

Confederation of European Baseball

Martin Miller, President

Newsletter - October 2008



Beijing Olympics

Baseball has been on the Olympic program as a demonstration sport for a long time before it became an officially recognized Olympic Sport in the year 1984 and finally an Olympic medal sport in the year 1992.

With tears in our eyes we came back from the Beijing Olympic Games 2008, which were (for the time being) the last games for the sport of Baseball. The IOC excluded our beloved sport from the Olympic medal sports for the 2012 Games, even if or better BECAUSE Baseball is a real world sport.

Played in more than 150 countries all over the world and in more than 110 member countries of IBAF, Baseball is one of the great world sports - practiced by more than a hundred million people without relevance of gender, age and proficiency level.

The game of Baseball gives a tremendous bonus to the Olympic Games. And that is why we are working hard to return our sport to the Olympic medal program. The Beijing Baseball competition was a huge success and an important step in our goal to return to the 2016 Olympic program. The past Games in Beijing will stand out as a monument to how important Baseball is to the world - its' players, its' leaders and its' fans.



World Cup Baseball in Europe

In addition to the Olympic sports movement, other new initiatives arise. For example the World Baseball Classic is a significant one. But the most important event of Baseball has always been the World Cup Baseball.

In September 2009 the IBAF World Cup will take place in Europe.

Seven countries throughout Europe - Spain, Italy, the Netherlands, Germany, Czech Republic, Russia and Sweden - will show the sports world that Baseball is also an European sport. In almost three weeks from September 09th - 26th the best of the best will pitch, hit and run Baseball in cities such as Moscow, Prague, Barcelona, Stockholm, Regensburg, Amsterdam, Rome and many more.

There are no limits when it comes to far-reaching new initiatives. All is done with the aims of further growth of the baseball sport, to show that it is a global sport and eventually - thanks to excellent performance - more and more fans / players to enjoy.



Futures Steps

In recent years, the CEB has been very successful in supporting small(er) countries in their initiatives to grow and to improve (technically). The number of new players and clubs is growing.

2010 the next European Championship will take place in Germany. The German Baseball and Softball Federation has been chosen to organize the all time best European Championship after they have demonstrated good standards and enormous crowds of spectators back in the year 2001.

And after a successful EURO 2010 time is ready to announce a real European Professional League. The best teams of Europe will compete against each other in a late season contest. It is planned to have 8 participating teams out of different countries playing daily games in a period of 4-6 weeks. A final format has still to be finalized but a competition of this quality is the logical next step of Baseball's growing future in Europe.

This league will also follow up a long time proposal of most of the member federations in playing inter leagues during or after the particular national seasons. It will even more show the great European-wide activities of the baseball players and their willingness to play across all borders the family friendly game of Baseball.

Next Executive Meeting

The next CEB Executive Board meeting will be held on November 29th & 30th in London. Among other things the agenda includes the confederations plans for the next legislative period and the rearrangement of the CEB board and its commissions in order to enhance the efficiency of their work. More details will follow after the meeting.

Resumee

All the above mentioned activities will lead to a growing future of our game Baseball. World Cup, European Championship 2010, European League (and inter leagues) from 2011 on will follow a clear marketing and growth strategy as everyone can see.

Let us work together on a great future for our sport - Baseball.

Martin Miller
(President CEB) 11 Oct., 2008

