

Quarter Report, Issue 13

December 15, 2020

TO: Softball Europe National Federations

Dear friends,

As always, I would like to take this opportunity to update you on our activities and operations with the intent to keep you informed of what is being done within Softball Europe. Truthfully, I did not expect that I would be updating you after a season with no official international activities on the field.

The Pandemic has changed the entire world, and affecting all our activities including Softball Europe moving to online status and activities. This is also the reason why I am coming to you now and not earlier, as I would during a "normal" year. Let me briefly update you about our activities over the past unusual months.



these unexpected times.

Season 2020:

First I would like to thank all of you for keeping your national competitions and tournaments alive. I know this season was very challenging and each game, which was played, counts. All national competitions started late, some were suspended, almost all were played in shorter versions and unfortunately, some didn't crown a Champion. I have monitored all national competitions and truly thank you for your enthusiasm and effort to keep our sport alive during

Video Call with National Federation Presidents:

Since we have not met in person for more than a year at the European championships or Cups, I decided to conduct Video Calls with Presidents from around Europe in November. The main objective for these online meetings was to inform you what is happening at the continental and world level and also to provide for you a platform for questions and other clarifications. In order to have enough time with each of you we created 3 groups and I hope that worked out good for all of you. I appreciate your time for those meetings and I do hope I provided information that helped you to understand clearly where we are.

Raoul Machalet appointed as new Director of Umpires:

Newly appointed Director of Umpires Raoul Machalet presents his team of Umpires in Chiefs and their goals in a letter to the Softball community. More info [here](#).



WBSC Europe Congress has been postponed:

In light of the continued COVID-19 pandemic and the numbers of growing cases throughout Europe and the World, the WBSC Europe Executive Board decided to postpone the 2021 Congress to November 2021 at a date to be decided in the coming months. More info [here](#).

Registration process for 2021 events is opened:

The registration process to the 2021 European Softball Championships and Cups is now open, and the deadline for entries is December 31, 2020. The [Entry Form for Championships](#) and the [Entry Form for Cups](#) are published on the Softball Europe website. Call for entries for EMRYT and MASTERS will be later as in the past.

Calendar 2021 - 2023:

After Softball Europe sent out to the European National Federations the call for organizers for the 2021-2023 events, two tournaments found an organizer.

The first-ever U-23 Men's European Championship will be hosted by Sezimovo Usti, Czech Republic. The event will take place from July 4 to 9, 2022. One year later, starting on July 3, 2023, the U-18 and U-16 Men's European Championship will take place in Sezimovo Usti, Czech Republic, as well.



The bids are still open for the first-ever U12 Mix Qualifier, to be hosted at the beginning of the 2021 season, the 2023 U-22 and U-18 Women's European Championship, and the 2023 Coed Slowpitch European Championship.

We shall be using the same procedure as usual, and the next deadline for receiving any bids is February 13, 2021, day of the cancelled Congress. Softball Europe EC will review all bids, and based on this will upgrade the [Calendar 2021 – 2023](#).

World Cups 2021+:

As I informed you during the Presidents Video Call, the most significant change will be in the formats and periodicity of the World Cups. The final proposal is currently under WBSC approval process, so I am not able to provide you with all the information but hopefully it will be decided in the next few weeks.

However, what I can say is that the periodicity is going to be a 4-year cycle for all the Fast Pitch World Cups and the final stage will be for 12, respectively for 8 teams. More details will be known after the final decision of the WBSC at the beginning of the year.

Softball Europe will adjust the timing of European Championships based on the calendar of the World Cups, as European Championships are qualifiers for the World Cups. But I would like to reinsure and confirm to you, that even though the World Cups will be a 4-year cycle; we will keep our European Championships in 2-year cycle. We will do our duty as the EC of Softball Europe and continue to create the possibilities for international competition which motivates all our players, adults and youth.

Happy Holidays and Hope for getting back to normal in 2021:

Finally, I would like to wish to all of you Merry Xmas, Happy Holidays and a Happy New Year. I really miss you all in person and I do strongly believe we will see each other on the field next year, as hopefully the vaccination will help the entire world to get over the pandemic and we will get back to normal life. I feel that next year will be year that international sports will start again and we will be ready.

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

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "G. Waage".

Gabriel Waage

Softball Europe President