

SE EC - MINUTES

Online Video Conference – February 27, 2021

EC members' attendance:

Gaba Waage ("GW")
Eddy van Straelen ("EvS")
Youri Alkalay ("YA")
Mette Nissen – Jakobsen ("MN")
Petra Arends ("PA")
Kristian Pälviä ("KP")
Daniela Castellani ("DC")
Ami Baran ("AB")
John Austin ("JA")
CD: Elda Ghilardi ("EG") - Tech. Director: Mike Jennings ("MJ")
Not attending with apologies: None

1. Welcome

GW thanks everybody to be in the meeting.
Minute of silence for Enrico Obletter

2. Minutes

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3. Action items from last meetings

- Notifications and financial information for the Congress in November (AB): Still working on it with BE.
- Calendar was published (GW): published
- Development report was sent in the end (EvS, GW and AB)
- Emails have been set up (AB): problems with EvS and MJ
- Softball Ireland Proposal sent and declined
- Sustainability issues in Regs

Action item: AB will finalize cancelling the europeansoftball.org emails. Will look into the MJ issue

4. President and immediate issues

- Presidents Meeting Online – update

- Meetings with new NFs Presidents from Switzerland, Finland and Spain and EMRYT meeting as to the issues at hand for this year.

- WBSC Europe update

Main points about WBSC Europe board meeting:

- Congress will be held November 19 – 21, 2021
- Website waiting for WBSC IT
- The BB5 championship approved
- Agreed about the membership fees

- WBSC updates

- LA Olympics
- World Calendar approved
- Discussion with Michael Schmidt on the Data Management System (DMS)
- Discussion on Slowpitch WC with Michael Schmidt – SP group established
- WBSC Skeptical about 2021 international competitions
- Changes also to Men's WC in NZ

5. SE Competitions 2021, SE Calendar 2021 – 2023

- SE Calendar 2021 – 2023

- Evaluation of received bids: no bids. Next ones will be at the Congress.
- MJ update on a few issues

EvS- Many teams have not paid entry fees and could change the list of entries

- Conditions for SE events (Championship + Cups) – Play Book

GW

- Need special regulations and guidelines for COVID

AB

2 possible pathways; Host Country demands and SE demands

- Flowchart will be sent out
- There must be a person in charge of COVID regulations.

DC

- Make our rules and adapt them to local government.
- 72 hours testing before competition.
- No spectators, hotel to field.
- SE staff – SE should pay for the testing.
- NFs should pay for the testing of teams.

PJA

- WBSC Europe should be sending out the information in one document with regulations from SE and BE. good signal
- We could ask for the testing money in advance and arrange ourselves.

GW

- Safe return to bb/sb by WBSC could be a starting point.
- I have a draft ready for the testing/vaccinations.
- We cannot make a big bubble, so we need to give strong recommendations to teams.
- We can ensure the rules just in the fields.
- As for testing: there should be more testing (prior the tournament to be presented at the technical meeting and during the week).

MNJ

- Agrees vaccine or tests.

DC

- Even vaccinated players should be tested (72 hours before the technical meeting).
- There should be an official declaration from NFs that everyone is tested.

JA

- Agrees with DC and EvS. We could have a medical/expert consultant for the playbook.

MJ

- Testing for everyone involved on the tournament.
- The certificates might be in different languages and would be difficult to understand. Cost of the testing should be under control.

GW

- The certificate should be in English. Testing procedures might change.

YA

- We need to consider the travel time and the day of the technical meeting (Sunday labs might be closed).
- Vaccinated ppl should not be tested in advance but just during the tournament.

GW

- Umpires should be up to NFs. We are talking about antigen tests not about PCR.
- If you have a positive antigen test , you need to take the PCR test.

We have to ask ITA and CZE about the testing once closer to the event.

- Conditions for SE events from organizing point of view – Zones at the stadiums, responsibilities
- Eligibility of the players – testing
- Timeline of SE steps of organizing of SE events 2021

A. Deadlines for cancelling

MJ: TC group recommends 60 days prior the event.

KP: 45/60 days is okay, but we have to communicate on the plan we have.

EvS: Decision is needed, 65 payments from teams have not been paid.

MNJ: must inform – between 45 and 60 days.

DC: 60 days could be good, and most important thing is to inform NFs.

PJA: agree, also about the ranking, ...

GW: in CZE, NFs can ask for special permission to Minister of Health and National security dept for the teams with a detailed plan. 45 days seems the best because of the situation changing every day.

Proposal: start with 45 days proposal

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KP: Reassure teams about refunds for COVID19 reasons.

PJA: The notification should be easy worded

GW: March 15 could be the deadline for the payment.

Action item: GW and EvS will send out letter and reminder

EC Decision as to cancelling or postponing events:

Decision: Events will be cancelled if we cannot play them at the dates set.

Two Championships are Qualifiers: What if they are cancelled?

EvS: We should have Qualifiers.

PJA: we should hold a qualifier if possible, easier than a full tournament.

MNJ: can we do early 2022?

MJ: we should consider the spots at the WBSC events and there are two different rankings (points and previous ECh).

Decision: Agreed to do a Qualifier if ECh are cancelled. Discussion will be held how we conduct them.

B. Scheduling, appointments and final call to arrange travel details

EvS: Officials and umpires should book as late as possible.

C. SE documents 2021 – CR including Specifics

- Using of WBSC Data Management System including Scoring system

GW: WBSC wants to use the system for every international competition.

MJ: Dennis is confident about the system as for the scoring side. Workload could be reduced.

GW: WBSC has policy in place for GDPR.

EvS: there will be a manager for each country, checking the data. It sounds easier for scorers.

Decision: SE will use the management system for 2021.

Action Item: GW, EvS, MJ DD will have a meeting to implement it for SE.

- Disciplinary Regulations update (yellow = new paragraph, green = words amended bit no change in meaning of regulation)

MJ: the addition is for the timeline of the lineups. It is a WBSC requirements and teams will work in a professional way. It is important for scorers as well. Lineups are very important for live comments as well, for media. This is a very careful sanction.

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6. Finance

- Fees as decided above
- EMRYT will be supported for 10 umpires and 3 officials. 8 teams limited, first come first served (max 1/2 teams per Nation so that it is at least 6 Nations).

7. Other issues

- U12 Mixed

GW: No interest from European countries for the one spot for the U12 mixed world cup. We cannot leave the European spot empty. We need to nominate a national team.

PJA: NED does not see u12 world competition in a good way, as it is not healthy.

GW: CZE feels the same about u12, juts a development category but there could be more motivations (fear for COVID).

Decision: GW will take all under consideration and find a solution.

- ESF Merch

YA will send to BUL tournament and sell it.

- Next meeting TBD (possibly April)