



**EUROPEAN
SOFTBALL
FEDERATION**

NEWSFLASH

July 2011



Dear friends,

As you might have seen already on our website, we are pleased to inform you that the PLAY BY PLAY for 2011 ESF Competitions is now online!

You can follow the Games of the 2011 European Championships and European Cups live!

Here the shortcut <http://competition.europeansoftball.org/2011/esf11.php>

This new service, that is being implemented by the ESF, is the result of our new marketing plan which began last year with the Live Streaming of the two Finals of the ECWA and ECWCWA in Haarlem (NED).

This year the ESF, with the cooperation of the Italian Federation and the Organizer from Friuli Venezia Giulia region (ITA), will broadcast all the Semi-Finals and Finals from the European Championship Women in Ronchi dei Legionari (ITA) with Live Streaming on the website.

The EChW with its 20 participating countries will be the largest event of European softball this summer.

Francesca Fabretto
Secretary General



Tournament	Place	Date	Winner
ECJNB - Championship Junior Boys	Kostelec Nad Orlici (CZE)	July 11 - 16	CZECH REPUBLIC
ECChS - Championship Coed Slowpitch	Dupnitsa (BUL)	July 19 - 23	
EChW - Championship Women	Ronchi dei Legionari (ITA)	July 31 - August 6	
ECGS - Cup Coed Slowpitch	Mladá Boleslav (CZE)	August 3 - 6	
ECJCG - Championship Cadette Girls	Deurne/Antwerp (BEL)	August 8 - 13	
ECWA - Cup Women A	Caserta (ITA)	August 15 - 20	
ECWB - Cup Women B	Dupnitsa (BUL)	August 15 - 20	
ECWCWA - Winners Cup Women A	Castions di Strada (ITA)	August 15 - 20	
ECM - Cup Men	Hørsholm (DEN)	August 22 - 27	
ECWCM - Winners Cup Men	Prague (CZE)	August 22 - 27	

IX JUNIOR WOMENS WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS, SOUTH AFRICA

The 2011 IX Jr. Women's World Championship will take place on Dec. 6-17, 2011 in Cape Town, Republic of South Africa, at the Turfhall Softball Stadium.

The 16 participants in the (age) 19-and-under fast pitch tournament will be:

Argentina, Australia, Botswana, Brazil, Canada, China, Chinese Taipei, Czech Republic, Germany, Japan, New Zealand, Puerto Rico, Russia, South Africa, USA, and Zimbabwe.

Europe will be represented with three Teams.

Germany and Russia qualified during the last 2010 European Championship Juniors (2nd and 3rd place respectively) played in Vienna (AUT), while Czech Republic took the place of Italy (qualified as winner of the 2010 EChJG) which withdrew.

Rita Ceuppens (BEL), Michal Zidek (CZE), Raoul Machalet (GER) and Alexander Kaverin (RUS) will be the Umpires representing Europe.

The previous edition of the Jr. Women's World Championship was

held in 2007 in Enschede (NED). USA became the gold medalist defeating the former winner Japan with a 3-1 victory in the grand final.

More information on the official world championship website, www.jwwc2011.co.za and on the ISF website, www.isfsoftball.org

The ESF wish Germany, Russia, Czech Republic as well as the European Umpires all the best at the World Championship.



ESF BRINGS SOFTBALL TO YOUR HOME „LIVE“

by ESF Media, Mark Berman

The European Softball Federation has launched a new marketing initiative to bring live softball coverage into the homes and offices of fans, associations and lovers of the game.

Michael Schmidt, ESF VP for Marketing, stated that, starting with the Womens European Championships in Ronchi de Legionari, Italy from 31 July to 6 August, ESF games would be available by „live streaming“ and „play by play“, via the ESF's web site.

All of this comes from the implementation of a new media accreditation system, one of the most advanced such plans in softball.

Live streaming of games at Ronchi dei Legionari will be available via <http://www.europeansoftball.org/video> for the last two days of the competition, including the semi-finals as well as the finals.

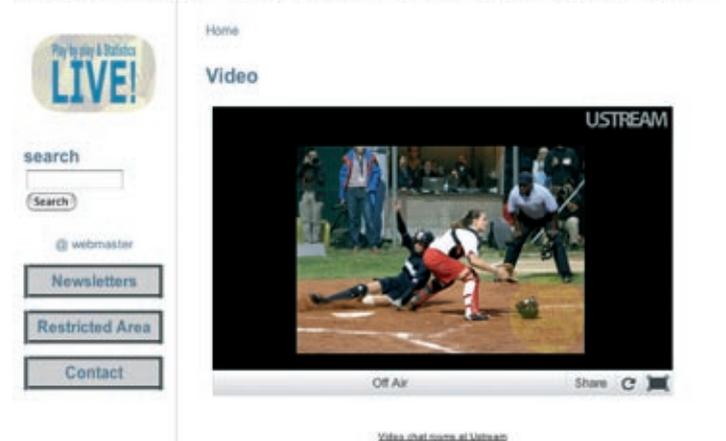
According to Schmidt, „it's great for everyone to be able to follow what's happening in a game, from anywhere in the world, and live. Our media accreditation system will let fans and supporters know what's happening ‚play by play‘ from anywhere in the world.”

ESF President Andre van Overbeek termed the new initiative „fantastic, and a breakthrough for media interest for softball“.

The live streaming and play by play will be made possible by accredited media that include camera crews, commentators and TV, press and radio reporters.

Media representatives, the press and photographers can become accredited media by registering with the ESF. Currently, nearly 50 persons have applied for media accreditation. Application materials are available on the ESF's web site.

For more information, please contact Michael Schmidt, ESF VP for Marketing, at mschmidt@europeansoftball.org.



VOTE FOR SOFTBALL

by ISF

the ISF is asking for cooperation from all softball family over the world „Please take a moment to vote for softball at <http://www.sportspromedia.com/news/poll/> in a poll of which sport will, in 2013, be voted into the 2020 Olympics.



Which sport will be added to the programme for the 2020 Olympic Games?

Thanks for voting in this poll.

Baseball	14.72%
Softball	58.66%
Wakeboarding	12.13%
Squash	13.63%

With the International Olympic Committee (IOC) recently announcing its shortlist of sports vying for inclusion in the 2020 Summer Olympics, SportsPro is asking its readers, which one of the eight contenders will be added to the programme for the 32nd Olympiad?

Baseball

While baseball still remains as popular as ever in America, the IOC clearly deemed it to have less appeal on the world stage when, in 2005, it announced that baseball, like softball, would make its final appearance at the 2008 Games in Beijing. Despite making the latest shortlist, the sport is unlikely to be chosen so soon after being excluded, but will the IOC be convinced enough by the new bid to perform an uncharacteristic about-turn?

Softball

Softball's high proportion of female participants may be its advantage over other sports in the list, mainly because the IOC is looking to increase female involvement in the Games. In fact, while the IOC noted the sport's lack of global appeal for its exclusion from the programme, many were shocked by its

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PRAGUE SOFTBALL WEEK

by *Natalie Korcova, CSA*

From June 23-26, teams from all over the world again came to the Czech Republic for the Prague Softball Week Womens Fastpitch Tournament at the Eagles Stadium.

Eight teams contested the tournament -- two from the Czech Republic plus teams from as far as away as Argentina, USA and Indonesia as well as teams from nearby Poland, Russia and Slovakia.

The Czech Republic brought its Junior National Team and a team of Prague Stars. There were some amazing games from the very beginning, including an exhibition doubleheader between the Czech teams and Argentina.

The different approach by teams from softball cultures so far apart made the games into a great show, with Argentina winning two closely-fought matches.

When the tournament began, the teams were divided into Group A (AIST from the USA, Indonesia, Prague Stars and Poland) and Group B (Argentina, Moscovia, Czech Juniors and Slovakia).

AIST went undefeated in Group A and Argentina did the same in Group B, outscoring the opposition by 24-2. No one was surprised that the final game was played between these two unbeaten teams.

The final battle took almost three hours and was an extremely exciting and high-level game, with Argentina, playing errorless defense, prevailing by 2-1.

The final was watched by a delegation from Indonesia and by important representatives from Czech culture and sport.



ISF ADVANCED PITCHING CLINIC IN DUPNITSA, BULGARIA

by *Gergana Handjiyska, BSF*

An advanced pitching clinic was conducted in Dupnitsa, Bulgaria from the 17th till the 19th of June.

The clinic was organized by the Bulgarian Softball Federation with the major help of the International Softball Federation, providing the instructor for the clinic.

The lead instructor was coach Chad Schatz – assistant coach in the Technical University of Missouri.

Coach Schatz has more than 10 years of experience in coaching pitchers on the college level. Prior to the Missouri Tech, he has worked at Columbia College and the Missouri State University, where he was assisting coach Jay Miller, currently coaching team USA.

The clinic turned out to be a big success. Coach Schatz shared lots of valuable information and paid special attention to every pitcher, advising on improvement.

The Bulgarian Softball Federation wants to express its gratitude to the ISF and especially coach Schatz for the great clinic.

