 2008 Fees.





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## AMENDMENT TO THE STATUTES EC2

Article to Change :        Insert new 4.5.4 and new 4.1.8

**4.5.4. An elected position of Officer of the ESF is incompatible with an elected position in the board of an affiliated Federation. As soon as elected in the ESF, an ESF Officer shall immediately resign from his/her national mandate under penalty of forfeiture.**

**4.1.8. No Officer of the ESF may during his/her term of Office be elected to a position in the board of an affiliated Federation under penalty of forfeiture.**

**Reason for change :**

To prevent conflicts of interest between the ESF National Federations of belonging.

To prevent pressure from National Federations on ESF elected Officers.

To prevent ESF Officers from having difficulties to make the difference between the ESF interest and their National Federation's interest.

**Effective Date :** 2008 (as soon as voted)



# COMMENTS OF EXECUTIVE COUNCIL AND COMMISSIONS ON PROPOSALS OF AMENDMENTS TO THE STATUTES

ISR 1 : No Comments

ISR 2 : No Comments

ISR 3 : As written, it would mean that all Candidates (even those who will not be elected) have to break their contractual link.

The Executive Council would prefer the following writing, similar to the proposal EC2 :

**4.5.4. An elected position of Officer of the ESF is incompatible with any contractual link between said Officer and the ESF, or any of its Members, or any third party being itself tied by any contractual link with the ESF or with any of its Members. As soon as elected in the ESF, an ESF Officer shall immediately stop any such link under penalty of forfeiture.**

**4.1.8. No Officer of the ESF may during his/her term of Office may during his/her term of Office be tied by a contractual link with the ESF, or with any of its Members, or with any third party being itself tied by a contractual link with the ESF or with any of its Members, under penalty of forfeiture.**

ISR 4 : No Comments

ISR 5 : No Comments

CZE 1 : In that case, rather than having English only for the Congress, push the logic to its extend and suppress any reference to a second language and modify article Statutes 1.6.5.1 :

**1.6.5.1.** The official languages of the ESF shall be English ~~and French~~.

Comment of the Secretary General:

One of the most noticeable critics against softball being its infeodation to the Anglo-Saxon and American world, this would consist a very strong argument for the detractors of Softball, and an inadequate message to the Olympic Movement, moreover with a 2009 Congress held in the french-speaking Lausanne ...

## **MOTION # 2:**

ESF Competitions Regulations  
Change Under 21 Category to Under 22 Category.

**Change ESF Competitions Regulations article 14.07.01 in following manner:**

**Rename Under 21 Category to Under 22 and change the age eligibility from 16 – 20 to 17 – 21.**

Reasoning:

1. To keep 3 year difference between ESF age categories.
2. To follow same age difference between categories since minime category and establish continual development structure.
3. Make Under 22 Category stronger by adding one more year of players eligibility.

Personal overview:

Article 14.07.01 says that eligibility for European Competition inside of category of age is determined as of 31<sup>st</sup> December of the year prior to Competition. We propose to make this Competition possible for 21 year old players determined by December 31<sup>st</sup> in year prior to Competition. By this we expecting fulfilling of this category and also bringing more quality because of adding more experienced players into Competition.

## **MOTION # 3:**

ESF Competitions Regulation  
European Cup or European Cup Winners Cup host team (Organizers) shall have a right to participate in Competition also in case host team is not qualified properly.

**Create ESF Competitions Regulations article 04.05. in following manner:**

**European Cup or European Cup Winners Cup host team (Organizing Club) shall have right to participate in Competition in case the host team (Organizing club) is not qualified to said Competition. This right shall not be transferred to another team. Host team participation shall not influence the promotion and/or relegation of other participating teams in a said Competition.**

Reasoning:

1. To motivate potential organizers to apply for Competition organization. To increase the number of organizers around the Europe.
2. To bring more local spectators to ballparks in case of host team participation.
3. To promote sport in local media by adding host team to Competition.

Personal overview:

We have already seen in past host team participating in Competition under approval of Executive Council of ESF. We would like to establish host team right in ESF Competition Regulations to guarantee participation for the host team. We hope it will bring more organizers and hopefully fast ESF Competitions allocations early in the year.

#### **MOTION # 4:**

Proposal for equipment use.

**Czech Softball Association proposes to reverse your decision about using Equipment Standards different from International Softball Federation.**

Reasoning:

1. European Championship is also qualifier for World Championship every other year. We believe we should not use different standards for these tournaments. This creates disadvantage for European teams when the rest of the world uses different (but same for all of them) equipment.
2. As far as we know the most (if not all) national federations in Europe is using ISF equipment standards. That means that players are using their ISF bats for the whole season, but for one or two European tournaments a year they need different equipment. Than they play ISF tournaments such as World Championships, Olympic Games, Olympic Qualifier or World Cups again with their original equipment. We think this fact degrades European tournaments.
3. Most of European federations are not rich and cannot afford two sets of bats for national team players, for clubs it is even worse. Not many club players can buy one bat for league or international tournaments and other bat for European competition.

Personal overview:

We believe we should coordinate this issue with ISF like the most of the other rules. And if there is a change proposed, we feel that players, teams and federations should be given few years to adjust to that change. In other words, players, teams and federation are buying their equipment according the ISF list in a good will and spend quite a lot of money. If they know in advance that from lets say 2010 there will be ASA bat standard or any other, they could react in advance while spending their money.

Gabriel Waage  
CSA President



October 30 - 2007

To  
ESF, General Congress 2007

**Proposal no. 1, from Danish Baseball Softball Federation – regarding ESF bats.**

In 2006 the ESF started to use the ASA (Amateur Softball Association) list of approved bats. We do understand that the background for this is for safety reasons, but we feel that this move creates some problems.

It is written in our regulations (Competition Regulations, Rule 13), that we play by the rules of the International Softball Federation (ISF). The ISF has a ISF Equipment Standards Commission (ESC), that checks and approves all equipment, including bats. We have full confidence in the ISF, so we do not feel, that there is a need for the ESF to implement equipment rules from other federations. Who, in the ESF are more knowledgeable than the ESC concerning softball bats? We think it is important, that we play by the same rules as the rest of the world – including the bats. If the bat has an ISF mark on it, it should be legal for play in all ISF countries!

The ISF rules clearly states, that bats from the ISF list can be used in World Championship qualifying tournaments. In Europe we use the European Championship, that comes immediately before the World Championship as the European qualifier, so this gives us a rule conflict at every other European Championship.

If, however there is a strong feeling within the ESF to change to another list of approved bats, the right way to do this, is by putting pressure on the ISF to change the ISF rules. If the ISF change their list of approved bats, then we of course will abide to these rules – as we do now. And the bottom line here would still be: A bat with an ISF mark is a legal bat.

We suggest, that the ESF should revert to the ISF approved bats (starting with the 2008 season), and if the ESF would like to change this list, it should be done by lobbying within the ISF and not by using some more or less randomly chosen list of approved bats. For instance other large american softball associations, USSSA (United States Specialty Sports Association), NSA (National Softball Associatio), both have different lists of approved bats – more similar to the ISF list, and who is to say wich list is the best? We have full trust in the ISF ESC to judge these matters.

We trust, that the ISF mark on a bat is a mark from the ISF that tells us, that the bat is safe for us to use – also in Europe.

Kindest regards

Bo Orla-Jensen  
President, Danish Baseball Softball Federation



October 30 - 2007

To  
ESF, General Congress 2007

**Proposal no. 2, from Danish Baseball Softball Federation – regarding Mens european Cup.**

There is a big difference in European softball for men and for women. There are a lot of countries competing in the womens division, with an A and a B poule. Also there are a lot of countries that play softball at more or less the same level. This is very different in the mens division. Here we have much fewer countries competing, and the level of play is very different. This is why we propose to change the format completely for the mens division. The format we have now is perfectly set up for the women, but does not really work for the men.

As it is right now (and has been for years) we have 3 countries winning all medals at the EC's with very few exceptions. There are one or two countries that are a bit after these three teams, and the rest are very far behind. This results in a lot of games finished because of the "mercy rule".

The suggestion is to make a "Champions league" for the champions and the "runner up's" from the top 3 countries in Europe. These 6 teams plus the defending champion, would be able to play an excelent tournament with a lot of tight games played at a high level. For the countries finishing 4<sup>th</sup> and under, there would be a "B-Cup" for the national champions from these countries plus the defending "B-cup"-champion. These teams should also be able to play tight and interesting games.

To determine the top 3 countries in Europe, the latest European Championship is used. This ranking will last for two seasons.

For intance: After the European Championships in 2008, the top 3 countries will have 2 spots each for the EC in 2009. Beginning with the 2011 EC, the last placed teams country will lose 1 of its spots for the EC in 2012. This spot will be given to the nr. 4 placed country at the European Championship in 2010. In 2010 there will be a new European Championship, wich will qualify for the EC's in 2011 and 2012 and so on.

All the countries placing from 4<sup>th</sup> and down plus the countries that did not participate in the European Championships, will send their best placed teams to the "B-cup". In "year 2", the country that can send their best team to the "Champions League" can send their 2<sup>nd</sup> best team to the "B-cup".

If this proposition is voted through it can start with the European Championships in 2008 as the qualifier and the first "new" cup system starting in 2009. Special for the 2009 "Champions League" tournament wil be, that there will be 2 defending champions from the 2 EC's as we know them now. So the 2009 tournament would have 8 teams. From 2010 and onward, the setup would be a 7 team tournament.

First a round robin tournament, with the top 4 teams playing a normal page system for the Cup, and the bottom 3 teams playing a new round robing for the bottom 3 placings.

Also special for the 2009 tournament will be that there will be now relegation to the "B-cup". Chances are it could be one of the extra teams (defending champions) ending in last place, wich would make it difficult to figure out what the following years setup would be.

We believe that this setup will benefit mens softball in Europe. The cups (both the "Champions League" and the "B-Cup") will be much more competetive and interesting for the players, umpires, technical personel and last but not least: for the fans.



DANSK BASEBALL SOFTBALL FORBUND  
THE DANISH BASEBALL SOFTBALL FEDERATION

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Also we find it interesting, that the national team will determine which level your countries club teams will be playing. This might encourage some countries to emphasize development of the national team, which again will benefit the development of European softball.

Example, "Champions League" :

EC 2008	Eu. Champ 2008	CL 2009	CL 2010	Eu. Champ 2010	CL 2011	CL 2012
EC + CWC	Nr.1 CZ	CZ1	CZ1	Nr. 1 NL	NL1	NL1
As we	Nr.2 DK	CZ2	CZ2	Nr. 2 CZ	NL2	NL2
Know now	Nr.3 NL	DK1	DK1	Nr. 3 DK	CZ1	CZ1
	Nr.4 Bel	DK2	DK2	Nr. 4 GB	CZ2	DK1
	-	NL1	NL1	-	DK1	DK2
	-	NL2	NL2	-	DK2	GB1
	-	Def EC	Def EC	-	Def EC	Def EC
	-	Def CWC		-		

From 2009 also a B-Cup.

Please feel free to rename the cup's – the mentioned names are just suggestions.

Kindest regards

Bo Orla-Jensen  
President, Danish Baseball Softball Federation

**MOTIONS TO  
2008 ESF CONGRESS**

**Proposed by the  
Israel Softball Association**

**MOTION ISR 1**

*ISR proposes to modify the Statutes (under responsibility of Legal Commission) to include the following :*

*ESF Congress will elect two individuals from different National Federations within the ESF region to hold the Office of Regional Vice President of the ISF prior to the Elections to be held at the ISF Congress. The procedure will be the same as elections for the officers of the ESF including the procedure of more than one candidate per position.*

**Reason:**

With the new proposals for the changes in the ISF constitution with one of the clauses that shall be discussed is the Regional Elections of Vice President's . There are many arguments for both views and we would like to propose this motion in order for the congress to take a view of the pro's and con's to this proposed change.

Although this cannot be binding until the changes (if they will be changed) in the ISF constitution it would be in Europe's advantage to have already addressed this specific issue.

I would suggest having a Legal commission workshop (with advance ideas being accepted prior to the Congress) with this issue.

Gerson Gillett  
Secretary General  
Israel Softball Association



**MOTIONS TO  
2008 ESF CONGRESS**

**Proposed by the  
Israel Softball Association**

**MOTION ISR 2**

*ESF Executive Council must establish at the end of the 2008 congress an ESF Task Force (Commission) to cooperate with the ISF Task Force with specific planning towards the European Solutions to the Back Softball Project.*

**Reason:**

Although the ISF has established the ISF Task Force , with the knowledge that the European vote in 2009 will be critical for Softball , it is our responsibility to set up an independent program who which will work in cooperation with the ISF task force.

Gerson Gillett  
Secretary General  
Israel Softball Association



## COMMENTS EXECUTIVE COUNCIL AND COMMISSIONS ON MOTIONS

**CZE 2 :** This Motion will be brought forward and discussed at the Congress Competitions Committee

**CZE 3 :** The Executive Council and Technical Commission agree on the principle, however it should remain a case by case decision of the Executive Council to guarantee a minimum quality level and not a systematic rule.

**CZE 4 :** Motion to link with Motion DEN 1.

The Executive Council follows the conclusions of the Chairman of the Technical Committee on the necessity of a safer approach for bat control and does not support the Motion.

This Motion will be brought forward and discussed at the Congress Competitions Committee

**DEN 1 :** Motion to link with Motion CZE 4.

**DEN 2 :** This Motion will be brought forward and discussed at the Congress Competitions Committee

**ISR 1 :** The Executive Council agrees on the principle.

Comments of the Secretary General : Such a provision in the ESF Statutes will not be binding and effective as long as it does not fall into line with the same provision in the ISF Code. The experience has shown that some ESF affiliated Federations have already disregarded similar ESF Congress decisions for their own advantage.

**ISR 2 :** This motion will be addressed during the Congress "Back Softball" session.

## ***NEW FORMAT FOR EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIP FOR NATIONAL TEAMS – EChW***

### ***PROPOSAL OF THE COMPETITIONS COMMISSION***

The new format will have two phases:

A first qualification phase and the finals of the European Championship

The first qualification phase will be named **ESF REGIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP** and the finals will be named **ESF EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIP**.

The first four National teams in the previous European Championship will play directly the finals.

The qualification phase will be played in the previous year of the Finals and the National Teams will enter according to the ESF Regulations.

So we have in even years the **ESF Regional Championship**, and in odd years the **ESF European Championship**

Team subscribing to the qualification phase will be constituted and played into Divisions according to their geographical closeness.

The first ranked team will play the Finals.

The team that wins the qualification phase is the **ESF Regional Champion**. To enter the Finals won't have to pay the competition entry fee

Candidatures to host the **ESF REGIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP** will be according to the ESF Competitions Regulations.

Actually we would like to promote three Divisions as follows:

Group A: GBR, SWEDEN, BELGIUM, DENMARK, GERMANY, POLAND

Group B: AUSTRIA, SPAIN, SWITZERLAND, FRANCE, SAN MARINO, SLOVENIA

Group C: SLOVAKIA, GREECE, CROATIA, ISRAEL, BULGARIA, UKRAINE

Three different tournaments will be played with a single round robin. Then, the first four teams will play a page system and the remaining teams a new round robin. The team that wins the qualification phase is the **ESF Regional Champion** and will be eligible to take part in the European Championship and won't have to pay the competition entry fee.

During the Regional Championships will be conducted coach, umpires and organizers clinics.

The Mentor Countries should arrange this clinics. Mentor Countries should be Italy, Netherlands and Czech Republic.

With this new format we will have:

- A great technical uniformity between the different tournaments
- A large number of hosting countries
- Shortest tournaments
- An increasing number of events
- Softball developments thanks to the Mentor Countries



## ORGANIZERS OF COMPETITIONS ADMISSIBLE NOMINATIONS 2008

Competition	Candidate	Dates	Note
<b>EChEW</b>	<i>Prague renounces Candidatures re-opened</i>		<b>1</b>
<b>ECWA</b>	Haarlem (NED) [Onze Gezellen] Prague (CZE) [SK Joudrs]	Sep. 1-9 Sep. 1-9	<b>4</b>
<b>ECWB</b>	Haarlem (NED) [Onze Gezellen]	Sep. 1-9	<b>4</b>
<b>ECWCWA</b>	Bollate (ITA) [Bollate SC]	Sep. 1-9	
<b>ECWCWB</b>	<i>No candidature received</i>	Sep. 1-9	<b>1 2</b>
<b>ECM</b>	Anvers (BEL) [Deurne Spartans]	Aug. 25-30	
<b>ECWCM</b>	Havlickuv Brod (CZE) [Hrosi H B]	Aug. 25-30	
<b>ECCS</b>	<i>No candidature received</i>	<i>tba</i>	<b>1 2 3</b>

Notes :

- 1 - Nominations still open
- 2 - Exact location to be announced
- 3 - Exact dates to be announced
- 4 - Together ECWA/ECWB
- 5 - Dates to be approved



## ORGANIZERS OF COMPETITIONS ADMISSIBLE NOMINATIONS 2009

EChWA	Rome (ITA)	July 21-27	5
	Valencia (ESP)	July	3
EChWB	Hoboken (BEL)	tba	3
	Athens (GRE)	tba	3
EChCG	San Sebastian (ESP)	July	3
	Havlickuv Brod (CZE)	July	3
	Nieuwegen (NED)	tba	3
EChJB	<i>No candidature received</i>	<i>tba</i>	<b>1 2 3</b>

Notes :

- 1 - Nominations still open
- 2 - Exact location to be announced
- 3 - Exact dates to be announced
- 4 - Together ECWA/ECWB
- 5 - Dates to be approved



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## ORGANIZERS OF COMPETITIONS

### NOMINATIONS STILL OPEN UNTIL CONGRESS

Year	Competition	Dates
2008	ECWCWB Winners Cup Women B	Sep. 1-9
	ECCS Cup Coed Slowpitch	tba
	EChEW Championship Elite Women	tba
2009	EChJB Championship Junior Boys	tba



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## INTERIM ELECTION OF THE TREASURER ADMISSIBLE NOMINATIONS

**Nominated :**

**Mr. Eddy VAN STRAELEN**

**By :**

**BELGIUM**



The Secretary General  
Le Secrétaire Général

European Softball Federation  
Fédération Européenne Softball

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## CONGRESS 2009 HOST CITY ADMISSIBLE NOMINATIONS

**Nominated :**

**LAUSANNE**

**By :**

**SWITZERLAND**





# Annual Report of the Technical Commission, 2007

Athens, March 8<sup>th</sup>, 2008

## Introduction

Last year at this time, I reported to you on the significant frustration experienced by the Technical Commission in conducting its operations in 2006. Sadly, very little has changed in that regard over the past year. Inadequate communication and coordination with tournament organizers remains the biggest unsolved problem. In addition, an alarmingly high lack of commitment by virtually every group (organizers, national federations, participating teams, umpires, and sadly, even the Technical Commission) hampers our ability to plan, organize, and conduct high quality competitions. These factors resulted in problems in many of the ESF's 2007 competitions.

Despite the problems, there were a few success stories, including:

- Expansion of Slow-Pitch competition to include the first-ever ESF Co-Ed Cup competition
- Increased opportunities for European umpires in ISF-conducted competitions

In general, I regret to report that we struggle to meet our overall objectives and am concerned about decreasing morale among the T.C. and the ESF's umpire staff. Only through the extraordinary efforts of a few highly motivated individuals were we able to avoid major problems in many of our competitions.

## Members of the Technical Commission

For 2007, the active members of the TC were:

- Bob Milosavljević (CRO), Chairman
- Guller Eriksen (DEN), Secretary
- Michele Dodde (ITA)
- Jürgen Elsishans (GER)
- Tony Ilegems (BEL)
- Bob Kessler (ISR)
- Geri Lindberg (SWE)
- Libby Moss (GBR)
- Marie Pojerova (CZE)
- Maurizio Ronchi (ITA)
- Marlies Struyvé (NED), Umpire-in-Chief
- Gilbert Tobback (BEL), Assistant Umpire-in-Chief
- Joeri Tobback (BEL)

We continue our work to identify capable, qualified, and willing candidates to serve on the TC, particularly from member federations that have been under-represented in the past. Often, however, our efforts are hampered by the fact that the best candidates to serve in this important capacity are still active as umpires, players, or coaches. We need to identify ways to be more flexible in this regard, but at the same time we cannot compromise the justifiably high standards that our Technical Commissioners must meet in order to be able to carry out their responsibilities thoroughly and effectively.

## Responsibilities of the Technical Commission

- Administering all technical aspects of the conduct of all ESF Championships and Cup tournaments
- Recruiting, training, certifying, evaluating, and classifying ESF international umpires
- Recruiting, training, and appointing Umpire Commissioners who oversee umpire-related matters during all ESF competitions
- Appointing umpires for ESF-sanctioned competitions
- Maintaining the ESF database of player licenses

- Preparing playing schedules for all ESF competitions
- Conducting clinics, seminars, and workshops for umpires, umpire instructors, scorekeepers, and technical commissioners
- Establishing and administering policies and professional standards for ESF umpires
- Maintaining an umpire shop for the convenience of ESF umpires
- Writing tournament reports following the conclusion of all ESF competitions
- Procuring, storing and distributing line-up cards for all ESF competitions
- Confirming availability of game balls, trophies, medals, and ESF banners for competitions
- Such other responsibilities as delegated or assigned by the ESF Executive Committee

## **ESF Competitions Conducted in 2007**

- Women's "A" Championship, Netherlands (Amsterdam)
- Men's Championship, Belgium (Beveren)
- Cadette Girls' Championship, Czech Republic (Plzeň)
- Women's "B" Championship, Croatia (Zagreb)
- Women's Cup "A", Netherlands (Haarlem)
- Women's Cup "B", San Marino (Villa Verucchio)
- Women's Winners' Cup "A", Czech Republic (Prague)
- Women's Winners' Cup "B", Greece (Athens)
- Men's Cup, Czech Republic (Prague)
- Men's Winners' Cup, Czech Republic (Liberec)
- Co-Ed Slow Pitch Cup, France (Limeil-Brévannes)

Although all the above competitions were completed successfully, very few were problem-free. Even more than in the past, we once again encountered problems in the areas of player licensing and player eligibility, largely due to the introduction of the new Pick-Up Player category. Teams continue to miss deadlines for team registration and the filing of requisite player lists and applications for player licenses, despite the introduction and enforcement of significant financial penalties for non-compliance. This, in turn, creates administrative problems for both the TC and the competition organizers.

The matter of player eligibility remains a controversial issue. At the 2007 Congress, several new player eligibility Regulations were adopted in an effort to simplify the Regulations and make them more equitable and easier to enforce. Most notable among the changes were the elimination of the Foreign Player and Assimilated Player categories and the introduction of a new category, the Pick-Up Player (PUP), for club competitions. Despite the efforts to reduce or eliminate the temptation of clubs and players to circumvent player eligibility rules, there were numerous instances of questionable activities, including players' being listed on multiple club rosters and mis-categorization of players as *bona-fide* club members. Some of these incidents may have been the result of innocent misinterpretation of Regulations by the clubs. To minimize such problems in the future, players and clubs will be required to provide better advance documentation of player eligibility, particularly for PUPs. In addition, clubs will continue to be provided copies of player lists from every team in a competition well in advance of the competition, the intent being to discourage the use of ineligible players by allowing all teams ample time to investigate and challenge the eligibility of questionable players.

A more serious concern continues to be the matter of player safety. The near fatal injury suffered by a pitcher who was struck in the face by a batted ball in the 2005 ESF Men's Championship accelerated the ESF's implementation of a more stringent enforcement policy regarding bats in 2006. Although the ISF's Equipment Standards Commission addressed the matter of bat performance at its October 2005 meeting in Kaohsiung, its findings failed to adequately confront this grave matter. Indeed, even though the ISF did adopt a new bat performance standard at its 2005 Congress, it has chosen not to fully implement that policy to date – many bats that exceed the current bat performance specifications continue to be allowed for use by the ISF. Further, the ISF has not responded to questions regarding the reasons for this delayed compliance, despite the existence of evidence that indicates a significant player safety risk. As such, to maximize player safety, the ESF, like many National Federations, adopted the USA's (ASA) bat performance standards for its 2006 competitions.

This policy change has now been in effect in ESF competitions for two years. Despite the player safety motivation behind the ESF's policy, a small number of the ESF's Member Federations have objected to its implementation. In support of their objections, they make several arguments that are not based in fact, and

they cite claims of the ISF's expertise in handling such matters; in reality, the ISF has demonstrated virtually zero expertise in the area of equipment technology/standards (relying heavily on the ASA's leadership and expertise in this area) and has based the vast majority of its policy decisions on financial factors, as evidenced by its recent announcement that all Anderson bats will be removed from its list of approved bats for 2008 – even those that have been certified as compliant in the past. We strongly believe that the ESF's bat control policy has resulted in increased player safety and has also enabled easier, faster, less confusing, and more accurate and consistent enforcement of the bat policy. In support of this policy, a detailed report of our (i.e., the ESF's) research into bat testing and studies of player reaction times will be presented during the meeting of the Technical Commission at the 2008 ESF Congress.

We continued to experience problems in attracting organizers for competitions in 2007. More than half of our 2007 competitions were organized by just two of our largest Member Federations (Czech Republic and the Netherlands). At the same time, we are encouraged by the emergence of three new organizers in 2007 (San Marino, Greece, and Croatia), and we look forward to similar advances in the future. We are also fortunate that no competitions were cancelled in 2007 due to lack of a host. Still, the ongoing uncertainty regarding softball's Olympic status magnifies the problem by making it more difficult to solicit local sponsorship for our competitions; this uncertainty is manifested in the lack of organizers for the 2008 Elite Women's Championship, Women's "B" Winners' Cup, and Co-Ed Slow Pitch Cup. Once again, these realities underscore the need for a critical analysis of our competition structure, with the ultimate goal being a system that is attractive for potential organizers and encourages participation by clubs. Last year's proposed reorganization of the Cup competitions and creation of a Premier Cup, which were rejected under very questionable circumstances by the 2007 Congress, need to be revisited and given more serious consideration.

One very disturbing event in 2007 was the positive test for use of a banned substance that occurred during the Men's Championship in Beveren. This incident underscores the increased scrutiny that participants in our sport will receive as we intensify our efforts to achieve reinstatement to the Olympic program. We cannot afford to ignore the magnitude of this threat to our credibility as a sport – the ramifications have disastrous potential. In response, the TC will increase its efforts in this important area, both in keeping participants more aware of the consequences of their actions and in reporting on any testing that does occur during ESF events.

A positive development occurred in the area of Slow Pitch competition. The first-ever ESF Co-Ed Slowpitch Cup was hosted in France in 2007. Shortening the duration of the competition and increasing the number of games to be played continued to be primary goals targeted for Slow Pitch competitions. One obstacle to the realization of those goals is the lack of a sufficient number of suitable playing fields; hopefully, future Co-Ed competitions can be organized in locales that have multiple fields at a single venue, or at venues that are equipped with flood lights for evening play.

## **Clinics, Seminars, and Workshops**

The following training events were held in 2007:

- Basic ESF Umpire Clinic, Czech Republic (May)

Umpire training, education, and development continued to be an important function of the TC in 2007. These efforts ran the gamut from introductory clinics at the local and regional levels, through a certification clinic at the ESF level for fast pitch umpires.

At the basic level, the ESF conducted its annual clinic in Chocen (CZ), hosted by the Czech Softball Association. There were 12 candidates from seven different ESF member federations who participated in the 5-day clinic in May. All 12 participants successfully completed the course and received ESF licenses.

## **Umpire Matters**

The development of capable, competent, and qualified umpires remains one of the most important functions performed by the ESF. Although progress continued in this area last year, there is still a substantial gap between the ESF's strongest and weakest umpires. Largely, this is a matter of experience – the best umpires are the ones who work the most games to hone their skills. As such, it is incumbent on us to make as many officiating opportunities available as possible for our umpiring staff. Although ESF umpires once again took advantage of invitations to umpire at the collegiate level in North America in 2007, such efforts

must be increased substantially before measurable improvement will be seen. Similarly, opening the doors of ESF competitions to top umpires from outside Europe will expose European umpires to the talents and skills needed to reach the pinnacle of the umpiring craft. Ultimately, though, it is up to the umpires to take the initiative to improve and enhance their skills.

The ESF's Umpire Administration Staff puts a lot of time and energy into the process of appointing and evaluating umpires for our competitions. The amount of time required to perform these tasks has increased dramatically in recent years, which has resulted in an elevated level of frustration for them. A number of factors have contributed to these frustrations, including:

- Delays in receiving responses from umpires
- Lack of available umpires from many participating Federations
- Delays in the selection/announcement of tournament organizers
- Changes in announced competition dates
- Delays in finalizing game schedules
- Burdens imposed by the "neutral umpire mandate" on appointing umpires and making game assignments
- Statutory requirements for Executive review of proposed umpire appointments

At the end of 2007, there were 150 ESF-licensed umpires (+6 from 2006) with international ratings from 22 ESF member federations. Of those, 27 are licensed by the ISF, 23 have Slow Pitch licenses (-3 from 2006), and 16 are females (-6 from 2006) - the downward trend in these categories is reason for concern.

Accomplishments in 2007 include:

- Enhancement of the handbook for Umpire Commissioners (UCs), to facilitate more consistency in the work performed by UCs during tournaments
- Refinement of the document describing the 3-umpire system used during ESF tournaments
- Appointment of 28 European umpires to the Olympic Qualifying Championship (Trieste), Men's World Cup (Prague), and Junior Women's World Championship (Enschede) in 2007.

After a great deal of persistent negotiation, we succeeded in overcoming some of the ISF's previous indifference toward European umpiring matters, which was a contributing factor in the loss of several ISF-licensed umpires from Europe in the past few years. This success was reflected in the appointment of 14 European umpires to the OQ in Trieste in June, 9 European umpires to the Men's World Cup in Prague, and 5 European umpires to the Junior Women's World Championship in Enschede. In all, 25 of the 27 European ISF umpires had an opportunity to showcase their abilities in a high-profile international competition last year.

## **Technical Commission**

Beyond their administrative tasks during ESF competitions, the TC continued to bear significant responsibilities in 2007, including:

- Maintenance of the ESF player license database (Libby Moss)
- Management and distribution of merchandise in the Umpire Shop (Marie Pojerova)
- Storing and distribution of ESF-sponsored game balls (Marie Pojerova)
- Preparing game schedules for all ESF competitions (Maurizio Ronchi)
- Handling and distribution of the ESF banners displayed at tournaments
- Manufacturing and distribution of line-up cards for tournaments

The *Handbook for Technical Commissioners* was further enhanced and expanded in 2007 and is now a valuable reference tool for Technical Commissioners, both new and experienced.

Due to continued concerns over the ESF's fiscal health, it was once again necessary to postpone plans for a full meeting of the ESF's active Technical Commissioners and Umpire Commissioners in 2007. Because of the significant regulatory changes that have taken place in the ESF over the past 3-4 years, the failure to conduct such periodic planning and strategic meetings has resulted in inconsistent technical administration of our competitions, particularly concerning disciplinary matters. As new members join the TC, the value and importance of conducting occasional group meetings is magnified and cannot be overlooked or ignored.

Because of the growing number of competitions scheduled each year, the current size of the TC is inadequate to provide proper coverage in the form of a Chief Technical Commissioner and an Umpire

Commissioner for each competition; the shortage is especially acute for Umpire Commissioners, whose job requires unique, uncommon skills. With rare exceptions, most individuals are unable or unwilling to volunteer more than one week of their time to serve as an administrator at an ESF competition. This has placed an undue burden on the small number of TC members who have made themselves available to cover as many as three or four competitions per year, sometimes in back-to-back weeks. In recent years, last-minute withdrawals and cancellations by TC appointees have compounded the problem and have necessitated the appointment of less experienced replacements. Providing for adequate staffing of the TC must be treated as a high priority for 2008.

## **Going Forward**

Plans for 2008 include:

- Basic Umpire Clinic in Chocen (CZ) in May
- 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
- Expansion of the ESF's Umpire Administration Staff to include additional Assistant UiCs, including one whose specialty is slow pitch umpiring
- 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 Commissioners from the hosting National Federations, to open an additional path between the ESF and its member federations for umpire training and development
- Development of procedures for recertification of ESF umpires
- Implementation of an on-line system for player licensing
- Instituting a written procedure for documenting compliance with the ESF's player eligibility regulations
- Development of a formal disciplinary process for dealing with game ejections and other forms of misconduct
- Recording all instances of doping control that occur during ESF competitions
- Tracking injuries that occur during ESF competitions, particularly those that result from contact by a batted ball
- Expanded use of the ESF web site, to include the collection and dissemination of information to ESF umpires and Technical Commissioners, on-line access to player licenses and competition rosters by National Federations, and timely submission of tournament updates/scores/statistics for publication on the web site

## **In Conclusion**

Despite the frustrations of the past year, the TC hopes that the procedural changes that will be implemented this year will enable more efficient administration of competitions going forward. The staff of the TC continues to be a dedicated, committed, and hard working group of volunteer softball enthusiasts whose efforts are integral to the successful conduct of every ESF competition. We look forward to another successful year of European softball competition in 2008.

Respectfully submitted,

**Bob Milosavljević,**  
ESF 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President and Technical Commission Chairman



The Secretary General  
Le Secrétaire Général

## European Softball Federation Fédération Européenne Softball

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www.covee.nl

# ESF Development Vice President Report

## 1. Executing ESF Development Plan 2005 – 2008

Executing ESF Development Plan 2005 – 2008 get a big crack with decision to cancel or to break position of EDF. Doesn't matter who is EDF, but the operational ability gone down without any real man, who is doing this job. I don't attack this decision, because the finance situation after removal of our treasure wasn't so well. I am only describing this.

I have to say, that without paid person, who will be really active, we are not able to make any visible progress. Without really interested pro-active worker we can make just only some paperwork and not real work.

## 2. Clinics, camps and special events in 2007 (Program 1 Plan 2005 – 2008)

During 2007 weren't so many requests for sending a any lecture for a clinics. The reason was vacant position of EDF I guess. The clinic was held in Ukraine (March) and also was organized the special clinic for Poland (October) and Slovakia (October).

The DC ESF announced to affiliated federations offer about clinics. First was made under ISF wings – 2<sup>nd</sup> edition of NFCA (Tirrenia, January 2008). Second offer was announced option to send coaches or lectures for clinics under wings of individual federations or group of federations. Only three demands came on this request, which was sent on October 2007 (ESF DC Offer). One from Slovakia (clinic was done), second from Belgium for a slowpitch clinic (will be held on February 2008 with co-operation with Bob Frommer) and third from Croatia (pitching clinic during several weekends during December 2007 and April 2008). Unfortunately only two weekends will be possible to realize on February 2008, because was very difficult to find coaches for more weekends.

## 3. ESF storage 2006 - 2007

In 2006 was opened the ESF storage in Prague, which includes all stuffs needed for ESF competitions (umpires and officials equipment - T-shirts, jackets, caps, tournaments balls, tournaments trophies, tournaments papers and ESF flags. Czech Softball Association was entrusted by all logistics with delivering to the final destination of ESF tournament. The some problems with the delivery procedure of the balls and medals were happened in 2006, because those items weren't in the ESF storage in the right time. Those problems were solved in 2007, when the functionality of the ESF storage was improved. The procedure of delivery was communicated close with the chairman TC ESF.

The idea of the ESF storage in one place is generally functional and we will continue with also during 2008. To replenish storage especially with umpires stuff is necessary for satisfaction of the all requests of ESF umpires.

## 4. Promotional materials (Program 2 Plan 2005 – 2008)

The ESF DC created DVD's with the games, which were played in 2007 in Europe and were very professional covered by TV. The standard of coverage is extremely high, because six or seven cameras live covered those games. Many situations are visible from several angles and those DVD's can be used like promotional materials, but also like educational materials for coaches and also umpires. The set of six discs will consisted from four games of ISF Men's World Cup (including final game) and two games of ESF

Cup Winners Cup Women (including final game). Those sets of DVD's will be distributed at ESF Congress 2008 in Athens.

#### **5. Visits at ESF Competitions**

I personally visited any ESF competitions in several roles – like official, spectator, coach or organizer. Those ESF tournaments were: European Championship Women A, European Championship Cadet Girls, European Cup Men, European Cup Winners Cup Women A, European Cup Winners Cup Men. Those visits gave to me quite integral picture, what need ESF tournaments.

#### **6. Promotion of Men's Fast-Pitch (Program 5 Plan 2005 – 2008)**

First edition of the Men's Fast Pitch World Cup was played in Prague, Czech Republic on June 18<sup>th</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup>, 2007. In total 9 teams were attended at this tournament including five national teams (Czech Republic, Denmark, Japan, USA, Venezuela) and four teams based on the club level basis with different numbers of pick up players (DeMo EHS from Netherlands, Halcones Tenerife and Zaragoza from Spain and Prague Stars from Czech Republic).

The quality of the teams was really high. Top world class tournament was seen first time in Europe and the top idea of program 5 (Men's and Boy's program) of ESF Development Plan 2005 – 2008 – “promotional of men's fast pitch” was realized.

#### **7. Promotion of Slow-Pitch (Program 6 Plan 2005 – 2008)**

The new ESF competition was played on the last year – European Cup Coed Slowpitch. In total 5 teams participated at this tournament, which was played in Limeil Brévannes (FRA) on September 19<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2007 I would like special to thank to Bob Frommer for enthusiastic with development and support of slowpitch community in Europe and I believe, that slowpitch will be perceived like integral part of our sport.

#### **8. Equipment (Program 3 Plan 2005 – 2008)**

Storage with 10 starter kits was arranged by past EDF. Via EDF those materials were delivered to Ukraine (during visit EDF in Ukraine) and Poland (during special camp, which was made in Czech Republic for Polish youth).

#### **9. Special thanks**

I would like to thank to all of you for co-operation during last year. I would like really special o thank to Yuri for close co-operation in the development issues and Croatia for deep interesting about development of Balkan region.



Gabriel Waage  
ESF Vice-president

**2007 REPORT**  
**ESF VICE PRESIDENT**  
**María-Jesús (Chiqui) Vázquez Arribas**

A new year has passed quite quickly and I can say definitely time flies away. The members of the EC have worked together in many issues to help the improvement of the European Softball together with many people from different member federations who have given some of their free time as a volunteer contribution. And it is a fact that the Commissions of the ESF cannot function without them.

Besides the different ESF Executive Council meetings, I have been involved in other events around the world which have allowed me to represent European Softball. Wherever softball has taken me during 2007 I have emphasized the importance of Europe in the achievement of regaining the Olympic status for our sport. The year started with an important meeting I attended in Lausanne on January 24<sup>th</sup>: the first Strategic Task Force meeting with IOC Honorary President Mr. J.A. Samaranch. As you know, this meeting was the starting point for the BackSoftball campaign. It was important to be part of it as I was able to share the European view with other STF members from different countries of the world.

At the beginning of the year a Disciplinary Panel was created within the ESF to discuss and deal with some problems that had arisen at our competitions of the previous season. Together with other EC members, I worked on this issue and emphasized that rules and regulations exist to be respected and followed. Thus everybody should understand that we must remain strong in our decisions.

Facing the reality that most of our member federations govern softball together with baseball in their countries, the ESF President managed to make an appointment with some of the CEB members including its President to discuss possible ways to work together for development of our sports especially at a very young stage. I participated in that meeting that took place in Vilnius (Lithuania) at the end of March.

With our playing season already there, I was appointed by the ISF to be a TC at the Olympic Qualifier which took place in Trieste (Italy) in the month of June. This new role, which allowed me to establish new relationships for Europe with Africa and also with other members of the ISF, was a very positive experience.

And after our summer competitions concluded in which I was unable to participate in site due to unexpected working reasons, the time of the ISF Congress arrived. Appointed by the ISF to be a member of the Women and Sport and Athletes Commission, I attended the Congress in Manila (The Philippines). There were a large number of European representatives which participated very actively in different commissions and workshops which gave us the opportunity to work closely with delegates from other continents.

In an attempt to modernize the image of the ESF web site, a new project has been developed in the course of 2007 and it is almost ready to be launched. I have worked in it with some other EC colleagues and we will continue improving the site during 2008.

And close to the end of the year, I attended the World Conference on Doping in Sport that took place in Madrid. The three day conference can be summarized as the



conference in which WADA strengthened its rules to fight against doping even more. I do believe that clean sports like softball have a chance.

Bearing in mind the very limited resources of the ESF we have tried to engage different professionals regarding medical issues without success. Nevertheless, this is one of my goals for this coming year since I believe the prevention of injuries in and out the playing field is a must among our athletes, specially the younger ones. Europe is a very large sum of countries in which the game is played at different ages and levels; this is why preventive steps need to be taken depending on those ages and levels of players.

I think Softball has to grow in every sense and we all need to work together to make it happen. Let's do it!

## Report 2007 vice president Ruud van Zetten

At the 2007 Congress in Zagreb the federations agreed on the proposal that every quarter period there should be a report of the EC members. As everybody has seen no reports appear this year on my behalf, because 2007 has been used to co-operate with the other members of the EC to consider substantial changes in the way we are doing our jobs and to organize new ways of competitions in future.

So we looked at ourselves and the circumstances in which Softball is moving on in future. Very important to make new plans and goals information is needed. At Congress 2007 almost every Federation received therefore ideas and a questionnaire to inform the ESF about the Softball organizations in all the member countries.

A few countries did sent the questionnaire with facts and figures of their Federation, in helping us to make our marketing for Softball better. Most of our Federations didn't answer.

We therefore asked Federations several times last year to help and inform us how Softball is working in their environment, and made extra efforts when we met many ESF members at ISF Congress to pass out the information forms and again ask for responses.

Luckily we have since end of December 2007 about 50% of the information we need. But to make new objectives and goals, also to mention how to work with the facts and figures concerning the Olympic Movement after 2008, is still very difficult to say.

The EC of the ESF has therefore decided that every Federation must supply the required facts and figures as a condition of membership and eligibility to vote at the congress 2008.

From the marketing prospective I started in 2007 with new elements for Softball. We need good competitions, but the development of the sport needs also all our attention. Especially countries with with little numbers or starting countries, and therefore not yet playing at the top level at competitions.

Marketing arranged several meetings with others diciplines at the EC, in order to co-ordinate activities within the ESF.

As a result there will be a better programming in futere for development besides making (more) interesting competition on several levels.

1) Establishing a 'Regional' structure in 2008, the first year of the two-year cycle, in order to identify the winning teams to progress to the first Grand European Championship in 2009. The formation of probably three foundation competitions, based on geography or some other grouping, will allow teams to play games against more evenly-matched competition, and send the best to the Final European Championships, where in future years other Continents may be invited to participate.

2) Initiating the Elite 4 Competition in 2008: this is to provide continuity of top-level competition for the top ESF teams in the years between Grand Championships

One essential element to the Regional Championship format will be the integration of **serveral clinics and development advises. There can be clinics for coaches, umpires and scorers. Also the ESF can deliver new formats for countries in development (school programmes, growth in the sport, new disciplines, administrative support, infrastructure, etc**

This concept is based on each Grouping (**and playing countries**) being assisted by a Top Four nation. **It gives us the opportunity to invite executives, coaches, administrators and**

**other persons from those countries to join their team and to have appointments with instructors from mentor countries. Perhaps their coming can be financed by their Sportsbodies or ISF (development and clinics budget)**

Natural pairings would be Netherlands / North, Italy / South and Czech / East. They would supply two (**or more**) clinicians capable of teaching pitching, offensive and defensive skills, umpiring if desired by the TC, and workshops on administration and Club management for the team officials or Federation officers accompanying the teams.

### **European Championships 2009**

**After the Regional or Group competition in 2008 there will be winners of each poule attending the European Championship 2009. Also the 4 teams of the EC of 2007 (IT, NL, CZE, RUS) will participate. There will be 7 participants.**

### Tournament requirements

As a EC member I inspected several playing fields for competitions. My conclusion of those inspections, that many organizers don't have experience in handling the Regulations. There will be a formal protocol for Federations and clubs in future to see what is necessary to obtain facilities approval for Tournaments. The protocol will contain all information on the things required of organisers so they can be well prepared in advance of ESF inspections.

Ruud van Zetten  
December 2007.