

Quarter Report, Issue 15

July 26, 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 done. We are back on international fields!

European Championships 2021:

Even though we faced difficulties regarding restrictions of travel and had to cancel the very first event of 2021 – Coed Slowpitch European Championship in June – we successfully hosted the next four European Championships in one month. I would like to thank both of our hosting countries – Czech Republic and Italy – for their incredible efforts in keeping international softball alive. Even though some countries were forced to cancel participation at those events; I have seen a real effort and interest to return to international play. Especially in our youth categories, it was so important to keep their interest alive and to compete in their national jerseys.



For the fifth consecutive time **the Czech Republic is the Men's Softball European Champion**. On their way to the Gold Medal, the Czech Republic defeated Denmark, 4-2, claiming the fifth European Title in a row. Both the Czech Republic and Denmark have thus qualified for the Men's World Cup 2022 in New Zealand. For the very first time, Croatia won a medal at the Men's Softball European Championship. In the Bronze Medal game, Damir Mandić hit a grand slam and Matej Kamenski one-run home run twice to give Croatia the W against Team France (6-4).

The Italian Squad conquered the twelfth European Title at the Women's Softball European Championship 2021. The Kingdom of the Netherlands started strong, scoring three runs at the top of the first inning. The Azzurre's came back at the bottom of the second, scoring three runs to take the lead of the Championship game, 4-3. Italian pitcher Alexia La Catena closed up with one strikeout and one fly out, securing the win for Team Italia, 9-5. This is the twelfth title for Italy at the Women's Softball European Championship. Italy also qualified for the World Games 2022 in Birmingham, AL. The Czech Softball National Team took the bronze for the fourth time at the Women's Softball European Championship (2021, 2015, 2013, 2009), when they defeated Israel 2:0.



European Softball Champion 2021



The Czech National Teams dominated the U-16 Men's Softball European Championship and the U-18 Men's Softball European Championship. In the U-16 Men's Softball European Championship Game, Czech Republic defeated Israel, 17-0, claiming the second European Title in a row. In the U-18 Men's Softball European Championship Game, Czech Republic defeated Denmark, 7-2, claiming the ninth European Title, the fourth in a row.

The last European Championship was played last week in Prague, where in total 11 U18 National teams competed for the European title. We were honored as three-time Olympic Gold Medalist Leah O'Brien-Amico visited Prague at that time and did the commentary live for TV. The Czech National Team was the only undefeated team, as they Italy in the final. **Czech Republic defeated Italy 6-3 in the Championship Game and repeated the title of European Champion since 2014.** Bronze medal went to the Kingdom of the Netherlands, as they defeated team Spain 7-3.



European Cups 2021:

Softball Europe Executive confirmed the Coed Slowpitch European Super Cup, the Women's European Cup Winners Cup, the Women's European Premiere Cup, the Women's European Cup, and the Men's European Super Cup for 2021. All schedules are already published.

WBSC Europe website:

Just a few days before the start of the 2021 European Baseball Softball season, **WBSC Europe** was happy to inform the National Federations, players, coaches, officials, fans and partners that they will be able to access **all information** about Baseball and Softball in Europe at www.wbsceurope.org/en. The launch coincides with the roll-out of the WBSC's Data Management System for all European National Teams and Club competitions, which incorporates a new process automating data entry through the **My WBSC platform**, a modern tool to manage all aspects of an event including real time game statistics, player tracking and more.

ESCA and development:

The countdown to the 2021 ESCA Camp begins. Softball Europe, in cooperation with the European Softball Coaches Association (ESCA), will be organizing the **2021 ESCA training camp** from Tuesday, **October 26** to Sunday, **October 31**. New in 2021, one additional camp day. Previous camps were from Wednesday-Sunday. More information at [ESCA website](http://www.esca-softball.com).

Distribution of softball equipment from WBSC Development Funding was done to participating teams during U18 Women's European Championship. All National teams except for the medalists received balls and bats. Thanks to Petra Cizmic for all her hard work in the field of development and ESCA.



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*