

# Quarter Report, Issue 12

July 27, 2020

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. Truthfully, I did not expect that I would be updating you in middle of the season with no official international activities on the field. The Pandemic has changed the entire world, and affecting all our activities including Softball Europe moving to online status and activities. Let me briefly update you about our activities over the past unusual months.

### **Executive Board Video Conferences and Live Show:**

Softball Europe conducted over the past few months a total of four official videoconferences – Minutes are [here](#). We mainly monitored the situation in Europe and finally we had to decide to cancel all European events with the intent to give more time for the NFs to deal with their national competitions. We also decided to move to online status with our programs for coaches and umpires. We arranged LIVE SHOWs in the beginning of this unusual era, and wanted to put forth ideas in four areas – politics, women Fastpitch, men Fastpitch and Slowpitch. Thank you to the whole team for making this happen from Elda Ghilardi, Tom Gavish (our technical person), Petra Cizmic, Craig Montvidas, Corey Vyner and more.



### **Online activities for coaches and umpires:**

Online activities was a milestone during this time and was aimed at our coaches and umpires. Softball Europe & the European Softball Coaches Association (ESCA) prepared a new format: the Coaches Panel "Strike Zone". The first one was with four people (two coaches and two players) – see [here](#). The second one introduced special guest: Coach Mike Candrea, former Head Coach of US Olympic Team – see [here](#).

Every two weeks, various Softball coaches from around the world took turns writing an article especially targeted for ESCA members. These coaching "nuggets" are meant to be shared with Softball coaches interested in accumulating more knowledge about the sport of Softball. The title of these stories are known as "pass the pen". At the conclusion of each article, the pen will be passed on to another coach who in turn will write a story and then pass the pen on to another coach. In total eight editions were published since beginning of May until now – see [ESCA page](#).





Online webinars were arranged also for our umpires. For the first time, the Softball Europe organized a [virtual training meeting](#) for all the SE umpires. Thanks to the work of Carolien Stadhouders, Raoul Machalet, Gian Paolo Pelosi, and Chris Moon, on May 5 and May 7, the umpires met online for two webinars, one for fastpitch and one for slowpitch. After the success of the umpires webinars in May Softball Europe organized a second session for umpires in June. The [virtual meeting](#) focused on the mechanics of the game.

### **Back to the field:**

Europe is going back to the softball fields. Czech Republic, Croatia, and Slovakia started their seasons in the first half of June and other countries followed this. [SE Instagram](#) followed this process for months, fastpitch and slowpitch players have been waiting for the moment to go [#backtofield](#). I personally visited [Opening Day](#) of the Italian Softball League A1. I was proud to be part of this Ceremony in one of our leading countries, which was highly affected by the Coronavirus. I wanted to show the importance of returning to the field, where sports can be the bridge to a healthy future. It was a unique moment for all Italian players, for Softball Europe.



### **Calendar 2021 - 2023:**

Even though all our international events in Europe have been cancelled, I am glad to see that there have been efforts to play individual international activities. Competing internationally is a significant feature of the sport. The first European international event of the season was the [friendly games between Germany and Netherlands](#). Netherlands Women's National Team traveled to Cologne to face Germany's



National Team in a double-header at the Wesseling Vermens facility.

Only one event, which is still on the calendar, is the MASTERS, scheduled for the end of October. We are still monitoring the situation and more information will be published soon.

Softball Europe had to review the 2021 – 2023 events calendar because of the postponed and canceled tournaments of 2020.

As many of our 2020 European events have been postponed, in 2021, Softball Europe will have a full calendar. The board has reviewed and finalized the exact dates of those postponed events and decided to release the [2021 – 2023 calendar](#). Some events were postponed from this year to 2021 and [here](#) is the clarification about entries.

The main reason to publish this calendar now is to give National Federations a full outlook of international events in Europe for the next years and to have full information for planning of national activities. Also you have to consider the World Calendar, which is also changing. [U18 WWC](#) is postponed and [Men's World Cup](#) has the new date in 2022.



#### **Goodbye to Don Porter:**

We received sad news in June – Don Porter passed away on June 7, 2020, at the age of 90. [The tribute to Don](#) comes from Ami Baran and myself as a personal tribute to the man who was the engine behind International softball with never-ending energy. For so many years, he worked for Softball from sunrise to sunset, and sometimes sunrise-to-sunrise.

*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