



# EUROPEAN SOFTBALL FEDERATION

## TECHNICAL AND COMPETITION COMMISSION

### 2018 ESF CONGRESS MINUTES

2018, February 9<sup>th</sup>, Paris

**ESF:** Gabriel Waage, Mike Jennings, Petra Arends, Daniela Castellani

**ROLL CALL:** Austria, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Germany, Great Britain, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Netherlands, Poland, Slovakia, Sweden, Switzerland (17 total)

#### **TECHNICAL AND COMPETITIONS REPORT 2017**

- no comments

#### **2018 COMPETITIONS**

- New competition: Men's Slowpitch
- 17 teams for the Coed Slowpitch Super Cup signed up
- Slowpitch umpires' clinic to be organized two days before the Super Cup
- Intercontinental Cup will be held in the Czech Republic
- **European Cup Winners Cup** presentation

#### **WOMEN'S EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIP INNOVATION**

- **Petra Arends:** Why and is the change necessary?
  - o Ireland is against – games with the top countries attract the most media attention in their country
  - o Switzerland in favor – feedback from players
- **Mike Jennings:** presentation of the first draft
- **Kostis Liarommatis (GRE):** presentation of their draft
- It is not for decision at this Congress, just a start of discussions

#### **ATHLETES COMMISSION – Daniela Castellani**

- All federations shall nominate one athlete representative (over 18 years old, speaks English)
- Player Market on the ESF website
- **Denmark:** the Athletes Commission should look into the issue of the new championship format

#### **WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS CHANGES – Gabriel Waage and Michael Schmidt**

- World Championships turn into World Cups, closed tournaments (16 teams, U19Men 12 teams)
- European Championships are qualifiers for World Cups
- Wild card: is not automatically given to the host, but the aim is to not to have the tournament without the hosting team participating
- 2020 Women's World Cup cancelled, will be held in 2021, Men's will be in 2021 and 2022.
  - o Qualifiers – how to plan – qualify from 2018 for 2020, or make an extra set of Europeans
- U16 Women's World Cup – possibly to be established by the WBSC – changes in Europe needed then

#### **OTHER MATTERS**

- **Great Britain:** make sure that the U19 and senior competitions don't overlap
- **Ireland:** any chance that Europe would have not three but four spots at the Worlds?
  - o Not now, future is open



# EUROPEAN SOFTBALL FEDERATION DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

## 2018 ESF CONGRESS MINUTES

2018, February 9<sup>th</sup>, Paris

**VP:** Ami Baran, Kristian Pälviä, John Austin

**ROLL CALL:** Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Denmark, Great Britain, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Netherlands, Slovakia, Switzerland, Sweden, Serbia (16 total)

### **WBSC DEVELOPMENT – Francesca Fabretto**

- Operational WBSC restructure: staff for baseball and softball will share
- Francesca Fabretto - the responsible person for Europe
- ESF is one of the most active Federations, but WBSC would like to see more requests from European National Federations (WBSC Development brochure/guidelines on the WSC website)
- Olympic Solidarity funds option, even small sports can get funding (you don't ask, you don't get)

### **ESF DEVELOPMENT – Ami Baran**

- ESF Structure review
- **IGETS** – Malta, Croatia, Netherlands – development in schools
- **Turkey** – participated in the Worlds in 2017
- **Baltic Open** – 4<sup>th</sup> edition, Lee County cooperation with Sweden
- Equipment shipment from Florida continues
- Partners NFCA, ISG, Turn 2 for Youth, LL, Pony, PiFB, USA Softball, WBSC, WBSC Sd
- **Euroleague** – 6 teams in 2017, promising for 2018
- **Hungary** – received equipment
- **Switzerland** – coaching clinic
- **Germany** - Paderborn coaching clinic

### **USA SOFTBALL – Craig Cress**

- Open and excited for cooperation and ready to help
- The Czech Republic and Sweden already taking advantage

### **LITTLE LEAGUE – Daniel Velte**

- Ready to help with development, coaching, equipment
- Want to do more of development in Europe, additional coach-trainings
- Little League University – online free database of drills and tutorials (also umpire training)
- Softball Grant program (up to 20.000 \$)
- Whoever needs an assistance should talk to John Boyd or Kristian Pälviä

### **LEE and POLK COUNTY – Angel Natal**

- Government agency (tourism founded)
- Access to facilities, Fort Myers

### **SLOWPITCH**

- Germany won the European Championship, disappointing number of participants though
- 19 teams signed up for the Slowpitch Super Cup in Riccione, Italy
- First-ever Men's Slowpitch Championship to be held in 2018

### **ESCA – Craig Montvidas**

- Encourages all countries to talk to him to see how ESCA can help
- ESCA Camp in 2018, news to be announced on February 10<sup>th</sup>

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# 2018 ESF CONGRESS, Paris (FRA)

## FINANCIAL COMMITTEE REPORT

February 9th 2018

Chair: ESF treasurer, Eddy van Straelen

Minutes:

### **Present : 9 federations :**

BEL, BUL, CZE, DEN, IRL, ISR, SUI, SVK

### **Discussion financial result 2017 :**

Income: around 17.200 more than the budget Expenses: 5.400 more than the budget

So **Loss**: about 11.800 less than expected.

Above all because received Tournament **Entry Fees** were 10.000 more than the budget.

( also because new tournaments Men U16 + Men U19 )

**Penalties** were almost all for club teams. Federations could help these teams with good information about the regulations and the follow up.

**PUP** income is becoming every year a little less after the rule changes for this.subject.

Meeting costs became also more expensive because of the change of the Congress hotel

**TC** costs were more after the extension of the board. (see report Congress 2017)

**ESCA** camp was not at all in budget (costs10.000 euro, but 4000 euro was received from WBSC)

As the camp was a great possibility for the development, we allowed these expenses, but in the future it should become more self-supporting. (will be discussed in Development meeting and Congress)

IRL thanks the treasurer for his job in 2017

ISR asks information about unpaid amounts for Slovenia and Lithuania.

Explanation was given that these amounts should be paid before participation in 2018 tournaments can be allowed.

SUI asked about the debt of 3000 euro from sponsor Tecnovap/Enjoy It.

It will not yet be written off, as we are first waiting for another possibility for payment.

ISR asked about the negative amount for "debts written of"

This is the result of received payments for amounts that have been written off a few years ago.

### **Discussion budget 2018 :**

Affiliation fee has not been changed since 2002 and will not be changed.

Promotion, Marketing, TV, and Website: will be mentioned from 2018 together in one budget amount as they overlap each other (before they were two separated amounts.

We do have gameballs: enough for the 2018 tournaments, A contract with WBSC for gameballs for 2019+2020 will be signed.

After the Botswana Congress the WBSC Europe situation is heading to an agreement.

Most probably the meetings and expenses for that goal will increase sooner than expected in the budget.



# EUROPEAN SOFTBALL FEDERATION MARKETING COMMISSION

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**JOINT MEETING: ESF** - John Austin, Helena Novotná, **CEB** - Rainer Husty, Johannes Godler

**GUESTS:** Patrick Mostboeck (SportRadar), Sam Gilman (European Baseball Softball Magazine)

**ROLL CALL both Softball and Baseball:** Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Great Britain, Germany, Israel, Italy, Ireland, Netherlands, Slovakia, Serbia, Sweden, Turkey (16 total)

### **CEB 2017 activities report – Rainer Husty**

### **ESF 2017 activities report – John Austin**

- Softball Europe brand launch, #lovesoftball
- Social media update
- Live-streaming figures, cooperation with FloSoftball
- Logos for senior softball championships introduced

### **MEDIA STANDARDS – Johannes Godler**

- Unification and set up of minimum media standards for organizers of European events
- How to handle media coverage at European tournaments - guidelines
- Best practice examples

### **SPORTRADAR OTT PLATFORM – Patrick Mostboeck**

- Live-streaming and other digital content platform for both baseball and softball in Europe
- Contract to be signed after the meeting
- Option for National Federations to use this platform too
- No cost for the federations

### **INCREASE YOUR MEDIA PRESENCE – Helena Novotna**

- How to offer your content to media, so they would more likely publish it
- Tips and tricks on how to
- Examples
- Targeting local ad national media
- Helena's experience

### **ADDRESSING INTERNATIONAL MEDIA – Sam Gilman**

- Tips, tricks and musts on how to

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