

WBSC Europe VP Softball Report

Issue 24

March 5, 2024

TO: Softball Europe National Federations

Dear friends,

The 2024 season is right around the corner and we all are awaiting the first pitch of the upcoming season. 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 in Europe.

Congress 2024:

Benalmádena, Spain, hosted the [WBSC Europe Congress](#) in the second week of February. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you, who actively participated at all meetings related to growing our sport. The Softball Commission met during this Congress – Minutes [here](#). Other than the preparations for the 2024 season we also heard the delegates of Germany and Great Britain regarding our flagship, Women's European Championship 2027.

Softball Europe's General Meeting was held on Friday, February 9 – Minutes [here](#). After a comprehensive yearlong [Survey](#) regarding the situation as to participation or lack of at our European Championships and



Cups, we prepared a special workshop for the NFs to be actively part of the process of exchanging information and their current situation. Let me warmly thank Sophie KHIDASHELI, Petra ČIZMIĆ POKRAJAC and Martina LACKNER-KEIL for their effort in providing the Survey and final outcome. Two main questions arose from the Survey during the workshop and the NFs had an opportunity to discuss in smaller groups based on the essence of the questions. The Softball Commission will analyse all points that emerged from this workshop and will prepare a final outcome.

Softball Commission new members:

It is my pleasure to announce to you, two new members of Softball Commission, as consequences [to election of WBSC Europe EB](#) and resignation. As the main goal and objective of the Softball Commission is to run our softball event with professionalism, one of our new Softball Commission members is **Wout Isbouts**, who is responsible for the revision of all technical documentation and scheduling, and **the second new member is Florian Lautenschläger**, WBSC Europe Softball Director of Umpires. I am looking forward to working with them in close co-operation as well as with all [Softball Commission members](#) in upcoming year.

2024 Competitions situation:

The WBSC Europe Congress is the key day for finalizing all events for the upcoming season. I am glad that we were able to finalize the venue for the U22 Women's Softball European Championship in Kutno, Poland and also thanks to Club Phoenix, Belgium to host WSECWC B.

It is with regret that WBSC Europe announced the cancellation of the Men's Slowpitch European Championship 2024 due to lack of an organizer. [Calendar 2024 – 2027](#) shows the complete time line of all our softball events. B pools of Women's Cups can start a day or two later due to number of the teams, the information will be circulated soon.

WBSC Europe proudly announces the [inaugural Indoor Women's Softball European Championship](#). This historic championship will take place from February 14th to 16th, 2025, at the Finnish Olympic Training Center in Kuortane, Finland. More information will be presented later this year including entries.

Info Packs of each of the events are in the process of being published on the WBSC Europe website. [Final entries](#) are up to March 1. We have opened entries for EMRYT (deadline is April 15) and entries for MASTERS will be called later this year.

The WBSC Europe Softball Commission announced the release of the regulations for the 2024 season. These updates include revisions to various documents. All revised documents including Competitions Regulations, their Specifics, Technical Regulations and 2024 CR / TR changes presented at WBSC Europe Softball GM you can find [here](#).

One change with arrangement of travel expenses of assigned umpires will be used this year. The new process of approving travel of umpires to selected location will be under responsibility of the National Federation, based upon the umpire lists which was provided to WBSC Europe. Each NF will receive the final selection of umpires for the 2024 season. If more umpires will be used for softball events in 2024, than is needed per Regulations, reimbursement will be resolved after the season. This new procedure is due to the resignation of long term treasurer, Eddy van Straelen. Let me use this opportunity to thank him for tremendous job over last three decades for European Softball.

**WBSC Europe Softball Technical Biennial Workshop 2024:**

Baseball and Softball Association, particularly Andrew Bajo and Mario Debono.

Every two years, the Softball Europe TC Group, comprising of all Technical Commissioners and Umpires-in-Chiefs, along with the Chairs of the Softball Scoring Commission, convene for a Workshop. This year, the [WBSC Europe Softball Technical Biennial Workshop](#) took place in Malta, February 23 – 25. The Biennial Workshop for TCs, UICs, and SICs began in 2009, with the first edition held in London. The primary goal is to ensure consistency in our work, aiming for a uniform look and feel at our events. Special thanks to the Malta

Conventions:

During the last weekend in January two major Conventions were held – CON-X 2024 in Italy and DBV Convention in Germany. The common ground of both of these conventions is to gather all coaches and technical people under one roof and to hold special workshops in order to grow the quality of our sport. It should be inspiration for other NFs.



CON-X 2024 hosts the 38th gathering for coaches, the 19th meeting for umpires and 17th summit for scorers; however, the topics of the Italian Baseball and Softball Convention at the Palacongressi in Rimini from January 26-28, 2024 are dedicated to all aspects so that there is something for everyone attending. CON-X 2024 is the most important event presented by Federazione Italiana Baseball Softball (FIBS) that brings together all facets of the movement from athletes, umpires, classifiers, managers, doctors and paramedics, trainers, coaches

and sport enthusiasts for three days of workshops and presentations that will offer wide appeal to an individual's personal interests.

The DBV Convention 2024, a pivotal event in the baseball and softball community, convened at the Sports University in Cologne, Germany, from January 26 to 28, 2024. Organized by the German Baseball and Softball Federation, this convention was made possible in part by funding from the WBSC Europe Development Fund 2023.



WBSC Europe Development funding:



WBSC Europe announced the opportunity for National Federation Members to request financial support for various projects for 2024. WBSC Europe opened the call for its National Federations Members to [request financial support for the development of baseball, softball or baseball5](#).

Petra Čizmić Pokrajac, Chair of the Development Commission, highlighted this initiative during the recent WBSC Europe Congress, emphasizing the organization's dedication to supporting grassroots development in 2024. The Application

Submission Deadline for funding requests is **March 15th, 2024**.

EMRYT – Entries are opened:

European Massimo Romeo Youth Trophy (EMRYT), organized in cooperation with the Italian Baseball and Softball Federation (FIBS) and Collecchio Baseball and Softball Club, will take place from August 14 to 17, 2024, in Collecchio, Italy. For the 2024 European Massimo Romeo Youth Trophy, two divisions are open to participants: the Future Division and the Sport Division.



The [Future Division](#) is open to boys and girls aged 9 to 13 years old, with a requirement for a majority of female players on the field. Up to four boys may be fielded at a time, but only female players are permitted to pitch and catch. The [Sport Division](#), on the other hand, is exclusively for female players aged 9 to 13 years old. The Specific Regulations of the event can be viewed [here](#). Entries are now open for all clubs and national teams. The deadline for entries is April 15, 2024. Entry form can be downloaded [here](#).

WBSC Europe Softball Umpiring Committee calls the umpiring clinic:



WBSC Europe Softball Umpiring Committee announced two upcoming umpiring clinics for 2024. Both clinics – [Fast Pitch Softball Umpire Certification Clinic](#) and [Slow Pitch Softball Umpire Certification Clinic](#) – will feature online meetings and a final on-field evaluation during a tournament. National umpires selected by their Federations are encouraged to participate to obtain the WBSC Europe Certification, necessary to umpire at the international level.

Invitation for Women's World Cup in Italy:

Last season, Europe had the excellent chance to see all stages of Women's Softball World Cup. This year the Top 8 teams will be seen in Castions di Strada, Italy in July 2024. It is a unique chance to see top athletes in one spot in Europe. Tickets are already available – all information is [here](#).

The World Baseball Softball Confederation (WBSC) announced the [schedule for the XVII Women's Softball World Cup Finals](#), the first-ever played with the new two-stage format. The Italian Baseball Softball Federation (FIBS) will host the tournament in Castions di Strada, in the north-eastern Friuli Venezia Giulia region, from 15 to 21 July 2024. Four games per day are scheduled from 15 to 19 July before the World Championship Final and Bronze Medal Game take place on Saturday, 20 July.

FOR THE TITLE OF **WORLD CHAMPION**
WBSC.ORG #SoftballWorldCupW @WBSC

GROUP A				GROUP B			
	W	L			W	L	
ITALY				AUSTRALIA			
CANADA				JAPAN			
CHINA				NETHERLANDS			
USA				PUERTO RICO			

WBSC WOMEN'S SOFTBALL WORLD CUP FINALS
CASTIONS DI STRADA 2024

FINAL STAGE GAMES							
CASTIONS DI STRADA JUL 15				CASTIONS DI STRADA			
11:00	AUSTRALIA	VS	JAPAN	12:00	PUERTO RICO	VS	NETHERLANDS
13:00	CANADA	VS	USA	OPENING CEREMONY 16:00			
15:00	CHINA	VS	ITALY				
CASTIONS DI STRADA JUL 16				CASTIONS DI STRADA			
11:00	JAPAN	VS	PUERTO RICO	12:00	CHINA	VS	CANADA
13:00	NETHERLANDS	VS	AUSTRALIA	15:00	ITALY	VS	USA
CASTIONS DI STRADA JUL 17				CASTIONS DI STRADA			
11:00	NETHERLANDS	VS	JAPAN	12:00	USA	VS	CHINA
13:00	AUSTRALIA	VS	PUERTO RICO	15:00	ITALY	VS	CANADA
SUPER ROUND							
CASTIONS DI STRADA JUL 18				CASTIONS DI STRADA			
19:00	AA	VS	BA	19:00	AB	VS	BB
19:00	AJ	VS	BJ	19:00	AC	VS	BC
CASTIONS DI STRADA JUL 19				CASTIONS DI STRADA			
19:00	BA	VS	BB	19:00	BC	VS	BD
19:00	BB	VS	BB	19:00	BD	VS	BD
WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP FINAL & BRONZE MEDAL GAME							
JUL 20 CASTIONS DI STRADA				JUL 20 CASTIONS DI STRADA			
21:00	4 th after Super Round			21:00	3 rd after Super Round		
22:00	2 nd after Super Round			22:00	4 th after Super Round		
CLOSING CEREMONY				WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP FINAL			

*Super Round: In games between equal teams, a coin toss determines home team.

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

Best regards,



Gabriel Waage
WBSC Europe Vice-President Softball