



European Softball Federation
Fédération Européenne Softball

Tel. +972 52 275 1387 – Fax +972 77 558 2703
e-mail : sg@europeansoftball.org – website : www.europeansoftball.org

DOCUMENTS (1)

II - APPROVAL MINUTES :

- Minutes of Congress 2014

VI – FINANCIAL REPORT :

- Balance 2014
- Affiliation Fees
- Debts 2014
- Financial Report
- Participation Contributions 2014

VII – APPROVAL BUDGET 2015 :

- Budget 2015

VIII - APPOINTMENT AUDITOR:

- Proposal by the Executive Council

XII - MOTIONS AND OTHER MATTERS:

Motions for Technical and Competitions Committee

- 1 – Statute Motion 1 by EC
- 2- Statute Motion 2 by EC

XIII - APPOINTMENT OF ORGANIZERS:

- Nominations of Organizers of Competitions (*Open Bids*)

Documents for information:

- President's Report
- 1st Vice President Report

Other Documents released as soon as or if available



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PROGRAM

note: Provisional hourly schedules may vary

Thursday February 5th 2015	18:00	20:00	Executive Council Meeting
	16:00	evening	Arrival Delegates /Registration
Friday February 6th 2015	09:00	09:45	Financial Committee
	10:00	11:30	Development Committee
	11:30	11:45	Break
	11:45	12:30	Marketing Committee
	12:30	13:30	Lunch (individual)
	13:30	15:30	Technical and Competitions Committee
	16:00	16:45	WBSC Discussion - Michael Schmidt
	18:15	19:45	Dinner (individual)
	21:00		Welcome Cocktail
	Saturday February 7th 2015	09:30	11:00
11:00		11:30	Break
11:30		14:00	ESF Congress session 1 part 2
14:30		15:30	Lunch (individual)
16:00		18:00	Executive Council Meeting
19:30			Gala Dinner for all CEB/ESF Delegates
Sunday February 8th 2014			Start departure Delegates



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AGENDA

I	Roll Call
II	Approval of the Minutes of the 2014 Congress
III	Admission of new Affiliated Federations (<i>if necessary</i>)
IV	Suspension or exclusion of Affiliated Federations (<i>if necessary</i>)
V	Approval of the 2014 Activities Report
VI	Approval of the 2014 Financial Report
VII	Approval of the 2015 Budget
VIII	Appointment of the Auditor
IX	Membership Fees and special contributions
X	Approval of activities to be carried out
XI	Amendments to the Statutes
XII	Motions and other Matters
	1 Motions proposed by Affiliated Federations
	2 Motions proposed by the Executive Council
	3 Matters by Congress Committees
	4 Hall of Fame (<i>if necessary</i>)
XIII	Appointment of Organizers of Competitions
XIV	Place of 2016 Congress
XV	Various information
	1 Miscellaneous (<i>not subject to vote</i>)
	2
	3

Guest Speakers:

Michele Smith
Petra Cizmic Pokrajac
Mattias Grimstoft
Musco Lighting



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CONGRESS 2014

PRAGUE (CZECH) – February 16th 2014

Andre Van Overbeek opens the Congress

I. Roll Call

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

Affiliated Federations absent:

FINLAND, GUERNSEY, JERSEY, IRELAND, GREECE, SLOVAKIA, RUSSIA

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

There are 33 Federations affiliated, 26 Federations duly represented, 26 Federations with the right of vote, the Congress is quorate. (ABSOLUTE MAJORITY IS 16)

*ISF President Dale McMann addresses the Congress

II. Approval of the Minutes of 2013 Congress

The Minutes of 2013 Congress is approved by unanimity

III. Admission of new Federations

No New Admissions requested

IV. Suspension or exclusion of Federations

None.

V. Approval of the activities report 2013

The activities report is approved by unanimity

VI. Approval of the financial report 2013

The financial report is approved by unanimity

VII. Approval of the budget 2014

The budget 2013 is approved by majority vote

VIII. Appointment of the Auditor

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



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IX. Membership fees and special contributions

No discussion

X. Approval of activities to be carried out

XI. Amendments to the Statutes

None

XII. Motions and other Matters

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

None

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

None

XII. 3 – MATTERS BY CONGRESS COMMITTEES

Notification of proposed Motions passed at the Competitions Committee meeting

- Personal Awards

XII. 4 – HALL OF FAME

None

XIII. Appointment of Organizers of Competitions

XIII. 1 Calendar of 2014 Events:

Calendar of 2014 Events:

The Championship Junior Women – EChJW is allotted to Rosmalen (NED), Jul. 21st -26th.

The Championship U22 Women – EChU22 is allotted to Dupnitsa (BUL), Jul. 7th-12th.

The Championship Men – EChM is allotted to Havlíčkův Brod, Pardubice (CZE), Jul. 14th-19th.

The Championship Super Cup Coed Slowpitch – EChSCCS is allotted to Mladé Buky (CZE), Jul. 29th – Aug 2nd

The Cup Women - ECW is allotted to Dupnitsa (BUL) Sept. 1st -6th



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The Cup Winners Cup Women – ECWCW is allotted to ASD Porpetto (ITA), Sept 1st-6th

The Super Cup Men – ESCM is allotted to Amstelveen (NED), Aug. 25th -30th.

The Cup Premiere Women - EPCW is allotted to Unione Fermana (ITA) Sept. 1st -6th

The European M.Romeo Youth Trophy is allotted to Collecchio, Parma (ITA) Aug. 12th-16th

2015 Events

The Championship Women – EChW is allotted to Rosmalen (NED), Jul. 20th – 25

The Championship Junior Men – EChJM is allotted to Most (CZE), Jun.29th – Jul. 4th

The Championship Cadet Girls – EChCG is allotted to Nuoro (ITA), Jun. 22nd – 27th.

The Championship Coed Slowpitch – EChCS is allotted to Dupnitsa (BUL), Jul. 28th – Aug 1st

XIV. Election to the Executive Council

No Elections

XV. Place of 2015 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

Ami Baran
Secretary General



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Motion proposed by the ESF Executive Council – Nr. 1
For Congress, 6-8 February 2015

Subject: Modification/Addition of ESF Statutes Article 8

Author: Executive Council

Present writing :

None

Proposed writing (or New writing):

8.2.5 Non Affiliated Federations, Individuals or Teams not within the Jurisdiction of the ESF on exclusive, objective and limited aspects of the playing of Softball and in the case of a non affiliated federation, have proven to the ESF of having a viable Softball programme.

Reasons for change

The ESF is extending its hand and assistance to those Organizations that have difficulty in developing in their region/ area the game of softball. The specific reason for this change now is for the few African Federations seeking to have an affiliation and possibilities to be part of a structured Organization.

Note: ESF Regulations will be adjusted accordingly as to the possibilities of associate organizations playing in ESF tournaments.

Date of effect

Immediately at the end of the Congress.



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Motion proposed by the ESF Executive Council – Nr. 3
For Congress, 6-8 February 2015

Subject: Modification/Addition of ESF Statutes Article 5

Author: Executive Council

Present writing :

5.1.2. The President is the Legal Official representative of the ESF in all public matters. He represents the ESF in the international sporting organizations. He calls and chairs the General Congress and the Executive Council.

Proposed writing (or New writing):

5.1.2. The President is the Legal Official representative of the ESF in all public matters. He represents the ESF in the international sporting organizations and notwithstanding Art. 4.03 (a) of the International Softball Federation Constitution, shall be one of the Vice Presidents of the International Softball Federation. He calls and chairs the General Congress and the Executive Council.

Reasons for change

It has been unclear for the past years the already existing writing that the President represents the ESF in the International sporting organizations. This addition makes it clear that the President shall be one of the two ESF VP's in the ISF.

This is in the opinion of the EC an important recognition that the President, who was elected by the Members should be in the position to represent the interests of the ESF on the ISF Board.

Date of effect

Immediately at the end of the Congress.



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ESF 1st VP report

My report consists of two parts – A managing report and review of the ESF competitions 2014 made by ESF Technical Director Mike Jennings.

Managing report

The main task of management of the ESF structure was the work by the commissions needed for operating ESF competitions, as established at TC / UIC meeting in Rome in 2013. The chairs of the commissions worked on their specific tasks in order to run the ESF competitions successfully.

Activities for umpires were run throughout 2014 including Blue Convention, ESF Basic Umpire clinics for Slow Pitch and Fast Pitch and also an ISF Basic clinic.

A closer cooperation with the ISF and with non-European federations was enhanced during the WWC in Haarlem. One of the main concepts for these relations is to establish good procedures for the running of ESF and ISF competitions and to find the way how to open some ESF tournaments for non-European teams (ESCM, ESCJW). More details will be announced in the President Report.

ESF Organization structure:

The ESF Organizational structure contents from the **Technical Commission** headed by ESF Technical Director Mike Jennings, **Umpire Committee** headed by ESF Director of Umpires Andrea Marcon, **Competition Committee** headed by Cornelia Chwojka and **Scoring Committee** headed by Dennis Duin.

The most significant move forward was finishing the procedure cleaning of all technical regulations and dividing them into special parts. The new structure of ESF regulations from 2014 is:

General Regulations:

Administration Regulations – relations between parties, duties and obligations

Competition Regulations – general regulations for participants

Technical Regulations – general regulations for organizers

Financial Appendix – all finances issues

Specific Regulations:

Specific Regulation for Youth

Specific Regulation for Slowpitch

Specific Regulation for ESCM

Specific Regulation for ESCJW (since 2015)

Specific Regulation Appendix (game formats)

Umpires:

2014 has to be considered in some way, a pivotal year for ESF umpire system future. For the first time in our history, an [Umpire Convention](#) has been organized (Rome, March 7-9), with the presence of 60 umpires from most of our European Federation members, except the Netherlands, who organized their national convention on the same weekend. ESF Blue Convention was wisely conducted from ISF DoU **Robert "Bob" Stanton**, and it has been a great opportunity for confrontation and learning, that has contributed to improve behaviour uniformity in ESF umpires including learning the new rules in the recently changed Rulebook. It is for sure an experience that must be repeated, maybe in 4 years (after the next review of the Rulebook).

We had two Basic Clinics, one for slowpitch and one for fastpitch. [The slowpitch clinic](#), attended by **Bob Milosavljevic** had been held in London (May 7-11), while [the fastpitch clinic](#) (instructors were **Carolien Stadhouders** and **Bert Loggen**) had been held in Prague (May 21-26). Thanks to those clinics now ESF can count on **6** new Slowpitch and **12** new Fastpitch Umpires.

An ISF Fastpitch Clinic was also held in Prague (June 23-29) attended by **Robert "Bob" Stanton** and now the ESF can count on **8** new ISF Umpires.

An important [exchange](#) has been done with the Canadian Federation. One ESF fastpitch umpire and one ESF slowpitch umpire had an opportunity to participate in tournaments in Canada, and the ESF hosted umpires from Canada in the Men's Super Cup and in Coed Slowpitch Super Cup. This exchange is a very important for ESF work and development of our umpires , and will be continued in 2015. In fact, the Canadian Federation, through its Umpire in Chief **Jeff Whipple**, has already shown interest in keeping this experience alive. We have received invitations to participate at the Canadian Umpires Convention (Vancouver) and to ASA Umpire in Chief Convention (Oklahoma) in 2015. The final decision to participate in those Conventions will be up to the ESF EC.

Final words:

Finally let me thank all of the organizers who hosted the ESF tournaments in 2014. You all play major parts and are essential to our programs because this is the place for the games and meeting of our players. Thank you so much for hosting!

Also thanks to all of the officials – TC's, UIC's, SIC's, EC's, umpires, scorers, locals and so many volunteers – for you assistance at the ESF tournaments in 2014! Your work is invaluable and well appreciated!

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

Finally I would like to thank Mike Jennings and Gilbert Tobbac for their work in implementing all changes to the ESF regulations and for overview of all those regulations.



Gabriel Waage
ESF 1st VP

Report by ESF TC Director

This Report is compiled from detailed TC Reports, attached as Appendices for reference, and from observations and recommendations by TC members in attendance at local, ESF and ISF events throughout the 2014 season.

ESF 2014 Season:

Competition	Location		Teams	Games	Injury	Eject
ECh22W	Dupnitsa	BUL	6	28	0	0
EChM	Havlickuv Brod	CZE	7	28	0	0
EChJW	Rosmalen	NED	15	66	0	0
ESCCS	Mlade Buky	CZE	12	58	1	0
EMRYT	Collecchio	ITA	7	28	0	0
ESCM	Amstelveen	NED	18	76	1	2
ECWCW	Porpetto	ITA	11	6	0	0
EPCW	Unione Fermana	ITA	9	40	2	0
ECW	Dupnitsa	BUL	6	20	0	0
	TOTALS		91	390	4	2

Season Overview:

As well as the ESF events program listed above, the ISF held the Women's World Championships in Europe for the first time, and we congratulate the Netherlands Federation and all their workers for hosting this event. Several of the issues they faced are incorporated in this report: ESF TC members present at the event were able to recommend some ESF Competition administration practices to ISF staff.

Amongst the ESF 2014 Competitions, the first **Co-ed Super Cup** was held, with twelve teams. We hope that alternating this Cup with a Championship every second year will prove a good way to grow this discipline. The **Men's Super Cup** continues to enjoy great popularity and is proving its worth as a showcase for world-quality Men's play. To help the growth of the sport from the very ground roots we believe more Federations should be encouraged to enter teams in the **Minime EMRYT**, sending Club as well as National squads.

We were unfortunately faced with several late **withdrawals** or no-shows, which disrupt schedules and cause considerable inconvenience to organisers. Greece dropped out of EChJW; Slovakia and Austria from ECWCW; Poland from EChU22W, ECW and ECWCW (this last by no-show), ESF Statutes defines the consequences for these situations. However, special circumstances arose

where Ukraine was unable, however willing, to fulfil commitments to EMRYT: here no penalty is deemed necessary.

Even greater challenges were experienced due to a factor beyond any control – the **weather** – which adversely affected both ESF and ISF events. Some organisers proved better able to recover than others. The TC will be reviewing how the resulting disruption might be minimised, and will make recommendations for improved protection equipment and procedures at future events. Special thanks are due to all the grounds staff who enabled play to resume quickly after storms, and to Clubs nearby those worst affected, who allowed catch-up games to be played on their fields.

Technology:

The introduction of **Play-by-Play reporting and video streaming** has represented a significant advance in the quality of ESF's service to players, spectators and the wider Softball audience over the past few seasons. The broadcasting of EChM 2014 games set a new high standard, but also raised the expectations of spectators trying to access all other ESF events. Organizers must be reminded that adequate and reliable Broadband provision is now an essential pre-requisite for hosting an ESF event, with separate provision for Play-by-Play, Organisers & Officials' needs, and public Wi-Fi.

An issue for the ESF itself is **server overload**, which occurred when too many feeds accessed the system at once. ESF events are normally spread over the season, but when the Women's FastPitch Cups all take place in one week, a natural peak is created which should be anticipated and prepared for. EC should also review demand statistics to assess the level of spectator interest, event by event, and plan to deliver sufficient data / server capacity.

Competition Issues:

Most events encountered problems with the **12" FastPitch Balls**, which although to ISF standards, proved fragile: their coverings were too easily damaged when hit into fences / walls / hard ground. The 12" SlowPitch balls for Men, to the new ISF standard, held up very well to bat impact, but could also scar too easily from contact with rough surfaces.

Finding suitable **Technical Commissioners** locally – including confidence that English language skills are sufficient – is dependent on such individuals being available and willing. Several events suffered from a lack of such staff. The ESF standard should be that every game on every field is supervised by a 'qualified' official. Some UiCs and ECs may well also be able to act in this capacity. If not, we will need to rely on other known, chosen individuals. The availability of existing TC members will be one factor in deciding how many new TC members need to be recruited for 2015: another will be the number of fields in play during the coming season.

This will however place increasing **demand on organisers** to accommodate staff required at events, adding to increased emphasis on scoring, plus the additional persons needed to support web streaming. All these factors could make it more difficult to find organisers, and restrict the number who choose to fulfil our increasing requirements.

The use of a **Coin Flip** to determine home / visitor status for all games after Round-Robins was trialed successfully at EChJW. If it is decided to extend this procedure to all ESF Competitions, detailed TC protocols will have to be drafted with regard to when and how such coin flips are accommodated in event schedules.

Issues arising from decisions re **Personal Awards** caused difficulties at more than one event, with concerns expressed on the basis of calculation of the award data, and disagreements amongst ESF officials present as to interpretation of the rules. Such incidents detract from the professionalism of our event administration. The Regulations need to be clear in their intent, and a consistent ESF approach adopted by all.

Several Organizers requested that the **Closing Ceremony** was made open not only to Medal teams, but any others still present. This was perhaps to heighten the impact of the occasion for the benefit of local dignitaries and sponsors.

Other Issues arising which may require TC consideration prior to 2015 season:

First Aid support was always provided according to current Regulations, but should be extended to cover the whole period when players are on an ESF field, warm-up included.

Following requests at previous Co-ed events, additional '**Friendly games**' slots were provided on the last day of competition for those teams not included in the Page Finals. The intention was to provide additional playing opportunities for teams who do not enjoy a high level of competitive play in their home leagues, and to maximise their benefit from attending an ESF-level event. In the event, coordinating the teams who wanted to play with the availability of potential opponents was addressed too late in the day, but the opportunity should be provided again in future SlowPitch events, with earlier communication and administration.

Game by game **data collection** at Competitions, in addition to Play-by-Play, results and statistics, includes 'duration of game' and the 'number of spectators' present. If this data is needed for schedule planning and marketing purposes, it needs to be presented in aggregate per event. At present, this is only done if the event TC chooses to complete the columns on a Games Control Sheet (example in Appendix). If the EC regards this information as useful we either need to require the completion of the form or to enable the Scoring system to automatically provide the 'average duration of game' and 'total number of spectators' for each event.

Incidents at one Cup were judged so serious by the event TC that a separate Report for consideration by the Executive has been appended to this document.

JM Jennings

ESF Technical Director