



EUROPEAN SOFTBALL RANKING

MEN'S FASTPITCH

WOMEN'S FASTPITCH

SLOWPITCH

ANNOUNCED



EDITORIAL

Eddy van Straelen
Treasurer

It does not happen many times that a treasurer is not disappointed when he has to announce a loss in his financial result. However in the past few years this has been the case for the European Softball Federation. After all we are a non-profit organisation and all our member countries will have to cover all the expenses.

It may sound strange, but in years when I announced a financial profit, I sometimes felt as if we still hadn't done enough.

That is why I can't be disappointed when I see that all our committee members, who are all freelance volunteers, indeed achieve great steps forward for our sport in Europe and spend the amounts that they get in their separated budgets in a good and successful way.

We are congratulated and appreciated by many from all over the world for the enthusiastic and clear way that we are obtaining this goal. I really hope that this enthusiasm can be passed on to our individual member countries and be implemented there as well.

It is sad to see that for financial reasons this year some countries and teams will not be able to participate in our tournaments, which of course will end up in smaller incomes for ESF this year. Not only for this financial reason your treasurer is convinced that a decision to bring our beautiful sport into the Olympics again will turn around our softball future.

Eddy van Straelen, Treasurer

**EUROPEAN SOFTBALL RANKINGS ANNOUNCED
FOR MEN'S AND WOMEN'S FASTPITCH AND SLOWPITCH**

Two months ago, the World Baseball Softball Confederation's Softball Division (WBCSD) released a first-ever world ranking for softball across both men's and women's disciplines.

However, the rankings only included countries that were represented at the two most recent World Championships, so only five women's national teams and three men's teams from Europe were placed.

The European Softball Federation is now introducing European Softball Rankings for women's and men's fastpitch and also for slowpitch!

The ESF ranking system evaluates countries according to their Senior National Team results, but also takes into account Youth National Team attendance at European Championships. So this system produces rankings that reflect a combination of competition achievement and softball development.

Hopefully, these rankings can help National Federations be more effective at finding funding sources and establishing partnerships. They can also work as a tool to promote softball national teams in every country.

More details are available [here](#).



EUROPEAN SOFTBALL RANKING



SLOWPITCH

| | | | |
|----|----------------|---|---------|
| 1. | Great Britain |  | 900 pts |
| 2. | Czech Republic |  | 600 pts |
| 3. | Ireland |  | 550 pts |
| 4. | Germany |  | 500 pts |
| 5. | Slovenia |  | 250 pts |
| 6. | Bulgaria |  | 200 pts |
| 7. | Lithuania |  | 100 pts |
| 8. | Serbia |  | 50 pts |

AN INVITATION FOR CLUBS AND FEDERATIONS: Enter the new ESF Euroleague!

The ESF Euroleague is a fastpitch softball competition played at a cross-border regional level. The aim is to build a workable framework for international club competition in Europe.

The Euroleague is for teams who

- have a desire to play and grow;
- are looking to increase the number of games for their players;
- and who want to add international games to their competition program at minimal cost.

In 2016, the Euroleague is being played as a women's fastpitch competition by eight teams from the Central European countries of Austria, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Hungary and Slovakia.

However, the organizers of the Euroleague, along with the European Softball Federation, are inviting clubs and Federations from other parts of Europe to create a Euroleague structure in their own region. We want to replicate the Euroleague concept in different parts of Europe for both women's and men's fastpitch club teams. If we can do this, the Euroleague could play a key role in the development of softball across Europe.

For more information, to sign up, or to discuss the process of establishing a Euroleague competition in your region, contact Petra Cizmic at pcizmic@gmail.com.



LIVE VIDEO STREAMING FROM ESF EVENTS IN 2016

The ESF continues to support live video streaming of European Championships and Cups, and an offer to share costs on a 50:50 basis was confirmed to organizers during the ESF Congress in February.

Four tournaments have confirmed live streaming to date: the European U-22 Women's Championship, the European Junior Women's Championship, the European Women's Premiere Cup and the European Men's Super Cup.



Both of the 2016 Women's Championship events will have their final two days broadcast live from Pardubice (CZE) for the U-22 competition and Sant Boi (ESP) for the Junior Women's Championship. The most prestigious European Cups – the Women's Premiere Cup and the Men's Super Cup -- will also be available to watch through live streaming with a live commentary.

The European Men's Championship will not have live media coverage, but the ESF will produce daily video summaries along with interviews and background news from every day of the tournament.

The ESF media crew will also travel to Surrey, British Columbia, Canada this summer to provide media coverage of the 11 national teams from Europe that will play in the Women's World Championship.

MY FAVORITE SOFTBALL DRILL CONTEST

At the 2016 ESF Congress, representatives discussed the importance of coaches being better educated, and the European Softball Coaches Association (ESCA) is to be established this season to fulfil that aim.

Now, the ESF is encouraging all coaches and players to share their favorite defensive drill.

The coach who submits the best softball drill video, in the opinion of a jury consisting of top European coaches, including the NPF's coach Craig Montvidas, will win a yearly ESCA membership as well as free entry to a clinic of his/her choice. So film a short clip (up to 30 seconds) showing and explaining your favorite drill and send it to: contest@europeansoftball.org.

EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIP IN BOYS' CATEGORIES?

The second edition of the Joudrs International Cup took place in Prague in the Czech Republic on 6-7 May. A tournament that started as an exchange camp for Czech and Danish players in 2015 has turned into international tournaments for U-13 and U-16 boys.



While girls' teams have many opportunities to choose from when it comes to gaining international playing experience, cross-border

tournaments for boys have been almost non-existent to date.

Two tournaments -- for U-13 and U-16 boys -- were held simultaneously at the Joudrs and SaBaT ballparks. A total of 16 teams from five countries (Croatia, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Israel and Sweden) played a two-day tournament after around 40 players had attended a softball clinic during the previous two days.

The event was supported by the ESF and by Prague City Hall.

Ami Baran, the ESF's Co-chair for Development said: "We are proud to support such event. This tournament may turn into our future European Championship for younger boys."

For more information or to explore the possibility of participating in the 2017 Joudrs International Cup, click [here](#).

TOURNAMENT IN ITALY OPEN FOR U-16 GIRLS' TEAMS



Saronno, a club located in Northern Italy, is hosting the G. Bianchi Tournament for U-16 girls from July 21 to 24. Fun evening with music and also a homerun derby are planned to bring more excitement to the players and coaches. Any team can still sign up for this tournament. Make sure to check out more details [here](#).

SOFTBALL AGAINST CANCER

On May 3, the first Softball Against Cancer (SAC) Day was organized at the Hoofddorp Pioneers Stadium in the Netherlands.

The first SAC Day turned out to be a great success. Nearly a hundred and thirty girls came to Hoofddorp to practise with their softball role models and enjoyed this special day. But this event was more about helping a cause. "Nowadays, everybody knows someone, who has survived cancer, is currently fighting cancer or lost their battle. I feel that I want to do more.. So Softball Against Cancer is in every way perfect!" said Ginger de Weert, the organizer of SAC Day and a long-time Dutch national team pitcher.

More information will appear soon on the ESF website. Preview of this event is available [here](#).





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