



WBSC Europe – Baseball Report

Q3 | October 2025

To: All Federations, Officials, and Volunteers Involved in Baseball in Europe

From: Bart Volkerijk, WBSC Europe VP Baseball

Dear Baseball Friends,

It is both a pleasure and an honor to update you on the latest developments, actions, and upcoming events in Baseball Europe.

We had a couple of intense baseball months with exciting baseball events. With in July the U18 B pools and the U15 Championship, in August the U23 (GBR won the title) and women's championships with GBR as winner and in September the European Championship which started in Antwerp, Novara and Rotterdam and had a thrilling final between Italy and Netherland which ended in the 25th title for Netherland. For more information click [here](#)

The season ended with the European Championship for the blind which was won by Italy.

For more information click [here](#)

I like to thank all local organizers, all their volunteers and all our own volunteers, our officials, committee members and all others involved for making all these competitions possible. A big THANK YOU to all of you.

Now this season is over we directly start preparations for next season. In this report a call for action to subscribe to tournaments and for local organizers to do a bid to host a tournament. We can't do it without you.

It is also time to work on skills and knowledge. For umpires we have a very special certification Clinic in November in Toulouse. You can read more about that in this report.



The European baseball and softball coaches will have the biggest joined coaching convention in Antwerp from 7-9 November. The place to be for all coaches !
For more information click [here](#)



Survey for all federations of WBSC Europe

In the next couple of weeks, we will be asking you to complete a **WBSC Europe Survey**. As mentioned in our first report, we are eager to learn more about our members. You will receive an invitation to complete the survey via **MYWBSC**.

Afterwards, a member of one of the commission or the Executive Board will contact you to schedule an online meeting. The results will be presented at the 2026 congress.

Umpire clinic Toulouse

The registration deadline is October 15!

We would like to gently remind you of the announced WBSC Europe Baseball Umpiring 'Dual' Certification Clinic, taking place from November 27th to 30th, 2025, in Toulouse, France. Since this clinic will be professionally led by both WBSC and WBSC Europe instructors, we strongly urge not to miss this unique opportunity.

To make it even more special, we will **reward** the top two participants at the end of this clinic with **a nomination** for either a WBSC Europe U18 tournament or a place in a WBSC World Cup tournament in 2026.

We ask you to consult with your representatives and/or coordinators of your National Umpiring Committee to determine which candidate umpires are already eligible for this training.

For more information click [here](#)

European Competitions & Tournaments

Call for Hosts 2026 – 2029 *(for 2026 Reactions before November 1)*.

The Technical Committee is working on the competition schedule for 2026 and 2027. Updated bid procedures will be published soon. We've already received several proposals from federations and clubs interested in hosting. If your federation is also interested, please let us know. Details regarding organizer responsibilities are outlined in the Baseball Competition Regulation and the baseball bid procedure. The following tournaments are open for bids: bids@wbsceurope.org.

2026

- European championship U 18
- European championship B-pool: U23, U15 and U12

2027

- European Championship U23, U15 and U12
- European Championship Women
- European Championship B-Pool U18 and U12

2028

- European championship U 18 and U12
- European championship B-pool: Seniors, U23, U15 and U12

2029

- European Championship seniors
- European championship U23-U15, U12 and Women
- European Championship B-Pool U18 and U12



For all B-pool championships the subscription is open for all teams that don't play in the European Championship and for the teams that relegated from The A-pool.

Subscribe **before December 1**. The number of groups and the format is decided by the TC based on the number of subscriptions.

Club competitions 2026

In 2026 we will have basically the same tournaments as last year. However the Baseball European Championship will be changed. How the format is going to be, is still in discussion with WBSC/BCL and the involved federations. What we do know is that the competition will be for 8 teams based on invitation. The Baseball European Champions Cup (BECC) will go on as the confederation Cup with 6 teams in 2026. More details will follow as soon as possible. For more details click [here](#)

Bids

All club competitions are open for bids. Send in your bid to bids@wbsceurope.org

Confederation cup (new name for the BECC): 1 location 6 teams, round robin and final, 6 days.

European cup: 1 location, 8 teams, two groups, round robin, cross finals, final, 6 days.

Federation Cup: 2 locations with one group of 5 teams, round robin and final, 6 days.

Federation Cup qualifier: based on number of subscriptions, 1 or 2 locations with one group of 4-5 teams, round robin and final, 4-6 days.

For all the details see the letter of the TC. Follow this [link](#).



Personal Blog – Bart Volkerijk, *First Pitch*

The Philosophy of the Mount(ain)

Recently, I came across a book called *The Philosophy of the Mountain* — in Dutch, *De Filosofie van de Heuvel*, which uses the same word for “mount” as in a “pitcher’s mound.”

Although the book tells the story of two people cycling from the Netherlands to Rome and reflecting on their experiences, it made me think about my own *philosophy of the mount* — as a pitcher. With the European Championship still fresh in my mind and the outstanding pitching performances I witnessed there, it wasn’t difficult to give this idea some thought.

It all begins with the shape of the field. It’s no coincidence that a small mound is built in the center — a literal elevation that highlights the pitcher’s importance. That’s not to say the other players aren’t vital, but the game simply cannot begin until the pitch is thrown. A pitcher can make or break a game. Of course, baseball is a team effort, and only the team’s result ultimately matters.

Looking back at the recent European Championship, for me, the semifinal between Spain and the Netherlands was one of the most impressive games — especially from a pitcher’s point of view. In the first inning, the Netherlands’ starter, Tom de Blok, had to leave the game after breaking his elbow while pitching — a frightening experience for any pitcher. I wish him a full recovery. But the game had to go on. With two outs and runners on second and third, Kevin Kelly was called in. As you can imagine, the bullpen wasn’t ready yet, and he had to get warm in a hurry. He struck out the batter to end the inning — and from there, it was as if he switched on cruise control. Only in the ninth inning, with the Netherlands leading 6–1, did he face a brief challenge after giving up three hits. The coach came out for a talk but decided to leave him in. Kelly showed remarkable confidence, finishing the game with two strikeouts to end it and send the Netherlands to the final. He finished with 16 strikeouts over 8½ innings — no doubt a championship record.

Sometimes, as a pitcher, you reach a state of perfect mental and physical balance — when every pitch feels right, every throw finds its spot, and you feel almost invincible. But even then, you can’t do it alone. Every out must be made, every ball must be caught, and the offense must score to win.

So what does that mean for the *philosophy of the mount*?

A pitcher is certainly a bit special, has to be self-confident and maybe even a little arrogant. Everything begins with throwing strikes, but in the end, it’s always about the team. The team’s result is what truly counts.

My philosophy of the mount:

Feel special. Stay confident. Throw strikes. And always be a team player.

Warm regards,

Bart Volkerijk, WBSC Europe VP Baseball