

Quarter Report, Issue 14

May 3, 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 done within Softball Europe. As we all are looking for upcoming season, we have in mind Softball Europe's main goal – **to restore International Softball throughout Europe**

I am happy to see how the National competitions are commencing in several European countries day by day. As usual, the National competitions in Southern European countries have begun earlier, such as the [Spanish Softball League](#), which started at the end of March. Other countries like Hungary, Austria, Russia, Denmark,



Ukraine, Poland and others began their activities in April. Based on my discussions with the leaders of other countries, we can see that the National competitions in Italy, Netherlands, Germany, France and Czech Republic will commence during the month of May. This news is very important for all of us as it gives us the indication that the flag of our sport is in the process of re-opening as the vaccination process throughout Europe starts to accelerate. Our summer will look different than in 2020 and with our European competitions going as scheduled, I can hope that it will be much better.

European Season 2021:

We are all looking forward to a 2021 international season. We have been receiving many questions from many of our partners pertaining to the conditions at the upcoming European Championships. What will be the conditions at the venue? What will be the hosting countries regulations and more. I fully understand all those questions, but we have to approach the current situation with our heads held up high and with the intent to make this year happen. We are here to create the opportunity for international events, international sports and friendships. However, we also live in the same world as you and we understand the situation with Covid-19.

Softball Europe is currently discussing with Italy, Bulgaria, and the Czech Republic the specific conditions of organizing SE tournaments in their respective countries or regions and what the local requirements would be for holding the events. SE prepared and circulated [Covid-19 Protocol](#) to protect our most important treasure, our health.

We have also established the deadline for the cancelation of events, which is 45 days prior to the tournament. We will do whatever it takes so we do not have to cancel any of our tournaments and 45 days should be

sufficient time for all Teams to cancel their arrangements if needed. As of now, all five European Championships are ready to play.

As we come closer to these events, we will be finalizing all technical issues including human resources, and since we are working in an unprecedented situation, the EC has decided to accept withdrawals without penalties or further consequences up until 30 days prior the start of each competition. Thereafter, we will apply all consequences of late withdrawals as noted in Softball Europe Regulations. Of course, if a proven official governmental lockdown occurs at the specific time, it will be taken into consideration. [Final Entries](#) up to April 30 and [Calendar 2021 – 2023](#) are published on our website.

TC's and UIC's Meeting:

The TC's and UIC's first ever online meeting was held on the last weekend of April. As usual, this meeting reviewed all documents related to SE competitions. All relevant documents have been uploaded on our website in the [Documents](#) section with our new Softball Europe document design. Big thanks to our Communications Director Elda Ghilardi for an excellent job. Of course one of the main topics was all regulations regarding Covid-19 and the above mentioned protocol.

The main change in all European competitions – Softball and Baseball – will be game statistics. Both Divisions will use the WBSC Scoring System MyBallclub powered by MyWBSC. The use of this system will unify all statistics under the WBSC umbrella. Because of this the Licences process will be slightly changed and a separate letter with all details will soon be circulated to all National Federations.



EMRYT and MASTERS:

Regretfully, the European [Massimo Romeo Youth Trophy](#) (EMRYT) will not take place in 2021. Together with the organizers, Softball Europe decided to cancel EMRYT for 2021 as we came to the conclusion that we would not have been able to achieve the **goals** and/or the objectives of the event. To ensure the safety of the tournament and respect the COVID-19 procedures, the yearly Festival of Youth would have transformed into a nightmare for kids under the age of 11 and 13.



On the other hand, we will soon be calling for entries for the MASTERS tournament under the same principles as we organized this event in 2019. The call for entries will be open soon.

SE and WBSC Europe Meetings:

In total, three video conference meetings were held during the first few months of 2021. The [WBSC Europe](#) meeting approved the date of WBSC Europe Congress in Rome (November 18 – 21, 2021) based on the Constitution and Code of the Divisions approved in last Congress in Vilnius. Softball Europe EC Met twice – in [February](#) and in [April](#) – mainly about the competition situation of the upcoming year.

ESCA and CON6:

The activities for the development of coaches were still online and two major events occurred in March. The European Softball Coaches Association (ESCA) and Softball Europe would like to thank all of those who followed the [show on March 15](#) and their guests Greta **Cecchetti**, Elisa **Cecchetti**, Marta **Gasparotto**, Britt **Vonk**, Marjolein **Merkx**, and Jeroen **Swers**. On the LIVE Show, SE and ESCA dedicated the first part in memory of beloved Italian National Team Head Coach and ESCA instructor [Enrico Obletter](#), who tragically passed away on February 22 due to complications resulting from COVID-19.



Another important event was held immediately after that between March 16 – 20. The [CON6 2021](#) Baseball and Softball Convention is an international event with online sessions available in both Italian and English languages.

New leaders in Europe

As our 2021 Congress was postponed, we did not have the chance to personally congratulate the re-elected Presidents or the newly elected Presidents, so allow me to do that here in my update.

I am pleased to hear that some of our leaders of European countries were re-elected for the next 4-year cycle. I Congratulate Andrea Marcon who will lead the Italian softball and baseball, Didier Seminet will lead the French softball and baseball, and Rainer Husty who will lead the Austrian softball and baseball. I was especially pleased to hear at the Austrian Federation’s General Assembly it was unanimously decided that the name of the Federation will be Austrian Baseball Softball Federation from now on. Congratulations also to Colum Lavery who was re-elected for another 2 years as Ireland Softball President.

Let me welcome the new Presidents who have been recently elected. The Spanish softball and baseball will be lead by Mr. Jesus Lisarri. Swiss softball and baseball have elected Mrs. Dagmar Voith Leemann and Finnish softball and baseball is now lead by Mr. Jukka Ropponen. Let me congratulate all of these fine people who I hope will lead their federations into 2021 and beyond. See all of you, in person, at the Congress in Rome this November.

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

Best regards,



Gabriel Waage
Softball Europe President