



# EUROPEAN SOFTBALL FEDERATION

## PRESIDENT'S NOTICE

### QUARTER REPORT, ISSUE 7

November 25, 2018

TO: ESF National Federations

Dear friends,

I would like to take this opportunity to update you on our activities and operations on a quarterly basis with the intent to keep you informed of what is being done within the ESF.

#### **ESF Meetings:**

The EC ESF had two meetings. The first was during Super 6 – notes [here](#) – and the second on November 10 – 11 in Athens, the venue of the upcoming Congress. We took an overview of the 2018 season based on reports and also went through the bids for next season. We received two bids for the Coed Slowpitch European Championship and the Women's European Cup Winners Cup. Finally, after Germany withdrew their bid the event will be played in Budapest, Hungary for the first time. The countries participating in the WECWC will vote for their venue at the Competition Meeting at Congress.

No bids were received for the U18 Women's Qualifier, which is the Qualifier for the U18 World Cup 2020. If no bid will be entered before the Competition Meeting at Congress on February 1, the [European Ranking 2018](#) will be used to determine the three spots for Europe. Current allocation of the events is as follows – [see here](#). All events that have not been bid on shall be open for nomination until the Congress in Athens.

Entries for ESF tournaments 2019 will be called during this week.

We also met with BASE representative, WBSC promotional company, about marketing options in order to spread out European competitions by the WBSC.

#### **WBSC Europe:**

On September 23 a meeting was held between both ESF and CEB boards during the Super 6 Competition. We evaluated joint projects like the Super 6 and the new OTT Platform. The main topic was the presentation of the vision of WBSC Europe and the status of the WBSC Europe Statutes including future steps – the notes are [here](#). We are now in the final steps and you will receive an invitation for the WBSC Europe Congress including all documents in mid December.

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### **World Cups and Olympic Qualifier:**

Tommy Velázquez, WBSC SD chairman, has sent out a communication to all Federations about the decisions from the WBSC SD Meeting, held in Rome on November 17. The main topics were firstly the final decisions from our year round discussions as the structure and calendar of softball World Cups. Without repeating all that was in the communication, I would like to briefly give you a clear picture of the calendar and additional age categories, which are not in the schedule now – more details [here](#).

We are going to implement the changes step by step, as we have done in the past. So, when we changed from 4 year cycles to 2 year cycles in 2013, the number of the World Championships increased by double. Now when all World Cups are closed, qualifiers for all events are needed. We decided to implement one additional event to each gender and the second one would be added sometime in the future, when the NFs will adapt to the new structure.

I am personally satisfied that we discussed separately the most effective and useful changes for male and female tournaments. This is the reason why we finally implemented for each gender a different age category of a World Cup. Of course the calendar will have some consequences to our ESF calendar, which will be discussed in Athens at the Congress. Below is the current situation with World Cups.

The timeline of Women's World Cups and European Championships is as follows:

Year	Women	U22 W	U18 W	U15 W
2019	ECh + OQ		U19 WC + U18 EQ	U16 ECh
2020	OG + ECh		U18 WC	U15 ECh
2021	World Cup	U22 ECh	U18 ECh	U15 WC
2022	Euro Ch		U18 WC	U15 ECh
2023	World Cup	U22 ECh	U18 ECh	U15 WC
2024	Euro Ch		U18 WC	U15 ECh
2025	World Cup	U22 ECh	U18 ECh	U15 WC

The timeline of Men's World Cups and European Championships is as follows:

Year	Men	U23 M	U18 M
2019	World Cup		
2020	Euro Ch		U18 WC + U18 ECh
2021	World Cup	U23 WC	
2022			U18 WC
2023	Euro Ch	U23 WC	U18 ECh
2024	World Cup		U18 WC
2025	Euro Ch	U23 WC	U18 ECh

Many of you have asked about the date and venue of Olympic Qualifier, which is the most important event for most NFs. The decision is up to the WBSC and I have pressed for an answer as soon as possible. We were only notified at the WBSC SD Meeting about the Olympic Qualifier dates which should be played in mid July 2019, the venue will be announced later.



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### **ESCA camp:**

More than month has passed since we concluded another ESCA training camp in Diessen. In total 70 participants – 43 players, 27 coaches, 15 different European countries being represented. Plus instructors from the USA, Canada, the Netherlands, the Czech Republic, and Mexico. Second ESCA camp was great opportunity to develop our sport through "high level" instruction for all (coaches and players) and to fill the idea "GETTING BETTER TOGETHER". Thank to Craig Montvidas to lead this project.

Another step will be done next week during NFCA in Chicago, when [European Softball Coaches Association](#) is part of international Agenda.

### **President visits:**

Other than the EC ESF and EB WBSC SD Meetings I attended two other meetings. I attended the Europe Africa District Administrators Little League Meeting in Warsaw on October 27 where we discussed how to develop a closer co-operation in this project.

I also attended the Congress of the [European Fair Play Movement](#) (EFPM) in Brussels on November 22, where I signed a Memorandum of Understanding where Softball Europe became part of the Fair Play Movement in Europe.

*If you have any questions, suggestions, feel free to contact me anytime.*

Best regards,

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ESF President

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