

ESF EC Spring Meeting
Online Video Conference, April 16, 2020
Minutes

1. Welcome, Quorum

EC members' attendance:

Gaba Waage ("GW")

Eddy van Straelen ("EvS")

Mette Nissen – Jakobsen ("MN")

Petra Arends ("PA")

Kristian Pälviä ("KP")

Ami Baran ("AB")

Daniela Castellani ("DC")

CD: Elda Ghilardi ("EG")

Tech. Director: Mike Jennings ("MJ") – DoU: Carolein Stadhouders ("CS")

Not attending with apologies: John Austin (JA), Youri Alkalay ("YA")

2. **Minutes**

- EC Video Conference April 1 2020 approved

3. **President and immediate issues**

- Update General situation in Europe

Each person gave a short idea of what is happening in their specific countries as to possible start dates for their national competitions.

SWE - SWE moved to June 21st, not more than 15 ppl in a location, youth sport allowed to practice and play locally;

DEN - school opened till 5th grade, possibility to start in May, news in a week or two;

NED - 5 phase to go out of the lockdown. Hopefully in June school will be open again and probably same for practice. August could be the time in which sport is back. 1.5 meter and gloves as safety measures. Next week Tuesday news;

ITA - ITA lockdown until May 3rd. Practice for individual sport will be allowed. Team sport should be back around June/July. School could be closed till september. Regional decisions. Minister of sport asked more info about the sport since this should have been the beginning of the season. The hope to start between June and July with senior championships;

BEL - BEL 3rd of May complete lockdown. As soon as it will be possible to practice, sport will start 2 weeks later.

GBR- GBR lockdown could last till July, June for sure. Older people will be locked for longer

ISR - ISR in lockdown. July should be the start of sport. From Sept to Dec a possible season;

CZE – SPA no decision, probably around July. CZR individual sport is allowed. Small groups for practice from next week. June 8th championship will start.

- Explanatory memo for Fast Pitch has gone out.
- Update from WBSC videoconference (was held on April 7)
 - There were changes and one unexpected was the Men's World Cup will now be held February 2022*
 - World Games could be instead of the World Cup but the issue would be only 1 team from Europe.*
 - U15 Women's World Cup 2021 is cancelled and the first edition of this event is scheduled for 2023.*
 - U23 Men's World Cup will be played in Argentina on end of September or early October 2021.*
 - We are also waiting for the WBSC will make their announcements.*

Action Item: GW will prepare a European Softball statement as to the change which does not fit for the development of our Sport. Possibly to ask other Continents to agree to this.

- SE tournaments 2020 – new table will be released when the WBSC makes their announcement of changes in World Cups.
 - Proposal:** keep for now the official U15 European Championships Aug 24-29 2020.
 - Decision:** Approved
 - Proposal:** move European Championships Women and Men to dates to be determined in 2021. (WECh possible September, MECh on June)
 - Decision:** Approved

Action Item: PA to prepare a concept of international series of meets.

Proposal: move Coed Slowpitch European Super Cup to 2021 and we understand there will be another Super Cup in 2022.

Decision: Approved

Question was raised about the U12 Mix WC – most European Countries do not have this category.

Action Item: AB will send a notification to offer to European Countries and see if there are any that would like to attend. If there are more than two we might need to have a series or some kind of qualifier.

Question was raised about the U23 MWC as there will be no European Championships prior to this 2021 WC.

Action Item: AB will send a notification to offer to the European Countries who usually participate in this category and see who is interested in attending (only 2 places) If there are more than two we shall try to have a Qualifier.

4. SE Topics for 2020

- Documents will be ready for the 2021 competitions.

Action Item: EG will prepare the new documents format and signature line

- PA is working on the Advisory Group for eligibility of Players
- There will be hopefully soon interviews of coaches, players and other interesting items on Softball Europe Facebook Live.

Financial

- Budget situation – no income but also the expenses are down. Fees are being refunded. We will use some of the reserves.
- Hungary penalty – still be dealt with
- Nettuno penalty – we will only withhold the 150 Euros and that will conclude the issue with that Tournament.

Action Item: AB will notify Nettuno.