

European Slowpitch Championships 2008

July 9-12
Southampton, England



**Final
Information Pack**

SEE YOU SOON!

It's not long now to the start of the **2008 European Slowpitch Championships**, and we're looking forward to welcoming all the participating teams to Southampton for what should be a great tournament.

This document contains information from the tournament organisers and from the ESF that should be helpful to your team once you get to the UK. But if you have any questions before you set out, please contact Roger Grooms (roger.grooms@selexgalileo.com) or Bob Fromer (bobfromer@onetel.com).

There are four additional documents attached with this Information Pack:

- The **Tournament Schedule**, in two different print formats.
- A **map** of the Southampton area, showing the location of the university and tournament grounds, train stations and the ETAP Hotel where most teams are staying.
- A **map** of the University sports grounds, showing the competition pitches, toilets, changing rooms and other facilities.
- Information on a **chiropractic and massage service** that will be available to teams at the tournament – including the offer of a free treatment.

Have a safe trip to the UK, and we'll meet all of you soon!

Roger Grooms
Tournament Organiser
British Softball Federation

OFFICIAL WEBSITE

Please note that the official website for the tournament, www.softballeuros08.com, has been running for the past several months and contains regular updates about this competition.

Please visit the site to find out more information – and to download a copy of this Information Pack.

NATIONAL ANTHEM

One last request to all teams before you set off for the UK.

Please bring with you a CD with your country's **National Anthem** that we can play before games and at the Awards Ceremony.

And make sure you get the CD back from us before you leave.

Thanks very much for your help!

CATCHER'S MASKS

While it will not be mandatory in this tournament, the European Softball Federation **strongly recommends** that catchers should wear **catcher's masks** during the European Slowpitch Championships.

It is likely that this will be a requirement in ESF slowpitch tournaments from next year.

INFORMATION FROM THE ESF



European Softball Federation

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MESSAGE FROM THE TECHNICAL COMMITTEE AT THE EUROPEAN CO-ED SLOWPITCH CHAMPIONSHIPS, SOUTHAMPTON, JULY 9-12, 2008

Dear Softball Friends,

Useful information and documents can be found on the ESF website at:
www.europeansoftball.org:

- Competitions Regulations.
- Memorandum.
- Bat Control Memorandum (Please make sure that you bring all the bats you intend to use during the competition to the Technical Meeting).
- Affidavit of insurance.

For the ID Control at the Technical Meeting you must present:

- Official Competition Roster.
- Passports or ID-cards (if an example of your official ID-card has been approved by the ESF). Please present your passports or ID cards in the same order as the roster.
- Affidavit of insurance.

I'm looking forward to a week of great sportsmanship, and wishing you all a lot of success.

**Guller Eriksen
ESF T.C.**

TRANSPORT SCHEDULES

Arrival and Collection from Ports of Entry

The following arrangements have been made for teams coming into the country:

GREAT BRITAIN: Will be driving directly to the hotel and Southampton University Sports Ground, arriving on Monday, July 7.

IRELAND: Flying into Southampton Airport at 10.10 on Monday, July 7. A minibus and car will meet you to transport you to the Southampton University Sports Ground.

SLOVENIA: Flying into London Stansted at 10.55 on Monday, July 7. A 24-seat coach from Angela Coaches will be waiting to pick you up and transport you to Southampton University Sports Ground.

JERSEY: Flying into Southampton Airport at 11.00 on Tuesday, July 8. A minibus and car (if required) will be waiting to pick you up and transport you to Southampton University Sports Ground.

CZECH REPUBLIC: Arriving in Southampton by private cars. Date and time to be confirmed.

Departure Information

GREAT BRITAIN: Will be leaving by private cars on Sunday, July 13.

IRELAND: Departing Sunday, July 13 at 14.30 from Southampton Airport. The minibus and cars will be available to take you from the hotel to the airport (or from the hotel to the Southampton University Sports Ground earlier on Sunday and then on to the airport). Time to be confirmed.

SLOVENIA: Departing Monday, July 14 from London Stansted at 14.00. A minibus, car and van will be on hand to take you to London Stansted, leaving the hotel at approximately 09.00.

JERSEY: Departing Sunday, July 13 from Southampton Airport at 17.05. A minibus will be available to take you to the airport from either the Southampton University Sports Ground or the hotel. Time to be confirmed.

CZECH REPUBLIC: Departing on Sunday, July 13 by private cars.

Transport Schedule from Hotel to Field

Following is the planned schedule for a 53-seat coach that will make trips between the hotel and the sports ground during the tournament for players, umpires and officials. Please note that this schedule may be subject to change.

Wednesday, July 9

08:30	ETAP Hotel to Southampton University Sports Ground.
09:30	ETAP Hotel to Southampton University Sports Ground.
19:00	Southampton University Sports Ground to ETAP Hotel.
21:00	Southampton University Sports Ground to ETAP Hotel.

Thursday, July 10

08:00	ETAP Hotel to Southampton University Sports Ground.
09:00	ETAP Hotel to Southampton University Sports Ground.
18:00	Southampton University Sports Ground to ETAP Hotel.
20:00	Southampton University Sports Ground to ETAP Hotel.

Friday, July 11

08:30	ETAP Hotel to Southampton University Sports Ground.
09:30	ETAP Hotel to Southampton University Sports Ground.
18:00	Southampton University Sports Ground to ETAP Hotel.
21:00	Southampton University Sports Ground to ETAP Hotel.
22:00	Southampton University Sports Ground to ETAP Hotel.

Saturday, July 12

08:30	ETAP Hotel to Southampton University Sports Ground.
09:30	ETAP Hotel to Southampton University Sports Ground.
20:00	Southampton University Sports Ground to ETAP Hotel.
21:15	ETAP Hotel to Southampton University Sports Ground (for Party).
00:00	Southampton University Sports Ground to ETAP Hotel.
01:00	Southampton University Sports Ground to ETAP Hotel.

SOUTHAMPTON AREA MAP

A map of the Southampton area, showing the location of the University and sports ground, train stations, the ETAP hotel and the road network between them is enclosed with this Information Pack as a separate attachment.

PLAYING FIELDS MAP

A map of Southampton University Sports Ground, showing the location of competition pitches, warm-up areas, toilets, changing rooms and food and bar facilities is enclosed with this Information Pack as a separate attachment.

PARKING INFORMATION

At the University

There is plenty of parking at the University Sports Ground which is available free of charge. Should this become full, which is likely on the Friday and Saturday, there is an overflow car park opposite the sports ground. Please note that this parking is for the train station and there will be a charge.

At the ETAP Hotel

There are a reasonable number of free car parking spaces available to guests using the hotel. There are also various car parks in the surrounding area that can be used at owner's risk should the hotel car park become full.

FOOD

At the University

The University Sports Ground will be selling food from Wednesday—Saturday at the following times:

LUNCH	11.00—14.00
DINNER	16.00—19.00

Food will be available in the Main Clubhouse near the competition pitches and will be different each day. The meals available will be healthy and will cost in the range of **£3.50 per meal**. We will try to ensure a vegetarian option each day.

The bar will be open between the hours of 11.00 and 23.00 each day, except on Saturday night when there will be extended hours for the Tournament Party.

Near the ETAP Hotel

The hotel is located near the heart of the entertainment area in Southampton, and there are numerous restaurants and fast food outlets within 10 minutes' walk from the hotel.

The hotel can provide a small buffet for **£2.95 per person** each day. Please arrange this with the hotel should you wish to take up this option. The hotel also sells a limited range of drinks and sandwiches.

There is a **TGI Fridays** restaurant right next to the hotel. It's not the cheapest, but serves American-style food for about £15 person. There is a **McDonalds** there too.

Across the road from the hotel is the Leisure World Complex with a cinema. It has a **Frankie and Benny's** American-Italian restaurant for about £10 per head and an **ASK** (Italian chain restaurant) for a similar price.

The next best place for restaurants with plenty of choice is **Oxford Street** near Ocean Village, a short taxi ride away. There's a posh pub, and Chinese, Italian and Indian restaurants and more for all price ranges.

Further information on the area around the hotel and on **West Quay**, the main shopping complex in Southampton, can be found on: <http://www.west-quay.co.uk/website/>.

USEFUL FACILITIES

Supermarkets

The ETAP Hotel is right next to the West Quay shopping area and there is a large **Asda Supermarket**, open 24 hours a day during the week, in the shopping area. Southampton High Street is only a short walk away for all other shops.

There is also a **Tesco** food store within five minutes' walk from the hotel where food can be purchased. The opening hours are 09.00—19.00 Monday through Saturday. Ask at the hotel for directions.

Pharmacy

There is a pharmacy called **Boots The Chemist** near the ETAP Hotel, at Unit 3, West Quay Retail Park, Southampton SO15 1BA.

Telephone: 02380 335622

Normal Opening Hours:

Monday:	08.30-00.00
Tuesday:	08.30-00.00
Wednesday:	08.30-00.00
Thursday:	08.30-00.00
Friday:	08.30-00.00
Saturday:	08.00-00.00
Sunday:	11.00-17.00

Laundry

Information on laundry facilities will be sent to teams before the tournament or distributed at the Technical Meeting.

Medical Aid

There will be qualified First Aiders on site throughout the tournament.

Tournament Statistics

Statistics will be collected and totalled throughout the week, and will be distributed to team coaches or managers before each day's play.

Statistics will also be posted on the tournament website before each day's play (www.softballeuros08.com).

Tournament Merchandise

Merchandise from the tournament (T-shirts and other clothing items and souvenirs) will be available for purchase each day next to the competition pitches, and can be bought using cash (pounds sterling) or with debit or credit cards. We hope that all competitors will purchase merchandise as a souvenir of the tournament.

Wireless Internet Access

We are hopeful that a free wireless Internet access will be available from Tuesday evening, July 8 in the Main Clubhouse. Please feel free to bring laptops with you and use them.

We cannot, however, provide any secure storage space for laptops when not in use and therefore all equipment brought with you is at your own risk.

Event Programme

An attractive and comprehensive Event Programme has been produced for this competition. The Programme will cost £3 and will be available throughout the week.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Team Contacts

Great Britain Contact	Julie Calver	07971-818359
Czech Republic Contact	Lillian Tanner	07977-158656
Ireland Contact	Matthew Slorach	07841-816610
Jersey Contact	Richard Browne	07903-335397
Slovenia Contact	Laura Cameron	07801-337455

The Team Contact is the person that teams should go to first for solutions to problems or answers to questions. If your Team Contact can't help, he or she will find someone who can.

After you've met your Team Contact, please make sure they have a mobile phone number for your team's Manager or Organiser so you can get in touch with each other when needed. During the tournament, your Team Contact will be with your team at the ground for all or most of each day.

Tournament Officials

Tournament Organiser	Roger Grooms	07834-155158
Technical Commissioner	Guller Eriksen	(+45) 6128-7900
Ass't Technical Commissioner	Brian Connolly	(+353) 87-231-2673
ESF Executive Member	Mike Jennings	07736-703713
Umpire Crew Chief	Duncan McLean	07919 595710
Scorers and Media	Bob Fromer	07837-957562

OPENING AND CLOSING CEREMONIES

Details for the Opening and Closing Ceremonies are still being finalised. Your team is required to be present at the Opening Ceremony in matching dress as per ESF guidelines. Detailed instructions will be provided to all teams before arriving in the UK on what will be required for these ceremonies and your Team Contact will be fully aware of your team's responsibilities.

LOCAL ACTIVITIES

Euroball Tournament

The nearest slowpitch league to Southampton University, where the European Slowpitch Championships are being held, is the **Solent Softball League**. To celebrate the European Championships being held in their backyard, the Solent League is hosting a 32-team co-ed slowpitch competition, called the **Euroball Tournament**, on the weekend of July 12-13 at the same ground as the Europeans.

The Euroball will accommodate all grades of slowpitch softball throughout the weekend by using a “Competitive & Recreational” schedule. Teams from all over the UK are coming down to compete, thus making the tournament a multi-regional event.

Because of the size and quality of the venue at Southampton University Sports Ground, we will have 6-8 pitches of similar layout and quality to those being used for the European Championships themselves. We are also trying to make sure that the pitches are situated within easy walking distance of the European Championship pitches, thus allowing the general public the luxury of seeing a full spectrum of softball games being played on Saturday, July 12 – from international competition right down to grassroots level.

As usual with weekend tournaments, the schedule will start early each morning and consist of timed games throughout the day (only the finals will be seven innings). This means that teams could end up playing something like eight games during the weekend – quite an endurance test in itself! The schedule will also include lots of placing games so that teams who have travelled from far and wide get a full weekend’s worth of games.

European Championship teams will be able to see the Euroball Tournament taking place throughout the day on Saturday, July 12. But play in the Euroball will stop early on Saturday afternoon so that all the participating players can watch the European Championship Grand Final – which means there will be several hundred spectators, the biggest crowd ever to watch a European slowpitch event.

Saturday Night Party

And on Saturday night, after the European Championships have ended, the Solent League is hosting a party for players from the **European Championships** and the **Euroball**.

The Saturday night party is the traditional way of letting off a little bit of steam after a hard day spent on the diamond – and the Euroball Tournament will be no different! Teams and players from both tournaments are welcome to attend (free entry) and it will be an ideal way of meeting other softballers from around Europe and the world.

The party will start at 7.30pm and is being held in the Main Bar, which is situated on the top floor of the Clubhouse. The bar has been stocked up and the staff have been warned about how thirsty softballers can get!

Later on in the evening there will be live music from one of the UK's best soul/funk bands, **The Beatmakers**. This band is guaranteed to get fingers snapping and toes tapping with their floor-filling, feet-thrilling soul funk grooves. Expect to hear heavyweight soul anthems from the likes of James Brown, Aretha Franklin and Otis Redding, much-loved classics from the Motown, Atlantic and Northern soul stables by legends such as Smokey Robinson, Ray Charles and Gloria Jones, and disco-funk destroyers from Kool & the Gang, Stevie Wonder and the Average White Band, plus many more.

Band web site: <http://www.planetoeuf.co.uk/about.html>.

We're expecting a midnight finish, but it's been known for these parties to carry on into the small hours of the next morning! Fingers crossed you're not catching an early flight home on the Sunday!

Two coach trips at midnight and 01:00 have been scheduled to return party goers to the ETAP hotel.

Development Activities

BaseballSoftballUK (BSUK), the Development Agency for the British Baseball and Softball Federations, is taking advantage of the fact that the 2008 European Slowpitch Championships are being held in Britain by carrying out a programme of youth development work in the Southampton area.

The programme includes softball sessions in eight local primary and secondary schools in the month before the tournament, and classes from participating schools will be brought to Southampton University to watch European Championship games from Wednesday to Friday, with a coach to explain the games as they unfold.

The children will also receive additional clinics at the ground from BSUK coaches and will play mini-tournaments of their own on Friday, July 11.

We hope that players and coaches from all the national teams taking part in the European Slowpitch Championships will meet the children and help with clinic sessions if their playing schedule allows. Teams will be contacted about this possibility before the tournament by BSUK Softball National Development Manager **Hayley Scott**.

The aim of this development work is to create a demand for youth softball in the Southampton and Solent areas, which can be taken up and sustained by the Solent Softball League, with further support from BSUK.

And giving area schoolchildren a look at the highest level of slowpitch softball in Europe can hopefully inspire some of them to become GB players in the future!

Exhibition Game

An **exhibition fastpitch game** will be played at 4.00 pm on Saturday, July 12, before the Grand Final of the European Slowpitch Championships, by players from the Great Britain Under-16 and Under-19 Teams.

Those teams that haven't made it to the Grand Final can get their seats early and support Britain's young fastpitch players – including our Junior players who will be competing in the European Junior Championships in Germany in August.