

Quarter Report, Issue 16

September 29, 2021

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 accomplished within Softball Europe. I am happy to say, that Softball Europe's main goal – **to restore International Softball Competitions throughout Europe** – was successfully accomplished.

European Cups 2021:

The situation in Europe was better in August than in June / July. Even though we faced difficulties regarding restrictions of travel and some teams had to drop out as changes in travelling was unpredictable. I would like to thank all of the host countries of our Cups – Bulgaria, Czech Republic and Italy – for their incredible efforts in keeping international softball alive.

At the **Women's Softball European Premiere Cup** Championship Game, the two Italian Clubs from Bollate and Forlì played a very balanced game. The game was dominated by the pitchers until the sixth inning, when Bollate managed to score one run (Sheldon on a sacrifice fly by Costa).



During Forlì's last chance in the seventh inning with one out, Laura Wissink's double gave Forlì hope. With base loaded, Cerioni singled to tie the game at 1-1. Forlì then went on to score 4 more runs, two on a throwing error and two on a single t the right side by Suka Van Gulp. Bollate reacted, scoring one run at the bottom of the seventh, on singles by Bigatton and Gasparotto, finalizing the score 2-5. Forlì shut down the rally and thus claiming the fourth European Premiere Cup Title in their history. In the Bronze Medal Game, the Dutch team Roef

faced the Spanish squad of Rivas and took the victory.

The Dutch Team Olympia Haarlem topped the host squad Saronno at the championship game of the **Women's Softball European Cup Winners Cup**, 3-2, claiming the title. The historic Russian Squad Carrousel topped the Czech Eagles Prague, 2-0, to win the bronze. This also will be the last time that the event will be one pool only. As the increasing numbers of teams and the strategy to organize smaller Cups events with the intent to offer more options to organize European Cups so we can spread our sport to all corners of our continent, the WECWC will be played in two pools from 2022. Top eight teams in pool A and remaining teams in pool B.



In the Women's Softball European Cup Championship Game, the Wesseling Vermins defeated the Wroclaw Panthers, 6-1, claiming the **Women's European Cup** Title for 2021. Wesseling Vermins secured the spot for German Champion in Women's European Premiere Cup 2022. In the Bronze Medal Game, the Western Fire (UKR) claimed the W against the Vienna Wanderers (AUT), 14-12, in a very balanced game.



The Danish Squad Hørsholm Von Holmbäck Hurricanes won the **Men's Softball European Super Cup** title for the second time in a row. In the lower cup, the Men's Softball European SE Cup, Joudrs Praha took the gold. In the championship game, the defending champions Hurricanes defeated the Czech squad Žraloci Ledenice, 10-2, to win the title.

MASTERS is around the corner:

The last event of this year is the MASTERS. A total of 10 men's teams and 6 women's teams have entered for the MASTERS, which will be played in Saint Boi and Viladecans on October 27 – 30. This is great opportunity to celebrate the legends of our sport in Europe.



Bidding for next European Championships and Cups:

Softball Europe will announce the bidding process for allocation of the European Championship 2022 – 2024 and European Cups 2022 within the next few days. I hope we will return to our normal cycles of our events, which is important for planning and timelines of our members, all European NFs.



Massimo Romeo passed away:

ESF Hall of Famer Massimo Romeo passed away on September 5, 2021, after a life dedicated to softball and its development. The European Softball community mourns his loss. I met Massimo in the mid 90's for the first time and I was fascinated by the enthusiasm he showed about kids playing softball. It is a great honor to have Massimo Romeo Youth Trophy in Europe, dedicated to his effort in youth and softball development.

Massimo will stay in our hearts and memory with this event forever, his legacy will live on at EMRYT.

Congresses in Rome:

WBSC Europe Extraordinary Congress and ESF / CEB Extraordinary Congresses are scheduled for Rome on November 19 – 20. The main goal of this event is to finalize the process of merging of both sports in Europe and also dissolving of the ESF / CEB. A four-year process started with the approval of the new WBSC Constitution in 2017, which designed the roles of the Continental Associations, will be finalized in Rome. The election with the new structure of WBSC Europe will be held in February 2022, as we return our regular timetable of European Congresses. All materials for the Congress will be delivered during October.

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

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gabriel Waage".

Gabriel Waage
Softball Europe President