



To: European Baseball Federation

Pully, February 27, 2023

Subject: WBSC Europe Baseball season 2023

Dear Member Federations,

I would like to begin by thanking all of you for attending the WBSC Europe Congress in Belgrade. During our meetings we were able to evaluate the past year and prepare for the following season with all its challenges.

The year 2022 was not an easy year for all of us as we had to work with a new structure and system within the WBSC Europe. Learning and dealing with the new experiences I truly believe that we have taken big steps in achieving a more harmonious organization than last year.

Huge thanks go to all of you, including all the officials, volunteers, umpires, scorers TC's and many more for all your hard work.

I am happy to inform you that we have organizers and dates for all our 2023 competitions. The bidding process showed that the unstable economic situation we are all in did not have an impact on numbers of participating teams.

We have been working on the schedules which will be posted on the WBSC Europe website once they are completed. Should you have any questions, please refer them to František Bunta.

The Competitions Calendar can be seen [here](#).

### **Competition Rule Changes**

The most important change in the competition rules is a new rule pertaining to transportation costs – organizers will no longer be responsible for local transportation and now it shall be covered by participating federations (not applicable for 2023 and 2025 European Championship). New competition rules will be published by the end of March. If you have any proposals or suggestions, refer them to František Bunta.

### **Bidding Procedure:**

The bidding procedure system has also changed, so feel free to read all information in the documents on the WBSC Europe website. We have still availability for 2024 competitions so please send your bids to Juergen Elsishans.

### **WBSC Europe sanctioning of international tournaments**

As Europe is our responsibility, we have received guidance from WBSC as to how we should be dealing with Federations who would like to conduct international tournaments separate from the WBSC Europe Cups and Championships. Jorge Miqueleiz Cortés and Marco Riccardo Mannucci are the contact persons for this issue.

### **Umpires Committee**

We have made some incredible advancement in our umpiring programs this year. Online courses, instructional online meetings, and new official uniforms will symbolically start a new season and a new era. The number of umpires at our tournaments looks very promising. Our umpiring committee has been working regularly with umpires and one of the outcomes will be a clinic for umpires in November.

Finally, I would like to wish you all good luck in the 2023 season and a special encouragement to the countries representing Europe at the World Baseball Classic – The Netherlands, Italy, Great Britain, Israel and Czechia.

Kind regards,



**Petr Ditrich**  
WBSC Europe Baseball Vice President