

2021

COMPETITIONS REGULATIONS



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EUROPEAN COMPETITIONS

01.01. Softball Europe (SE) sanctions and organizes, in accordance with its Statutes and Regulations, Softball Competitions in Europe, called "SE Competitions". SE Competitions include the following:

- 01.01.01.** "European Championships": Softball competitions involving National Teams from Affiliated Federations;
- 01.01.02.** "European Cups": Softball Competitions involving Club Teams from Affiliated Federations;
- 01.01.03.** The "Massimo Romeo Youth Trophy" involving National Teams and/or Club Teams, whether or not from Affiliated Federations, run in accordance with **Specific Competition Regulations (SCR) EMRYT**.

01.02. Organizers of European Championships are appointed at the Annual General Congress in the year two years before the event concerned. If not so decided, then in the Congress one year before the event concerned. If not so decided, then in the year the event is held. Organizers of European Cups are appointed at the Annual General Congress in the year the event is held. **Technical Regulations (TR) 01.02.** onward govern matters relevant to Organizers.

01.03. *European Cups for Clubs shall be played during August, as follows, but subject to modification by the EC if deemed necessary:*

01.03.01. *The Women's European Cups (WEPC, WEC & WECWC) shall be played each year in the third complete week of August.*

01.03.02. *The Men's European Super Cup (MESCC) shall be played each year in the week following the Women's European Cups.*

01.03.03. *The Co-ed Slowpitch European Super Cup (CSPECC) shall be played in the first week of August each even year.*

01.03.04. *The European Softball Masters Cups (ESMC) shall be played in October each even year.*

01.04. *It is preferred that European Championships be played each year during July, except for the MSPECC which should be played in May or June and the CSPECC in July. All dates are subject to modification by the EC if deemed necessary.*

01.05. *European Competitions shall start on Monday and end on Saturday of a given week unless otherwise provided for in the Specific Competition Regulations or as modified by the EC upon recommendation of the Director, Competitions & Technical, each year based on the number of entries to an event. Organizers wishing to deviate from these **Competitions Regulations** or relevant **Specific Competition Regulations** should indicate the reasons for any alternative timing on their Organiser Bid. Any request for a change to the dates of a competition after an annual General Congress shall be considered and decided by the Executive Council.*

ELIGIBILITY

02.01. All Affiliated Federations in good standing under **Statute 2.02.02** are eligible to have National Teams or Club Teams participate in European Competitions.

02.02. The national league champions of the preceding year of Affiliated Federations in good standing are eligible to participate in the WEPC and WEC.

02.03. The national federation cup winners of the preceding year of Affiliated Federations in good standing are eligible to participate in the WECWC. If a Federation does not have a national federation cup, the runner up of their national league championship or its equivalent may participate in the WECWC.

02.04. If a team entitled to participate in a WEPC, or WECWC renounces its right to participate in that event, the runner-up of the national league championship or national federation cup may be admitted to the competition concerned. If the runner-up also renounces its right to participate, the team ranked third shall be eligible. If the third-ranked team renounces its right to participate, no other team can be substituted for the place in question. If an Affiliated Federation does not conduct tournaments that have an outcome of either a national league champion or national cup champion it may send a team it deems suitable for any SE Cup competition.

02.05. The team that wins the WEPC and WECWC in any one year shall have the right to participate automatically as defending Champion in the corresponding European Competition the following year. If this team is also the national league champion and/or national federation cup holder in that year, the runner-up of the national competition concerned shall be eligible for the corresponding European Competition.

02.06. If a defending Champion renounces its right of participation, no other team may assume this eligibility.

02.07. When a defending Champion defends its title in a competition, its participation shall not influence the promotion and/or relegation of other teams participating in that competition.

02.08. For purposes of this Regulation in respect of eligibility, the WEPC takes precedence over the WECWC with the following exceptions.

02.08.01. When a team, which enters a European Cup Competition, is eligible for both the WEPC and the WECWC, this team will only be eligible for the WEPC.

02.08.02. When only one team represents its country in a Cup Competition, this team is eligible to participate in either the WEC or the WECWC.

02.08.03. When only one team represents its country in a Cup Competition, this team has the right to change its entry from one competition to the other competition, subject to the conditions that the team has submitted a valid Entry Form in compliance with **03.02** and the request is received by the SE in writing at latest 15 calendar days before the deadline date to pay the Entry Fees provided for in **03.03**. The change is subject to the approval of the Executive Council.

ENTRIES FOR COMPETITIONS

03.01. To enter an SE Competition, an eligible team shall complete and submit the relevant Entry Form by the specified due date and pay the corresponding Entry Fee.

03.02. The duly completed and signed Entry Form must be filed with the SE Secretary-General before December 31st of the year before the SE Competition is scheduled to be held.

03.02.01. The SE Competitions designated by the EC as Development events shall have an extended date for Entry Form. The duly completed and signed Entry Form of these specific SE Competitions must be filed with the SE Secretary-General by the date specified in that event's Specific Competition Regulations *or by such date as specified by the EC.*

03.03. Cleared funds representing the required Entry Fee must be received by the SE Treasurer:

03.03.01. When the official announcement of the appointment of the Organizers of the Competition has been made at or before the Annual General Congress of the given year: before March 1 of the year in which the SE Competition is to be held.

03.03.02. When such an announcement has not been made at an Annual General Congress entitled to do so: within 30 days after the official announcement of the appointment of the Organizers of the SE Competition.

03.03.03. *When a Competition is designated as a Development event: by such date as specified by the EC.*

03.04. Solely to cancel an entry without penalty, a team shall notify the SE Secretary-General in writing:

03.04.01. When the official announcement of the appointment of the Organizers is made as per **03.03.01**: before February 1 in the year of that SE Competition.

03.04.02. When the official announcement of the appointment of the Organizers is made as per **03.03.02**: within 30 days after the announcement for that SE Competition.

03.04.03. *When a Competition is designated as a Development event: by such date as specified by the EC.*

03.05. Solely to assess a late filing, or late fee payment, penalty:

03.05.01. The submission of an Entry Form, later than the day specified in 03.02, is subject to the assessment of a late filing penalty, which amount is determined by the Executive Council. In no case will such late entries be accepted after January 31 of the year of Competition.

03.05.02. The payment of an Entry Fee, later than the day specified in 03.03, is subject to the assessment of a late fee payment penalty, which amount is determined by the Executive Council, notwithstanding further penalties and actions as determined by the Executive Council.

03.06. If after the dates in 03.04 a team withdraws from or does not participate in a European Competition:

03.06.01. The Entry Fee remains due and must be paid and, if already paid, is not refundable.

03.06.02. In addition to financial penalties, a late withdrawal of a team within 90 days before the start of the competition shall lead automatically to the following consequences:

03.06.02.01. Club Team: exclusion of the team from participating in that SE Competition for which it withdrew in the current year and the following year.

03.06.02.02. National Team: exclusion of the Affiliated Federation from participating in that specific competition for which it withdrew and the following European Championship.

03.07. At any time before 90 days before the start of that competition, the Affiliated Federation of that Club has the right to substitute another Club of that Affiliated Federation for the withdrawn Club. There is no charge to make a substitution this way, but all other financial consequences involved concerning participation in SE tournaments, including penalties for late withdrawal, remain. The official announcement of substitution of the withdrawn Club Team by a new Club Team must be received by the SE on the official Entry Form for Competition. The withdrawal notice on this form must be sent via the Affiliated Federation to the Secretary-General and the Competitions and Technical Commission.

03.08. If, by its withdrawal or non-participation, a team is directly or indirectly responsible for the cancellation of a Competition for an insufficient number of teams according to **Specific Competitions Regulations Appendix**, the SE cannot be held responsible for the possible loss or prejudice suffered by the Organizers or the other entered teams for said Competition.

03.09. In case of exceptional circumstances, the Executive Council may modify the date(s) as specified in articles **03.02** and **03.03**.

PLAYING RULES

04.01. The games of SE Competitions shall be played under the Playing Rules and Tournament Regulations of the WBSC, unless otherwise stated in these articles.

GENERAL COMPETITION SYSTEM

05.01. All SE Competitions, except where specifically defined in the event Competition Regulations or by the Executive Committee, shall be concluded by the final four top teams as follows:

A Bronze medal game between 3rd and 4th and a Final for Gold & Silver medals between 1st and 2nd.

IF A MEDAL GAME IS NOT PLAYED: Refer to the Results of the Round Robin.

RESOLUTION OF TIES

06.01. When teams are tied after a round-robin the tie shall be resolved by following the procedure,

1. With two teams tied on wins/losses, rank them by the result of their head-to-head game(s) in the round-robin; the winner is placed ahead of the loser. If a double round-robin and teams tied on wins/losses, the team with the better runs against record is placed ahead.
2. With more than two teams tied on wins/losses, rank them in order
 - a. By the results of their games among themselves in the round-robin games.
 - b. If still tied on wins/losses, by their runs against record in the games among themselves; the team with the lowest runs against is placed ahead of the others, the team with the second-lowest runs against is placed ahead of the others, etc.
 - c. If any teams tied by their runs against record in the games amongst themselves –

- i. two teams – by the results of their games amongst themselves in the round-robin game.
- ii. more than two teams – by their runs against record in all the round-robin games; the team with the lowest runs against is placed ahead of the others, the team with the second-lowest runs against is placed ahead of the others, etc.

If teams still tied, random selection decides.

PLAYERS AND PLAYERS QUALIFICATION

07.01. Each team shall be made up of a minimum of nine (9) players, in Fastpitch, or ten players, in Slowpitch, who shall stay for the entire duration of the tournament, and a maximum of seventeen (17) players, in Fastpitch, or eighteen (18) players, in Slowpitch. The passport or ID card of the players shall be checked during the TC meeting. At the beginning of the Competition each team must be present and represented by at least nine (9) players in Fastpitch or ten players in Slowpitch.

07.02. If a team of fewer than seventeen players in Fastpitch or eighteen players in Slowpitch but not less than nine players in Fastpitch or ten players in Slowpitch, arrives at the Tournament, the team may request permission of the Technical Committee to complete the group of players after the beginning of the Competition. This request must be made during the ID control at the Competition. The manager must specify the name(s), surname(s) and the passport or ID card number of the players concerned.

Such additional players must be on a game line-up (which requires being present and available to play) for their team before the end of its games in the first round-robin.

07.03. No foreign players will be accepted as being eligible for European Championships.

07.04. A foreign player for article 07.03 is a person not of the same nationality as the Federation represented by the National Team.

07.05. The nationality of every player will be determined by a passport or an I.D. card, issued by a national authority of an SE member country, and giving proof of citizenship, which has to be presented at the TC meeting, to the exclusion of any other document.

07.06. A player who is a national of two or more countries at the same time may elect to represent either one of them. However, after having represented one country of the resort of the SE in an SE competition, or any country in any competition as referred to in By-Law of article 41 of the Olympic Charter, they may not represent another country of the resort of the SE in an SE competition unless they meet the conditions outlined in article **07.07** below that apply to persons who have changed their nationality or acquired a new nationality.

07.07. Any player who has represented one country of the resort of the SE in an SE competition, or any country in any competition as referred to in By-Law of article 41 of the Olympic Charter, and who changed their nationality, may participate in a competition to represent their new country of the resort of the SE in an SE competition provided that at least three years have passed since the player last represented their/her former country. This period may be reduced or even canceled with the agreement of the national federations concerned, by the SE Executive Council, which takes into account the circumstances of each case.

07.08. Cases not covered by articles **07.06** and **07.07** shall be dealt with following the By-Law of article 41 of the Olympic Charter.

07.09. Within the frame of the present Regulations, a Club is defined as an entity that consists of a group of softball players, all of whom are citizens of SE-member countries.

07.10. For purposes of determining player eligibility in SE Cup Competitions, a Pick-Up player is defined to be a player who is from a Federation other than an SE affiliated Federation.

07.11. Notwithstanding the player restrictions imposed in the definition of a Club, each Club that qualifies for participation in an SE Fastpitch Cup Competition shall be entitled to include a maximum of three (3) Pick-Up players on its final competition roster for the Cup Competition.

07.12. For the Slowpitch European Super Cup (CSPESC), the maximum number of Pick-Up Players on a team's final Competition Roster shall be four (4), limited to two (2) female and two (2) male.

07.13. For each Pick-Up Player listed in the Application Form for Licences (08.03), the Club has to pay a fee, which amount is indicated in the Financial Appendix. The sum shall be received by the SE Treasurer at the latest ten (10) days before the start of the Competition. Late payment of the fee is subject to the assessment of a penalty, which amount is determined by the Executive Council.

Interpretation Note for 07.09 - 07.13: There are no practical eligibility restrictions on Pick-Up players – they are from countries outside of the SE affiliated Federations. They must be identified as Pick-Up players on the Application for Player Licenses that the club must submit to the SE before the competition. To allow for possible injuries or other extenuating circumstances, there is no theoretical limit on the number of players that a club may identify as Pick-Up players on its Application for Player Licenses - the limit of three (CSPESC four) will apply to the final competition roster that is submitted during the ID Control

07.14. For European Competitions the qualification inside a category of age is determined as of the 31st of December of the year of the Competition, as follows:

Category of Age	Age
U-13	10 to 13
U-15	10 to 15
U-16	11 to 16
U-18	13 to 18
U-22	17 to 22
Senior	17 and more

07.15. The qualification of Players in a Category of Age is determined as follows:

AGES QUALIFIED FOR COMPETITION: Year of Birth	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007	2006	2005	2004	2003	2002	2001	2000	1999	1998	1997	1996	1995
AGE @ 31 Dec of competition year = B'day during year	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	25+
SE Senior & all Cups							X	X										
SE U22							X	X										
SE U18				X														
SE U16		X																
SE U15	X																	
SE EMRYT (U13)	X																	

NOTE: X = on condition that the competition roster contains at least 12 players of qualified age, a maximum of 4 athletes from the lower age(s) are allowed to participate.

07.16. A team with less than nine (9) players in Fastpitch, or ten (10) players in Slowpitch, at the beginning of the competition cannot participate in the Competition. The subscription fee will not be refunded.

07.17. A player who cannot present their passport or recognized ID card to the ID control or upon later arrival will not be allowed to participate in the Competition.

07.18. A player who has been excluded from playing by an Affiliated Federation may not participate in European Competitions. Affiliated Federations shall inform the SE of such exclusions.

07.19. To take part in the European Cups all players must be entered by their Club on the corresponding Official Competition Roster.

07.20. A player can represent only one Club in European Cup Competition within a given year and hence can appear on only one Application Form for Licences from only one Club.

07.21. In case of protest according to article **08.05** the Director, Competitions & Technical shall decide on the eligibility of the Player in question and make it public before the Technical Meeting. The decision shall be based on the information obtained from the plaintiff who put the protest and the National Federation and Club who guaranteed the eligibility of the Player.

07.22. However, if during or after the Competition the information obtained by the Technical Committee according to article **12.03.02** is proved to be incorrect, the Executive Council may impose sanctions.

PLAYERS LICENCES

08.01. Only those players officially licensed by the SE may participate as players in any SE Competition, except for Development events or where the **SCR** so specify.

08.02. After entry to a Championship or Cup Tournament the Federation or Club team shall submit to the SE the Application Form for Licences.

08.03. The completed Application Form for Licences must state: The Name of the Federation or Club team and, for each player: their Surname, First Name, Date of Birth, Nationality, indication if the Player is or not a Pick-up Player, and SE Licence Number if already supplied.

This Form provides for a maximum of thirty (30) names of participants.

08.04. The completed Application Form for Licences must be signed by the Legal Representative of the appropriate Affiliated Federation and in the case of a participating Club it must be also signed by the Club's legal Representative.

08.04.01 The Federation or Club team shall send the Application Form for Licences, duly signed, to the SE no later than twenty-one (21) days before the start of the Competition. The late submission of an Application Form for Licences is subject to the assessment of a late-filing penalty, which amount is indicated in the Financial Appendix.

08.04.02 No Application Form for Licenses will be accepted later than fifteen (15) days before the start of the Competition. A Team that has not submitted its Application Form for Licenses within the 15 days delay will be automatically excluded from the Competition.

08.04.02.01 Amendment of an already submitted Application Form for Licences before the 21 days delay as contemplated in article **08.04.01** is always possible without any penalty.

08.04.02.02 Amendment of an already submitted Application Form for Licences after the 21 days delay as contemplated in article 08.04.01 and before the limit date as contemplated in article 08.04.02 is considered as the submission of a late Application Form and is subject to the same penalty and delays.

08.04.02.03 In the case of unforeseen circumstances requiring change(s) in an already submitted Application Form after the twenty-one (21) days delay but before the commencement of the Competition, a Federation may apply to the SE EC for exceptional relief from the conditions above. The EC decision shall be final and may be conditional on the payment of a penalty.

08.05. A copy of each team's Player License List shall be communicated by the SE License Administrator to every other team participating in the Competition no later than fourteen (14) days before the start of the Competition, and late or changed submissions as soon as received. The publication on the SE Web Site will be considered as such communication. Protests relating to matters of player eligibility must be submitted to the Director, Competition & Technical no later than seven (7) days before the start of the Competition.

08.06. The Federation or Club team shall present at the ID control in the tournament its Official Competition Roster and Passports and / or recognized ID cards of all players listed in this roster.

08.07. The Official Competition Roster of players shall consist only of names of the persons who are already on the Application Form for Licences. All other persons shall be automatically banned from participation.

08.08. If requested by the Organizers, participating teams shall send them their expected final roster, together with a team photo, at the latest (30) thirty days before the official opening day of the Competition.

OFFICIAL COMPETITION ROSTER

09.01. At the ID control meeting, teams participating in a Competition shall hand in a completed Official Competition Roster. This Roster may contain names for a maximum of seventeen (17) players in Fastpitch, or eighteen (18) players in Slowpitch, who will be the only ones entitled to take part in the Competition. Also, this Roster may contain names of managers, coaches, instructors and / or therapists, to a maximum of twenty-five (25) in total accredited to the dug-out.

09.02. Only players whose names have already been entered on the Application Form for Licences of the team, and who have validly been checked by the Technical Committee, as per articles **07.** & **08.**, can be entered on the Official Competition Roster.

09.03. Only players and other team members entered on the Official Competition Roster are allowed to enter the Competition fields and dug-outs.

09.04. Only players entered on the Official Competition Roster are entitled to appear on the line-up forms for the games of the Competition. In case of dispute concerning the qualification of a player, the Official Competition Roster shall be the reference document.

CEREMONIAL

10.01. All participating teams shall be present at the Opening Ceremony. The teams receiving a medal must be present at the Closing Ceremony; all other teams may be present at the closing ceremony by request of the Organizers.

10.02. To be considered as "present", a team must be represented by a minimum of Fast Pitch 9 (nine), Slowpitch 10 (10) members. Only players and other team members entered on the Official Competition Roster of a given team may represent the said team at the Opening and Closing Ceremonies.

10.03. During the Opening and Closing Ceremonies, team members must wear team uniforms according to article 11.01 or must be all dressed alike.

10.04. During the Opening and Closing Ceremonies, team members shall conduct themselves in the most appropriate manner. In particular, eating, drinking, unsportsmanlike or inadequate gestures, or excessive demonstrations are strictly prohibited.

10.05. Teams that do not abide by articles 10.01 to 10.04 will be subject to the penalties specified in the Financial Appendix, without prejudging of any disciplinary sanctions as decided by the Executive Council.

TEAM UNIFORM

11.01. All players in a single-sex team must be uniformed alike, with pants all short or all long. In a Slowpitch Co-ed team, men may wear short or long pants but all must wear the same: females may wear a different style, but all must wear the same.

11.02. In the European Championships the National team players must have the name of their country, or an emblem depicting their national origin, on the front of the uniform.

PROTESTS AND EJECTIONS

12.01. Protests regarding the interpretation or application of the Rules of Softball shall be notified to the Plate Umpire. The Plate Umpire shall then notify the TC present. Protests regarding the eligibility of Players shall be notified directly to the Tournament Technical Commission.

12.02. When notified of a protest, the TC present may decide to suspend the game under protest until a decision is made. In such cases the TC may require that the protest be lodged in less time than the delay stipulated in article 12.03.

12.03. Except if the Tournament Technical Committee has suspended the game and required a specific delay as per article **12.02**, the Official written protest shall be lodged within fifteen minutes after the end of the game. Official protests shall be written in English. Upon reception of an Official written protest the Tournament Technical Commission shall meet as soon as practical and make its decision without delay.

12.03.01. The decisions of the Tournament Technical Commission on protests regarding the interpretation or application of the Rules of Softball are not subject to appeal.

12.03.02. The decisions of the Tournament Technical Commission on protests regarding the eligibility of Players may be subject to appeal in case of subsequent new evidence as stipulated in **07.22**.

12.04. In case of illegal protest or wrong use of protest, the Tournament Technical Commission may propose to the Executive Council a financial penalty against the offending team.

12.05. Protests may also be made by Officials, Members of the Executive Council of the SE, Members of the Tournament Technical Commission of the SE and / or Umpires.

12.06. Ejections shall be subject to the Playing Rules of the WBSC. An ejected player or coach can take no further part in the game and shall be escorted to a designated area remote from the playing field for the remainder of the game.

12.06.01. At the end of the game the TC will consider *all Ejection Reports* submitted by the Umpire and implement the *disciplinary and documentary* requirements of the current **Disciplinary Regulations**.

OBLIGATIONS AND DUTIES OF PARTICIPATING TEAMS

13.01. All teams, except the team of the host Federation, shall be present at the place established for the Competition no less than twelve hours before the first scheduled game. At least one representative of each team shall be present at the Technical Meeting.

13.02. All teams are responsible for their travel expenses to arrive at and to depart from the Competition venue, and all board, lodging and food throughout. *All teams are additionally responsible for all their local travel throughout the event, including to / from the TC Meeting and to / from the field(s) for games and Ceremonies.*

13.03. Each Affiliated Federation is responsible for the traveling expenses to and from any SE Competition (or to an SE Umpire Training Course) for as many Umpires as the teams this Affiliated Federation enters in the current year.

13.04. When in the frame of the Competition the requirements and obligations of a team are not met, even in part, or if any member of a team does not behave according to generally accepted sportsmanship, the Executive Council of the SE may decide, preferably upon a proposal of the Technical Commission, to impose penalties, the amount of which will be determined by the Executive Council.

13.05. Consistent with the declarations on the Competition Entry Form, the participating teams shall arrange for insurance cover for all their members according to their national legal requirements relating to participation in sports competition, including civil liability, personal injuries, medical treatment and as provided for by ***Specific Competitions Regulations, Specific Competitions Regulations EMRYT, Specific Competitions Regulations WU15 & MU16*** and specific protections for underage players.

13.06. *Teams shall comply with all organizer requests and arrangements for minimising the environmental impact of the Competition, including making full and proper use of any recycling facilities and other sustainability initiatives. To help minimise the use of individual single-use plastic bottles, teams are encouraged to provide their dugout group with personal water bottles.*

13.07. The First Aid Assistance supplied by the Organizers shall cover only the on-the-field emergencies and not further medical treatment.

13.08. The SE is not responsible for any material or physical damage occurring within the framework of the Competition.

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