



**EUROPEAN
SOFTBALL
FEDERATION**

NEWSFLASH

December 2010



PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Again December, another year passed by. A difficult year for sports in general because of the financial crisis but specially for softball because every Federation feels the financial cut in budgets now we are not longer part of the Olympic Family.

We have to find ways to get funding and not only for the confederations but also for our member Federations. The ISF started cooperation with "Helios Marketing Group" who will help us to find our way in sponsoring worldwide and we hope that this can contribute to get help on all levels for National Federations and the Governing Bodies.

First we will use our Worldwide Championships but we need to explore all possibilities which the new media will offer us. Up till now we received more then 40.000 viewers of the final games of the club tournaments at Haarlem, which the ESF broadcast direct

on the Internet. This is very promising and we will continue these efforts in the future in order to be interested for sponsors on the website.

To be on the programme of the Olympics is important but we have to make sure that without it we still can survive. Difficult of course, but not impossible.

Last month, Ami Baran and I were in Serbia to represent the ISF and we were invited by Slobodan and Dejan to visit the training of the Serbian cadets and we were pleasantly surprised to see a lot of talented young girls who are committed themselves to our sport. For sure this is the same in many countries and these efforts needs support.

Early Februar 2011 I hope I will see you all at our Annual Congress in Antwerp. We will discuss together about the future of the ESF but also about your National Federation and what we can do for you to achieve your goals.

Very soon it will be Christmas and New Years Eve and I wish you and all your loved ones great family days and the best wishes for 2011.

Your's André van Overbeek

NEW PEOPLE IN THE ESF ORGANIZATION

by the ESF Secretary General



The ESF family is glad to welcome some new volunteers. Starting from this month of December we have an Assistant to the Secretary General which will help the secretary general in her weekly dealings with ESF duties.

Her name is Anna Di Luca (ITA) and her email address is: assistantsg@europeansoftball.org

The Scorekeeper Committee has finally been established! The Chair is Dennis Duin (NED) and the Co-Chair is Marco Battistella (ITA).

The work of the Scorekeeper Committee will be to develop scorekeepers throughout the ESF countries - to prepare the ESF scorekeeping manual, to organize scorekeeping clinics, to assist scorekeepers at ESF competitions. The email address is: scorekeeper@europeansoftball.org



The EC has added another VP onto the team of Development. Ami Baran, VP Operations, will assist Totoni Sanna as the Development Operations Officer.

ENTRY FORMS FOR 2011 COMPETITIONS

To all Federations and Clubs: the deadline for submitting the Entry Form for your National team and/or Club for next year's Competitions is January 1st, 2011.

GENERAL CONGRESS



The Annual ESF Congress will take place on February the 4th-6th, 2011 in Antwerp, Belgium.

All documents on our website in the section DOCUMENTS > OTHER DOCUMENTS.

Hotel Registration to be done directly to the Belgium Softball Division (KBBSF) before January the 6th, 2011

EUROPEAN SOFTBALL FEDERATION TO SET UP OLYMPIC EVALUATION COMMISSION

by Ami Baran, ESF Vice President

Monday, December 6 -- The European Softball Federation (ESF), the regional governing body for the sport in Europe, is setting up an Olympic Softball Evaluation Commission to analyse softball's chances for future reinstatement to the Olympic Games.

Women's fastpitch softball was an Olympic medal sport from the 1996 Games in Atlanta through the Beijing Olympics in 2008. But the sport was dropped from the programme for London 2012 on a tied vote of International Olympic Committee members in 2005 and was rejected for the 2016 Games in a 2009 vote when the IOC added rugby 7's and golf to the programme.



The 2009 vote on which two out of seven sports would be added to the Olympics for 2016 was preceded by a four-year campaign run by the International Softball Federation, titled BackSoftball, which tried to demonstrate to the IOC that softball is a global sport, played in over 130 countries, with social benefits for female athletes around the world.

But this campaign was expensive, and as a sport that no longer receives Olympic funding, softball needs to make a decision about the likelihood of future reinstatement and the logic of spending more resources to try to achieve this. The ESF's new Olympic Softball Evaluation Commission (OSEC) will try to help the worldwide softball community make an evidence-based decision.

ESF President Andre van Overbeek said: "The launching of this evaluating commission is a big step forward in understanding the reasons why the IOC dropped softball from the Olympic programme and why our Backsoftball campaign didn't give us the results we hoped for. This commission will also make recommendations how to continue with our future efforts for reinstatement and keep the Olympic dream alive for all players around the world."

The Olympic Softball Evaluation Commission will be made up of five members representing national softball federations in Europe, and appointments are expected in the next two weeks. The Commission will complete its work by the summer of 2011 with the submission of a report that will be sent to the International Softball Federation and circulated to national federations in Europe and around the world.

In addition to weighing up the chances and strategies for softball's Olympic reinstatement, the Commission will also consider how the sport can continue to develop worldwide should Olympic status not be regained.

EQUIPMENT DONATION GIVES A BOOST TO SERBIAN SOFTBALL

by the Serbian Softball Federation

A successful year of softball in Serbia finished with a two-day visit to Belgrade by ESF President Andre van Overbeek and Vice-President Ami Baran, who brought much-needed equipment to help us realise our potential.

While many countries concentrate on developing a strong senior national team, we are focusing on younger players. We already have a strong Serbian Cadette team, and we are



looking for improved results at Cadette and Junior levels over the next few years.

As Serbian Softball Association President Slobodan Djuric said, "Eventually, when these girls grow up, we will then have a strong Senior team as well!"

We are thankful for financial support for our programmes from the Serbian Ministry of Youth and Sports as well as the City of Belgrade Secretariat for Sports.



