



Memorandum for European Softball Competitions, 2018

The games of ESF Competitions shall be played in accordance with WBSC Playing Rules and Technical Code (2018-2021 edition) unless otherwise stated in ESF Competitions Regulations or in this Memorandum and Appendices: App 1: Bats / App 2: Disciplinary.

Particular attention is drawn to the following rules and regulations:

- **ID Control:** As soon as possible after the ID control, each team's Official Competition Rosters (containing full names and all uniform numbers) will be posted on the ESF Competition website, with hard copy provided if requested.
- **Contact information:** Each team must provide comprehensive contact details so they can be contacted when necessary.
- **Schedule:** The Technical Committee reserves the right to change the game schedule during the Competition as appropriate, e.g. in case of problems concerning the weather, and will make every effort to contact affected teams via the ESF website, e-mails and mobile / SMS.
- **Teams are expected to acknowledge receipt of any notification of schedule changes.**
- **Official batting order:** 60 minutes before the scheduled start of the game, the teams shall hand in the yellow copy of the "Official Line-up Form" (duly completed – for each player: name and surname, printed legibly, uniform number and playing position) to the official scorers. A game ball will be provided to the team at that time. During the pre-game meeting with the umpires at home plate before the game, each manager shall give the white to the plate umpire and the pink copy for the opposing manager.
- **Pitcher Warm Ups after entering field:** - when it is not possible outside the field, the pitcher and catcher (in FP, with mask) may warm up in foul territory, beyond the dugouts, throwing away from the Home Plate.
- During any **IN-GAME warm-ups in foul territory**, a safety player (spotter) with a glove must protect them from being hit by a ball.
- **Ejections:** An ejected player / coach will immediately be escorted away from the field by an official. They must remove their uniform (at least the shirt).
- **Disciplinary procedures following all ejections:** All managers and players should be familiar with the current policies. Previous ejections will be taken into account during TC consideration of any subsequent occurrence, and penalties not completed during this event will be carried forward to the next ESF Competition which the player enters. (See Disciplinary Regulations at <http://www.europeansoftball.org/documents/?category=3> and Appendix 2 below.)
- **Protests (ESF CR 12.01 et seq.):** Protests concerning a game must be handed to the T.C. in writing no later than 15 minutes after the end of the game.
- **Tie-Break Resolution:** ESF 2018 procedure in the case of three or more teams tied on points, where the results of the games amongst themselves do not resolve the tie, will be to rank the teams by Runs Against in the games amongst themselves. The team with fewest Runs Against shall be ranked First and so on.

Mike Jennings

ESF Competition and Technical Director

APPENDIX 1: Bats used in ESF Competitions 2018:

Bats used in ESF Competitions must have the current ISF logo **and / or** the ASA 2000 Certification Mark, ASA 2004 Certification Mark, or ASA 2013 Certification Mark (Slow Pitch, Men's Adult Fast Pitch, Junior Olympic Boy's Fast Pitch and Men's Modified only), as shown below and must **not** be listed on the Non-Approved Bat List with 2000 or 2004 Certification Mark. Please check the current list carefully. Bats on that list cannot be ESF approved.



All participating teams must bring to the TC Meeting all the bats they desire to use, listed on a prenumbered Bat Control Form. Each bat should be marked with the number which corresponds to the list (A marker pen or simple paper sticker is sufficient to identify the bat's number) to facilitate an efficient Bat Control process, which will NOT commence until the completed list is available to the Bat Check group. All previous ESF labels should be removed and any dirt including pine-tar residue must be cleaned from the bat before submission for testing.

The umpires of the tournament will pressure-test all bats and examine them for WBSC Rules legality.

Bats that are deemed to be compliant with the requirements will have a current label affixed to the handle, just above the safety grip. The labels will clearly identify the bat as being "approved" for use.

If new bats are purchased during the competition or arrive AFTER the bat control held during the TC meeting, their owners will need to make an appointment with the UiC to have the bat examined and labeled as appropriate. ONLY the UiC will be empowered to check bats during the tournament, so teams are responsible to know where the UiC is and organize a meeting. A bat cannot be used, even if legal, without the ESF sticker.

Be aware that before ANY game, the umpires may come to dugouts to execute further bat and helmets checks.

TR 06.02.01: A bat not approved may be retained by the team but must not be brought into the Dugouts at any time throughout the Competition.

A bat found in the dugout without a label will be considered an *Altered Bat* and will be removed from the game and the Head Coach will be ejected.

Any batter detected using an unlabeled bat will be called out and ejected.

During a game, if an illegal bat is found to have an "approved" label on it, but there is evidence of tampering with the bat label, this will be treated as an act of extreme unsportsmanlike conduct and will result in the ejection from the game, and suspension from further participation in the competition, of the Head Coach of the team whose player / players have been found using such a bat.

The Bat Control List will be checked before any penalty is imposed, to confirm whether the bat itself was recorded as passing the original Bat Control examination.

APPENDIX 2: Disciplinary Procedures: ESF Regulations 2018 extract:

7. Infractions during tournaments:
- a. By players, coaches, managers or other team members on the playing field during a game.

Only the umpire crew can take decisions for infractions on the field during a game.

In the case of any ejection of a team member the umpire will submit a completed ESF Ejection Report to the game TC member, who will then determine what minimum sanction, if any, is required by ESF Disciplinary Regulations (Appendix).

A technical ejection – for illegal re-entry etc – will not be grounds for further sanctions under para 7.a.

An ejection falling under the category 'Other Infractions' may not require further sanction.

The TC member will as soon as possible inform the Manager that the ejected player is subject to the minimum penalty as required by the Appendix and that the incident will be reported to the Technical Commission to determine whether any further sanction is to be applied.

The Report, with a note of the minimum sanction already applied, will then be promptly submitted to the Technical Commission to consider whether any further sanction should be imposed.

(The Commission will take into account the actions of the ejected player / manager following the incident, including reluctance or refusal to go to the specified area upon ejection, or returning to confront the umpire(s) after the game. They will also note whether this was the first or further such incident involving the individual(s) concerned).

If the Commission decide that no further sanction is required, the Manager of the ejected player's team will be so informed. If a further sanction has been determined, then a written Statement of that sanction will be provided to the manager and player involved.

Within two hours of receiving the Statement they may request a hearing to appeal against the further sanction applied. This hearing will be chaired by the EC member present or their substitute and may hear from the ejected player / manager (who may be accompanied by a representative), and Technical Commissioner(s).

There is no appeal against the decision of the EC.

Player, coach or team member to opponent: Number of games suspension:

	Minimum	Maximum
Verbal		
Indecent language	1	2
Insulting language	1	3
Threats	1	4
Inciting spectators to abuse another player	1	3
Physical		
Deliberate contact	1	2
Fights:	2	3
Fights: Actual injury	3	6
Throwing material	1	2
Spitting	2	4
NOTE:		Fights during bench clearing will be handled as fights mentioned above

Player, coach or team member to official

Verbal		
Indecent language	1	2
Insulting language	2	3
Threats	2	4
Inciting spectators to abuse officials	1	3
Physical		
Deliberate contact	1	2
Attempted injury	2	3
Actual injury	3	6
Throwing material at a person	2	4
Spitting	2	4
Other interfractions		
Disputing judgement calls, bad language, etc	0	2

If in the TC's judgement the Umpire's Report indicates that the ejection itself was sufficient, AND there are no previous incidents on record, the player may only be issued with an 'Official Warning'.

If an Individual's Sanction Record shows previous infringements, further incidents may result in penalties higher than the maximum mentioned above.