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# CONGRESS 2015

## DUBLIN (IRELAND) – February 7<sup>th</sup> 2015

Andre Van Overbeek 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, HUNGARY, IRELAND, ISRAEL, ITALY, JERSEY, MALTA, NETHERLANDS, NORWAY, POLAND, ROMANIA, SAN MARINO, SERBIA, SLOVENIA, SPAIN, SWITZERLAND, SWEDEN.

Affiliated Federations absent:

FINLAND, GUERNSEY, GREECE, LITHUANIA, SLOVAKIA, RUSSIA, TURKEY, UKRAINE

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

There are 33 Federations affiliated, 25 Federations duly represented, 25 Federations with the right of vote, the Congress is quorate. (ABSOLUTE MAJORITY IS 16)

\*ISF President Dale McMann addresses the Congress

\*President of Softball Ireland, Colum Lavery welcomes the attendants of the Congress

\*Little League Award presented by Daniel P. Velte (Director of League Development and Affiliation) to Czech Republic

### ***II. Approval of the Minutes of 2014 Congress***

The Minutes of 2014 Congress is approved by 24, 1 abstained.

### ***III. Admission of new Federations***

Lithuanian Softball Federation parted ways with Lithuanian Baseball Federation. Lithuanian Softball Federation delivered official application letter and a copy confirming a recognition from NOC.

Admission of the Lithuanian Softball Federation approved by unanimity.

### ***IV. Suspension or exclusion of Federations***

Existence of the Greek National Federation was revoked by NOC for insufficient number of teams. The softball organization exists under Gymnastics Greek Federation for now.

### ***V. Approval of the activities report 2014***

The activities report is approved by unanimity

### ***VI. Approval of the financial report 2014***

The financial report is approved by unanimity.



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### **VII. Approval of the budget 2015**

The budget 2014 is approved by 24 votes, 1 against

### **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**

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*

- *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.  
Date of effect: Immediately at the end of the Congress.*

Motion approved by 23 votes, 1 against, 1 abstain

- *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.  
Date of effect: Immediately at the end of the Congress.*

Motion approved by 22 votes, 3 against

#### *XII. 3 – MATTERS BY CONGRESS COMMITTEES*

- Technical and Competitions committee:
  - Individual awards won't be given by ESF anymore
  - Contribution to Cups were established for all Cups for 100€



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#### ***XII. 4 – HALL OF FAME***

- Jen Terkelsen from Denmark was inducted into the ESF Hall of fame

#### ***XIII. Appointment of Organizers of Competitions***

##### **XIII. 1 Calendar of 2015 Events:**

##### **Calendar of 2014 Events:**

The Championship Cadet Girls – EChCG is allotted to Nuoro (ITA), Jun. 29<sup>th</sup> – Jul. 4<sup>th</sup>.  
The Championship Junior Men – EChJM is allotted to Most (CZE), Jul. 13<sup>th</sup> – Jul. 18<sup>th</sup>.  
The Championship Women – EChW is allotted to Rosmalen (NED), Jul. 20<sup>th</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup>.  
The Championship Coed Slowpitch – EChCS is allotted to Dupnitsa (BUL), Jul. 28<sup>th</sup> – Aug. 1<sup>st</sup>.  
The Super Cup Junior Women - ESCJW is allotted to Ostrava (CZE) Jul. 6<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup>.  
The M. Romeo Youth Trophy is organized in Collecchio, Parma (ITA) Aug. 12<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup>.  
The Premiere Cup Women - EPCW is allotted to Prague, Eagles (CZE) Aug. 17<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup>.  
The Cup Winners Cup Women – ECWCW is allotted to Prague, Joudrs (CZE) Aug. 17<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup>.  
The Cup Women - ECW is allotted to Dupnitsa (BUL) Aug. 17<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup>.  
The Super Cup Men – ESCM is allotted Prague, Radotín and Tempo (CZE) Aug. 24<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup>.

##### **2016 Events**

The Championship U22 Women – EChU22W is allotted to Pardubice (CZE) Jul. 4<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup>  
The Championship Men – EChM is allotted to Montegranaro (ITA), Jul. 25<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup>  
The Championship Junior Women – EChJW – **NOMINATION OPENED**

#### ***XIV. Election to the Executive Council***

No Elections

#### ***XV. Place of 2016 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

## **Minutes: Financial Committee**

Congress Dublin – February 6th, 2015

VP – Eddy Van Straelen, treasurer

*Rollcall:* Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, Denmark, Great Britain, Hungary, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jersey, Malta, Netherlands, Switzerland, Sweden

- Financial budget 2014
  - ESF stayed below expected spending
  - Czech Republic - expressing happiness with the budget for media coverage, esp. streaming and television at the European competitions.
  - Game balls – in the budget document - splitting up sponsoring amount and real cost expenses, for the future: good quality balls is the priority, won't depend on the income from sponsors
- Financial budget 2015
  - Development gets a higher amount this year again, if there's not a good result in the development, the budget may be lowered for the upcoming years
  - No raise of affiliation fees
  - No raise of entry fees, some of them lowered
  - Cup tournaments – Contribution to cups lowered from 250 to 100 (details at TC committee)
- Questions, proposals
  - Czech Republic – proposal to raise the budget for visual media from 8.000 to 12.000 for the possibility of streaming as many games as possible from the top European tournaments – Czechs have the conditions to provide this at all three cups that are held in Prague this year (based on good experience from ECHM 2014)
    - Italy – increase the budget, but all the organizers should have the same chance to spend money from the budget
    - Discussion about possibilities of streaming and it's importance for softball also as a possible criteria for choosing the organizer for the top events in the future
    - Great Britain – Streaming is not just spending money, it's an investment
    - Belgium – the budget should be adjusted every year according to competitions and possibilities of the organizers
    - Francesca Fabretto – first to have a goal why to do the streaming, the idea should come from the ESF: what tournaments are the top events for the season and should be invested in, a working group should be set for this matter
      - Eddy Van Straelen – that is what we're doing
  - The raise of the visual media budget will be voted on at the congress
- Ireland – Thanks to Eddy for his work

## ***Minutes: Marketing Committee***

Congress Dublin – February 6th, 2015

VP's – Dejan Jessic, Youri Alkalay

- ESF as a brand, merchandise (Youri Alkalay)
- Competition locator (Youri Alkalay)
  - information about venues, fields, competitions played at the venues
  - Presentations of the project, available on the ESF website
- ESF identity manual, new logo starting with congress (Youri Alkalay)
- Photofest (Youri Alkalay)
  - Project of the best softball photo contest (Starting in February)
  - winner of the contest wins a trip to any ESF competition following EChW 2015
- Social media (Dejan Jessic)
  - ESF to start using social media effectively, be active
  - Our goal for this year - to gain public on social media. Get the people to talk about softball.
- Introducing Communications Director, Helena Novotna
  - Build a European softball community
  - Communicate effectively with NFs on presentation and propagation of our sport
  - Offer information to media and non-softball people, fill the website with informations
- Questions, proposals, commentary
  - Bulgaria: Who's responsible for website and media coverage of the events – matter of ESF or matter of the organizer? – Communications Director will communicate on this issue with organizers to make sure that there is appropriate media coverage.
  - Italy: communication with the clubs with awareness of the NFs
  - Ireland: show the new logo everywhere, at least for 12 months, to get the audience use to it
  - Croatia: Make sponsors visible – give them something that they are recognized as sponsors, give them our merchandise

## **Minutes: Technical and Competition Committee**

Congress Dublin – February 6th, 2015

VP's – *Gabriel Waage, Gilbert Tobback*; Officials: *Andrea Marcon, Mike Jennings*

*Rollcall:* Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Great Britain, Germany, Hungary, Ireland, Israel, Jersey, Malta, Netherlands, Slovenia, Slovakia, Switzerland, Sweden

- Technical and Competitions Report of 2014 – Comments: none
- Changes of competition regulations for 2015 (Gabriel Waage)
  - EC ESF decision - Unify **contributions for all CUPS for 100 Euros**. Most of the teams were using their own transportation in the past. Therefore women's cups will follow the regulations that were valid for the men's Super Cup: „02.03. *Participant teams are responsible for their own accommodation, meals and transportation to and from the venue and during the competition. Upon request of participant teams, the organizer is responsible to provide contact names and special rates for local transportation companies.*“
    - Netherland – worried about teams from Sweden, Israel, Jersey, who already have higher expences on their travel (flights).
    - ESF will work on making sure that this decision won't affect participation of the teams
  - EC ESF decision – There will be **no individual awards** at ESF tournaments given out by ESF  
In the past there were many problems when it comes to individual award. There will be no more individual awards from ESF. Additional awards are allowed to be made by the organizer.
- Disciplinary policy (Gilbert Tobback)
  - **Suspensions tutorial for disciplinary commission** presented
  - Discussion about the set up of those suspensions
  - Netherlands to take care about adjusting the sanctions
- All ESF competitions have their organizers
- Bid for XIII Championship Men 2016 - Montergranaro (ITA)
- Bid for V Championship Women U22 2016 – Pardubice (CZE)
- Bid for Championship Junior Women – bid is **OPEN** – tournament date: July 25th – 30th
- Croatia: what balls are going to be official for this season?
  - Gabriel Waage: Wilson balls for this season, intention is to continue with balls that were used a few years ago, but the procedure takes time, should start next year
- Development competitions – ESCJW extended entries deadline **February 28th**.
- EMRYT – No entry fee, t-shirts for participants, want to establish as a Festival of Youth, deadline until **April 15th**
- Special Events
  - European Masters Games – 2015 October 1st – 11th, Nice (FRA), 27 sports including softball, ESF will help to organize the tournament, registration trough the event's website, fastpitch, age 35+
  - Prague Softball Summer – 3 cups are hosted in Prague (ESCM, EPCW, ECWCW), one website for the three tournaments, big event, hopefully TC will allow to adust schedules so the audience can see final games of all cups
- After the official meeting, NFs that were interested (NED, GBR, IRL, BEL, DEN, JER, BUL) discussed the disciplinary policy issues and agreed on an **adjusted version of the Suspensions tutorial for disciplinary commission**.

## **Minutes: Development Committee**

Congress Dublin – February 6th, 2015

VP's – Ami Baran, John Austin

*Rollcall:* Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Great Britain, Germany, Hungary, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jersey, Malta, Netherlands, Slovenia, Switzerland, Sweden

- Slowpitch (John Austin)
  - clinics – in Netherlands (started SP program); 30 participants; good feedback; more clinics planned for 2015; part of the overall development - communication through national federations on this matter
  - request for clinic document will be online
  - Super cup in Mladé Buky (CZE), 12 teams from 6 countries, decision to move to every two years a success
  - Super cup 2015 - Dupnitsa; 8 teams
  - Border Battle – team Europe participated (all mail slowpitch) in 2014, and have been invited from now on. working group is currently working on the detail of this long term development project
- Countries working on the development (Ami Baran)
  - Sweden - idea to build a Nordic region tournament; ASA Co-operation that ESF helped to coordinate. Cooperation with Florida; used equipment donated to Swedish clubs „goodie bags“; player exchanges, team exchanges; people supporting: Kevin Smith, Angel Natal, Michelle Smith
  - Michelle Smith - Clearwater area – really into development (details at the congress)
  - Norway – a clinic; about to start women's fastpitch teams
  - Finland - working on fastpitch
  - Croatia working on a project
  - Serbia – Laurence Allen made an agreement for 6 months; registering for tournaments
  - Slovenia – Vincent Colasuonno, coach for baseball and softball, has an access to equipment, develops the sport
  - Kiev – requesting equipment
- Equipment for Europe (Ami Baran)
  - Youri Alkalay brings a container every 4 months from Florida, not on our expenses, ESF will come up with criteria how to redistribute this equipment
- Coaches conventions (Ami Baran)
  - European convention, Italy and Netherlands their own conventions.
  - It's important to communicate about these events, so European softball can get as much as possible out of it.
  - Italy – ESF to cooperate with federations that already have the convention experience on this project
- Coaches committee (Ami Baran)
  - Mattias Grimstoft appointed as a head of this committee
- European Softball Coaches association
  - A draft project, in coordination with NFCA, in working progress, covering body for all European coaches
- Meetings in Haarlem (Ami Baran)
  - Japan willing to send in coaches, send in teams
  - New Zealand willing to take players and let them play in their teams (both, men and women)
  - Botswana – South Africa has a problem, they don't have a covering body – the idea is to let their teams to compete at our competitions
- BeeBall (Anton Kops)
  - 2014 clinics planned in 2 countries – Ukraine (not possible to happen), however complete material in their language is ready – will probably be the first destination to go to once the ambience is fine
  - Countries are developing beeball themselves; Switzerland has a national beeball day, France has a tournament and a beeball day, Spain has a beeball day. Big beeball project in the Netherlands.
  - Trying to find ambassadors for beeball
  - To present beeball at competitions and tournaments
  - Create a „weekend of beeball“
  - Italy – proposal – there should be a working group set for spreading beeball and teaching beeball
- ISF Ron Radigonda: Long range plan for ISF will be to build (how to develop the sport worldwide): a lot to do with development. Dealing with men's fastpitch, we need a process how to expand men's softball throughout the world.
- ISF Dale McMann: Visible progress in Europe, ESF is a strong federation
- Summary (John Austin): There's a lot happening in federations; with the appointment of the Communications Director everyone will be better informed about that. Volunteers are welcome. Thank you to everyone who works on development, thank you to the committee.
- Questions, proposals, commentary
  - Bulgaria – a notice about certifications for coaches and European union regulations and specific countries regulations on working with kids and coaching
  - Vincent Colasuonno - NGO program for schools, school activity and competition. Information available for everyone who's interested.
  - Ami Baran - once you get the sport into schools that's a start of a culture change „for softball