



EUROPEAN SLOWPITCH CHAMPIONSHIPS 2008

LATEST UPDATE:

FEBRUARY 22, 2008

Thank you very much for entering your National Slowpitch Team in the **2008 European Slowpitch Championships** in the UK. This memo will give you the latest information on the tournament and on travel and accommodation arrangements.

We're also going to need different kinds of information from you between now and the start of the tournament. We hope you can respond promptly to those requests, to help us run the tournament smoothly and make sure your team has a great time.

Ok – here are the latest updates, including some good news about withdrawal deadlines and accommodation:

THE CURRENT STATE OF PLAY:

At the present time, it looks like **eight teams** will take part in the competition:

Great Britain
Ireland
Slovenia
Denmark

Czech Republic
Croatia
Jersey
France

This will be the largest European Slowpitch Championships ever held, and with eight teams there should be a lot of good competition.

We know that some countries are still trying to find funding and finalise arrangements for their team, and **we are glad to announce that the ESF deadline for withdrawal without penalty has now been put back to March 15.**

Of course, we hope that no team needs to withdraw, and speaking individually with you, we believe most of you and maybe all of you will be coming. Eight teams will make a great competition.

CHEAP ACCOMMODATION!

We have managed to find a much cheaper hotel than any of those listed in the Information Pack we sent out last year. It's called the **Etap Hotel**, and they can accommodate one, two or three people per room (one double bed and one single bed) for the same price: **£32 per room per night.**

We have reserved 50 rooms at this hotel under the name of "European Softball Championships" for the period of **July 7** (check-in day) to **July 13** (departure day), though these dates can be altered depending on when the tournament starts.

If you want to reserve rooms for your team, you will need to get in touch with the hotel, **make your booking through a single contact on your team**, and ask them to transfer those rooms to the name of your team or contact from the current booking.

This is a big hotel and the rooms we have reserved can also be booked by any member or supporter of the countries competing. However, to be sure of getting a room at this price, please confirm with the hotel as soon as possible.

Using this hotel should make the cost of accommodation for the European Slowpitch Championships much more affordable!

Bookings should be made by contacting:

Charlotte Lagorce
Assistant Manager, Etap Hotel
E-Mail: h6209-gm@accor.com
Telephone: 00-44-2380-227-705

You will need to make your booking between **March 1** and **May 5** to guarantee the rooms. After May 5, any rooms not taken from our original group booking will be released.

If you make a booking at the **Etap Hotel**, please e-mail Tournament Organiser Roger Grooms (roger.grooms@britishsoftball.org) to let him know. If you are intending to stay elsewhere, please inform Roger where you will be staying.

The **Etap Hotel** (website: www.etaphotel.com) is in Southampton City Centre. It has 24-hour reception, WiFi available in public spaces, air-cooling, a 24-hour snack service and an all-you-can-eat Continental buffet breakfast available from 6.30-10.00 am for just £2.95.

If any team is still interested in camping on site at Southampton University for the week, please let Roger Grooms know and this can be arranged for you.

DEADLINE REMINDERS:

TOURNAMENT ENTRY FEE: We don't know if the ESF will also put back the deadline for payment of the tournament entry fee, which is **March 1**. But we think it would be best if you can pay the fee, which is **925 euros**, by that date.

PLAYER LICENCES: All players who take part in the tournament will need an ESF Player Licence (if they don't already have one). The deadline for submitting your application for player licences is 45 days before the competition starts, which is **Friday, May 23**. You should apply for a licence for any player who might be selected to your final roster even if you haven't yet made your selections, since only players listed on your Player Licence Application can be listed on your Player Roster. You can submit up to 30 names on this form. To get an application form for player licences or if you have any questions about licences, e-mail: licences@europeansoftball.ws.

FINAL ROSTER DEADLINE: You do not need to submit your Final Roster until the Technical Meeting before the tournament. But anyone on your Final Roster must have been included on your application for Player Licences.

TOURNAMENT DATES:

The ESF still needs to make a final decision on whether the tournament will begin on **Tuesday, July 8** or **Wednesday, July 9**. With eight teams in the competition (or even seven or six), there are choices to be made about formats and how many games teams should play over the course of the tournament, and the ESF may not be able to finalise this until the deadline for entry withdrawal without penalty has passed.

You probably don't want to book your flights until we get the final word from the ESF, but we are pushing them decide as soon as possible.

INFORMATION WE NEED FROM YOU:

As soon as you have booked your flights to the UK, we will need to know your flight details: when and where you are arriving and on what flight, and how many people will be in your party. This is so we can make arrangements to meet your team and bring you to Southampton – unless you want to make your own arrangements for this journey.

As we said in the Information Pack we sent out earlier, we **will** need to charge you for transport from the airport to Southampton and back to the airport at the end of the tournament. But we will try to keep these costs as low as possible, and having your flight information as soon as you have made your booking will help us to do that.

When we get nearer to the tournament, we will be asking you for information about your team and players, and for photographs as well, so we can put together an attractive Event Programme. We'll look forward to your help when that time comes.

KEEP CHECKING THE TOURNAMENT WEBSITE:

Although we will continue to send important information to you by e-mail, you should also keep checking the tournament website on:

www.softballeuros08.com

New information and updates are being added to the website all the time.

INFORMATION FROM THE ESF:

You will also be receiving communications from the ESF about payment, Player Licenses, roster forms etc. Please help the ESF officials who will be running the tournament by responding to these communications promptly.

That's all we have for now. Thanks again for your entry, and we'll look forward to welcoming you in Great Britain in July. If you have any questions or problems, or want more information, please contact:

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