

WBSC Europe VP Softball Report

Issue 21

March 27, 2023

TO: Softball Europe National Federations

Dear friends,

The 2023 season is right around the corner, which we all are looking forward to. As always, 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.

European Season 2023:

We are all truly looking forward for a 2023 international season. Although we had problems finding organizers for a few of our Cups, I am happy to announce all WBSC Europe Softball Competitions are fully allocated for 2023 and the [Calendar](#) of European Championships 2024 – 2026 has already half of the organizers.

I warmly thank all parties covering our 2023 competitions, mainly with large number of participating teams. Thanks to Bulgarian Baseball Softball Federation for supporting Akademiks Sofia to host the Coed Slowpitch Super Cup. Thanks to KNBSB for supporting three Dutch clubs to host Men's Super Cup.

Deadlines for [Championships](#) and for [Cups](#) assists you in providing all the needed paper work before the competition begins. Our media department lead by Elda makes sure that all participating teams receive your Info packs, which are also published on the WBSC Europe website. That and much more helps everyone to make it to the total 13 events in 2023.

Update of [Final Entries](#) up until March 25 is published, but it will change as we still have a few open entries. Entries for the European Softball Massimo Romeo Youth Trophy ([EMRYT](#)) 2023 are still open, and teams have until May 15 to enter.



EMRYT will take place in Collecchio, Italy, from August 16 to 19, 2023. Three categories are available now, U13 Sport, U13 Future and U11 Coach Ball. I am very pleased that WBSC Europe agreed with the Collecchio Baseball and Softball Club and the Italian Baseball and Softball Federation (FIBS) to host EMRYT in Collecchio, Italy, until 2025. The agreement was signed at the WBSC Europe Congress 2023 in Belgrade, Serbia.

The last event of this year is traditionally MASTERS. MASTERS will be held in Sant Boi and Viladecans as usual from October 25 until October 28. More information will be announced later, entries will be open in April.

Outcome from Softball Europe Window at Congress:

The 2022 Softball Europe Window took place in Belgrade, Serbia, on February 10, 2023. The WBSC Europe Members took part in the 2022 Softball Europe Window, presented during the WBSC Europe Congress by Softball Europe Officials. WBSC Europe President Kruno Karin and USA Softball Executive Director and WBSC Softball VP Craig Cress also took part in the meeting, reassuring the support for the European Softball and Baseball Community. Softball Europe Officials gave an overview of the work carried out in the past year, in subjects such as competition, finance, media, and development. Outcome from Softball Europe Window is at the website. We also promised to prepare a comprehensive document with major changes to the 2023 Competitions – see [here](#).

Blue Convention 2023:

From March 10 to 12, 2023, the Frontair Congress Barcelona Hotel in Sant Boi de Llobregat, Barcelona, Spain, played host to the [WBSC Europe Softball Blue Convention](#). Led by the WBSC Europe Director of Softball Umpires Nacho Pardo, the WBSC Europe Softball Blue Convention focused on advancing the skills and knowledge of umpires, with the goal of enhancing the sport of softball in Europe.

WBSC Europe Softball Umpiring Committee have a new member since Blue Convention. German Umpire in Chief [Florian Lautenschläger](#) has recently been appointed as a member of the WBSC Europe Softball Umpiring Committee.



Central Europe Women's Softball Euroleague:

The 8th [Central Europe Women's Softball Euroleague](#) features clubs from Croatia, Hungary, and Slovakia. The league will take place over four weekends. In 2023, four cities will host the Central Europe Women's Softball Euroleague: Zagreb (Croatia), Érd (Hungary), Trnava and Bratislava (Slovakia). The 8th Central Europe Women's Softball Euroleague [started this past weekend in Zagreb, Croatia](#).

Information from NFs:

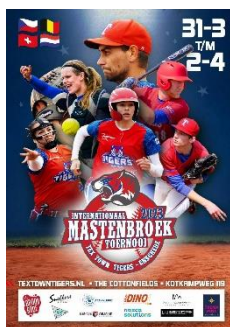
The Italian Baseball and Softball National Federation organized [CON-X](#) from January 27-29, 2023, in Rimini, Italy. The training courses applied to athletes, coaches, scorers, managers, doctors, media operators, technicians, physical trainers, parents, and enthusiasts. Over 1,000 attendees participated there.



The first National League in Europe started in Spain as usual. March 18 was [Opening Day](#) of the Spanish Softball League and Spanish Baseball League. In total 12 SSL teams started the Spanish National League on the weekend of March 18 – 19.

Enköping, Sweden, hosted a [Softball Indoor Championship 2023](#) on March 18 and 19. Eight teams from Sweden and Finland participated in the event won by Söder SR.

Team Finland had assistance from WBSC Europe Athlete Softball Representative Martina Lackner.



The season in the Netherlands will also begin soon. Scheduled from March 31 to April 2, 2023, the Baseball and Softball [Mastenbroek Toernooi](#) will have fourteen participants: eight for softball and six for baseball.

The Czech Republic will host many unofficial events for youth in this year. European Qualifiers for both American organizations – Little League and PONY – will be hosted in the Czech Republic.

European Qualifier U16 for PONY is at Eagles Park, Prague on April 21 – 23 with 10 teams from 5 countries. Little League European-African Zone will be hosted by cities Chomutov and Most in July 5 – 9. Entries will be open until May 1.

The 10th Memorial Mike Stapleton for Boys U18 and U16 will be held at Joudrs on June 29 – July 1 as preparation for U18+U16 MECh.

The recently elected Czech Softball Association is organising a new youth softball cup for U13 girls born in 2010 or after. The "[Prague International Softball Cup U13](#)" is scheduled to start on September 1, 2023, in Prague, Czech Republic. The tournament is open to teams of girls born in 2010 or after.



The French Baseball Softball Federation is launching the [French Super League Softball](#), a new event that aims to promote the sport while providing a competitive platform for current and potential national team athletes. The French Super League Softball is set to make its debut in 2023, featuring thirty-four of the best women's softball athletes in France. This event is based on the Athletes Unlimited concept, centered on the player's performance, not the teams'.

Czechia and Israel will represent Europe at U23 Men's World Cup:

12 national teams will compete at the inaugural [WBSC U-23 Men's Softball World Cup](#), to be played in Parana, Argentina, from 15-23 April. Czechia and Israel will represent Europe. [Israel](#) have named 14 players and staff for World Cup. [Czechia](#) announced 16 players and staff. I wish both European representatives good luck in Argentina.

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

Best regards,



Gabriel Waage
WBSC Europe Vice-President Softball