



EUROPEAN SOFTBALL FEDERATION CONGRESS MINUTES

CONGRESS 2019

Athens, Greece – February 2nd 2019

Gabriel Waage opens the Congress

I. Roll Call

Affiliated Federations represented by Accredited Delegates with Credentials:

AUSTRIA, BELGIUM, BULGARIA, CROATIA, CZECH REPUBLIC, DENMARK, FRANCE, GERMANY, GREAT BRITAIN, GREECE, HUNGARY, IRELAND, ISRAEL, ITALY, LITHUANIA, NETHERLANDS, NORWAY, POLAND, RUSSIA, SAN MARINO, SERBIA, SLOVAKIA, SLOVENIA, SPAIN, SWITZERLAND, SWEDEN, UKRAINE.

Affiliated Federations absent: GUERNSEY, FINLAND, JERSEY, TURKEY, MALTA, ROMANIA

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

There are 33 Federations affiliated, 27 Federations duly represented, 26 Federations with the right of vote, the Congress is quorate. (ABSOLUTE MAJORITY IS 14)

*ESF President Gabriel Waage introduces special guests:

WBSC President Riccardo Fraccari
WBSC SD Chairman Tommy Velázquez
WBSC Executive Director Michael Schmidt

Opening speech by the host Kostis Liarommatis
Opening speech by Riccardo Fraccari
Opening speech by Tommy Velázquez

Speech by ESF President Gabriel Waage.

Presentation of two special awards :

Italy on their accomplishments in the Super 6 and winning all Cups this year.

Slovakia for hosting the first time ever U22 WECh with unexpected circumstances.

*Little League Award presented by Daniel Velte to the Czech Republic

*Pony League Award presented by Abraham Key to the Netherlands

SG tel: +972 522 751 387,
e-mail: abaran@europeansoftball.org

ESF tel: +972 52 275 1367
e-mail: sg@europeansoftball.org

II. Approval of the Minutes of 2018 Congress

The Minutes of 2018 Congress approved by unanimity

III. Development Report

- Ami Baran sums up the Development Commission meeting
- ESCA Training Camp video presented, Partnership with NFCA announced
- Kenko corporation presentation (training balls)

IV. WBSC Men's Softball World Championship in the Czech Republic

V. Approval of the budget 2019

The budget is approved by unanimity.

VI. Appointment of the Auditor

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

VII. Presidents Panel

WBSC President Riccardo Fraccari
WBSC SD Chairman Tommy Velázquez
ESF President Gabriel Waage
CEB Didier Seminet

VIII. Technical and Competitions

- Mike Jennings gives summary of the TC Commission
 - Low-budget live-streaming manual available at the ESF website
 - WBSC World Cup changes
 - U-18 Qualifier cancelled (no organizer)
 - Umpires clinic will take place in April in Prague, umpire development system for NFs in creation

IX. Appointment of Organizers

- Presentations from organizers: WECh, U15WECh
- Vote for the organizer of 2019 WECWC – Roef! (NED) vs Eagles (CZE)
 - Roef! 4 votes – Eagles 6 votes
 - WECWC 2019 will be held at Eagles (CZE)
- Vote for the organizer U15WECh – confirmed TTT (NED)

X. Championships Drawing

- **CSPECh**

pool A: GBR, CZE, NED, HUN, SRB, AUT;

pool B: GER, IRL, BEL, ITA, BUL

- **U16WECh**

pool A: CZE, GBR, CRO, ISR;

pool B: GER, RUS, BEL, HUN;

pool C: ITA, FRA, SVK, TUR;

pool D: NED, UKR, POL

- **WECh**

pool A: CZE, SWE, FRA, BEL, SVK, LTH;

pool B: ITA, ESP, AUT, UKR, ISR, TUR;

pool C: NED, RUS, POL, IRL, DEN, HUN;

pool D: GBR, GRE, GER, CRO, SUI

XI. Hall of Fame

- Michele Dodde, an umpire from Italy

XII. Place of the 2020 Congress

- Not decided

XIV. Various

none

Closing of the Congress

Gabriel Waage

President

Ami Baran Secretary

General



2019 ESF CONGRESS, Athens

FINANCIAL COMMITTEE REPORT

February 1st 2019

Chair: Eddy van Straelen, ESF treasurer
Minutes: Carolien Stadhouders

Present: 12 federations:

AUT, CRO, CZE, DEN, GBR, GRE, HUN, IRL, ISR, SRB, SWE, TUR,

General remarks:

- Please note for 2019 competitions:
Febr 1st for withdrawing Entry and March 1st for payment Entry fee, (see CR 03.03/04)
- Information about the right to vote at Congress: **Malta** and **Lithuania** are not "in good standing"

Discussion financial result 2018:

Loss only €18.000 (budget was €30.000) in general no special differences:

Income: Entry Fees were more than in budget because more tournaments and more participations

Income: PUPs higher because more participations + because MESC was in CZE (lower travel cost for pups)

Income We received the last part of a "written off" amount (€2.000)

Expenses: TV+Web : half (= €11.000) to Playo for Super 6 , flagship for Softball Europe, many viewers

Expenses: debts written off because we lost sponsor Enjoy/Tecnovap.

Discussion budget 2019 :

Affiliation fees: no changes needed yet,

Entry fees: no changes needed yet,

Expenses UC: we need more UIC and Umpires, because more teams, sometimes 3 fields, independence,

Expenses development: we keep trying to spend around 15.000 same as last years,
but if really needed we will spend more.

Question IRL: With a budget loss of 27.000 €, what will be the critical point.

Treasurer answers: The auditor has admitted this amount as being reasonable. If the capital reserve would reach 50.000 €, we will have to consider raising fees or other solutions.

We will also have to consider the new situation after the "financial" start of WBSC Europe.

President Waage informs: for 2019 we will receive the amount of €25.000 from WBSC!!

Question DEN : Did ESF consider to spend more reserve money before the merging to WBSC Europe

President Waage answers: We prefer to have a reasonable amount as an "umbrella"

As there are no more questions, the Treasurer is happy to conclude that all reports, and figures and details were very clear for everyone and closes this Financial Committee meeting.

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DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE REPORT

February 1st 2019

Chair: Ami Baran, Mette Nissen Jakobsen, Kristian Pälviä
Guest: Angelo Vicini (WBSC)
Minutes: Helena Novotná

Present: 16 federations:

AUT, CRO, CZE, DEN, GBR, GRE, HUN, IRL, ISR, POL, RUS, SLO, SVK, SRB, SWE, TUR, UKR

Angelo Vicini

- WBSC cooperates more with the NFs on development projects, 51 projects accepted, 23 from European countries
- WBSC wants to give more responsibilities to the Continental Federations; each continental federation will be given 50k for development in each continent, to be distributed by the Continental Federation

Petra Cizmic – IGETS presentation (NED, CRO, MLT)

- Petra Cizmic is available for any help or consultations regarding Euro-funding projects

Turkey - ESF help, government connections, producing their own equipment, working on building a field

- level 1 coaching course (7-day) for 19 coaches, umpiring clinic with an ESF Umpire Raoul Machalet

Northern Countries

- Baltic Open -both men and women + Sweden and Lithuania took part in the MECh 2018
- Norway at the Baltic Open, an ESF clinic was held in Norway, signed up for the MESC 2019

Coaching clinics

- Germany, Great Britain, Italy

Equipment for Europe

- Keeps going, NFs requests to Ami Baran, then distributed
- Restarting the requests process

Paralympic Commission „Baseball for All“ – Tom Nagel

- Wheelchair projects (both baseball and softball) are not always connected to NFs then WBSC cannot support them and to monitor them and to structure international competition

Lee County Sports Development – Kevin Smith, Angel Natal, Mark Zimmerman

- Invitation to Central Florida with national development projects, for teams, players, and coaches
- Resources – lodging, transportation, program, contacts

Pony League - Abraham Key - This year for the first time adding also U14 girls category

Little League – Daniel Velte – Development – resources for Europe (dependent on participation in LL tournaments)

Slowpitch

- First-ever Men's Slowpitch Championship
- 16 clubs from 9 countries CSPESC
- Player clinic in Denmark

Euroleague – Petra Cizmic - Great increase to 10 countries

- Invitation to other clubs and countries to join in

Clinics at Championships and Cups - Every year

Coaches Fastpitch Program + European Coaches Certificate Online Program - Future projects

MECh - Record of 12 teams participating

ESCA

- 15 countries, 70 participants
- Registrations to start in 2019, with ESCA registration goes NFCA membership as well

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TECHNICAL AND COMPETITIONS COMMITTEE REPORT

February 1st 2019

Chair: Mike Jennings, Carolien Stadhouders, Gabriel Waage, Petra Arends

Minutes: Helena Novotná

Present: 16 federations:

AUT, BUL, CRO, CZE, DEN, GBR, GRE, HUN, IRL, ISR, NED, SUI, SVK, SRB, SWE, UKR

TC Report by Mike Jennings (Director TC) – no comments

Umpires Director – Carolien Stadhouders

- Decreasing numbers, less than 90 active umpires now, however the number of entries is increasing
- 40% assignments from 3 federations, 12 federations send team but have no ESF-licensed umpires
- Raoul Machalet develops a program for umpire-base sustainability – to be approved and sent to the NFs
- Basic fastpitch umpire clinic to be held in 2019 in Prague (deadline for registration in mid-February)
- Ability to organize regional or national clinics for umpires – ask for support!
- **Bulgaria:** suggestion to consider licensing not only at a clinic but also locally (passing an exam, or examination) .
- **Ireland:** Is there an umpiring course for national level – for beginners/short time investment
 - o There's no course for fastpitch, but the ESF can send a lecturer or assist depending on needs
 - o Slowpitch – there's a one-day course – Chris Moon to be contacted for this
- **Netherlands:** During tournaments they hold courses/clinics for both umpires and scorekeepers
- Pre-game reports to be provided before each game for media (or other) needs – automated system created from the play-by-play

Live-streaming – Helena Novotná - Live-streaming Manual is available under “Other Documents” on the website

- Organizers' responsibility at championships (not the ESF's anymore)

U-18 Women's European Qualifier

- No organizer, the tournament is cancelled

CSPECh - Organizer unsure of their ability to host the tournament, to be resolved asap, other countries may step in

- It is a qualifier from the World Cup – number of spots for Europe not announced yet

WEC presentation

WECWC presentation by both bidders - Vote tied, voting will be repeated at the General Congress

Motions and issues for discussion

- **Great Britain** suggestion to use previous standings to divide teams into groups, to not to do drawings – *denied*
- **Great Britain** – return to using the page system – *denied (more attractive, media friendly)*
- **Switzerland**
 - o Age limits for European competitions – *year of birth is deciding, not the day of birth, age tables will be aligned with the WBSC, applies also to Cups*
- **Ireland** – transportation puts a big pressure on the organizer and doesn't always work properly, the entry fee could be lowered for the teams who take care of their own transportation
 - o Denmark support the idea
 - o *For this year – teams should indicate soon (deadline to be set) whether they are planning on using their own transportation or use the organizer's service*
- **Denmark** – MECh not to have 2-year break but rather to play two back to back years
- **Israel** – U18 qualifier should be based on the last standings or youth-only rankings
- **Great Britain** – ESF should consider adding an item on the list of competitions for junior boys and girls – there is a 3-year gap (after the WBSC timing changes)

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ESF and CEB joint **MEDIA and MARKETING COMMITTEE REPORT**

February 1st 2019

Chair: Rainer Husty (CEB), Johannes Godler (CEB), Helena Novotná

Minutes: Helena Novotná

Present: 15 federations:

AUT, CRO, CZE, EST, FRA, GBR, GRE, HUN, ISR, NED, POL, RUS, SVK, SWE, UKR

CEB 2018 Activities

- Summary by Rainer Husty
- Increase of social media content and website content
- Team Mate partnership
- Shout out to Super 6 organizers

Super 6

- Bart Volkerijk: experience with a media team

ESF 2018 Activities

- Summary by Helena Novotná
- All games from the main field at European Championships were live
- Media Coverage of the tournaments has improved but there was less news from NFs
- A goal for next year – to address potential sponsors
- Shout out to EMRYT for an excellent coverage following the Softball Europe's example

OTT platform baseballsoftball.tv

- A good start, version 2.0 for the upcoming season, over 200 games were live, reach around 400k
- NFs are encouraged to join in to have their section at the platform as well, no cost!

Low budget live-streaming

- A step-by-step manual available at the ESF website "Other Documents" section
- The ESF's staff won't do the live-streaming at the tournaments anymore – organizers duty

Minimum standards for media coverage – Johannes Godler

- Suggestions
- Examples