

WBSC Europe VP Softball Report

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TO: Softball Europe National Federations

Dear Friends,

First of all, I would like to thank you all for everything you do to promote softball in your countries. Your work is important for the strength of Europe as a whole, and I am very grateful to you for it. I would like to take this opportunity to update you on our activities and operations, ensuring you are well-informed about the achievements and developments in European Softball.

2026 Competitions Situation:

The turn of July and August marks not only the transition between the summer months, but in the international softball calendar, it also marks the transition between the European Championship and the European club cups. So let's recap what's happened and take a look at what's ahead.

Slowpitch European Championships:



The international softball season kicked off with the [MSPECh](#) tournament, which took place in Borgerhout, Belgium, with four teams participating. The Netherlands closed out a perfect tournament in Borgerhout to be crowned [2026 Men's Slowpitch European Champions](#), finishing the event undefeated at 6-0 and confirming their status as the dominant force in European slowpitch.

The [CSPECh](#) was significantly more well-attended. Farnham Park in London, a stronghold of coed slowpitch, welcomed 10 countries—and unfortunately, we were unable to accommodate two more due to capacity constraints. Coed slowpitch is experiencing a boom, as we welcomed Lithuania and Poland for the first time. Norway returned after its initial participation in 2024, and we also welcomed Guernsey for the first time in a long while. During the tournament, I had the opportunity to discuss the development of European slowpitch with the participating countries. These discussions yielded many good ideas, which I will present at the fall meeting of the Softball Commission, and I sincerely hope that this will help raise the profile of slowpitch. Great Britain defended its championship title, defeating Germany 23 – 8 in the final and claiming the crown without suffering a single loss. Czechia took the bronze after defeating Belgium 13 – 8.



Fastpitch European Championships:

for the WBSC U-18 Men's Softball World Cup 2027, marks the first time they will participate in a WBSC Softball World Cup, in any category.

Italy did not lose a single game across nine outings to claim gold at the 2026 U-22 Women's Softball European Championship, beating Czechia twice in the space of a week to complete the sweep. Behind them, 19 nations fought through six days of round-robin and classification play in Ostrava, Czechia and Żory, Poland, with the final standings stretching all the way down to 19th place. Italy is the champion of the 2026 U-22 Women's Softball European Championship after going undefeated through the entire tournament, capping the run with a 2-0 win over Czechia in Saturday's gold medal game at Arrows Park Ostrava. The Netherlands claimed bronze with a 7-0 win over France, while the placement rounds crowned a full set of European finishers from 7th through 19th across three separate classification pools.



their loss in the semifinal group stage. The U15 Women's European Championships took place in Rosmalen, the Netherlands, with a total of 14 countries taking part.

The 2026 U15 Women's European Championship featured the same finalists. And the medal standings were the same as well. In the final, Italy cruised to a 5-0 victory, scoring runs in the second, third, and fourth innings. Although the Czech team reached base, they couldn't deliver the decisive hit. This championship also served as a qualifier for the 2027 U15 World Championship, where Europe has two spots. I wish both Italy and the Czech Republic the best of luck at the World Championship and hope they represent Europe brilliantly. In the bronze medal game, the Netherlands defeated Spain 11-0, avenging

World Cup in Europe:

Once again this year, Europe hosted a World Cup tournament. [Stage A of the Women's Softball World Cup](#) took place in Prague. The WBSC Europe Softball Commission aims to host a World Cup-style tournament every year, for several reasons. Firstly, it raises the profile of world-class softball in Europe, which is something we all need. Another reason is to motivate European players. Hosting such events not only brings world-class softball to Europe, but also gives more European countries the chance to take part in a world tournament. And so, in 2023, all the Women's World Cup Stages were held in Europe (in Dublin, Ireland; Valencia, Spain; and Castions di Strada, Italy). In 2024, the Final Stage of the Women's World Cup took place in Castions di Strada. In 2025, Caronno and Legnano, Italy, hosted the U15 Women's World Cup. This year, Prague, Czechia, hosted Stage A of the Women's World Cup, and next year it will be Havlíčkův Brod and Ledenice, Czechia, which will host the U18 Men's World Cup.



European Cups:



The August part of the international softball season is dominated by the European club cups. As is traditional, we begin with WBSC Europe's largest youth project, EMRYT. Once again this year, the tournament is fully booked. There are 6 teams in the [SPORT Division](#) and 12 teams in the [FUTURE Division](#). The tournament is being held in Collecchio, Italy, where the first official European competition for under-13s took place 25 years ago.

This is immediately followed by all the women's club cups, which are played concurrently over the course of a single week so as not to clash with domestic competitions.

- [Premier Cup in Haarlem, the Netherlands](#)
- [Cup Winners' Cup A in Caronno, Italy](#)
- [European Cup in Wittenbach, Switzerland](#)
- [Cup Winners' Cup A in Janossomorja, Hungary](#)

The last week of August is traditionally dedicated to the [Men's Softball European Super Cup](#), which this year is being held in South Bohemia, in the towns of Hluboká nad Vltavou, Sezimovo Ústí and Ledenice. The tournament has a capacity of 20 teams, which is fully booked.

As is tradition, the MASTERS is the final tournament of this season. During the last week of October, 10 women's teams and 8 men's teams will gather in Barcelona to celebrate their long careers on the field through sports – [MASTERS Women's Division](#) and [MASTERS Men's Division](#).

EBSCA 2026:

Planning to attend the [European Baseball and Softball Coaches Association](#) Training Camp 2026 in Diessen, Netherlands? From arrival to departure, the camp is designed to provide a smooth and fully organised experience, allowing participants to focus entirely on development, learning, and performance.



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

Best regards,



Gabriel Waage
WBSC Europe Vice-President Softball