

WBSC Europe Softball Survey Report

Málaga, Spain
9. – 12.02.2024

Presented by Sophie Khidasheli, WBSCE Softball Commission
and by Martina Lackner-Keil, Athlete Representative Softball



Purpose

- Investigate & identify reasons for low or non-existent participation in WBSC Europe Softball competitions.

Methodology

- Survey designed & administered using Google Forms
- Distributed via email (office@wbsceurope.org) to target groups
- Participation was anonymous.

Questionnaires

- https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeuKgK8mBpF5J2yFgUANTBA5BKSEMsC5IYE5TyZ8PP0unlbiw/viewform?usp=pp_url
- https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdMQdinUFTTbbDhmxtBnDO_DKE9silQbqC4hl3tutnZSFYg3Q/viewform?usp=pp_url

Federations with < 10 participation in any WBSCE
Softball competition within last 3 years:



TARGET GROUPS

Federations with < 10 participation in any WBSC-E Softball competition within last 3 years

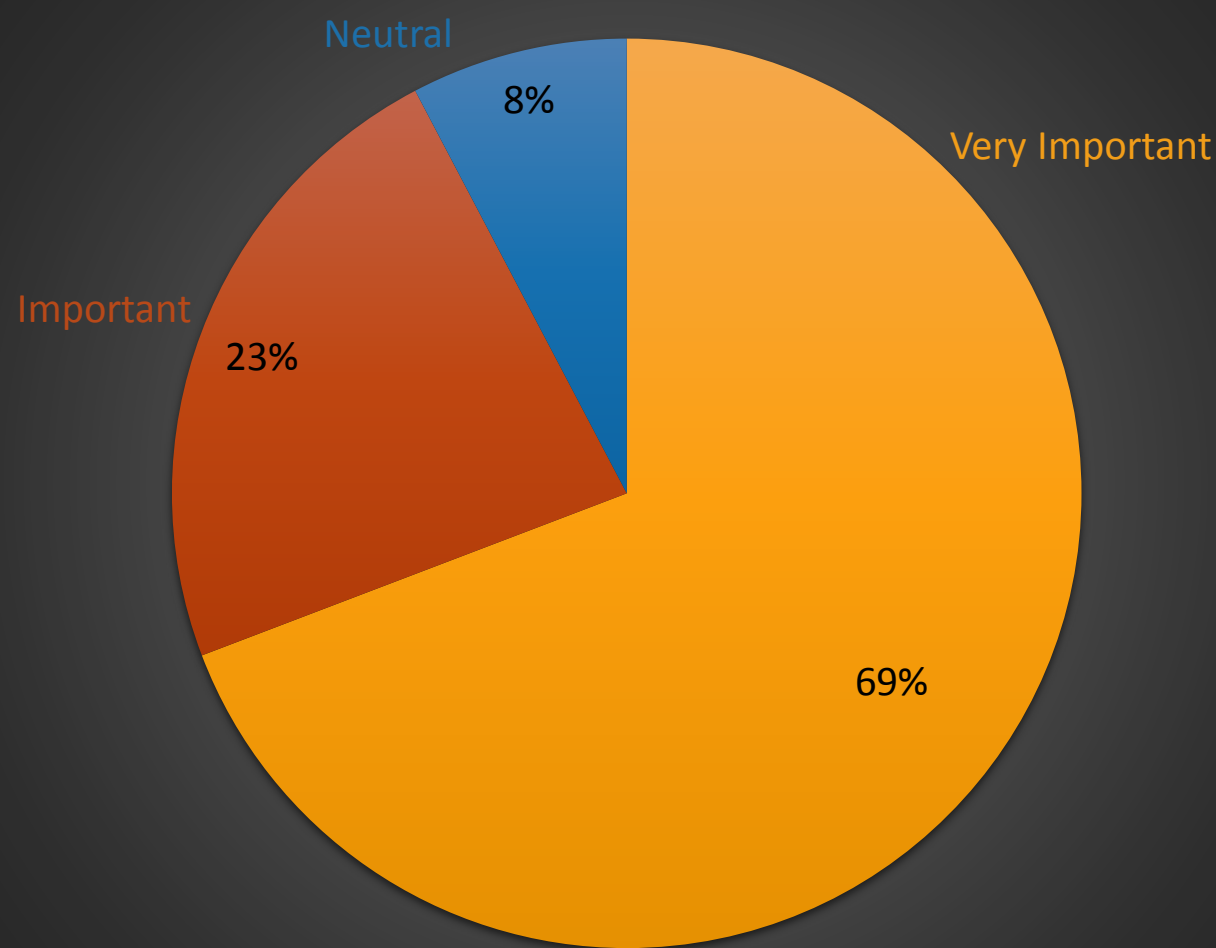
← 22 member federations meet within this criteria
13 from 22 federations participated in survey.

Top 5 Softball Clubs based on NF's standings

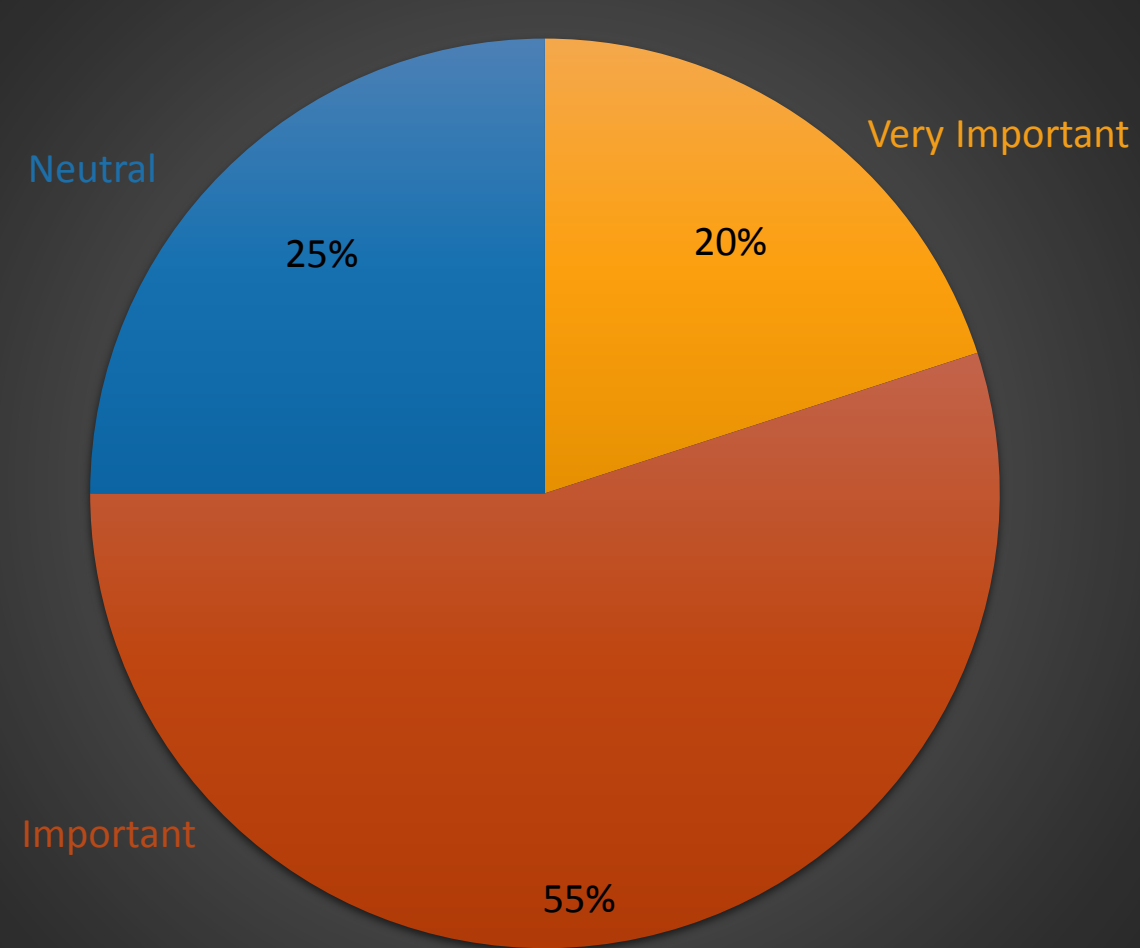
- 36 member federations were contacted and asked to send the list of top 5 Softball Clubs based on their standings. 24 member federations sent the lists. The survey was sent to 75 clubs.
- 20 from 75 clubs participated in survey.

SURVEY RESULTS: How important is it for your Federation/Club to participate in WBSC Europe Softball Competitions?

Federations



Clubs



Very Important Important Neutral Not Important No Opinion

Very Important Important Neutral Not Important No Opinion

SURVEY RESULTS: What are the obstacles or challenges that have prevented your Federation's team(s)/Club from participating in WBSC Europe Softball competitions?

Major problems impacting **Federations'** participation in competitions are:

- Insufficient funding for travel and accommodation
- Insufficient players
- WBSC-E entry fees
- Locations of events

Clubs face similar problems. In addition, they encounter:

- Competitive level
- Lack of support from Federation

SURVEY RESULTS: What would motivate your Federation/Club to participate in WBSC Europe Softball competitions in the future?

- **Financial Assistance & Support**

Transportation, fees, equipment, funding from the WBSC

- **Player & Coach Availability**

Having enough coaches and players within the appropriate age range to field competitive teams

- **Cost Consideration & Timing**

The cost of participation and timing of tournaments

In addition to above, the **clubs** encounter:

- **Qualification & Level of Play**

They have to qualify for WBSC-E tournaments through national leagues

- **Support & Resources**

Support from Federation to cover travel costs, accommodation

Facilities and equipment

SURVEY RESULTS: Are there any changes or improvements that could be made to WBSC Europe Softball competitions that would encourage your **Federation to participate?**

- **Financial Considerations**

Lowering entry fees

Hosting tournaments in locations closer to minimize travel expenses.

- **Tournament Format & Logistics**

Tournaments with fewer fields

Regional tournaments and domestic transportation provided by host

- **Prioritization & Inclusivity**

More opportunities for broader range of clubs/teams

- **Development Support**

Starter packages for clubs to start new sections

Assistance & resources to foster growth

- **Reconsideration of Slowpitch Priorities**

Reevaluating calendar & introducing events, like an annual Super Cup

SURVEY RESULTS: Are there any changes or improvements that could be made to WBSC Europe Softball competitions that would encourage your **Club to participate?**

- **Awareness and Communication**

- Increased awareness of the competitions
- Improved communication methods & channels

- **Coaching and Skill Development**

- Getting support through coaches that come & help to improve the player's skills

- **Inclusivity and Multiple Club Participation**

- More than 1 club from a country to participate in same competition to get broader representation & inclusion

Thank You



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