

SOFTBALL EUROPEAN PROTOCOL FOR TEAMS

pre- and post-games

TIMING	PRE-GAME
60	Managers provide white, yellow and pink copy of line-up to TC and receive a game ball.
30	Teams have access to dug-outs, Home team 3rd Base side. Pitcher warm-ups in designated areas only. Ground crew have precedence on field until completed. Umpires may inspect field & dugouts, check bats & helmets. NO batting practice, but teams can use Foul territory and outfield on respective sides.
20	Visitors In-field for 5 mins.
15	Home team In-field for 5 mins.
10	Managers and Umpires at Home Plate: ground rules; pink line-ups & game balls submitted. Teams gather at base next to their dugout. Teams advance single-file towards pitching plate, form diagonal line facing Home. Announcer may provide athlete names over PA Umpires hustle from Home Plate to pitching plate, turn to face Home. All on field acknowledge TC / spectators. If anthems played, all on field respect the appropriate flag, removing caps. Umpires remain at pitcher's plate, while - Two at a time, players / manager closest to pitching plate from each team move together in pairs to home where they turn, shake hands and exchange gifts. Then split and return to their dugouts. Plate umpire goes Home, base umpires brush pitcher's plate, first & third bases. IF First-Ball ceremony required, VIP throws ball to Home Team Catcher, ready masked: calls & signals 'Strike'!
0	Home team takes field, pitcher takes 5 pitches or 1 minute: Game commences.

TIMING	POST-GAME
Promptly	Umpires leave field together.
1	Teams gather at bases, as pre-game, proceed single-file towards pitching plate and as each passes the other team at the plate, shake hands with each then return to dug-out.
5	Teams may gather by their own dugout to acknowledge their supporters in the stands, but not indulge in any demonstration disrespectful to the opposing team or players. Immediately vacate dugout if required for next game.
5 to 20	If no time restrictions, teams may warm-down on their side of the outfield.