



SOFTBALL COMPETITIONS REGULATIONS

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Softball Competitions Regulations

2025

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1. EUROPEAN COMPETITIONS

- 1.1. WBSC Europe sanctions and organizes, in accordance with its Statutes and Regulations, Softball Competitions in Europe, called "SE Competitions". SE Competitions include the following:
 - 1.1.1. "European Championships": Softball competitions involving National Teams from Affiliated Federations;
 - 1.1.2. "European Cups": Softball Competitions involving Club Teams from Affiliated Federations;
 - 1.1.3. The "Massimo Romeo Youth Trophy" involving National Teams and/or Club Teams, whether or not from Affiliated Federations, run in accordance with Specific Competitions Regulations (SCR) EMRYT.
- 1.2. All bids to host a WBSC Europe competition must comply with the Hosting Bid Outline. Any requirements specific to SE competitions are included in these Competition Regulations and in Technical Regulations: (TR) 1.2. onward govern matters relevant to Organizers.
- 1.3. European Cups for Clubs shall be played during August, as follows, but subject to modification by SE if deemed necessary:
 - 1.3.1. The Women's European Cups (WSEPC, WSEC, WSECWC-A, WSECWC-B) shall be played each year in the third complete week of August.

- 1.3.2. The Men's European Super Cup (MSESC) shall be played each year in the week following the Women's European Cups.
- 1.3.3. The Co-ed Slowpitch European Super Cup (CSPEsc) shall be played in the first week of August each odd year.
- 1.3.4. The European Softball Masters Cups (ESMC) shall be played in October each year.
- 1.4. It is preferred that European Championships be played during July, except for the MSPECh which should be played in May or June. All dates are subject to modification by the SE if deemed necessary.
- 1.5. European Competitions shall start on Monday and end on Saturday of a given week unless otherwise provided for in the Specific Competition Regulations or as modified by SE upon recommendation of the Director, Competitions & Technical, each year based on the number of entries to an event. Organizers wishing to deviate from these Competitions Regulations or relevant Specific Competitions Regulations should indicate the reasons for any alternative timing on their Organizer Bid. Any request for a change to the dates of a competition after an annual General Congress shall be considered and decided by SE.
- 1.6. The teams shown first in the list of games of the Competition Schedule will be considered to be "the visiting team".

2. PROGRAM OF COMPETITIONS

- 2.1. The Technical Commission establishes the provisional Competition Schedule and sends it to the Organizers. Thereafter, the Technical Commission shall publish the final official version no later than May 15th.
- 2.2. If within 30 days before the start of a Competition a team cancels its participation or does not show up at the Competition this team will, however, be taken into account in the standings of the Competition as follows:
 - 2.2.1. The game schedule will not be changed unless special circumstances occur, all games due to be played by that team shall be forfeited.
 - 2.2.2. If the game schedule is changed, such a team shall be kept in the standings of said competition for determination of the rankings.
- 2.3. Coin-Flip
When teams are re-grouped between Round-Robins, their Home / Visitor status in the following RR will be determined by their relative standings in the first. Thus, a team coming first in a RR1 group will automatically be Home in all RR2 games, except when playing against a team that achieved first place in any other RR1 group.
Whilst preparing the competition schedule, the Competitions Commission will itself perform a coin-flip to determine the Home team in any RR2 game between teams that achieved the same RR1 position in their respective groups. The Home / Visitor status of each game is therefore known before the start of the competition. The precise order of games in final Round-robin may be adjusted to reflect TV requirements.

3. ELIGIBILITY

- 3.1. All Affiliated Federations in good standing under **WBSC Europe Statutes 8.1.e** are eligible to have National Teams or Club Teams participate in European Competitions.
- 3.2. The national league champions of the preceding year of Affiliated Federations in good standing are eligible to participate in the WSEPC or WSEC.
- 3.3. The national federation cup winners of the preceding year of Affiliated Federations in good standing are eligible to participate in the WSECWC. If a Federation does not have a national federation cup, the runner up of their national league championship or its equivalent may participate in the WSECWC.
- 3.4. If a team entitled to participate in a Woman's Cup Competition renounces its right to participate in that event, the runner-up of the national league championship or national federation cup may be admitted to the competition concerned. If the runner-up also renounces its right to

participate, the team ranked third shall be eligible. If the third-ranked team renounces its right to participate, no other team can be substituted for the place in question. If an Affiliated Federation does not conduct tournaments that have an outcome of either a national league champion or national cup champion it may send a team it deems suitable for any SE Cup competition.

- 3.5. The team that wins the WSEPC and WSECWC in any one year shall have the right to participate automatically as defending Champion in the corresponding European Competition the following year. If this team is also the national league champion and/or national federation cup holder in that year, the runner-up of the national competition concerned shall be eligible for the corresponding European Competition.
- 3.6. If a defending Champion renounces its right of participation, no other team may assume this eligibility.
- 3.7. When a defending Champion defends its title in a competition, its participation shall not influence the promotion and/or relegation of other teams participating in that competition.
- 3.8. For purposes of this Regulation in respect of eligibility, the WSEPC takes precedence over the WSECWC with the following exceptions:
 - 3.8.1. When a team, which enters a European Cup Competition, is eligible for both the WSEPC and the WSECWC-A, this team will only be eligible for the WSEPC.
 - 3.8.2. When only one team represents its country in a Cup Competition, this team is eligible to participate in either the WSEC or the WSECWC-B Woman's Cup Competitions, according to the rating of their Federation.
 - 3.8.3. When only one team represents its country in a Cup Competition, this team has the right to change its entry from one competition to the other competition, subject to the conditions that the team has submitted a valid Entry Form in compliance with 4.2 and the request is received by the SE in writing at latest 15 calendar days before the deadline date to pay the Entry Fees provided for in 4.3. The change is subject to the approval of SE.

4. ENTRIES FOR COMPETITIONS

- 4.1. To enter an SE Competition, an eligible team shall complete and submit the relevant Entry Form by the specified due date and pay the corresponding Entry Fee.
- 4.2. The duly completed and signed Entry Form must be received by SEcompetitions@wbsceurope.org December 31st of the year before the SE Competition is scheduled to be held.
 - 4.2.1. The SE Competitions designated as Development events shall have an extended date for Entry Form. The duly completed and signed Entry Form of these specific SE Competitions must be received by SEcompetitions@wbsceurope.org by the date specified in that event's Specific Competition Regulations or by such date as specified by SE.
- 4.3. Cleared funds representing the required Entry Fee must be received by the Treasurer:
 - 4.3.1. When the official announcement of the appointment of the Organizers of the Competition has been made at or before the Annual General Congress of the given year: before March 1 of the year in which the SE Competition is to be held.
 - 4.3.2. When such an announcement has not been made at an Annual General Congress entitled to do so: within 30 days after the official announcement of the appointment of the Organizers of the SE Competition.
 - 4.3.3. When a Competition is designated as a Development event: by such date as specified by SE.
- 4.4. Solely to cancel an entry without penalty, a team shall notify SEcompetitions@wbsceurope.org :
 - 4.4.1. When the location, date and approved organizers of an event appear in the first Official Calendar published in the year of Competition: before February 1 in the year of that SE Competition.
 - 4.4.2. When the official announcement of the appointment of the Organizers first made at the Congress in the year of the Competition, or later: within 30 days after the announcement for that SE Competition.

- 4.4.3. When a Competition is designated as a Development event: by such date as specified by SE.
- 4.5. Solely to assess a late filing, or late fee payment, penalty:
- 4.5.1. The submission of an Entry Form, later than the day specified in 4.2, is subject to the assessment of a late filing penalty, which amount is as per Financial Appendix. In no case will such late entries be accepted after January 31 of the year of Competition.
- 4.5.2. The payment of an Entry Fee, later than the day specified in 4.3, is subject to the assessment of a late fee payment penalty, which amount is determined as per Financial Appendix notwithstanding further penalties and actions as determined by SE.
- 4.6. If after the dates in 4.4 a team withdraws from or does not participate in a European Competition:
- 4.6.1. The Entry Fee remains due and must be paid and, if already paid, is not refundable.
- 4.6.2. In addition to financial penalties, a late withdrawal of a team within 90 days before the start of the competition shall lead automatically to the following consequences:
- 4.6.2.1. Club Team: exclusion of that team from participating in any SE Competition in the current year and the following year.
- 4.6.2.2. National Team: exclusion of the Affiliated Federation from participating in that specific competition for which it withdrew and the following European Championship.
- 4.6.3. *A late withdrawal within 30 days will additionally incur a penalty in the amount of the Game Fee for the event, as provided by the current **Financial Appendix***
- 4.7. At any time before 90 days before the start of a Club competition, the Affiliated Federation of that Club has the right to substitute another Club of that Affiliated Federation for the withdrawn Club. There is no charge to make a substitution this way, but all other financial consequences involved concerning participation in SE tournaments, including penalties for late withdrawal, remain. *To enable the substitution, the official Entry Form for Competition for the replacement must be submitted to SEcompetitions@wbsceurope.org at the same time as the withdrawal notice of the nominated team*
- 4.8. If, by its withdrawal or non-participation, a team is directly or indirectly responsible for the cancellation of a Competition for an insufficient number of teams according to Specific Competitions Regulations Appendix, the SE cannot be held responsible for the possible loss or prejudice suffered by the Organizers or the other entered teams for said Competition.
- 4.9. In case of exceptional circumstances, SE may modify the date(s) as specified in articles 4.2 and 4.3.

5. PLAYING RULES

- 5.1. The home team will be assigned the third base dugout and the visiting team, who will bat first, will be assigned the first base dugout.
- 5.2. SUSPENDED and DEFERRED GAMES: when the schedule is disrupted because of weather, curfew or other reason, the following will apply:
- 5.2.1. In the advent of adverse weather conditions or failure of the lighting system, the Technical Commissioners and Umpire Director shall decide whether a game shall be:
- 5.2.1.1. In the case of a game that has not started:
1. Commenced, with particular attention being given to an impending storm or darkness and for both teams to have equal innings of playing conditions, or
 2. Delayed, with any such game being rescheduled at a later time and / or date.

- 5.2.1.2. In the case of a game that has commenced:
1. After it becomes a Regulation game, it may be suspended for a period of time not exceeding 90 minutes. If it cannot be restarted within this period, it is ruled a complete game.
 2. Before a contest becomes a Regulation game, it is not a complete game and may be:
 - a. Suspended for a short period of time, or
 - b. Deferred for a longer period of time, with particular attention being given for both teams to have equal innings of playing conditions.
- 5.2.2. A suspended or deferred game will be resumed at the exact point where the game was interrupted.
- 5.2.3. The scheduling of the completion of suspended games shall be given priority by the Technical Commission in order to complete them as soon as possible, as long as the event schedule and time remaining allow
- 5.2.4. If there are difficulties concerning the closing date, only those games needed to establish the necessary positions in the final standings will be re-scheduled.
- 5.2.5. No team shall be required to play more than two games {Slowpitch more than three games} on the same day, unless made necessary by exceptional circumstances.'
- 5.3. Only one informal conference between infielders is allowed per inning. Any further conference which delays a pitch will result in a 'ball'.
- 5.4. Commencing with the 2024 season, umpires will monitor and control the 60-second period allowed between innings by the use of stopwatch or timer. The plate umpire will indicate as the time expires.

6. GENERAL COMPETITION SYSTEM

- 6.1. All SE Competitions, except where specifically defined in the event Competition Regulations or by SE, shall be concluded by the final four top teams as follows:
a Bronze medal game between 3rd and 4th
a Final for Gold & Silver medals between 1st and 2nd.
IF A MEDAL GAME IS NOT PLAYED: Refer to the Results of the Round Robin.
- 6.2. ALTERNATE DETERMINATION OF CHAMPION
In case of extreme weather conditions or any other reasons that prevent the completion of the Super Round and/or Finals, play proceeds as follows:
If extreme weather or other conditions disrupt the competition before completion, all efforts will be made to determine a champion by playing only the game(s) which remain to determine the title. If a decision regarding a final placement must be made without playing a game, the TQB tie breaking criteria from 7.1 shall apply. If teams in question have played different amount of games or if they have not played each other, the equal amount of games played for the teams tied (including those teams with a potential tie if they would have won the remaining games) counting from the beginning of the competition shall be used to calculate TQB and the final placement shall be determined accordingly (if same TQB, ER-TQB shall be used). The same procedure will be followed for subsequent positions if necessary.

7. RESOLUTION OF TIES

7.1 All ties after the Opening Round will be settled as follows (in order):
The standing of the teams after the round robin shall be according to the win-loss record of all the games played.

All ties after Opening Round, Super Round and Finals shall be settled in the order of the following list.

That is, if criteria (1) does not break the tie, then it is no longer considered the criteria capable of breaking the tie, and the next criteria (2) will be used.

This logic continues through the list, in order, until the tie is broken:

1. The team that won the game(s) between the teams tied shall be given the higher position.
2. Team's Quality Balance (TQB) and win-loss records in games between the teams tied.

NOTE: If three or more teams are tied and when criterion 1 does not break a tie, the team with the highest TQB will be placed in the first spot. The TQB is calculated as follows: (runs scored / innings played at bat) – (runs allowed / innings playing on defence). For a three-way tie and when the TQB is needed to break the tie, the TQB will place all three teams from highest to lowest placing.

3. The team that has the best Earned Runs Team's Quality Balance (ER-TQB).
4. Highest batting average in games between the teams tied.
5. A coin flip.

Note: In calculation of TQB and ER-TQB, scored/allowed runs and earned/unearned runs include those for extra innings on the tie-break.

8. PLAYERS AND PLAYERS QUALIFICATION

8.1. Each team shall be made up of a minimum of nine (9) players, in Fastpitch, or ten players in Slowpitch, who shall stay for the entire duration of the tournament, and a maximum of seventeen (17) players, in Fastpitch, or eighteen (18) players in Slowpitch. The passport or ID card of the players shall be checked during the TC meeting. At the beginning of the Competition each team must be present and represented by at least nine (9) players in Fastpitch or ten players in Slowpitch.

8.2. If a team of fewer than seventeen players in Fastpitch or eighteen players in Slowpitch but not less than nine players in Fastpitch or ten players in Slowpitch, arrives at the Tournament, the team may request permission of the Technical Committee to complete the group of players after the beginning of the Competition. This request must be made during the ID control at the Competition. The manager must specify the name(s), surname(s) and the passport or ID card number of the players concerned.

Such additional players must be present at the venue before the end of the second day of the event.

8.3. No foreign players will be accepted as being eligible for European Championships.

8.4. A foreign player for article 8.3 is a person not of the same nationality as the Federation represented by the National Team.

8.5. The nationality of every player will be determined by a passport or an I.D. card, issued by a national authority of an SE member country, which has to be presented at the TC meeting, to the exclusion of any other document.

8.6. A player who is a national of two or more countries at the same time may elect to represent either one of them. However, after having represented one country of the resort of SE in an SE competition, or any country in any competition as referred to in By-Law of article 41 of the Olympic Charter, they may not represent another country of the resort of SE in an SE competition unless they meet the conditions outlined in article 8.7 below that apply to persons who have changed their nationality or acquired a new nationality.

- 8.7. Any player who has represented one country of the resort of SE in an SE competition, or any country in any competition as referred to in By-Law of article 41 of the Olympic Charter, and who changed their nationality, may participate in a competition to represent their new country of the resort of SE in an SE competition provided that at least three years have passed since the player last represented their/her former country. This period may be reduced or even canceled with the agreement of the national federations concerned, by SE, which takes into account the circumstances of each case.
- 8.8. Cases not covered by articles 8.6 and 8.7 shall be dealt with following the By-Law of article 41 of the Olympic Charter.
- 8.9. Within the frame of the present Regulations, a Club is defined as an entity that consists of a group of softball players, all of whom are citizens of SE-member countries.
- 8.10. For purposes of determining player eligibility in SE Cup Competitions, a Pick-Up player is defined to be a player who is from a nationality other than an SE affiliated Federation.
- 8.11. Notwithstanding the player restrictions imposed in the definition of a Club, each Club that qualifies for participation in an SE Fastpitch Cup Competition shall be entitled to include a maximum of three (3) Pick-Up players on its Final Team Roster (FTR) for the Cup Competition.
- 8.12. For the Slowpitch European Super Cup (CSPESC), the maximum number of Pick-Up Players on a team's FTR shall be four (4), limited to two (2) female and two (2) male.
- 8.13. For each Pick-Up Player listed on the Preliminary Team Roster (PTR) the Club has to pay a fee, which amount is indicated in the Financial Appendix. The sum shall be received by the Treasurer at the latest ten (10) days before the start of the Competition. Late payment of the fee is subject to the assessment of a penalty as per Financial Appendix.

Interpretation Note for 8.9 – 8.13: There are no practical eligibility restrictions on Pick-Up players – they are from countries outside of the SE affiliated Federations. They are identified as Pick-Up players on the PTR, by virtue by their nationality. To allow for possible injuries or other extenuating circumstances, there is no theoretical limit on the number of players that a club may identify as Pick-Up players on its PTR - the limit of three (CSPESC four) will apply to the FTR that is submitted during the ID Control.

8.14. The qualification of Players in a Category of Age during 2025 Competitions is determined as follows:

Year of Birth	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007	2006	2005	2004	2003	2002	2001	2000	1999
AGE @ 31Dec of competition year = Birthday during year	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	25+
WOMAN																		
SENIOR	16 >						X											
U-22	16-22						X											
U-18	13-18				X													
U-15	10-15	X																
U-13 (EMRYT)	10-13	X																
MEN																		
SENIOR	17 >						X	X										
U-23	17-23						X	X										
U-18	13-18				X													
U-16	11-16		X															

NOTE: X = on condition that the competition roster contains at least 12 players of qualified age, a maximum of 4 athletes from the lower age(s) are allowed to participate.

- 8.15. A team with less than nine (9) players in Fastpitch, or ten (10) players in Slowpitch, at the beginning of the competition cannot participate in the Competition. The subscription fee will not be refunded.
- 8.16. A player who cannot present their passport or recognized ID card to the ID control or upon later arrival will not be allowed to participate in the Competition.

- 8.17. A player who has been excluded from playing by an Affiliated Federation may not participate in European Competitions. Affiliated Federations shall inform the SE of such exclusions.
- 8.18. To take part in the European Cups all players must be entered by their Club and / or National Federation on the corresponding Preliminary Team Roster (PTR) and subsequent Final Team Roster (FTR), which is published as the Official Competition Team Roster.
- 8.19. A player can represent only one Club in European Cup Competition within a given year and hence can appear on only one (PTR) from only one Club.
- 8.20. In case of protest according to article 8.5 the Director, Competitions & Technical shall decide on the eligibility of the Player in question and make it public before the Technical Meeting. The decision shall be based on the information obtained from the plaintiff who put the protest and the National Federation and Club who guaranteed the eligibility of the Player.
- 8.21. However, if during or after the Competition the information obtained by the Technical Committee according to article 13.3.2. is proved to be incorrect, SE may impose sanctions.

9. TEAM ENTRIES & PRELIMINARY TEAM ROSTER (PTR)

- 9.1. Only those players officially entered by their Federation may participate as players in any SE Competition.
- 9.2. After entry to a Championship or Cup Tournament the Federation or Club team shall complete a Preliminary Team Roster (PTR) on the designated WBSC Europe Competition site within my.WBSC.org
- 9.3. The PTR must state for each player: Legal Name / Legal Surname / Gender / Date of Birth / Country of Birth / Nationality / position / bats / throws. This Form provides for a maximum of thirty (30) names of players, eight(8) coaches and eight (8) staff members.
- 9.4. The PTR details can only be entered by a person authorized by the appropriate Affiliated Federation and in the case of a participating Club it is deemed to be also authorized by the Club's legal Representative.
- 9.4.1. The Federation shall complete the PTR no later than twenty-one (21) days before the start of the Competition. The late completion of the PTR is subject to the assessment of a late-filing penalty, which amount is indicated in the Financial Appendix.
- 9.4.2. No PTR will be accepted later than fifteen (15) days before the start of the Competition. A Team that has not completed within the 15 days delay will be automatically excluded from the Competition.
- 9.4.2.1. Amendment of an already completed PTR before the 21 days delay as contemplated in article 9.4.1. is always possible without any penalty.
- 9.4.2.2. Amendment of an already completed PTR after the 21 days delay as contemplated in article 9.4.1. and before the limit date as contemplated in article 9.4.2. is considered as the submission of a late PTR and is subject to the same penalty and delays.
- 9.4.2.3. In the case of unforeseen circumstances requiring change(s) in an already submitted PTR after the twenty-one (21) days delay but before the commencement of the Competition, a Federation may apply to SE for exceptional relief from the conditions above. The SE decision shall be final and may be conditional on the payment of a penalty.
- 9.5. Each PTR shall be made visible on the designated WBSC Europe Competition site on www.WBSCEurope.org/en/calendar to every other team participating in the Competition no later than fourteen (14) days before the start of the Competition, and late or changed PTR's as soon as received. This publication on the WBSC Europe Competition site will be considered as such communication. Protests relating to matters of player eligibility must be submitted to SEcompetitions@wbsceurope.org no later than seven (7) days before the start of the Competition.

10. FINAL TEAM ROSTER (FTR)

- 10.1. Three days before the start of the event, teams need to convert their PTR into FTR. Only players whose names have already been entered on the PTR of the team, can be entered on the FTR.
- 10.2. At the ID control meeting, teams participating in a Competition shall present the Passports and / or recognized ID cards of all players listed on the FTR.
 - 10.2.1. Federations wishing to use national identity cards / documents instead of Passports to identify their players shall provide Pro-forma copies of such documents in advance to SECompetitions@wbsceurope.org
- 10.3. The FTR may contain names for a maximum of seventeen (17) players or eighteen (18) players in COED-Slowpitch, who will be the only ones entitled to take part in the Competition.
- 10.4. The FTR must also contain the names of managers, coaches, instructors and / or therapists, to a maximum of twenty-five (25) in total accredited to the dug-out.
 - 10.4.1. The FTR must contain the Jersey numbers of the team's players.
 - 10.4.2. Photos of players *must* be uploaded on the WBSC Europe competition site on www.my.WBSC.org .
- 10.5. Only players and other team members entered on the FTR are allowed to enter the Competition fields and dug-outs, and all must carry the Accreditation issued via my.WBSC.org.
- 10.6. Only players entered on the FTR are entitled to appear on the line-up forms for the games of the Competition. In case of dispute concerning the qualification of a player, the FTR shall be the reference document.
- 10.7. If requested by the Organizers, participating teams shall send them their expected FTR, together with a team photo, at the latest (30) thirty days before the official opening day of the Competition.
- 10.8. Failure to meet FTR deadlines may result in administrative sanction during TC meeting procedures and/or referral to the Softball Commission for further penalty.
- 10.9. All other Delegation members, journalists and photographers attending the event, previously administered by the Hosting organization, must now be obtained in advance via registration and application through mywbsc.org.

11. CEREMONIAL

- 11.1. All participating teams shall be present at the Opening Ceremony. The teams receiving a medal must be present at the Closing Ceremony; all other teams may be present at the closing ceremony by request of the Organizers.
- 11.2. To be considered as "present", a team must be represented by a minimum of Fast Pitch 9 (nine), Slowpitch 10 (10) members. Only players and other team members entered on the Official Competition Roster of a given team may represent the said team at the Opening and Closing Ceremonies
- 11.3. During the Opening and Closing Ceremonies, team members must wear team uniforms according to article 11.1 or must be all dressed alike.
- 11.4. During the Opening and Closing Ceremonies, team members shall conduct themselves in the most appropriate manner. In particular, eating, drinking, unsportsmanlike or inadequate gestures, or excessive demonstrations are strictly prohibited.
- 11.5. Teams that do not abide by articles 11.1 to 11.4 will be subject to the penalties specified in the Financial Appendix, without prejudging of any disciplinary sanctions as decided by SE.

12. TEAM UNIFORM

- 12.1. All players in a single-sex team must be uniformed alike, with pants all short or all long. In a Slowpitch Co-ed team, men may wear short or long pants but all must wear the same; females may wear a different style, but all must wear the same.
- 12.2. All players on a team must wear uniforms alike in color, trim, and style. Ball caps must be alike, and are mandatory for all male players. Caps, visors and headbands are optional for female players and can be mixed. If more than one type is worn, they all must be of the same color, and each of the same type must be of the same color and style.
- 12.3. Home team: Dark shirt; Visitor / Away team: white / light shirt. Teams are required to bring to the TC Meeting an example of each shirt design they intend to wear during the Competition. Any potential color clashes will be identified and resolved.
- 12.4. A player may wear one or two warming sleeves (compression) provided that each is of the same solid color that is a team uniform color and that color matches all other undershirts worn by any player on that team.
- 12.5. Coaches must be neatly attired, including the wearing of suitable footwear, or be dressed in team uniform in accordance with the color code of the team. If a coach chooses to wear a cap, it must conform to 12.2. All coaches must be uniformed alike, but may wear different uniforms from the team.
- 12.6. In the European Championships, National team players must show the name of their country, or an emblem depicting their national origin, on the front of the uniform.

13. PROTESTS AND EJECTIONS

- 13.1. Protests regarding the interpretation or application of the Rules of Softball shall be notified to the Plate Umpire. The Plate Umpire shall then notify the TC and UIC present. Protests regarding the eligibility of Players shall be notified directly to the Tournament Technical Commission.
- 13.2. When notified of a protest, the TC present, in consultation with the UIC, may decide to suspend the game under protest until a decision is made. In such cases the TC may require that the protest be lodged in less time than the delay stipulated in article 13.3.
- 13.3. Except if the Tournament Technical Committee has suspended the game and required a specific delay as per article 13.2, the Official written protest shall be lodged within fifteen minutes after the end of the game. Official protests shall be written in English. Upon reception of an Official written protest the Tournament Technical Commission shall meet as soon as practical and make its decision without delay.
 - 13.3.1. The decisions of the Tournament Technical Commission on protests regarding the interpretation or application of the Rules of Softball are not subject to appeal.
 - 13.3.2. The decisions of the Tournament Technical Commission on protests regarding the eligibility of Players may be subject to appeal in case of subsequent new evidence as stipulated in 8.21.
- 13.4. In case of illegal protest or wrong use of protest, the Tournament Technical Commission may propose to SE a financial penalty against the offending team.
- 13.5. Protests may also be made by Officials, Members of the Tournament Technical Commission of SE and / or Umpires.
- 13.6. Ejections shall be subject to the Playing Rules of the WBSC. An ejected player or coach can take no further part in the game and shall be escorted to a designated area remote from the playing field for the remainder of the game.
- 13.7. At the end of the game the TC will consider all Ejection Reports submitted by the Umpire and implement the disciplinary and documentary requirements of the current Disciplinary Regulations.

- 13.8. When in the frame of the Competition the requirements and obligations of a team are not met, even in part, or if any member of a team does not behave according to generally accepted sportsmanship, the Disciplinary Commission may decide, preferably upon a proposal of the Technical Commission, to impose penalties, financial or otherwise.
- 13.9. Incidents occurring other than during a game which give rise to a complaint or report alleging breaches of WBSC Europe Statutes or standards may be referred to the WBSC Europe Integrity Commission.

14. OBLIGATIONS AND DUTIES OF PARTICIPATING TEAMS

- 14.1. All teams, except the team of the host Federation, shall be present at the place established for the Competition no less than twelve hours before the first scheduled game. At least one representative of each team shall be present at the Technical Meeting.
- 14.2. All teams are responsible for their travel expenses to arrive at and to depart from the Competition venue, and all board, lodging and food throughout. All teams are additionally responsible for all their local travel throughout the event, including to / from the TC Meeting and to / from the field(s) for games and Ceremonies.
- 14.3. Each Affiliated Federation is responsible for the traveling expenses to and from any SE Competition (or to an SE Umpire Training Course) for as many Umpires as the teams this Affiliated Federation enters in the current year.
- 14.4. Consistent with the declarations on the Competition Entry Form, the participating teams shall arrange for insurance cover for all their members according to their national legal requirements relating to participation in sports competition, including civil liability, personal injuries, medical treatment and as provided for by Specific Competitions Regulations, Specific Competitions Regulations EMRYT, Specific Competitions Regulations WU15 & MU16 and specific protections for underage players.
- 14.5. Teams shall comply with all organizer requests and arrangements for minimizing the environmental impact of the Competition, including making full and proper use of any recycling facilities and other sustainability initiatives. To help minimize the use of individual single-use plastic bottles, teams are encouraged to provide their dugout group with personal water bottles.
- 14.6. The First Aid Assistance supplied by the Organizers shall cover only the on-the-field emergencies and not further medical treatment.
- 14.7. SE is not responsible for any material or physical damage occurring within the framework of the Competition.

15. UMPIRE REQUIREMENTS

- 15.1. Each year in November, SE will send to the Affiliated Federations the Provisional List of International Umpires. This List will contain the names of the Umpires with a valid SE Certification.
- 15.2. If an Umpire in three consecutive years has not participated in one of SE International Competitions or in one of SE Umpire Clinics, the Umpire Committee has the right to withdraw SE Umpire Certification.
- 15.3. Each year before December 31st, those Affiliated Federations that intend to participate in SE Competitions in the following year shall have returned the updated Provisional List of International Umpires to SE, removing those names of Umpires no longer to be considered and adding the names of Umpires that will take part in an SE Certification Clinic that given year.
- 15.4. An Affiliated Federation which does not submit the updated Provisional List of International Umpires as required will not be allowed to participate in SE Competitions.

- 15.5. Only Umpires named on the Official List of International Umpires may carry out their duties as an Umpire during SE Competitions. The Umpiring Committee may make exceptions for SE Development events, and when an umpire from another jurisdiction within the WBSC is on exchange to SE.
- 15.6. The Umpire Committee may with the approval of the Executive Council exclude an Umpire from the List of International Umpires.
- 15.7. Each year before March 1st, the Affiliated Federations which intend to participate in SE Competitions shall send to SE for each competition in which such Federation will be represented by a national team or a club team, as stated at February 1, a guarantee sum which amount is indicated in the **Financial Appendix (4 Guarantees)** or a Letter of Guarantee for the full sum stated. *If a team subsequently withdraws from a competition it remains obligated to pay the appropriate guarantee sum.* The late payment of the guarantee sum and / or the late sending of the Letter of Guarantee is subject to the assessment of a penalty, which amount is indicated in the **Financial Appendix (5 – Penalties)**.
- 15.8. If the Affiliated Federation, for whatever reason, fails to make available for an SE event or send on a training course the same number of umpires as the teams that this Federation stated *as at February 1* as appearing in the current year, *their guarantee sum for each failure is forfeit. If their assigned umpire fails to attend an event, they will in addition be liable for a penalty as indicated in the **Financial Appendix (5-Penalties)**.* Any Federation providing more than the number of umpires as required by these Regulations will receive a Contribution to costs as indicated in **the Financial Appendix (6-Contributions)**.
- 15.9 *At the end of each playing season, the numbers of umpires both required and actually provided will be reviewed and all appropriate forfeits or penalties levied and / or contributions made.*
- 15.10. Transportation of Umpires to the airport or train station specified as a pick-up location for the Competition, is the responsibility of the Affiliated Federations.

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