



European Softball Federation
Fédération Européenne Softball



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European Softball Federation
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ESF President Report 2010

Dear ESF Federation Members,

I wish to welcome all of you to this year's ESF Congress and as always appreciate all the hard work you are doing for softball in your respective countries.

I would like to keep this Report as short as possible and if there are any questions on any specific subject please feel free to ask during the Congress.

Our last Congress in Antalya, Turkey was a very interesting Congress as we heard from ISF President Don Porter and 1st Vice President Dale McMann who gave us information and updates as to several ISF matters and the difficulties Softball is and will be facing in the future and also had hope that we will be able to continue our Sport even with the decision on the elimination of Softball from the Olympics at least until 2020.

During the congress, Massimo Romeo was inducted into the ISF Hall of Fame and during the European Junior Girls Championship in Vienna, Austria; we presented Massimo with the official plaque at the Medal-Ceremony.

Secretary General Patrice Bienfait informed us that he felt it was time to retire from his job after 20 years serving the ESF. Patrice was inducted as the First ESF Member of Honour and received from Don Porter and Dale McMann the ISF Medal of Honour.

Francesca Fabretto was elected as interim Secretary General until the next congress in 2011. The EC at its last EC meeting approved and appointed an Assistant Secretary General, Anna Di Luca, who will be of great importance and help to Francesca. Francesca has been the driving force in the EC as I am sure all of you have felt throughout this year and with her guidance and hard work the function of the Secretary General is becoming a job that requires constant attention and fine-tuning of the work of the ESF and the EC. If I had to issue a report on the Secretary General and her job and what she has done this past year, it would require a Congress day just for that.

The EC held three meetings during the year, one after the congress in Antalya, April in Haarlem and November in Antwerp. Many issues have been on the EC agenda and we have tried to deal with all the issues as best as 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.

We presented to all of you our working plan, presented in 2009 which still is our main guideline, dealing with all the issues we wanted to accomplish in our 4 years.

Now, halfway through our 4 year term I would like to say that we are behind in our objective and less than 50% of what we thought we would have accomplished was done. During the Congress the EC will show what progress has been done and explain the plans for the coming years.



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Development

After the Congress in Antalya the EC decided on a rotation of responsibilities and our 1st Vice President Totoni Sanna took responsibility of the Development Commission and Slava Smagin became responsible for the Eastern region.

During the year several clinics were held in different countries , mainly in the Slowpitch area but with the clinic in Portugal we have been able to establish a modular Coaches Clinic Level 1 which will be the main module used by the Coaches Task Force in the future.

An introduction leaflet to softball was available in English and Spanish but recently a Russian version has been printed and we would recommend to all our Member Federations to do the same as this is a very good tool to get the word out and explain in short what softball is and why it should be played.

Due to financial difficulties, the Slowpitch Package, with great efforts by our Slow Pitch development commissioner, Bob Fromer has taken a while to get to the printing stage. But now, it will be printed and distributed with many thanks to the GB Federation on their continued contribution to this part of our Sport.

Because we have fallen behind in much of our plans, especially in Development and with the understanding that without true Development our sport will not survive, we have added another VP onto the team of Development. Ami Baran, VP Operations, will assist Totoni as the Development Operations Officer and hopefully we will see much more progress in the next few years.

We also have signed an agreement with the ASA in hope of finding cooperation in the realm of Development and we have invited some of their Officials to be here with us at the Congress so that we may better define and implement this wonderful agreement.

Competition and Technical

Our VP for Competition and Technical issues, Gabriel Waage, has been very busy during this year , especially with the new competition format which was introduced in 2010. After the competitions, an extensive evaluation was prepared, discussed by the EC and he will be informing and discussing in the Competitions and Technical Committee the results and the future plans.

The 2nd TC meeting will also be held during the Congress and will be yet another step forward in the progression of making our tournaments better and more coordinated between all the TC's and other officials at the Tournaments.

Just so you all understand that this job is also in charge of all the technical issues at all our tournaments and prepares everything from the trophies until the water distributed at the tournaments.

The Scorekeepers committee was also transferred under the C&T responsibility with Co Chairs Dennis Duin (ND) and Marco Battistella (IT) leading the way working on the Scorekeepers manual and many other ideas to enhance the scorekeeping issues. They will be present at the Congress and will be available for Member Federations to ask about any scorekeeping issues.



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Marketing and P/R

Our VP Marketing, Michael Schmidt, started a new trend in our ESF dealings with Marketing and Merchandise. Starting with our stylistic line of polo and T-shirts that were made available at all European Tournaments and 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 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.

Financial

The 2010 finance is proceeding according to our budget and as we have Eddy Van Straelen leading us, we will need to proceed carefully and with care and as you will see 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.

In November we received the 2nd part of the ISF development grant and will be implementing even more aspects of the development thanks to this grant.

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 are 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.



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ESF VP Technical and Competition report

Review ESF competitions 2010

Sources:

This report is written based on TC reports of each tournament, on UIC report including reports of all tournaments UIC and on Player Licences Report. Let me thank to all of them for the service for ESF during 2010.

Enumeration of the competitions:

In total 12 ESF competitions were played in 2010. All competitions have the locations and all competitions were completed with final ranking.

- IX. ECWCM, Prague (CZE): 23 - 28 Aug
- XXI. ECM, Ronchi de Legionari (ITA): 23 - 28 Aug
- XIII. ECWCWB, Kayseri, Edirne (TUR): 16 - 21 Aug
- XVII. ECWB, San Marino (SMR): 16 - 21 Aug
- XXXIII. ECWA, Haarlem (NED): 15 - 21 Aug
- XIX. ECWCWA, Haarlem (NED): 15 - 21 Aug
- IV. ECCS, Ljubljana (SLO): 3 - 7 Aug
- II. EChU22G, Prague (CZE): 2 - 7 Aug
- X. EChM, Havlickuv Brod (CZE): 25 - 31 Jul
- XI. EChJG, Vienna (AUT): 25 - 31 Jul
- VII. EChCS, Prague (CZE): 7 - 10 Jul
- V. EChMG Massimo Romeo Trophy, Ankara (TUR): 6 - 10 Jul

Allocation of the tournament:

Several problems occurred before the tournaments. Same like in the past was the problems with allocation of the tournaments, but fortunately we had just one. The Dutch Federation announced their withdrawal from organizing ECCS. The information came just before the ESF Congress in Antalya and fortunately we had the

time to solve this problem. After quite hot communication on this topic we finally found the new location – SaBaT Praha in the Czech Republic. Let me thank to SaBaT for replacement of the tournament.

Another problematic location is Turkey generally. We had two tournaments there in 2010 – EChMG in Ankara and ECWCWB in Edirne. We expected that experience from the last year will bring the progress in organization of the tournaments in Turkey. And because Turkey started last year from zero, the expectation of improvement was really high. Unfortunately nothing changed from the last year and I have to say, that Turkey totally ignored all recommendations from ESF and also quite a lot of duties. We faced two kinds of the problems there. Firstly organizers didn't know or didn't want to know anything how is running the ESF tournaments, what is important for ESF and participants. Secondly the problem with communication was almost killing for the tournaments. They didn't answer to any emails, they had the problems with arrangement of pick up, they changed several important things without telling to anybody, they didn't arrange any scorekeepers etc. Even they looked very nice and very polite the things was rarely done. Another issue in the Turkey is the field, which doesn't have the ESF standard. Even they were informed about the field during inspection, no any progress on it before the tournament. They started build up the field just after arriving ESF officials, who are handled with construction. The real field is the main condition for next possible events in Turkey and I don't recommend any allocation of the ESF tournament to Turkey before building real field, which will be really constructed and not only promised.

We didn't face so many withdrawals of the participants after deadline February 28th like in the past. The installation of the deadlines with financial consequences brought the fruits. Only the relocation of the tournament had the effect to number of the teams. Only 8 teams remained from originally 13 entered teams. This situation confirmed that every relocation has the implication to the number of the participants. Remember situation in 2008 (EChMG was switched from Poland to Czech) and in 2009 (EChCG was switched from Spain to Dutch). Relocation also doesn't look so professionally and the ESF like the highest body of softball in Europe looks like the body, who doesn't control it. We have to be really strict on it and if anything happened like this we have to give to failure federation and to all other, that the allocation of the ESF tournament is very serious duty and expectation of all is to keep it.

Game schedules:

After the big discussion about the game schedule last year we have seen real progress on it. Like we agreed last year we installed three conditions with making the schedules:

- **Keep the deadlines of procedure of game schedule**
- **Install the criteria for preparing of the game schedules including improvement of mathematic formula to be more understandable**

- **Strongly clear inform and strictly keep the predestinate time for communication with organizers regarding their requests**

We kept all three conditions with making game schedules. First and third condition was kept very strict and because of this the communication with organizers was eliminated to the right time. Little problem was with second condition, because some criteria is against to strict keeping of mathematic formula. One thing is location and especially distance from used fields and other thing is our intention to give the right to home team to play each evening games due to spectators.

But finally we had the big discussion regarding game schedule in Haarlem, where two tournaments were played at the same venue. Even we discussed about the schedule already at ESF Congress in Antalya and even the organizers were very opened to all recommendations from ESF, we didn't know exact information about the field conditions in consequences of the regulation regarding level of the tournaments. ESF could have the final comments to the schedule right after final inspection made by TC ESF, which was organized quite late. It was the reason of some misinterpretation and misunderstanding on this.

EChJG in Vienna – tournament on the experimental basis:

Like ESF Congress in Antalya approved the EChJG in Vienna were played in one pool according new format of the competition presented at the Congress. The tournament was played on the experimental basis and now is the time to review this. ESF asked all participants of the tournament including all ESF staff and organizers of Vienna for the feedback. ESF also took the feedback from organizers in Haarlem (due to big tournament too) and also information from federations regarding financial impact.

ESF made the decision on this, when accepted some useful imputes from federations. ESF thank to all who answered to this very sensitive topic. The final comprehensive proposal is separate of this report and will be presented at Competition Committee by ESF Congress in Antwerp 2011.

Player Licences:

Some Federations asked for late submission of players, but all told the CR regarding late submission.

Duplicate Players – There was only 1 duplicate for all the tournaments. This was satisfactorily sorted out by the 2 clubs.

With installation fee of 50 Euros were reduced so many PUP and potential duplicates like in 2010. The teams were seriously thinking about the players, who will be listed in the preliminary roster. But still the situation with knowledge and interpretation of Bona Fide Member and Pick up Player is not so clear. Only 1 club did not understand that putting 9 PUP on the Application would incur a charge of

€450. There are several Federations which don't know what PUP is and they are able to make stamp under the list with the players with no any respect to the rule.

There is now a new problem with PUP. Saskia Kosterink played all year for an Italian club team. This was well known in the softball community. However, she was listed on the Application for Sparks Haarlem in the ECWCWA as a N in the PUP column. This goes against the verbal definition of "bona fide member" of a club. Enquiries with the KNBSB led to the response by the KNBSB that she is a bona fide member of Sparks Haarlem, so the ESF has to accept this.

The outcome of this for next year is going to be a nightmare. Each Federation can now sign off that any player from an ESF member country is eligible to play for any club in the ESF as a bona fide member of that club. We will now be in the same situation as 2009 and previous years where there will be multiple duplicate players. The ESF will have to accept the member Federation's sign off that the player is bona fide and this cannot be challenged.

We faced again to the situation that foreign players with no ESF nationality are living in the country for many years and they are playing for the club for long time. Because of Bona Fide Member definition they have to be announced like PUP. ESF recognized this problem, but after deep recognizing no any exception is approved.

ESF tournaments 2010:

All 12 tournaments were played, but unfortunately not all of tournaments completely finished on the field. The big problem was weather in 2010. So many tournaments had to be rescheduled due to weather, some games had to be cancelled or played with reduced number of the inning and unfortunately one tournament finished without final game and final standing was decided from the green table.

ESF is trying to make its competition better and better with the intention to stick together European softball community and to give them feeling to be part of this community. It is the reason why we are very carefully preparing all ESF stuff like medals and trophies and also the gifts for ESF staff. We would like to give feeling of unity to ESF umpires and this is the reason, why we are preparing for them the useful gifts with ESF logo like T shirt last year and lineup booklet on this year. We will continue on this also in 2011.

ESF came with new marketing idea in 2010 – tournament T shirt with ESF logo in same style with different colors according request of organizers. It was good idea to unify our softball community and to make money for organizers and ESF, even all business risk was taken at ESF side and organizers could only get the benefits. Unfortunately some problems raised up with implementation this idea, mainly:

- not so good understanding of this idea by organizers
- troubles with delivery to final location due to coming from non EU country
- differences with acceptance of the prices due to locations
- laziness of organizers to sell it
- violence of the rule across their signing

Due mentioned problems ESF will review this idea and will bring upgraded plan in this topic.

New country was registered into to list of organizing country – Slovenia. They started with ECCS and I believe they will come back with another candidature in the future.

Umpires:

Two big changes were made in the umpires. Firstly the article CR 36.03. about responsibilities of sending umpires was modified due to real situation with needs of umpires and sending of umpires by federations. Like every new regulation also this one guided some misunderstandings, which umpires are linked by National federations and which are linked by ESF from point of view of responsibility of cover transportation. More explicit information about responsibilities is needed and ESF will improve this procedure.

Secondly some steps in the procedure of nominations of umpires and evaluations of umpires were approved. Two documents were approved:

- The Procedure and Criteria of the Nomination of umpires for ESF tournaments
- The ESF Umpire Development Process

The Procedure and Criteria of the Nomination of umpires for ESF tournaments document contains the guidelines for assignments of umpires for ESF tournaments. This document serves the ESF EC, ESF Director of Umpires (DOU), Assistant Director of Umpires (ass DOU), National Federations, the National Umpire contact person (NUC) and umpires for a better and clearer procedure of the nomination of umpires for ESF tournaments. This document is based on Competition Regulation Art. 36.03 which describes the duties of National Federations and allows for internal regulations for the procedure of assignments of umpires. This document consists of three basic parts:

- Guideline for the procedure of assignments
- Time line of the procedure of assignments
- ESF Umpire Communication Protocol
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The ESF Umpire Development Process document is the guideline for the evaluation of umpires during ESF tournaments. This document serves the ESF EC, ESF Director of Umpires (DOU), Assistant Director of Umpires (Ass. DOU), National Federations, the National Umpire contact person (NUC) and umpires for a better and clearer understanding of the evaluation process. This document is part of the procedure and criteria for the nomination of umpires for ESF tournaments.

This document contains:

- Umpire Development Process
- ESF Umpire Evaluations Procedure
- Format for Umpire Evaluation Tournament Report 2010
- Points of emphasis on umpire evaluation(s)

Now we have to be strong with keeping of all principles mentioned in those documents with intention to improve the work with ESF umpires. They have to be proud to be part of this group and they have to know, which steps are needed to be better and how to achieve higher licence.

Two ESF clinics (fast pitch and slow pitch) and one ISF clinic took place in Europe in 2010. 130 umpires from 28 federations were available for the ESF.

This year for the first time in (known) history 5 European umpires were selected for the ISF World Championships as well as one of the deputy UIC came from Europe. ESF can be proud that two of them were assigned to the Golden Game, one of them (Carolien Stadhouders) as plate umpire, and the European deputy UIC was in charge of that game.

Final words:

Finally let me thank to all of organizers to host the ESF tournaments in 2010. 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 2010! Your work is invaluable help!

Special thank to UIC in Europe Ms. Marlies Struyvé and UIC assistant Mr. Gilbert Tobback for their excellent contribution.



Gabriel Waage
ESF VP Technical



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ESF Development Commission Report 2010

Totoni Sanna	chairman
André Van Overbeek	member
Slava Smagin	member

The development of a sport through a series of actions that when connected, and when connected well and in the right manner get a positive result. Obviously, this is always our intent and this past year we made many positive steps in that direction.

Such actions and programs have the ability to affect all sports in which we operate, not just softball. This is especially highlighted even more by the fact that we represent different sports disciplines.

This differentiation is to be interpreted as a luxury of our sport, as it enables us to address a multitude of subjects.

In the broadest sense we can say that whenever we talk about development, we make choices to improve in quantitative or qualitative terms. We are always looking to increase our participation numbers, but in countries and federations where the numbers are already high, we strive to increase the quality of development in those areas.

This executive team made a series of choices that we believe led to the development of softball, both qualitative and quantitative, in Europe this year.

But as sometimes happens, not all choices or decisions get immediate and positive results. Sometimes the improvements are slow to see and often are not what we expect. But as we go along, we continue to make improvements not only in our programs, but also in the process of developing these projects.

Thus, marketing efforts, changes in regulations, and restructuring of leagues aim to increase the amount of players and the quality of the sport.

Following what was presented and agreed upon at the last congress in Turkey, the Development Committee, has made it a priority to respond to the demands posed by each of the federations.

Requests that were received through the questionnaire were responded either by sent messages that went out to all federations, or by raising awareness made by our regional commissioner. As always, feedback from many different federations is always helpful in making strides in the right direction.



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As for the clinics, we have given positive responses to all those that requested.

Also noteworthy is that we have worked primarily in areas where until now, the ESF did not exist. This is a great accomplishment because expanding to areas where the ESF has not yet succeeded can only be a positive and great thing for European softball as a whole.

Thanks to the work of the Coaches Committee, we held five clinics for players, coaches and teachers. Specifically, we held slow pitch clinics in Belgium, Malta and Slovenia.

From the reports we received from our coaches, the results were very good. It was reported back that there was great enthusiasm and desire at these clinics. In some cases we found new event organizers (Slovenia), in other cases we hope we have helped to enable the practice of softball in areas where until recently there was only baseball (Malta).

We held a clinic for teachers in Turkey which was attended by technicians from various federations, as well as a clinic in Portugal, after which we believe to have initiated and started the first activities of softball for this federation.

We responded to a request by Denmark to assist their young athletes in a camp in the Czech Republic and had great results for this as well.

As a consequence of the establishment of the Scorekeeper Committee, we began working to increase the quantity and quality of these figures.

During the EChJG that was played in Austria and was attended by 15 national teams, we organized a course for the scorekeeper and it was attended by several people. This course allows not only individual scorekeepers to learn good technique and proper regulations, but it allows these people to go back to their individual federations and organizations and teach others as well.

In order to promote softball, there have been many requests for promotional material we have received from many different federations.

This material will be delivered during the Congress in 2011, and will be ready to be used immediately. Specifically, there will be informative flyers in several languages, a boxed set of 5 DVDs with some of the most important games of 2010 ESF tournaments and a slow pitch pack with specific slow pitch illustrations.

Also during the congress we will present the part of the site dedicated to the development, where you can find a range of information and documents that can be printed for use by the federations.



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As it is always difficult to work with reality and often with very diverse problems that present themselves along the way, I think the job done this year will be able to give us some positive data and results in the short term. Much remains to be done, but I think that the more we can develop softball in Europe, the more the federations will be able to adopt development projects on their own. The ESF will be waiting to hear more that it can do to support this project.

Totoni Sanna
Development Commission

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Tel 0494/922 536
Fax 03/295.62.11

Aan : ESF Eddy Van Straelen

Antwerp Belgium, 29 november 2010.

Dear Sirs,

After our meeting on Monday te 29 of november 2010; I confirm the following.

Your bookkeeping was established according to the Belgian legislations. My work was to establish the balance sheet assets liabilities and income/expenses + bank statements.

All documents were present.

Please note that I am prepared to do the same work next year.

Kind regards



Mark De Permentier
Bookkeeper BIBF





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MOTIONS AND PROPOSALS BY AFFILIATED FEDERATIONS

COMMENTS & RECOMMENDATIONS OF EXECUTIVE COUNCIL & COMMISSIONS

MOTION GBR 1 :

Recommendation Executive Council :

The ESF EC does not have any recommendation. The Proposal goes to the Technical & Competitions Committee

Comments by Legal Commission :

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



Motions for Congress

PROPOSING FEDERATION:

British Softball Federation

CURRENT REGULATION (if applicable):

Tournament Regulations 10.01 (as amended)

PROPOSED REGULATION CHANGE:

That all ESF Championship and Cup competitions return to use of the Page Playoff as the final stage in determining places 1-4 in the competition.

REASON FOR CHANGE:

The Page Playoff system is superior to the cross-playoff system of semi-finals, final and bronze medal game used in some ESF tournaments last year and proposed for general use. While requiring no more games or game slots than the cross-playoff system, the Page system rewards the two teams with the best records in prior rounds by making the final round double-elimination for them. This eliminates the possibility that a superior team can be eliminated at the end of a tournament through one bad game or freak result. But it also gives the other two teams involved a chance to progress through playing the team nearest to their own level rather than pitting 1 v 4, with the result usually pre-determined. All games in the Page Playoff are meaningful in relation to the gold medal; this is not true of all games in the cross-playoff system. In short, the Page Playoff is a subtler and fairer way to determine the medal places once a tournament gets down to the final four teams.

DATE OF EFFECT OF CHANGE:

Competitions in 2011



MOTION PROPOSED BY THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL Nr. 1/EC

Subject : 01.01 deletion of the Minime competition from the “European Championships” for National Teams and create a special tournament.

Author : VP for Technical and Competitions

The proposal is prepared just in the level of idea for discussion at Technical and Competitions Committee at ESF Congress 2011. The reason is to find general meaning about this kind of event. In case of approval, the Motion will be rewarded for the change of the Competitions Regulations.

Massimo Romeo Youth Trophy

This event started in 2002, when first edition was played with 5 teams in Collecchio, Italy.

EChMG was played every two following years, but the number of the teams didn't grow up and also the top European Softball nations except Russia didn't show up at the last event in Ankara, Turkey. We can define the main reason of not interesting of this – federations are concentrating mainly for adult categories due to financial reason.

Overview of number of participants:

2002 5 teams (Collecchio, ITA)

2004 6 teams (Collecchio, ITA)

2006 5 teams (Mlade Buky, CZE)

2008 4 teams (Prague, CZE – replaced due to Poland withdrawal)

2010 4 teams (Ankara, TUR)

But the concept of the youth festival, which was basic idea of founder Mr. Massimo Romeo, is still life and we have to find solution to fix this. Because of national team standard will be harder and harder for national federations to send the national team for whole week. Somewhere will be changed the situation with youth national teams and partly or fully those teams will be paid by parents and money will be most important criteria for selection of the team. Somewhere will not be courage to do it and rather the team will not be sent.

The way is to open the gate for any youth teams – national, region selections or club teams.

The limit will be only age – under 13. It means that from one country can play more teams than one, strong region or strong clubs, who can find support from local municipalities, will be welcomed. Also no any nationality will be limit, because many over sea families are living in Europe with their kids.

And what have to be changed, when it will be approved?

- Name of the event cannot be EChMG, because of not only national teams. Massimo Romeo Youth Trophy would be excellent one.

- Duration of the tournament – not more than 5 days during summer (school holiday).

- Easy accessible location with cheap options of accommodation.

Massimo Romeo Youth Trophy will remain under ESF supervision. ESF will support this tournament with game balls, trophies and medals and will send there TC and EC staff.

Umpires can be under organizers.

Reasons for change

The main reason of this change is the regeneration of this event and to give the option to more players to play in youth competitions; more development for this age group.

Date of effect

Starting from 2012 Competitions



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MOTION PROPOSED BY THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL Nr. 2/EC

Subject : EUROPEAN MEN'S CUPS
European Cup Men – European Cup Winners Cup Men

Author : Mr. Jens Terkelsen (DEN) supported by Czech Softball Federation (CZE)

The proposal is prepared just in the level of idea for discussion at Technical and Competitions Committee Meeting at ESF Congress 2011. The reason is to find general meaning about this kind of event. In case of approval, the Motion will be rewarded for the change of the Competitions Regulations.

ESF Champions Tournament (ECM) – ESF II Tournament (ECWCM)

In Europe, there is a huge difference between men's and women's fast pitch softball. As we all know, most countries in Europe play women's softball, which again means that all the different Cups, CWC – A and B pools – are filled every year. In men's softball there are only a few countries participating at club level, mainly Czech Rep., Denmark, Holland, Belgium, Croatia, France and sometimes teams from Spain, Italy plus a few other entries from other countries. Normally there is a pretty big difference in the playing ability of the teams. On average we have 8 teams in the European Cup (EC) and 7-8 teams in the Cup Winners Cup (CWC).

I believe that all the rules concerning the ESF Cups are made to suit the women. The system we use now, simply does not work for the men. In the same week in august, we have 16 men's teams competing in Europe. But unfortunately, we have all the best teams spread out on 2 tournaments. I think it is a shame that the best men's teams in Europe can't meet in the same tournament. Also this setup gives us a lot of uninteresting "mercy rule" games in both tournaments.

My idea is to start all over with the setup and rules for ESF Men's Cups.

This idea is inspired by the **International Softball Congress (ISC)**. They hold a world championship for club teams every year. They have been splitting in 2 groups, ISC World Tournament and ISC II tournament, but this year they decided, that all the teams should come together in one big tournament. After the first round of play, the best teams went on to play the world tournament, while the others competed for the ISC II title. This new ISC setup was a big success.

I think it sounds like a very nice idea, to get as many men's teams from all over Europe in one big tournament! How about this: There would be no qualification for this ESF Champions tournament. All teams in Europe would be able to take part. Also: no strict rules about player licenses. Basically, any team with 9 players would be welcome!! As I see it, we could easily get 20 teams: 4 from DK, 6 from CZE, 3 from NED, 2 from BEL, 2 from CRO, 2 from France + probably a handful of teams from other countries.

Comments by EC ESF:

Because of ESF Statutes, when are defined objectives like benefits for its Members, some restrictions of PUP are required. Maybe to increase the number of PUP players or other regulations can be added, but the space for ESF affiliated federations players has to be created.



Cont'd MOTION Nr 2/EC

First round would be pool play. All teams are divided into small 4-team groups. Placement would be after some kind of seeding system, based on playing level of the countries involved. After this pool play, the 2 top teams from groups would advance to ESF Champions Tournaments and 2 bottom teams would continue to ESF II Tournament.

Second round could be a double elimination knockout system (as they do in North America) or a new set of pool play. In the end – we would have some kind of play off (Page) for both divisions + of course the finals of ESF Champions and ESF II. Trophy's and individual awards for both divisions will be given. European All Star team could be selected.

I see lots of advantages with this system. First of all, it would be a softball festival with lots of opportunities for press etc. Also possibilities for events during the week – could be pitching clinics. There would be plenty of strong evenly matched teams in the best division. Some of these teams would most likely bring strong players from outside Europe to the tournament, which would add flavour. In the ESF II division, teams would hopefully also be well matched.

Being negative, this tournament would take a lot from the organizers. You would need at least 3-4 softball diamonds relatively close to each other. On the other hand – maybe all of these diamonds do not need to be in tiptop shape? The tournament would need a lot of umpires – but maybe we could settle for 2 umpire system for some of games? And the teams could be responsible for own transportation during the tournament. Organizers would only have to be responsible for ESF officials + Umpires.

I could easily see this tournament being held in the Prague area or in central Holland – or maybe in Italy. These countries have held the majority of tournaments so far and have lots of diamonds all over.

I think this kind of annual tournament for club teams could give European men's softball a boost in the right direction. At the moment, many of the rules for EC-play restricts the men's division to much. The licenses should be open. We are to few male players to have rules that restrict us to 3 non-European players pr. team. In reality, big softball (baseball) nations are indeed non-European, so chances are there is a good deal of Americans, Canadians, New Zealanders, Aussies, Japanese players in every country. Every single one of them should be able to play! We need everyone.

So, as I just said: Every team with 9 (or 12 or some other number agreed upon) that can pay the entry fee would be welcome.

I don't think it is realistic, that this new Cup system can be implemented in 2011, so my suggestion would be to start in 2012. This gives us time to sit down and re-write the Cup rules for men.

As far as I am concerned, the rules for women's cups are working fine and should continue, unless - of course - they find the suggestion interesting as well.

Reasons for change

Date of effect

Starting from 2012 Competitions



INFORMATION

Amendment to the C.R. Adopted by the EC

Subject : OBLIGATIONS AND DUTIES OF ORGANIZERS
C.R. 33.06 (new article)
C.R. 33.07 (new article)
Financial Appendix (new "merchandise rights fee"; new penalty)

Author : EC ESF

Present writing:

None

Proposed writing:

33.06

A fee , which amount is determined by the Executive Council of the ESF and is indicated in the Financial Appendix, for merchandise rights to the ESF for up to four teams and an extra fee of an amount determined and indicated as above, for each team above four and not more than nine who are participating in the tournament

33.07

A penalty, which amount is determined by the Executive Council of the ESF and is indicated in the Financial Appendix, will be charged to the organizer if there shall be a sale of any other products related to the tournament without the ESF logo and/or the permission of the ESF EC.

FINANCIAL APPENDIX

Present writing :

None

Proposed writing:

IV – PENALTIES

o) Sale of products without ESF Logo or ESF permission (CR 33.07) € 500,00

V – OTHER FEES

- | | | |
|--|------------|------------------------|
| a) Merchandise Rights Fee (up to 4 teams) | (CR 33.06) | € 200,00 |
| b) Merchandise Rights Fee (from 5 to 9 teams) | (CR 33.06) | € 35,00 per extra team |

Reasons for change

A new system for selling merchandise based on experience from the past year.

Date of effect

EC meeting, Nov.2010



European Softball Federation Fédération Européenne Softball



NOMINATIONS OF ORGANIZERS OF COMPETITIONS

2011

ECWA - Cup Women A	CASERTA (ITA)	Aug. 15-20	
ECWCWA - Winners Cup Women A	CASTIONS DI STRADA, UD (ITA)	Aug. 15-20	
ECWB - Cup Women B	NO NOMINATION RECEIVED	Aug. 15-20	
ECWCWB - Winners Cup Women B	NO NOMINATION RECEIVED	Aug. 15-20	
ECM - Cup Men	NO NOMINATION RECEIVED	Aug. 22-27	
ECWCM - Winners Cup Men	NO NOMINATION RECEIVED	Aug. 22-27	
ECCS - Cup Coed Slowpitch	MLADE BUKY (CZE)	Aug. 1-6	1

2012

EChMG – Championship Minime Girls	COLLECCHIO, PR (ITA)	Aug. 20-25	2
EChJG – Championship Junior Girls	HOBOKEN (BEL)	Jul. 23-28	
EChU22 – Championship Under 22	NO NOMINATION RECEIVED	tba	
EChM - Championship Men	NO NOMINATION RECEIVED	tba	

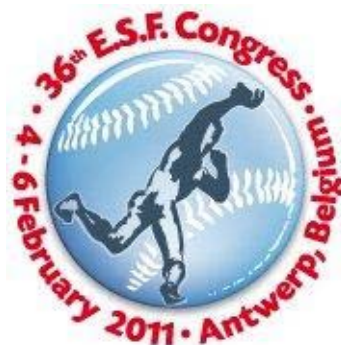
1 - Dates to be reconfirmed during the Technical and Competitions Committee

2 - See Motion 1/EC. If approved the Competition will be replaced by the M.Romeo Youth Trophy

MISSING NOMINATIONS TO BE RECEIVED UNTIL THE CONGRESS
(before the start of the Technical & Competitions Committee Meeting)



European Softball Federation
Fédération Européenne Softball



ELECTION TO THE SECRETARY GENERAL ADMISSIBLE NOMINATIONS

Position	Candidate	Nominated by :
SECRETARY GENERAL	Francesca FABRETTO (ITA)	BUL CZE ISR SRB

ALL NOMINATIONS ACCORDING TO ARTICLES 2.2.2 & 4.7.1 OF THE STATUTES OF THE ESF