

WBSC Europe Softball Commission Meeting

Antwerp, Park Inn Hotel

4th November 2023

Attendance

Gabriel Waage, WBSC Europe Vice President Softball; ("GW")

Cornelia Chwojka; ("CC")

John Michael Jennings; ("JMJ")

Petra Čizmić Pokrajac; ("PČP")

Sophie Khidasheli; ("SK")

Ami Baran, Secretary General WBSC Europe; („AB“) by videolink

Eddy van Straelen, Treasurer WBSC Europe; ("EvS")

Martina Lackner-Keil, Athlete Representative WBSC Europe; ("MLK")

Elda Ghilardi, WBSC Europe Communications and Marketing Director ("EG"),

Kristina Uroić; WBSC Europe Corporative Activities Director ("KU")

9:00 hrs

1. Welcome

GW:

Welcome to everyone. Thank you Eddy for hosting us.

- *Information from WBSC And WBSC Europe*

GW:

It's good that we will be back to the Olympic Games in LA. IOC is all about the money at this point. We have to see how will it work out with Brisbane 2028.

WBSC will keep the 2-year cycle for the juniors. In 2024, we will come back as we were before.

Seniors: for the Females – 1st stage is done and next year there will be the final stage.

Europe has most structured competition. We should get one more spot.

-Multisport event – Men's World games: they will take the world ranking – top 7 teams + China as a host.

-Coed slow pitch – they cancelled the World cup.

WBSC Europe: Nacho Pardo became the Chair of Softball Umpire Commission after the suspension for Gianluca Magnani. We put Florian Lautenschläger as a European director of the umpires.

2. Minutes

Minutes from SE Meeting on May 31st were unanimously approved.

3. SE Competitions

a) TC, UIC and SIC Reports

MJ presented the report.

MJ: We have a problem with late assignments of the hosts. It became the issue because of the officials. The deadline for the Bids should be shorter. After December 31st we know how many teams will participate (maximum number), so we will know how many fields will be needed.

Proposal:

The deadline for the Bids should be the Congress.

Decision:

The proposal was unanimously approved.

GW:

Proposal: To limit the defensive team conference in the games. Once is allowed, but the next time “ball” will be called.

Decision:

The proposal was approved.

Action item: it will be put in the Regulations and will be put in the Memorandum for the rule.

Proposal: To implement 60 second rule, but it will not be mandatory to have the clock on the field.

Decision:

The proposal was approved.

MJ:

We had an issue at Olympia Haarlem because of the flares on the stands.

Action item: Subcommittee will send the letter to the NF regarding the incident.

MJ:

We need to have the TC guide how to deal with the media at the Events.

Action item: MJ and EG will work on the document.

MJ:

Masks should be mandatory for all pitchers at the U18 and younger category.

The discussion was held.

GW: face masks are not calibrated and it could be a legal issue for WBSCE.

Proposal: The masks will not be mandatory, but it will be put in the Regulations that they are strongly recommended.

Decision:

The proposal was approved.

Action item: GW will inquire about standard of face masks in the WBSC.

Game uniforms:

MJ: Sometimes it's really hard to see the difference of the color of the uniforms when the games are streamed.

Proposal: To mandate all “Visitors” to wear only white shirts.

It was put to the vote:

Yes: 1

No: 4

Decision:

It was not approved to mandate all “Visitors” to wear only white shirts.

MJ: **Proposal:** First Aiders should be more identifiable. Sometimes it's hard to locate them.

Decision: Approved.

MJ:

We should implement sanctions for non-compliance with PTR/FTR deadlines.

Proposal: Implementation of sanctions for non-compliance with PTR/FTR deadlines.

Decision:

The proposal was unanimously approved.

Proposal: To make photos of players compulsory for the FTR in myWBSC system, but not fined if they are not uploaded.

Decision:

The proposal was approved.

EvS:

We need to implement in the Regulations the day in the tournament when the outside players can show up at the latest.

CC: **Proposal:** Day 2 should be the latest that the outside players can show up.

Decision:

The proposal was approved.

Aciton Item: CC will work on the wording.

b) Big events – how to run it

CC:

We have a problem with the officials for the big tournaments. They are not happy officiating at those Events. They want to socialize as well. We might have a problem with assignments to the big events.

MJ:

We need to find a way to make the socializing time for the umpires and officials.

GW:

The problem is with the organization of the officials. The assignments for the games should be done on time.

CC:

The “middle” placed NFs in the Women’s European Championship are not too happy with the system. Maybe we could find the better solution; even making B-group again.

ML:

Big events are fun, but the format that is in, we need to do something for the middle strong countries. The draw is more fair.

GW:

We will have the discussion and if we don’t have the organizer, we will talk about the different system. If we need more officials, we can think about it. We need to better manage the scheduling of the officials. We need to avoid the situation where the assignments are received right before midnight.

MJ:

We need more TCs at the big tournaments and I would like to get the information from the WBSC about the officials they will assign to the WBSC events, so we can act accordingly.

Action item: MJ and CC will work on the plan for the number of the officials.

c) Media – at the events, social media, website, general outcome, tournament logos

EG:

Presentation.

We should monetize some of the Events. Baseball did with Euros in CZE. The standard for the streaming should be made.

We were strict with the logos.

GW:

We should have the same logo and change the color.

Proposal: We should have the compulsory accreditations for the European Championships.

Decision:

The proposal was approved.

EG:

WBSCE should be informed by the organizers if they will have the tickets for the event.

4. Outcome from SE competitions

- *Survey – view of the stakeholders*

SK: Presentation

The survey was sent to the federations and clubs.

It can be seen that the cost of travel and accommodation and small number of players are the biggest problem for the NFs who are not participating at the tournaments.

The same problems are with the clubs.

GW:

We have to see how we can address the issue. I would like for Mike, Martina and Sophie – to simplify it, so the clear message could be seen. The presentation can be done at the Congress.

Action item: MJ, MLK and SK will have the presentation done by Christmas.

- *SE Legislative, procedure, points for implementation*

GW:

The Layout is ok. We can continue with it.

- *Principles of scheduling*

CC:

We asked the organizers what they want.

Format with 12 teams: should be done with 2 groups with 6 teams or 4 groups with 3 teams. We need to take out the 4 groups with 3 teams.

Action item: GW will send the proposal to CC to implement the principle of system for Women's also for another bigger WECh (with 12 teams+).

- *Umpires Development Plan 2024*

Action Item: EvS will ask about the Budget for the Clinic.

- *TC/UIC meeting 2024*

GW:

We have the offer from Malta to held the TC/UIC meeting last weekend in February.

The offer will be checked and if it's not satisfactory, we can do it in Prague.

5. Calendar:

GW:

I have the strong information that Utrecht wants to organize European Championship Women first week of September.

For the Masters: we might have the Viladecans and Sant Boi agreement without the Spanish federation.

Action item: GW will held the meeting with Spanish Federation regarding the Masters.

GW:

We received the Bids for the tournaments.

We are in no rush for 2027 organizer. We have 2 candidates.

Proposal: To approve all the hosts with only one candidate and sent it to the WBSCE EB for approval.

Decision:

The proposal was approved.

Action Item: AB will send the Bids with one candidate to the EB for the approval.

6. Finance

EvS:

Financial Appendix is missing the penalty for not having the umpire. There is a fee which is used for sending the replacement umpire and there should be the penalty as well.

Proposal: 500 EUR as a guarantee and 350 EUR the penalty for not having the umpire.

Decision:

The proposal was approved.

Action Items:

AB will put the wording in the Regulation.

GW: will be responsible to check the Regulations after they are done. January 31st is the deadline for the regulations.

7. Development

PČP:

Presentation

EBCA will have their convention and will announce the EBSCA

Next year we will try something different. It would be easier to have it all in one place with less players and more coaches.

Erasmus + programmes: I will reach to the Federations and help them with reviewing their applications.

Development Requests:

We have 15 requests. I will have the review and the proposition to the Executive Board in the next 2 weeks.

Budget Presentation

GW:

We need to see how the Euroleague is impacting the participation of those clubs in the European tournaments.

PČP:

The Euroleague is good development tool for the smaller clubs to get to the point that they can participate at the European tournaments.

EvS:

We need to get Blind baseball expenses. I haven't received any invoice until now.

Minutes noted by Kristina Uroić, approved by Gabriel Waage