



EUROPEAN SOFTBALL FEDERATION

PRESIDENT'S NOTICE

QUARTER REPORT, ISSUE 5

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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 Competitions:

Let me a few comments after the historical inaugural [European Men's Slow-pitch Championship](#). In total 137 teams are entered (53 national teams and 84 club teams) into the regular ESF Competitions, which is 30% more than last year. This is without including the Super 6 event. I truly am happy that our NFs are taking our products seriously and participating in all those tournaments. This confirms that the development of Fastpitch and Slowpitch softball throughout Europe is on the rise and confirmation that our steps to make softball more popular and known in every corner of our continent.

However, the increase of the number of the teams has caused other issues such as game scheduling and field availability. The biggest issue came with the U22 in Trnava, Slovakia, where the number of teams increased more than 100% - Instead of 8 teams in 2018 in Pardubice we have currently 17 teams in 2018. On the one hand we are extremely satisfied but on the other it was an extra burden on Slovakia to find more fields for the tournament. I am pleased that Slovakia handled the situation, found the solution and they will host the first ESF event ever. Currently we have more than half of the events with at least for 3 fields, which is not the usual scenario. This occurs not only in the smaller softball countries, but also in the infrastructure of our well developed countries. The sustainability of ESF events will surely be a topic for future.

Live streaming

The ESF continues with the support of our top events in Europe. As you know all streaming from softball and baseball are currently concentrated on OTT platform and you can watch the final two days of Men's European Championship, which is the qualifier for Men's World Championship 2019, and all games of the Super 6 event. These events will be produced professionally by Playo.tv. We are still negotiating the streaming of the U19 EWCh with external partners. Some of the games of our other European Championships will be streamed with one camera, like the European Men's Slow-pitch Championship last week.

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Unofficial Competitions / Development

Not only do our official ESF events make our goal successful but also other events under the ESF umbrella are making our sport known and accessible throughout the regions. I am talking about projects such as [Euroleague](#) for the ladies teams in central Europe, or newly named [Mike Stapleton Memorial](#) for the boys, [Triple Ball](#) for Balkan countries or [Baltic Open](#) for Scandinavians. All regional events are important for our NFs.

WBSC Europe:

The meeting of the Presidents of ESF and CEB with Michael Schmidt, WBSC Executive Director, was held in Prague on May 7. There were several points on the agenda – the legal issues surrounding the WBSC Europe Statutes and the process of implementation and some common projects such as Super 6, OTT Platform and Baseball 5. Notes including timeline and responsibility for the next month are on the ESF website [here](#).

ESF Director of Communication in Lausanne:

Helena Novotna, ESF Communication Director, visited the WBSC headquarter in Lausanne at the end of May for a few days. The main purpose was to get more ideas about how the WBSC works in the media area and to set up guidelines and communication base of WBSC Europe. I would like to personally thank Michael Schmidt, WBSC Executive Director, who provided all necessary information and arranged accommodations for Helena in Lausanne. I am sure the groundwork of proper communication of WBSC Europe was established.

Future activities:

I will be attending some of the upcoming ESF events to see how softball is growing and have time to talk with NFs about their needs. I will be attending all European Championships. I am also planning to attend the last days at EMRYT, where we have 18 teams competing. I will be in Forli for final days of the WBSC umpires clinic and the start of the WEPC. I will also be attending WEC in La Loggia on my way back.

A special Men's Fastpitch exhibition game between Team Europe and NZ Black Sox will be played on September 2. The main objective is the promotion of men's Fastpitch and another step in the campaign for the Men's World Championship 2019 in the Czech Republic. This exhibition game and all games of the Intercontinental Cup will be streamed.

We are making progress on the new structure of European championships as we discussed at the Congress in Paris, and based on all notes provided to us we are finalizing the final format, which will be presented at Super 6 in September.

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

Best regards,



Gabriel Waage
ESF President