

WBSC Europe Executive Board meeting

London, UK

June 23rd 2023

Attendance

Krunoslav Karin, President ("KK")	Ami Baran, Secretary General; ("AB")
Gabriel Waage, Vice President Softball; ("GW")	Eddy Van Straelen, Treasurer; ("EvS")
Mette N Jakobsen, Member at Large SB; ("MJ")	Peter Ditrich, Vice President Baseball; ("PD")
Kristian Pälviä, Member at Large SB; ("KP")	François Collet, Member at Large BB; ("FC")
Virmidas Neverauskas, Member at Large, BB; ("VN")	Kostis Liarommatis, Member at Large, SB; ("KL")
Martina Lackner-Keil, Athlete representative SB ("ML")	Jürgen Elsishans, Member at Large, BB; ("JE")

Apologies : Youri Alkalay , Interim Vice President B5; ("YA")

Legal Counsel: Lars Sundin; ("LS")

Communications Director Elda Ghilardi; ("EG")

Corporate Activities Director: Kristina Uroic; ("KU"),

Guests: WBSC Executive Director Michael Schmidt; ("MS"), WBSC Sport Development Manager Giovanni Pantaleoni; ("GP"), WBSC Media and Communications Director Richard Baker; ("RB")

1. Welcome Quorum and Opening

KK: Welcome to all Board members and Guests.

MS: Thank you for inviting the WBSC representatives.

- Baseball Classic – the Qualifiers are too expensive; the different way will be discussed.
- Olympic Games: LA is definitely putting us as a runner up, but IOC wants to see guarantees from the professional league that they will stop the season for OG.
- Baseball5 – There will be an agreement for the World Cup on Monday. It will be in Europe. B5 is in the Youth Olympic Games and we hope we will be on the program for the OG in the future.
- WBSC Congress will be only an e-mail congress this year. We are looking in the possibility to have the Congress every 4 years.
- Next World Games will have Men and Women's Softball

KK: President's points

- European Games – this year's games are in Krakow, but the next games are in Split and we had a meeting with the Split's mayor to put B5 on the program.
- Transfer documents – we were in the WBSC commission that worked on the document. I believe it's a solid document.
- WBSC funding for WBSC Europe – WBSC allocated some funds for the development and Europe received the largest amount amongst all the continental confederations.
- Russia and Belarus situation – we need to consider the individual players who are playing for the clubs in Europe.
- Champions League – we had a meeting with ITA & NED federations. They are interested to start in 2024.

2. Minutes approval

KP: the notes about the agreements need to be put in the pre-Congress meeting.

Pre Congress minutes (9th February) with KP input and Post Congress (11th February) minutes are unanimously approved.

Action Item: KU will add these in the minutes

3. WBSC Europe Secretary General

- E-mail voting – we need to do better. Every time we have no votes. This needs to be changed. Board members need to send their votes in.
 - Congress 2024 – I'm in contact with the Spanish federation regarding the Congress.
- PD: Maybe we need some agreement and we should send the date of the congress to the Federations.

Action Item: KU to send a 'SAVE THE DATE' of the Congress to the Federations
Send guarantee to Spanish Federation including requirements.

- Policies - We should create the Leadership group.
- We have only 7,4% women in the commissions, board, committees; we need to work on this.
- Interns – we will start using interns with sports management CVs. We could use them for 6 months and it will be of no cost for the WBSC Europe.
 - BB&SB Regulation will be consolidated. The process will start shortly.

Action Item: AB to meet with Mike Jennings and Frantisek Bunta to set up the team who will work on this.

4. Financial

EvS: I sent out the monthly updates.

We have no information from Rene LaForce. We are trying to get the bank statements.

The CEB financial info should be sent to the Federations.

Action Items:

AB & EvS will work on the CEB financial paper and send it to the Federations.

AB & LS will send the letter to Rene Laforce to ask him for the bank statements; if no reply, the letter will be sent to the bank asking for the CEB financial information.

PD: We need the disciplinary action against Rene Laforce

GW: Proposal to send the letter to Laforce immediately, to give to him 2 days for answer and if nothing, giving issue to lawyer.

Action Item:

AB action in the Rene LaForce case will be sent to the Integrity Commission and a letter will be sent to him immediately.

EvS: We should make sure to keep the balance on zero. We need to be careful with the expenses.

5. Information of VPs

GW: Softball Commission

- We had a SB Commission video meeting in May.
- There are problems to find hosts for the tournaments, especially with Men's Super Cup.
- For our Masters tournament, we signed the agreement with 2 clubs.
- Assignments of the officials are all done.
- Issues with the Ball delivery.
- Umpires clinic with 13 umpires in Havlickuv Brod and the World level clinic will be in Saronno.
- The Women's World Cup 1st round will be played in Europe. We (WBSCE) should be represented at each tournament. I believe we all should be present next year for the Final round.
- For the shirts of the officials, we have a deal with Honig.

PD: Baseball Commission

- We have monthly video meetings. We will have in person meeting during the European Championship in Brno.
- Baseball Classic: 5 European Teams stayed in the Classic and Italy made it to the quarterfinals.
- Competition Regulations – František Bunta and Stephen Lesfargues worked on it with help from Juergen Elsishans. We need to update the Regulations for next year.
- Streaming of the tournaments – we need to talk to Media Commission to do better next year.
- We had talks with ITA, NED federations regarding the Champions League. The Federations are in favor to play it next year.
- European Championship – the future structure will be discussed.

FC – the competition rules were not used in the tournaments. This should not happen.

Little League & WBSC Europe Agreement:

KP: We will sign the MoU tomorrow. We will receive 30.000,00 USD each year if we keep the number of teams we have. If we increase in numbers, we will receive a larger amount.

London, UK

June 24th 2023

Attendance

Krunoslav Karin, President ("KK")	Ami Baran, Secretary General; ("AB")
Gabriel Waage, Vice President Softball; ("GW")	Eddy Van Straelen, Treasurer; ("EvS")
Mette N Jakobsen, Member at Large SB; ("MJ")	Peter Ditrich, Vice President Baseball; ("PD")
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 BSUK Chief Executive Officer John Boyd; ("JB"), BSUK Chair Phil Veasey; ("PV"), British Baseball President Tom Thornhill; ("TT"), LLBI COO Patrick Wilson; ("PW"), LLBI Senior Operations Executive, Daniel Velte; ("DV")

- Presentations about BSUK, British Softball and British Baseball
- Signing of the MOU between Little League Baseball Inc. and WBSC Europe

YA: Baseball5 Commission

- The EC will be played from 7th-11th November, 16 countries will participate. We had a late entry from Ireland and because it's a developing discipline, we might allow them to participate.

Action Item: YA will send a letter to the WBSC to allow us to play with different system and to ask for Europe to have one more spot in the World Cup as we have the most participants.

- There is an idea to create an event like the ATP tour in tennis.

GW- we need to add this into Multigame venues

EvS: Some of the Federations haven't paid the Entry fee.

Action Item: KU will send a letter to the Federations that they will not be able to play if they don't pay.

Action Item: B5 Commission to prepare by August the Regulations.

6. Marketing / Media and Promotion

JR: We would like to add one more person to the Marketing Commission

Proposal:

Add Cristian Manea to the Marketing Commission

Decision:

13-0-0

Proposal Approved.

- JR: We have some revenue from Mayback agreement. We need to get the NF to put the games on-line.
- We need to raise the quality of the stream.
- We removed the Beer Bat agreement from our portfolio.

WBSC Europe official apparel supplier:

Proposal:

Non-exclusive approval of GoaliePro company as a WBSC Europe official apparel supplier.

Decision:

13-0-0

Proposal Approved.

- Bat Approval

Marketing Commission will be the contact and they will send each proposal for the bat approval to the Baseball Commission. Marketing Commission will contact the manufacturers.

Proposal:

The Contract with the Bat Manufacturers will be on the 4-year term.

Decision:

13-0-0

Proposal Approved.

JR: Champions League – We will gather the ideas how to monetize the event to support the event and the participants.

Media

EG: We have all the tournaments except Slow-pitch streamed.

- Streaming standards are different for each tournament. It's hard for some of the LOC to ensure the high standard stream.
- Media officers – they are mandatory for the softball tournaments; we will have 3 baseball tournaments covered. The rule about the media officers should be the same for baseball and softball.

Action Item: All three Commissions will add in their regulations the media officer as an official staff for tournaments.

- myWBSC system – there are rule differences for FTRs in baseball and softball regulations.

Action Item: All three Commissions will check along with EG these specific requirements and try to consolidate the rules on PTR and FTR .

- Logos for the Events – the logos are made by the LOC with our input.

7. Events

JE:

- Bids procedure – it needs to be specified how it is done. I will talk to the Vice Presidents regarding this.

Action Item: JE will set up a call and try to consolidate the bidding procedures.

- Super 6 – it was a great idea, but now it's hard to find the organizers and the Federations are not interested to play it.

Proposal:

To remove the Super 6 from WBSC Europe Events.

Decision:

13-0-0

Proposal Approved.

- Blind baseball:

Proposal:

To have the 1st European Blind Baseball Championship in Bologna. WBSC Europe will take care of the graphic and the medals.

Decision:

13-0-0

Proposal Approved.

- European Baseball Championship 2025:

KK: Baseball EC in Israel was supposed to have the main field in Tel Aviv, but this is not possible anymore. We need to be sure that the EC is possible to play in Israel.

Action Item: A letter from the Baseball Commission to Israeli Federation to ask for the update on the organization and to ask for the guarantee.

8. Development

Petra Čizmić Pokrajec, Chair of the Development Commission ("PČ") – via video:

- We should combine softball and baseball coaches' associations to EBSCA. I had a meeting with baseball side and they are in agreement. First training camp will be in October for the coaches and players. WBSC Europe account will be used for the clinics.

Proposal:

To combine ESCA and EBCA to EBSCA.

Decision:

13-0-0

Proposal Approved.

Proposal:

The EBSCA Training camp will be under the Development Commission as will EBSCA itself

Decision:

13-0-0

Proposal Approved.

- ERASMUS programs – we are aiming for the 400.000,00 EUR programs; I already had some talks with the companies that are doing the programs. We need to see for which program should we apply.

Proposal:

To approve the Terms of Reference document

Decision:

13-0-0

Proposal Approved

- Timing of the requests for the Development funds by the Federations

Proposal:

There should be the deadlines for the Requests and after reviewing the Requests, the decisions should be sent to the Federations.

Decision:

13-0-0

Proposal Approved

- Budget: it needs to be done with all the information.

Action Item: PC will prepare the budget with the assistance of GW

There is a separate amount for the Little League development in Europe which will be under the Development commission. We should set up a Little League Sub Committee (KP will be the head of this Sub Committee)

Proposal:

Set up a Little League Sub Committee of the Development Commission with KP as head of the Sub Committee.

Decision:

13-0-0

Proposal Approved

9. Governance and Legislative Issues

MNJ: We need to see what are the priorities for the WBSC Europe.

Proposal:

To approve the By Laws – SE/BE/B5 Commissions

Decision:

13-0-0

Proposal Approved

Proposal:

To approve the WBSC Europe Travel Policy

Decision:

13-0-0

Proposal Approved

Proposal:

To approve the WBSC Europe Hall of Fame

Decision:

13-0-0

Proposal Approved

Action Item: Send the letter to the NFs to propose the people for Hall of Fame.

GW; all documents from Congress voting need to be updated and on the Website (Statutes and Bidding Procedure.

Action Item: update the Website with the correct Statutes and Bidding Procedure.

- Athlete Representatives Elections Baseball Election

There will be an Election during the EC in Czech Republic. The call for nominees will be sent to baseball Federations. Procedure for the Election will be made.

Next meeting:

8th-10th December

Venue: TBD

Action Items

Action Item	Responsible	Date due	Status	Remarks
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Put Kristian Palvia's remarks to the pre Congress minutes	Kristina Uroić	26.06.23	Done	
Send the "Save the date" for the Congress to the Federations	Kristina Uroić	01.09.23		
Send the requirements for the Congress and ask for the Guarantee from the Spanish Federation	SG – Ami Baran and Kristina Uroić	25.8.23		
Set up the team for BB&SB Regulations consolidation	Ami Baran together with Mike Jennings and Frantisek Bunta	10.9.23		
Work on CEB financial papers	Eddy van Straelen and Ami Baran	1.7.23	Done	
Send the letter to Rene LaForce asking for the bank statements	Ami Baran & Lars Sundin	1.7.23		
<i>AB action in the Rene Laforce case will be sent to the Integrity Commission and a letter will be sent to him immediately.</i>	Ami Baran	20.7.23		
Send the letter to the WBSC regarding Baseball5 EC – ask for the different system and extra spot to the WC	Youri Alkalay	15.07.23	Done	
Send the letter to the Federations who haven't paid the Entry fee to remind them about "no pay, no play"	Kristina Uroić	Before the deadlines		

Baseball5 Regulations	Youri Alkalay with Baseball5 Commission	01.08.23		
Media officer to be put in all 3 Regulations	BB&SB&B5 Commission	1.11.23		
Consolidate PTR and FTR for	BB&SB&B5 Commission with Elda Ghilardi	1.11.23		
Consolidate the Bidding procedures	Juergen Elsishans	20.10.23		
Send the letter to the Israeli Baseball Federation to ask for the Guarantee for the EC 2025	SG – Ami Baran with Baseball Commission	15.08.23		
Do the Development Budget	Petra Čizmić with Gabriel Waage assistance	8.9.23		
Send the Letter to the Federations to ask for the Hall of Fame proposals	SG – Ami Baran and Kristina Uroić	15.09.23		
update the Website with the correct Statutes and Bidding Procedure	Office	15.9.23		