



European Softball Federation
Fédération Européenne Softball



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Fédération Européenne Softball*

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CONGRESS 2011

ANTWERP (BEL) – February 5th 2011

Welcome speech by the president of the Belgium Federation.

I. Roll Cal

Affiliated Federations represented by Accredited Delegates with Credentials:

AUSTRIA, BELGIUM, BULGARIA, CROATIA, CZECH REPUBLIC, DENMARK, SPAIN, FRANCE, GREAT BRITAIN, GERMANY, IRELAND, ISRAEL, ITALY, MALTA, NETHERLANDS, SLOVENIA, SERBIA, SWITZERLAND, SWEDEN, TURKEY, UKRAINE.

Affiliated Federations absent:

ARMENIA, FINLAND, GEORGIA, GREECE, GUERNSEY, HUNGARY, JERSEY, MOLDOVA, NORWAY, POLAND, PORTUGAL, ROMANIA, RUSSIA, SAN MARINO, SLOVAKIA.

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

There are 36 Federations affiliated, 21 Federations duly represented, 21 Federations with the right of vote, the Congress is quorate.

II. Approval of the Minutes of 2010 Congress

The Minutes of 2010 Congress are approved by unanimity.

III. Admission of new Federations

None.

IV. Suspension or exclusion of Federations

None.

V. Approval of the activities report 2010

The activities report is approved by unanimity.

VI. Approval of the financial report 2010

Intervention of Denmark and France. The financial report is approved by unanimity.

VII. Approval of the budget 2010

The budget 2010 is approved by unanimity.

VIII. Appointment of the Auditor

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

IX. Membership fees and special contributions

Unchanged.

X. Approval of activities to be carried out

Intervention of the ISF President, Don Porter

XI. Amendments to the Statutes

None



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XII. Motions and other Matters

XII. 1 – MOTIONS FOR AMENDMENTS TO REGULATIONS proposed by Affiliated Federations.
Gabriel WAAGE presents the amendments to the regulations as approved the day before by the Competitions and Technical Commission. Report attached to the Congress Minutes.

XII. 2 – MOTIONS FOR AMENDMENTS TO REGULATIONS proposed by the Executive Council.
Gabriel WAAGE presents the amendments to the regulations as approved the day before by the Competitions and Technical Commission. Report attached to the Congress Minutes.

XII. 3 – MATTERS BY CONGRESS COMMITTEES
Report from Giovanni SANNA for the Development Commission.

XII. 4 – HALL OF FAME
Gilbert TOBBACK (BEL) is awarded from president André van Overbeek for the admission to the ESF Hall of Fame, category Umpires (2009 Congress in Lausanne).

XIII. Appointment of Organizers of Competitions

- Calendar of 2011 Events:

The Cup Women A - ECWA is allotted to Caserta (ITA), Aug. 15th-20th.

The Cup Winners Cup Women A – ECWCWA is allotted to Castions di Strada, Udine (ITA), Aug. 15th-20th.

The Cup Women B - ECWB is allotted to Dupnitsa (BUL), Aug. 15th-20th.

The Cup Winners Cup Women B – ECWCWB : no candidates. The nomination remains open until end of February 2011.

The Cup Men – ECM : no candidates. The nomination remains open until end of February 2011.

The Cup Winners Cup Men – ECWCM no candidates. The nomination remains open until end of February 2011.

The Cup Coed Slowpitch – ECCS is allotted to Mlade Buky (CZE), Aug. 3rd-6th.

- Calendar of 2012 Events:

The Massimo Romeo Youth Trophy – EMRYT is allotted to Collecchio, Parma (ITA), Aug. 20th-25th.

The Championship Junior Girls – EChJG is allotted to Hoboken (BEL), July 23rd-28th.

The Championship Under 22 Girls – EChU22G : no candidates. The nomination remains open until 90days before Congress 2012.

The Championship Men – EChM is allotted to Amstelveen (NED), Jul. 23rd-28th.

- Official Draw of Teams for Championships:

Championship Cadets Girls – EChCG:

Groups after the draw:



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A1 - NED	B1 - RUS	C1 - ESP	D1 - CZE
A2 - BEL	B2 - SVK	C2 - GBR	D2 - ITA
A3 - FRA	B3 - POL	C3 - GER	D3 - SRB

Championship Women – EChW:

Groups after the draw:

A1 - GBR	B1 - NED	C1 - RUS	D1 - CZE
A2 - ITA	B2 - ESP	C2 - AUT	D2 - GER
A3 - SWE	B3 - BEL	C3 - SVK	D3 - FRA
A4 - CRO	B4 - UKR	C4 - BUL	D4 - ISR
A5 - HUN	B5 - POL	C5 - SUI	D5 - SLO
A6 - DEN	B6 - GRE	C6 - TUR	

XIV. Election to the Executive Council

Election of the Secretary General. Francesca FABRETTO is elected by unanimity.

XV. Place of 2012 Congress

Received two candidatures from Netherlands and Malta. After voting the next 2012 Congress is allotted to Malta (MLT 15 votes – NED 6 votes)

XVI. Various

None

Closing of the Congress

André VAN OVERBEEK
President

Francesca FABRETTO
Secretary General



Attachment to the 2011 Congress Minutes

TECHNICAL AND COMPETITIONS COMMITTEE REPORT

Friday, Febr. 4th, 2011

Chair ESF: Gabriel WAAGE
Co-Chair ESF: Michael SCHMIDT
Secrétaire: Francesca FABRETTO

Present 37 people; 17 federations (AUT, BEL, BUL, CZE, DEN, FRA, GBR, GER, IRL, ISR, SLO, SUI, SWE, TUR, UKR, CRO, ITA)

Gabriel Waage gives presentation of the new Championships Format and the two different Finals Systems (Page System and Cross Play Off) to be chosen.

Result of the vote: Page System 11 votes, Cross Play Off 6, Abstention 0.
Adopted: Starting from 2011, the Championships will be played with the Page System.

Competitions 2011 and 2012

2011

EChCS: starting date 19th July

ECWCWB, ECM, ECWCWM: no organizers. Competitions remain open until the end of February

ECCS: starting date 3RD August

2012

EChMG: replaced by the Massimo Romeo Trophy - see later on (*)

EChJG: received only one candidature from Hoboken (BEL) which has been accepted.

EChU22: no organizers. Competition remains open until 90days before the next 2012 Congress.

All other competitions remain as per list of Competitions presented in the Congress Documents.

NB – For the competitions which do not have an organizer it is possible to withdraw without penalty within 30 days of the official announcement for that specific competition.

Players Age

As consequence of the new Championships format, the following changes of C.R. 14.07.02 are recommended to the EC :

For championships fastpitch only :

Minimum 12 players on the Official Roster must be over 17 years old.

Maximum 4 players on the Official Roster can be under 17 years old but not younger than 15 years old.

Gilbert Tobback (Ass. UIC) Proposals :

- To have all the championships in the month of july
- Move the 4 Women´s cups to 2nd full week of august.

Motion to replace the Minime girls championship to the Massimo Romeo Youth Trophy

Approved

Motion Men´s cups – to combine the 2 cups into one tournament

Approved in principle- Jens to bring a final proposal for implementation

Bat Control

The Technical commission will meet to bring a proposal for the Bat Control.



European Softball Federation
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ESF President Report 2011

Dear ESF Delegates,

The ESF 2011 Congress was held in Antwerp Belgium, ISF President Don Porter attended this Congress and provided the ESF Member Federations with information and updates as to several ISF matters and the present difficulties Softball has and will be facing in the future with the hope that we will be able to continue our Sport regardless of the IOC decision on the elimination of Softball from the Olympics at least until 2020.

In 2011 the EC has held 3 meetings , one after the congress in Antwerp, Belgium and one in Haarlem the Netherlands. The last EC meeting in 2011 was in November in Milan, Italy. There have been several issues on the EC agenda and we have tried to deal with all of them the best we could and prepare the next season of tournaments with more innovative ideas in order to make our game a more popular and interesting one for the coming years.

The EC has been working from the working plan, presented in 2009 which still is our main guideline, dealing with all the issues we hoped to accomplish in our 4 years.

Now , more that halfway through our 4 year term and after we have evaluated our performance , I can report to you that we are behind in our objective and less then 50% of what we thought we would have accomplished has been completed. Of major importance has been the continuous communication between EC members and the representatives of each Federation in each occasion (by email, phone, congresses, tournaments etc.), in order to improve the relationship between the ESF and itsmembers and being to assist them in the best way possible. To meet our objectives and goals, a lot more work has to be done in the coming year.

Development

Our 1st Vice President and Chair of the Development Commission will inform you in his Report about the Development Activities in 2011.

A you know, we have signed an agreement with the ASA in hope of finding a cooperation in the realm of Development and we have invited some of their Officials to be with us at our Congresses so that we may better define and implement this wonderful agreement. The cooperation includes sharing information on marketing issues and development with a “big sister” project where ASA states will adopt European Federations. Ami Baran, our Vice-President Operations, was invited at the ASA congress early November to discuss with ASA officers to finalize several projects and he will inform you about the progress.

At the annual congress of the Confederation of European Baseball (CEB), CEB President Martin Miller and your President, signed an agreement that both organisations will have a joint approach on several issues related to both sports. The shared conclusion is that after many years of separate development, it will now be far more productive for the two sports and their Continental Federations in Europe to work together to promote and develop baseball and softball, grow participation and broaden the impact of the sports on the European sporting landscape. At our ESF Board meeting in November in Milan, Italy, we had a historical first joint meeting with the CEB Board and discussed joint activities as youth development, combined events, EU funding and a joint congress in 2013.

Competition and Technical

Our VP for Competition and Technical issues , Gabriel Waage , will inform you about the technical and competition activities.

A special remark about the new Scorekeepers committee although created in 2010, started to work actively in 2011, which also works under the C&T responsibility with Co Chairs Dennis Duin (ND) and Marco Battistella (IT), did a great job organizing at all tournaments for the first time, the Play by Play live on the ESF website (TAS program available on all locations) and giving scorekeeping clinics in different countries. They are also working on the new Scorekeeping manual, which will be dedicated only to softball and should be ready before the end of 2011, The scorekeeping is working on a wide plan, which includes many other projects to enhance the scorekeeping issues.

Every year the Technical and Competition Commissions is responsible for 10 or 11 competitions which must be held during the months July and August and thanks to all the volunteers, umpires, scorekeepers, UIC's and TC's who made this possible.

Marketing and P/R

Our VP Marketing , Michael Schmidt, started a new trend in our ESF dealings with Marketing and Merchandise. Starting in 2010 with our stylistic line of polo and T-shirts that were made available at all European Tournaments and to sell the rights of the ESF logo in 2011. Together with our new ESF ball which have been already ordered by many of Member Federations, provided us with insight into this new area and we will be adjusting the marketing plan this year in order to help the ESF and our Members in promoting our sport throughout Europe.

Although many Federations have had live feeds in some of the events held , the ESF for the first time as an Organization contracted to have the finals of the 2010 Women's European Club tournaments in Haarlem to be streamed, live through satellite for web-broadcast to the whole world. A report from the company we contracted out to, has given us a figure of 40,962 viewers that watched these finals with an average of 9 minutes per view.

The new format of the European Championship Women 2011 at Ronchi - Italy, with its 20 participating teams was a great success for the marketing point of view: high numbers for the Play by Play, for the live streaming on the web, for live TV and over 40.000 fans attended the tournament, coming from all European countries. For this Championship the ESF contracted a video company for web-broadcast the 2 final days with 8 games live through satellite. The national

broadcaster in Italy took these pictures for live broadcast the Italian games directly on the national Italian television and the national broadcaster of the Netherlands used this livestream for 15 minutes highlights of the final. The first time after the 2008 Olympics that softball was on Dutch television. Also a Czech television crew was present in Ronchi to broadcast some games.

In 2010 the ESF paid all costs for the live broadcast but in 2011 the costs were reduced by 50% by payments of national broadcasters.

Financial

The 2010 and 2011 finance is proceeding according to our budget with our Treasurer Eddy Van Straelen leading us. We will need to proceed carefully and with care and our situation as of now is good and we can only hope that the future income from other sources will emerge so that we can continue in this positive direction.

Operations

The VP Operations, Ami Baran, is the driving force behind all our activities. He provides us with the answers we need from our Federations, keeps us on track with what we are supposed to be doing , assists the Secretary General , President and other VP's in many of their tasks including taking care of the main legal issues along with his Legal Commission members Mark Berman and Secretary General , Francesca Fabretto.

We have established a Commission, the Olympic Softball Evaluation Commission (OSEC) which shall look into our future opportunities whether they be in the Olympics or not and in what direction we will need to go for the future.

Website, Athletes, Medical and Anti-doping

Our VP in this area, Chiqui Vasquez, has constantly tried to keep the website up and running , turning into a tool of information for all our Member Federations, she is working on a new website which will bring us up to another level of usage which will include the possibilities to use new media and live streaming.

We also hope during this new year we will find a better way to initiate the Athlete's Committee and utilize the input from this important committee.

A LOT OF WORK HAS BEEN DONE BUT EVEN MORE WORK LIES AHEAD OF US.



European Softball Federation
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ESF VP Technical and Competition report

Review ESF competitions 2011

Sources:

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

Let me thank to all of them for the service for ESF during 2011.

Enumeration of the competitions:

In total 11 ESF competitions were planned for 2011. All competitions have the locations and 10 competitions were completed with final ranking. Unfortunately one competition had to be cancelled because of only 3 participants.

- X. ECWCM, Prague (CZE): 22 - 27 Aug
- XXII. ECM, Hørsholm (DEN): 22 - 27 Aug
- XVIII. ECWB, Dupnitsa (BUL): 15 - 20 Aug
- XXXIV. ECWA, Caserta (ITA): 15 - 20 Aug
- XIV. ECWCWB, Lyon (FRA): 15 - 20 Aug ***CANCELLED***
- XX. ECWCWA, Castions di Strada, Udine (ITA): 15 - 20 Aug
- VI. EChCG, Deurne/Antwerp (BEL): 8 - 13 Aug
- V. ECCS, Mlade Buky (CZE): 3 - 6 Aug
- XVII. EChW, Ronchi de Legionari (ITA): 31 Jul - 6 Aug *
- VIII. EChCS, Dupnitsa (BUL): 19 - 23 Jul
- VII. EChJB, Kostelec Nad Orlici (CZE): 11 - 16 Jul

Allocation of the tournament:

Finally all ESF competitions 2011 were successfully allocated; even three cups were not set up at ESF Congress in Antwerp. Three Cups found its organizers before February 28th, 2011. After agreement between Czech Softball Association and Danish

Softball Association ECM was set up in Horsholm (DEN) and ECWCM was set up in Radotín (CZE). Finally also ECWCWB was set up in Lyon (FRA). Due to lack of participants the ESF is obliged to cancel this Competition as per C.R. 09.00:

"09.00. Teams subscribing to European Competitions are constituted into Divisions in each Competition. The minimum number of teams in one Competition Division will be four, (...)"

I have to note really big improvement of organizing in Dupnitsa. They did big step since 2008, when the first tournament was allocated in this location. ECWB was already organized on the high standard with good infrastructure for players and officials.

Game schedules:

Because better communication between organizers and game schedule creator and because of improvement of mathematic formula of game scheduling, which was more understandable, the potential problems (like last year) was reduced to minimum. We faced only the problems with cancelling of participations. We expected this in the Cups competitions, like usually, but it happened also more than expectation in European Championships. Because of this we had to change the pools made by drawing at the Congress. We had to change the pools at EChW in Ronchi, but we had also the change the competition format in EChCG in Antwerp due to reduction of the number of the team under 12. All those changes were made according principles of drawing procedure presented at ESF Congress in Antwerp.

Scorekeeper Committee:

The biggest step forward in 2011 was installation the Scorekeeping Committee headed by Dennis Duin and Marco Battistella. But not only installation was the step forward, but visible work is the real step. Dennis and Marco prepared Manual for scorekeepers and pushed all organizers to make live statistics Play By Play. All competitions excluding ECM were possible to see on the website. It is really big step with intention to be more professional and attractive for other parties. **It is my pleasure to thank to Dennis and Marco for very good job.** Scorekeeper report is attached.

EChW in Ronchi – valuable business product

European Championship Women is the really best sport product, what ESF can offer to other parties for many aspects. We are able to show many national teams, we are able to show really good performance, we are able to offer social aspects with meeting of many players from several countries; we are able to give the inspiration to many players, when they can see really good European players. Summarized this is really valuable business product, what we can offer and it was

the main goal with installation of the big event. This is the real product, what we can call "EUROPE SOFTBALL" and it was the main target of ESF.

Organizers in Ronchi headed by Andrea Marcon and Anna di Luca and their staff made really good job, like was confirmed by feedback of most of the federations. Of course not everything can be satisfied for everyone, but everyone has to know what is important for them and which game will be important and which game will decide. And I have to say that most of the teams understood this.

I strongly recommend holding this way to organize EChW as large event with a multitude of overall aspects (sport, social, cultural, business and others). This is only the way to be recognized as a strong association throughout Europe. We have to be only careful with allocation EChW in the future, because this event needs to be played in the location with developed softball infrastructure. But hopefully in the longer perspective also other countries will improve their softball infrastructure and they will be ready to host this event.

Player Licences:

The installation PUP fee 50 Euros dramatically reduced number of potential PUPs. Clubs were more careful with number of PUPs and put in the roster just mostly real PUPs, which finally played at the tournaments. Consequently only 1 duplicate player was recognized in 2011, which was satisfactorily sorted out by the 2 clubs.

The problem with bona fide member of club definition for PUPs was again in force (the same player as last year). Player Licences Report is attached.

Umpires:

Arrangement of umpires is very large field and doesn't contain only assignment of umpires for each tournament. Several other activities like Umpires manual for fast pitch and special for slow pitch, umpires questionnaire, umpires clinics, umpires evaluation procedure, extension co-operation with non-European umpire organization or co-operation with nomination European umpires for ISF event are under DoU responsibility. It means distribution of some responsibilities to other people of UIC group have to done. It is mentioned in the Director of Umpires Report, which is attached.

It was also one of the reason, why first meeting of all UICs was held by the EChW in Ronchi. Other reason was also unification of the work of UICs at each ESF tournaments to be able to make adequate evaluation.

We had in 2011 in total 121 umpires licenced by ESF (107 for fast pitch and 19 for slowpitch – some umpires have both licences).

Another ESF umpire clinic was held in May in Prague, when 12 new umpires was licenced. Also ESF extend the co-operation with ASA or exchange slow pitch program.

ESF tournaments 2011:

In total 10 tournaments were played, but unfortunately not all of tournaments completely finished on the field. ECWCM in Radotín finished without final game due to weather, but those two teams already played at ECWCM between themselves and decision from the green table could be done easily. Here are some comments to individual tournaments, what was mentioned by TCs or what happened.

Unfortunately a few days before start of the EChCS in Dupnitsa nominated TC Raymond Van Leemput apologized due to his health. I replaced him after communication with EC at this tournament (Andre van Overbeek) by Andre Prins. The replacement was made just within one day because of urgent situation. Thanks to Andre for serving TC role at this tournament.

The problem with cork core balls was announced at ECM in Horsholm. The balls were destroyed quite early in the game and playoff games were played with poly core balls arranged by organizers. The question of safety is raised by this situation. The balls with cork core are softer and of course safer, but flying features and durability are limited.

The weather complicated EChCG in Antwerp. The organizers offered to play in third field, which was not so sufficient. But without this offer the tournament wasn't possible to finish on the fields. Also some games had to be played with time limit or only for 5 innings. Because of this some games started quite late and we faced to unsatisfaction with stop of the game by darkness by Italian coach. But all decisions made by umpires and TCs was motivated by intention to finish tournament on the field and also with respect to safety of the players.

A late arrival of Russian team and early departure of Ukraine team happened at EChW in Ronchi. This is a situation that should never have occurred.

The problem with personal awards happened at EChJB in Kostelec. The scorekeeper together with TC decided to reduce the parameters stated in Competition Regulations regarding Best Pitcher and Best Hitter. The reason was that so many games finished by mercy rules and really best players could be penalized due to this and also due to large and competitive roster of gold medalist. This issue has to be discussed at EC meeting with intention to arrange the status, which prevent this situation.

Some problems in communications were found at ECWA in Caserta. Something regarding catering and transportation was promised by Pre Inspection made by Mike Jennings, and something different was in the reality at the tournament. Finally it was sorted out by the tournament. But maybe would be better to prepare the document with exact responsibilities of organizers, which are now in more our regulations in several parts. Some comprehensive document would be helpful.

We also faced to quite unhappy situation in ECCS in Mlade Buky after really late cancel of Austrian team (just 10 days before the tournament). Three islands team (2 from GBR and one from IRL) would travel to Czech to play against one other team. According recommendation of Mike Jennings (TC at this tournament) we found one extra team from Czech called Wayne's World. This team replaced Austrian team, which was approved by EC ESF, and we could finally to play this tournament with 5 teams according original schedule.

Final words:

Finally let me thank to all of organizers to host the ESF tournaments in 2011. It is very important to have you, because this is the place for the games and meeting of our players. Thank you so much for hosting!

Also thank to all of the officials – Tic's, Uic's, EC's, umpires, scorers, locals and so many volunteers – for you assists at ESF tournaments in 2011! Your work is invaluable help!

Special thanks to DoU in Europe Marlies Struyvé and DoU assistant Mr. Gilbert Tobback for their excellent contribution and one again to Dennis Duin and Marco Battistella for excellent job with scorekeepers and arrangement of Play By Play.



Gabriel Waage
ESF VP Technical and Competitions



European Softball Federation
Fédération Européenne Softball

ESF Development Commission Report 2011

Totoni Sanna	Chair
Andre Overbeek	member
Slava Smagin	member
Ami Baran	member
John Austin	member
Anton Kops	member

Dear ESF Delegates,

Despite the crisis which has engulfed European society and therefore also the world of sport, we have tried to maintain a steady level of development over the course of 2011. On the one hand, this has allowed us to maintain contact with a number of Federations with which we had previously begun to work, and on the other to help other federations set up and consolidate their softball programmes.

We have been delighted by the way in which those involved in our field of sport have continued to work and achieve good results, in spite of the many problems we now encounter on a daily basis. They have coped with a host of financial difficulties with great enthusiasm and good will.

Together with all the Executive members, we have made a sustained effort to improve the quality of the game and to promote the image of softball throughout the continent. We have staged exhibition matches to lend support to the various countries, and during the ESF championships we aimed to consolidate the activities we undertook in these different places.

I think that the results we have achieved, which are also outlined in the Technical Report, can give us some real hope for the future. It is a future which will witness many further developments in our sport, both in the technical and communications fields and from the aspect of playing the game and introducing it to children.

I am referring to the new creation of the Men's Cup 2012 and the Massimo Romeo Trophy. These two tournaments, together with the already established Junior National and Senior Women's Championships new format, will make a significant contribution to the development and promotion of softball in Europe.

Following the programme put forward during the 2011 Congress in Belgium , we have implemented various schemes for promoting softball by means of clinics and the production of publicity material, and also a new plan which we aim to carry out during 2012.

Clinics,

We have replied to all the requests we received;

In Serbia, following a series of meetings which also involved the local administration, we have put a long-term programme in place. This started up this year with a week-long clinic presided over by a ESF coach who works in the top Italian league.

During the week, in addition to working in the field with the players, a course was also organized for the coaches. This not only improved the specialist skills of the existing technical staff, but also brought in new trainers to support the Serbian federation.

In Sweden, we participated in the first Swedish Coach Convention, sending a coach from our own ESF Coach Committee. About 60 people took part in the three-day event, to the great delight of the organizers.

With regard to slow pitch softball, thanks goes to our manager, Bob Fromer, for organizing a slow pitch clinic in Switzerland, and another in Great Britain.

There were some excellent results in Switzerland and even better success in Great Britain. Here, thanks to an agreement between the ESF and the ASA, we were able to make use of the services of technical personnel and trainers from the USA.

Again, as a result of this agreement, some technical staff from our federations have been able to start training sessions in American colleges.

Promotional material:

- Following our presentation to the 2011 congress, we began distributing "What is softball?" flyers during the course of the last European championship in Italy. Up to now, these have been printed in 5 different languages. As soon as the new website format is ready, we will publish these online, and we are awaiting translations into other languages.

- We have been working on the school manual, which will be presented to the federations at the 2012 congress.

- There has also been continued distribution of the Slow pitch pack, and we think another batch will need to be produced for 2012.

- Some of the games of the Senior European Championship have been broadcasted live and issued on DVD, continuing the promotional video exercise we have now been running for few years.

School activities:

Our work has concentrated on BeeBall.

The presentation was made by Anton Kops, from 2011 member of our commission. He has impressed us by the ease with which one can work with young people and children. We have cooperated with him to prepare a programme which we will present to congress and which we aim to start in the spring of 2012.

We believe some good work has been achieved in 2011, considering the problems we have sometimes encountered in trying to reconcile some very disparate situations. We would like to do more, but this will largely depend on the work and input we get from the various Federations. I want to thank them, however, for all they do for softball on a daily basis.

I think that with a spirit of collaboration, and with your suggestions, we can continue to make progress in our work. It may sometimes be tiring, but it is surely a source of great satisfaction to see more and more youngsters taking up the game of softball.

In conclusion, I would like to thank all the members of the Development Commission and all my colleagues in the Executive section for the ideas they have put forward to this commission.

Particular thanks go to Bob Fromer for the work he has carried out, and the best of luck to John Austin and Anton Kops for the work they will be doing with us over the next season.

Totoni Sanna
ESF Development Commission Chairman



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Fédération Européenne Softball



MOTIONS AND PROPOSALS BY AFFILIATED FEDERATIONS

COMMENTS & RECOMMENDATIONS OF EXECUTIVE COUNCIL & COMMISSIONS

MOTION DEN : CR.14.07.02 – Players age

Recommendation of the Executive Council :

During the Executive Council held in Linate on the 11/nov.2011, the EC has approved the following rule:

14.07.03 – Qualification of Players

(xxx) Exception for Junior Championship only: a team may have up to four (4) players at the age of thirteen (13) years and over, with the condition that the same team have in its Official Competition Roster a minimum of twelve (12) players at the age of fourteen (14) years and over. If a team submit an Official Competition Roster with listed nine (9) players only, all of them shall be at the age of fourteen (14) and over.

The ESF EC believes that with the above exception it is not necessary anymore to delete the CR.14.07.02.

MOTION GBR-1 : TR.08.08.01 – Media Area

Recommendation of the Executive Council :

The EC will do its best to sensitize the organizers of competitions, but doesn't think is necessary to include in the CR.

MOTION GBR-2 : CR.09.09.01.07 and 09.09.01.08 – Format of Competitions

The Executive Council does not recommend to change the format.

MOTION GBR-3 : CR.09.09.01 – New Structure Championships

The Executive Council does not recommend to change the format.

MOTION GBR-4 : Amendments which impose monetary costs

The Executive Council does not recommend to modify the provisions.

MOTION GBR-5 : Umpires participation-Guarantee

The Executive Council does not have any recommendation. The provision is already specified in the Regulations.

Comments by Legal Commission:

All motions implying a change in writing of the Regulations are subject to a re-wording after approval.

Denmark November 5th 2011

The Danish Softball Federation has the following proposal for change of the Competition regulations

Current Regulation (Article to change/delete):

Article 14.07.02 which states:

"A player who has not yet reached the minimum age for a category of age may qualify in this category of age if he/she has the following minimum required age, determined at the first day of the competition: ten (10) years for Cadet, fourteen (14) years for Juniors, seventeen (17) years for Under 22 and Seniors."

Proposal of change.

Deletion of the article

Reason of change

There is no logical reason why a player happen to be born on the first day of the tournament should be more eligible than a person born on the second day. Since Softball in Europe is a summer sport, it makes sense to make the cut at new year. This is also in alignment with other summer sports. So the age rule should follow the calendar year as indicated in article 14.07.01.

Date of effect of the proposed change

1/3- 2011 or as soon as possible



MOTIONS FOR ESF CONGRESS

PROPOSING FEDERATION:

British Softball Federation

GB MOTION 1

CURRENT REGULATION (if applicable):
Section 08.08.01 in ESF Technical Regulations (Official Edition 2010).
PROPOSED CHANGE TO REGULATION:
The regulation says: "An area designated for Press and Media use shall be available at each field of competition and for the entire duration of the competition, and located so as to provide a good unobstructed view of the field of play." A second sentence should be added, as follows: "Each designated Media area shall be provided with a multi-plug electrical connection and, at least on the main competition field, with reliable wi-fi coverage."
REASON FOR CHANGE:
Even where designated Media areas are provided, electrical connections for laptops or other equipment often are not. Yet electricity and wi-fi are essential for media coverage of ESF events.
DATE CHANGE SHOULD TAKE EFFECT:
For the 2012 season.



MOTIONS FOR ESF CONGRESS

PROPOSING FEDERATION:

British Softball Federation

GB MOTION 2

CURRENT REGULATION (if applicable):

Sections 09.09.01.07 and 09.09.01.08 in ESF Competitions Regulations (Format of Competitions).

PROPOSED CHANGE TO REGULATION:

These two regulations set out formats for European Championships involving **10** and **11** entries. In the case of ten entries, there are two initial round-robin groups "a" and "b" of five teams each. In the case of eleven entries, there are two initial round robin groups where "a" has six teams and "b" has five teams.

In both cases, after the initial round robins are played, the regulation says:

- Teams ranked 1 and 2 in groups "a" and "b" play a single round robin "c"....
- Teams ranked 3, 4, 5 (and 6) in both groups play a single round robin "d"....

In other words, two teams from each initial round robin group (four teams in all) go forward to playoffs, and the remaining teams simply play for places. The four teams that go forward play each other in round robin group "c" -- and then play each other again in the Page Playoff.

We propose that the bullet points quoted above in the regulation be changed to read:

- Teams ranked **1, 2 and 3** in groups "a" and "b" play a single round robin "c"....
- Teams ranked **4, 5 (and 6)** in both groups play a single round robin "d"....

In each case, the rest of the regulation would have to be amended so that the teams that finish 1-4 in "c" go forward to the Page Playoff while the teams that finish 5 and 6 in "c" play each other for fifth place.

We would also like to suggest a further amendment regarding what happens to the teams that play in "d", "e", "f" etc depending on tournament size, but this will be the subject of **GB Motion 3**.

REASON FOR CHANGE:

The formats set out by the ESF in the case of 10 and 11 entries to a European Championship do not give enough teams a chance to advance after the initial round robin groups with the opportunity of winning a medal, leaving most of the teams to spend most of the tournament simply playing for final places. This is demotivating for the "middle rank" teams, and it also usually unbalances the competition in "d", where teams are supposed to be on more of a level playing field.

The formats for 10 and 11 entries are **uniquely low** among all ESF formats in terms of the percentage of teams that can advance to playoffs after the first round until you get all the way up to 20 teams. In a 20-team competition, these percentages are appropriate, since there are a limited number of good teams in any competition. But they are not appropriate in a competition with half that number of teams.

Here are the percentage of teams that can advance to playoffs in all current ESF Championship formats from 4 to 20 teams:

4 teams:	100%
5 teams:	80%
6 teams:	67%
7 teams:	57%
8 teams:	50%
9 teams:	44%
10 teams:	40%
11 teams:	36%
12 teams:	67%
13 teams:	62%
14 teams:	57%
15 teams:	53%
16 teams:	50%
17 teams:	47%
18 teams:	44%
19 teams:	42%
20 teams:	40%

The effect of having too few teams go forward to playoffs from an 11-team tournament was clearly seen in the EChCG in Antwerp in 2011, where the Czech Republic, Spain and Germany all missed out on the playoffs despite being reasonably competitive with the top teams. The result was some mercy rule games in "d" and a lack of variety in "c".

We asked the coaches and managers from several teams at the EChCG whether they felt that two or three teams should advance from "a" and "b" in a tournament of this size, and their unanimous answer was: "three".

DATE CHANGE SHOULD TAKE EFFECT:

For the 2012 season.



MOTIONS FOR ESF CONGRESS

PROPOSING FEDERATION:

British Softball Federation

GB MOTION 3

CURRENT REGULATION (if applicable):

Section 09.09.01 in ESF Competitions Regulations.

PROPOSED CHANGE TO REGULATION:

All Championship formats described in this regulation begin with an initial single or double round robin, with teams divided into groups, usually "a" and "b" or "a" through "d", but with further groups in a couple of formats.

Following those initial round robins, a certain number of teams go forward to playoffs that eventually lead to medals, while the remaining teams play a further round robin in one or more groups to determine final placings in the competition.

With ESF Championships now played as a single competition rather than in different pools, Championships with larger entries such as the EChW, EChJG and in 2011 the EChCG are structured so that fewer than 50% of teams advance to playoffs and the majority of teams play for places after the first round, often for most of the tournament. In many cases, teams that do not advance to the playoffs spend four days out of six playing for places, usually on secondary fields away from the main buzz and excitement of the tournament.

The change that we are proposing would have to be worked out in detail for each Championship format depending on the number of entries to any particular tournament, and depending on how many teams go forward to playoffs in that tournament after the first round.

However, in general terms, **our proposal** is this:

"For any ESF Championship with eight entries or more, teams that do not advance to playoffs after the first round will play off for places through a new named competition (for example, the "European Junior Women's Cup" or something similar) that is structured to finish either with a Page or Cross-Group playoff leading to a winner and trophies.

"At least the last two or three games of this secondary competition, depending on structure, should be played on the main tournament field, if possible in a decent time slot.

"Following the Final in this competition, there should be a brief ceremony to present team and

individual trophies, with at least the three medal-winning teams on the field. Depending on timing (eg, if this competition finishes on Friday), it may be possible to have all the teams that did not make the main playoffs on the field for the ceremony."

REASON FOR CHANGE:

This change will bring more interest and excitement for teams that do not advance to playoff rounds in ESF Championships and give all or most of them meaningful games for a greater proportion of the tournament week. It should lessen their feeling that they are "second class citizens" after the first couple of days.

This change should be possible without adding many or any additional games to the total tournament schedule, and the only extra cost should be some additional team and individual trophies.

DATE CHANGE SHOULD TAKE EFFECT:

For the 2012 season.



MOTIONS FOR ESF CONGRESS

PROPOSING FEDERATION:

British Softball Federation

GB MOTION 4

PROPOSED CHANGE TO REGULATION:
<p>Amendments to Competition Regulations or Technical Regulations which impose or change monetary costs, penalties or guarantees – normally tabulated in the Financial Appendix – may not be changed without prior Congress approval, and must then remain unchanged for the full season following.</p> <p>Any changes proposed via the Competitions Commissions sitting at a Congress are exempt from the requirement of submission 90 days prior to Congress.</p>
DATE CHANGE SHOULD TAKE EFFECT:
<p>For the 2012 season.</p>



MOTIONS FOR ESF CONGRESS

PROPOSING FEDERATION:

British Softball Federation

GB MOTION 5

CLARIFICATION:

For the avoidance of doubt, this Congress determines that the accounting for umpire participation in ESF competitions is as follows:

- 1 Each Federation engaging in competition in a given year must lodge an umpire deposit of €375 (or as from time to time amended) for each event entered. This deposit to be paid at the time of entering the team, or by identifying as a deposit for the new season an amount already held by the ESF for this purpose.
- 2 Any Federation unable to provide the same number of umpires as they have entered tournaments shall forfeit one deposit for each event not covered, which will be used to fund the travel costs of a substitute umpire from another Federation to such event as the EC shall specify. Any surplus remaining after deducting such expense from the deposit shall revert to the ESF.
- 3 If an umpire nominated to a ESF Competition gives less than thirty (30) days' notice of inability to attend or without notice fails to attend as expected, his / her Federation will both lose the deposit as in 2 above and in addition be liable to a further penalty of €375 (or as from time to time amended).



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Appointment of Organizers of Competitions CALENDAR 2012

July 9 TH -14 TH	III. European Championship Under 22 Girls	Havlickuv Brod (CZE) (1)
July 23 RD -28 TH	XII. European Championship Junior Girls	Hoboken (BEL)
July 23 RD -28 TH	XI. European Championship Men	Amstelveen (NED)
August 20 TH – 25 TH	XXXV. European Cup Women "A"	San Marino (SMR) Prague (CZE) (2) Enschede (NED)
August 20 TH – 25 TH	XXI. European Cup Winners Cup Women "A"	Nuoro (ITA) (1)
August 20 TH – 25 TH	XIX. European Cup Women "B"	Ostrava (CZE) (1)
August 20 TH – 25 TH	XIV. European Cup Winners Cup Women "B"	Trieste (ITA) Dupnitsa (BUL) (2) Nomination open until the Congress
August 13/14 TH – 18 TH	I. European M.Romeo Youth Trophy	Collecchio, Parma (ITA)
Aug. 27 TH – Sept. 1 ST	I. European Super Cup Men	Prague (CZE) (1)
Jul. 30/31 – Aug. 4 TH	VI. European Cup Coed Slowpitch	Pardubice (CZE) (1)

(1) Contingent to final approval by the Congress

(2) Subject to vote at the Technical & Competitions Commission before the Congress

CALENDAR 2013

Jul. 28 TH – Aug. 3 RD	XVIII. European Championship Women	Prague (CZE) (1)
Aug. 5 TH – 10 TH	VII. European Championship Cadet Girls	Ostrava (CZE) (1)
Jul. 8 TH – 13 TH	VIII. European Championship Junior Boys	Stenløse (DEN) (1) Nomination open until the Congress
Jul. 15/16 TH – 20 TH	IX. European Championship Coed Slowpitch	Pardubice (CZE) (1)