

# WBSC Europe VP Baseball Report

## 2023 - 3

To: European Baseball Federation

May 19, 2023

Dear Member Federations,

Welcome to the dawn of the start of a new season of European Championships, Qualifiers and Cups.

As we begin the challenges of this year's tournaments we stand on the threshold of fresh beginnings and endless possibilities. The year ahead holds within it the promise of growth, change, and incredible opportunities for our Member Federations.

As we witnessed the success of our European teams at the World Baseball Classic and the start of all the National Federations leagues we find ourselves at the forefront of progress and change including Rules changes, umpire upgrading, Baseball Commission regular meetings with important decisions and much more. The collective work of all our commission members continues to push the boundaries of what we can achieve. Huge thanks go to all of you, including all the officials, volunteers, umpires, scorers TC's and many more for all your hard work.

### **WBSC Europe Baseball Competitions and Rules**

I am very pleased to see how hard our officials worked in preparation for the 2023 international baseball season and I am sure it will be a success. I send my best wishes to all teams participating in our events.

The WBSC Europe Baseball Competitions and Technical Committee worked together with the WBSC Europe Baseball Umpiring Committee on the Competitions Regulations 2023.

A virtual meeting has been organised for you on Tuesday, May 30, 2023, at 19:00 CET to share the Playing Rules for European Competition 2023, Points of Emphasis, and the 2024 Outlook. Please share the [link](#) to participate with the Technical Committees of your Federation.

Thirteen tournaments are on our European baseball calendar and all schedules can be found on the [WBSC Europe website](#).

Info pack for all events is also available on our website, with detailed information about the events such as addresses, available hotels, and local transportation. This is also a consequence of the decision of the WBSC Europe Board to lift the obligation from organisers to manage the local transportation for the teams' delegations at the European Baseball events.

Information regarding tickets and passes for our events are also available on our website. We are working with the Local Organising Committee to ensure the best possible success of the events.

Tickets are available for purchase for our premier events: the Baseball European Championship and the Baseball European Champions Cup. Fans can choose from a range of options, including day tickets and tournament passes. Please share the information with your clubs and members and contribute to the success of the events.

Follow the [WBSC Europe website](#) not to miss updates.

### **Umpire development**

For the 2023 season, the Baseball Umpiring Committee has recruited and trained 19 senior colleagues to oversee and supervise the umpire crews at each of the tournaments.

I could not agree more with the WBSC Europe Director of Baseball Umpires Marco Screti when he commented: *“Introducing the role of Umpire Supervisor will hugely improve the quality of umpiring. We strongly believe that this new pillar will strengthen our strategy, and short-term positive impact will gain further support from all participants of the game.”*

Find the list of the 19 Umpire Supervisors [here](#).

### **WBSC Europe Winter League and more**

As for our development programs, in cooperation with the Royal Spanish Baseball and Softball Federation and the Canary Islands Baseball and Softball Federation, we opened the application process for the third European Baseball Winter League (EBWL) for elite 17- to 23-year-old players from all WBSC Europe National Federations members.

EBWL is set to take place from November 18th to 26th, 2023, in Tenerife, Spain. Applications can only be accepted by National Federations. More info [here](#).

WBSC Europe partnered with Little League® Baseball and Softball and Pony League Baseball and Softball for the European Zone Tournaments, also qualifiers for the World Series.

The PONY U-14, COLT U-16 Baseball, and COLT U-16 Softball European Zone Championship Tournaments took place in Prague, Czech Republic, on April 22 and 23, and the Palomino PONY U-18 Baseball European Zone tournament was held in Stuttgart, Germany, from April 26 to May 1.

### **WBSC Europe sanctioning of events**

As you already know, WBSC Europe has introduced a sanctioning process for any international competition in Europe involving one or more National Teams governed by the National Federation, a process that was previously under the jurisdiction of WBSC.

To have National Teams compete in WBSC Europe sanctioned events will allow your National Federations to generate additional World Rankings points. More info can be found [here](#).

### **Maybacks cooperation**

The last piece of information is about the opportunity we worked on for our National Federations members to join the TV distribution agreement with Maybacks Global Entertainment. This is a non-exclusive TV distribution agreement, which means National Federations will retain the right to distribute their games through other channels as well.

The minimum setup required for the distribution of the games includes a 3-camera setup, on-screen graphics, and English commentary. Please contact our marketing department for more information at [marketing@wsceurope.org](mailto:marketing@wsceurope.org).

In conclusion, I would like to wish all of you good luck in the 2023 season. I will be present at our events and look forward to meeting you in person.

If you have any queries or need further information, please contact me.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Petr Ditrich".

Petr Ditrich  
WBSC Europe Baseball Vice President