



**EUROPEAN
SOFTBALL
FEDERATION**

NEWSFLASH

March 2012

ESF COMPETITIONS 2012

by ESFVP Gabriel Waage

The ESF Congress in Malta decided on the organizers of the 2012 ESF Competitions and now the season can start.

Game schedules are being prepared, first drafts have already been sent to the Organizers and after their comments the final versions will be published by mid April.

We encountered a difficult situation with the ECHJG. Due to the lack of information we were receiving from the Belgian Organizers the EC decided to make a personal visit to Belgium before the end of February to evaluate the situation.

I personally made the visit and found that there was a lack of willingness to organize this very important event.

After a long discussion among all the parties involved, the Belgian Federation stepped down from organizing the ECHJG.

Immediately, negotiations were held to find an alternate venue and it was finally agreed upon with the Dutch Club, Gryphons, who have an outstanding facility and we strongly believe it will be a very nice tournament.

Two tournaments will be played according to a new format. The European Massimo Romeo Youth Trophy is now open also for selected teams or club teams.

Unfortunately three teams out of the ten which registered for this tournament have withdrawn and the final number of teams that will be participating is seven, which is under the expectations of the organizers from Collecchio.

The European Super Cup Men has 18 teams in total, and should be one of the highlights of this year's competitions. ESCM will be played at the two largest softball complexes in Prague – Eagles and Joudrs Park.

Andrea Marcon, ESF Director of Umpires, has just about finalized the assignments of umpires for each tournament. Dennis Duin and Marco Battistella, ESF Scorekeeper Committee co-chairman, are finished with the assignments of chiefs of scorers at each tournament.

We are glad to say that the ESF tournaments are almost ready to begin. I wish all of the parties at our ESF competitions 2012 to have a good time.

For more details about ESF tournaments 2012 see ESF website.



100 YEAR OLD DUTCH FEDERATION AND THE ESF PRESENT BEEBALL

During the last four years the Royal Dutch Baseball and Softball Federation (KNBSB) developed and implement the game of BeeBall for kids from 5 till 10 years old.

BeeBall is a game that's easy to play, easy to coach and easy to start as a club (teams with 4 or 5 players).

In this age group it's relatively easy to recruit kids for the sport and BeeBall as the dynamic version of baseball and softball makes it attractive to catch the interest from kids.

BeeBall can be implemented at the elementary schools and clubs and can be played on the street, in the park, schoolyard, indoors, etc.

In 2011 the numbers of members in the BeeBall age increased with a relatively big amount. BeeBall is a success to make our sports grow in numbers, but in the longer terms also to increase the level of the game.

The KNBSB want to share this success and make the game available for all the countries in Europe.

Because of her 100 year Anniversary the Executive Board of the KNBSB offers BeeBall as a present to all the European countries,

with the support of the KNBSB to implement the game in the countries who are interested.

The project was presented by the KNBSB at the ESF general congress held in Malta early February and also to the CEB general congress held in Rotterdam (NL).

The possibility to implement BeeBall in all European countries will be realized in close cooperation with the Development Commissions of both ESF and CEB, according to the agreements of the two Executive Boards.

We are happy to inform all Federations that a complete set of clips is available on YouTube by searching BeeBallNL.

These clips are in the moment in Dutch language only, but later we shall inform you about the possibility to translate the clips in your countries' languages.

If you have any question about BeeBall, please do not hesitate to contact us at beeball@europeansoftball.org

*Anton Kops
ESF Development Commissioner for BeeBall*



THE NEW ESF SCORER'S MANUAL IS ONLINE

by the ESF Scorekeepers Committee

The ESF is pleased to announce the publication of the ESF scorer's manual, the first scorer's manual specifically dedicated to the game of softball.

The aim of is to provide the necessary information for recording plays and thereby determining the score of a softball game.

The manual will be used as a reference for all ESF competitions starting from 2012 and can be downloaded from the section Commissions/Committees > Scorekeeper Committee on our website.

On the same page you can also find the ESF scorecard, available for download as well.

The ESF would like to thank the IBAF/CEB for making their manual available as a base for the ESF scorekeeper manual.

Also, the ESF would like to thank Marco Battistella and Dennis Duin, ESF Scorekeeper Committee, for their extremely careful review and the adaptation to the rules of Softball.

For any further information about ESF scorekeeping please contact the ESF Scorekeeper Committee at the following email address: scorekeeper@europeansoftball.org

ROSMALEN IS THE NEW LOCATION OF THE ECHJG 2012

by Francesca Fabretto, ESF

After the withdrawal of the Belgium club Hoboken Pioneers, the ESF is glad to inform that the Championship Junior Girls will be played in Rosmalen, the Netherlands, at the Gryphons Baseball and Softball Club.

The date of the competition remains the same: July 23rd-28th, 2012.

The facilities have been already inspected by the VP for Competi-

tions Gabriel Waage, who was very enthusiast after the visit. "The sport complex of the Gryphons is very bountiful and I am sure it will be a very nice tournament" stated Waage.

For information, contact Mr. Anton Kops, email address EChjG2012@gmail.com



SKÖVDE SAINTS WONE THE ANNUAL INDOOR CHAMPIONSHIP IN SWEDEN

by Kristian Palvia, General Secretary Swedish Federation

Photo by Magnus Hallqvist

Skövde Saints won their second straight title at the annual Swedish Softball Indoor Championship last weekend in Enköping, Sweden. In the final the Saints beat Sundsvall Mosquitoes, 8-2.

The reigning outdoor fastpitch champions proved to be strongest indoor as well, despite having several inexperienced and new players on the team for this years edition.

The Saints won all games in the preliminary round and had a tough time defeating Söder Black and Blue in the semifinals. After a tight game, Skövde edged Söder 3-2.



In the finals Sundsvall Mosquitoes, spearheaded by Theresia Östling and Sofia Svensk, looked strong and were going for the win, when Skövde was able to turn the game, taking advantage of a few crucial errors by the Mosquitoes team.

Söder took the bronze after defeating Leksand, 4-3 in the bronze game. Enköping finished in fifth place, the Lithuanian team „Angels“ came in sixth place and the newly started team Gävle finished seventh in the tournament.

For the future of northern European softball, it was very nice to see the young Lithuanian team coming to Sweden to play games.

They played many close games against the more experienced Swedish teams and without doubt have a good future ahead of them.

As for the Swedish teams, many used several new and young players in this tournament and with a completely new team (Gävle) the softball league in Sweden will expand to six teams in 2012.



SERBIA U18 TOURNAMENT SEEKS ONE MORE TEAM

Submit by Dejan Jesic (Serbian Federation)

The Serbian Federation is organizing a tournament, which will take place during the last weekend of April – 28.04/01.05 - in Zajecar (220km east of Belgrade).

The competition is open to Junior Girls (Under18). Teams from Bulgaria, Greece, Romania, Serbia and Turkey already confirmed their participation but the organizer are looking for one more team.

If you are interested please contact mr. Dejan Jesic – email address djesic@gmail.com



DANISH AND ISRAEL JUNIOR GIRL AT THE AYELET GAMES IN EILAT

by Mette Nissen Jakobsen

In the Ayelet Games there are more than 1,500 athletes who participate for a three-day event. The games are run by Ayelet, an organization which represents sports which are not included in the Olympics.

Events are for youth categories (usually 15 and older - however if we have specific requests we can have softball for 12-13 year old teams)

With their first international Softball game experience, the Danish new young girls team just returned from Israel.

The girls bring back home with them good softball game experience, new softball friends and other great experiences after a very successful trip that both Danish and Israeli Softball can be pleased with.

With 13 players, 2 coaches and a team leader the danish team arrived to Israel, where the girls were given a storming welcome by the Israeli players.

The hospitality was overwhelming and as participants of an annual event for non Olympic sports, the girls were accommodated in a large sports hotel in Eilat, together with the Israeli players and all the other athletes.

The Softball Tournament, that the girls attended, was a small tournament, where we attended as the first international team ever.

The Danish girls played against a mixture of 2 Israeli teams. In addition to the official games, there was room for a more friendly game where some of the Danish girls entered the Israeli teams and played a fine game together.

With both wins in the preliminaries and the finals, the girls received

gold medals around their necks and could celebrate their first success together.

With gold medals in the luggage, the girls went back to Tel Aviv, where another game waited for them on a beautiful field, where they got to play an evening game with lights.

No doubt that these first international games, have given the danish and Israeli girls a good basis for preparing for the European Championships in Holland in July.

The tour also featured other great, non Softball relating experiences, when the girls got to desert, diving with dolphins, riding a camel, and were invited on a guided tour through Jerusalem.

One last thing that also was really good, was that I got a lot of new friends.

In the short time we all became good friends and it was so cool - maybe it did, that our team spirit and teamwork on the field became better for each game."

„Everybody started a bit shy, but already the first day loosened up, and everyone laughed and really had fun!

On the field it was even better, we cheered and supported each other, whether it was good or bad.

We started new friendships fast with both the Israeli girls, and the Danish, and I'll bet that the training will be 10 times more fun next time when we have a lot of shared experiences to talk about - the dolphin dives or the games we won.

In addition, we had many culture impressions and it was really exciting and special to see all the religious places in Jerusalem.

Truly a successful trip and a great success for girls Softball in Denmark - and in Israel.

