



EUROPEAN
SOFTBALL
FEDERATION

NEWSFLASH

October 2011

UMPIRES CORNER



by Marlies Struyvé
ESF Director of Umpires

PITCHING RULE VIDEO NOW ONLINE

An addition has been made to the official ISF YouTube channel.

Entitled "ISF pitching rule," a presentation (both an English and a Spanish version) that promotes proper understanding of the changes made at the October 2009 ISF Congress can now be viewed at www.youtube.com/ISFsoftball.

A combination of text slides and demonstration video are used to educate players, coaches, and umpires on Rule 6. The video will also be accessible to registered users of ISF UmpSchool.

NIKA DAHL UNIVERSITY WINS UKRANIAN CHAMPIONSHIP

by Noskova Galya

The softball season ended in Ukraine at the end of September.

The Ukraine Women's Championship consisted of several rounds of games during the spring and summer and then a final series in September.

The winner of the Championship was the softball club Nika from Dahl University in the city of Lugansk.

The club did not lose a single game during the season and easily

won the final series. The Winner of the Ukrainian Championship is also qualified for the ESF ECW-A in 2012.

Finishing second was the Western Fire from the city of Rivne and in third place was the team KNTU from Kirovohrad.

Almost immediately after the Championship concluded, a Cup competition was held in Rivne, in the western region of Ukraine, which recently opened its first dedicated softball field.

Seven teams took part and the winner of the Cup was also Nika Dahl University from Lugansk.



LONG TIME RIVALS LAUNCH SLOWPITCH TOURNAMENT

by The Malta Federation

When word got round that an exhibition game was going to take place between one time National Baseball League Champions Mellieha Northenders and their former rivals the Gozo Tornadoes, interest in the game grew quickly.

Even more interesting was the fact that these two teams bounced the National Championship back and forth between them for 9 consecutive years between 2000 till 2008.

Curiosity grew when it was announced that the rematch would be a slowpitch softball game and the line ups would consist solely of players who were on the teams' rosters during those 9 years of fiercely contested championships.



The crowd of family, friends and fans that turned up to watch the game had no idea what an entertaining afternoon it would turn out to be. The game produced no less than 3 double plays, 5 home runs and needed 11 innings to have the Mellieha Northenders emerge as the winners.

Mellieha quickly reminded the crowd that they are a notoriously strong offensive team by finishing the 1st inning in the lead 2-0 after a two run Home Run. The team from Gozo brought back memories of their strong defence by responding with double plays in the 2nd and 5th innings.

As early as the second inning it was easy to see that this would be a closely contested dual. By the third Gozo was ahead 4-3 and by the end of the 6th Mellieha had inched their way to lead 7-4.

Gozo came back with a run then with two runners on base, a homerun put them in the lead 8-7. Mellieha took advantage of two errors by the Gozo defence and tied the game. This took the game into 4 extra innings.

The game could not have had a better ending when with two outs in the bottom of the 11th Keith Bartolo hit a walk off home run. That home run ended the game and launched the first "Open Slowpitch Tournament". For the 2011 tournament four teams will compete in a round robin tournament over two days.

Both teams are signed up for the tournament so the rematch scheduled to take place in Gozo should not be missed.

CANDIDATURE FOR ORGANIZING AN ESF COMPETITION

Up today the nomination for following tournament are still open:

2012

TBA, III. European Championship Under 22 Girls

August 20TH – 25TH, XXXV. European Cup Women „A“

August 20TH – 25TH, XXI. European Cup Winners Cup Women „A“

August 20TH – 25TH, XIX. European Cup Women „B“

August 20TH – 25TH, XIV. European Cup Winners Cup Women „B“

Aug. 27TH – Sept. 1ST, I. European Super Cup Men

Jul. 30/31 – Aug. 4TH, VI. European Cup Coed Slowpitch

2013

TBA, XVIII. European Championship Women

TBA, VII. European Championship Cadet Girls

TBA, VIII. European Championship Junior Boys

TBA, IX. European Championship Coed Slowpitch

Forms to candidate as Organizer are available on our website at the following link: <http://www.europeansoftball.org/node/151>

NOMINATION FORMS TO BE RECEIVED BY THE SECRETARY GENERAL BY SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 5th 2011 AT THE LATEST, PREFERABLE BY EMAIL.

I remain available for further information you might require.

Best Regards,

Francesca Fabretto
Secretary General



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DANISH CHAMPIONS CROWNED

The final of the best-of-3 series in the 2011 Danish National Championships in Fastpitch Softball took place on Saturday the 24th of September, in Hørsholm.

Women

Having won the first game 15-5 over defending champions Barracudas, team United also took the second game with the score 9-1. Bulls won the bronze, beating Giants 8-1.



Men

Underdogs Vikings won the first game over defending champions and recent European Cup champions Hurrricanes, 6-3. Hurrricanes came back with two strong wins, 7-5 and 9-1. Bulls won the bronze with a 3-2 win over Giants.

*by Christina Laub Frank, Danish Softball Federation
photos by Patrick Wahl*



EAGLES AND SPECTRUM PRAGUE WIN CZECH EXTRALEAGUE TITLES

by Natalie Korcova, CSA

There were predictable results -- but also some thrilling games -- in the late-season Extraleague competitions in the Czech Republic this year.

WOMEN

The finalists in the Women's Extraleague were no surprise, with two Prague teams, Eagles Prague and Joudrs Prague, making it through to the final series. Joudrs were looking for their third title in a row.

The defeated semi-finalists were another Prague team, Cechie, and the regional team Snails Kunovice. Cechie Prague made sure of the bronze medal with a 2-1 series win over Kunovice and had a good chance to reach the final in a series of tight games with the Eagles. But the Eagles were able to keep their concentration when it mattered.

The result of the final series, 3-1 to the Eagles, seems clearcut if you didn't see the matches. But almost every game needed a tie-break, and every little mistake made by players and coaches mattered.



The game that gave the Eagles the Extraleague title ended very strangely, with the winning run scoring when the Joudrs catcher overthrew her pitcher.

MEN

Semi-finalists in the Men's Extraleague were Radotín Sportclub, Spectrum Prague, Sportclub 80 Chomutov and Hroši Havlíckuv Brod.

Chomutov and Spectrum made it through to the final series, leaving Hroši Havlíckuv Brod and Radotín Sportclub to battle for the bronze medal.

The series for third place is the best of three, and wins by scores of 3-1 and 5-1 were enough for Hroši Brno to end up with the bronze medal.

The final series, played as the best of five, was no contest. Spectrum Prague played errorless softball in recording three straight wins by large margins to take the Extraleague gold medal.

