

INTERNATIONAL SOFTBALL FEDERATION

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UPDATE

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HECTIC PACE FOR SOFTBALL AS BEIJING GAMES APPROACH

The first pitch at the 2008 Olympic Softball competition is 26 days away. As the sport heads for its fourth Summer Games there has been a flurry of activity on and off the field with still more expected in the last few weeks before all attention turns to Beijing. Our next UPDATE will come following the August 12-21 competition in China.

SEVERAL VISITS TO ISF HEADQUARTERS

At the world governing body's headquarters in Plant City, Florida, visitors have been received recently from three different countries. First the International Softball Federation hosted three visitors from Colombia (see photo below). Next came Puerto Rico Softball Federation President Carlos Lopez. He is also the Central American and Caribbean Softball Confederation (CONCACAS) President and will be a member of the Technical Jury during the softball competition in Beijing next month. Most recently the ISF was visited by Nicaragua Softball Federation President Roberto Espinoza, who is also the CONCACAS VP/Central America.



(left to right) ISF umpire Maria Elena Galeano, ISF President Don Porter, former Colombia national softball team player Berta Gómez, and her daughter, Michelle Marrugo.

SEVERAL TOURNEYS PLAYING GLOBALLY

The 15th Canada Cup is in full swing in British Columbia, with five of the teams that will play at the Olympics using the ISF-sanctioned event as a final tune-up. Three other countries have teams playing in Western Canada as well (a total of 14 entrants). Two weeks from today El Salvador will begin hosting the 5th Central American Female Junior

Championship, which runs through and including August 3rd. Guatemala is the defending champion, having won the 4th edition of the event last September in Belize.

Elsewhere, the 6th European Coed Slowpitch Championship wrapped up this past weekend in England, with Great Britain defeating Ireland to retain the title. The Czech Republic, Jersey, and Slovenia also participated. Next up in Europe comes the VIII European Championship Men "A" in Denmark from July 28-August 2.

FANS BEING ATTRACTED ON FACEBOOK

The sport of softball is even busy online these days. Since the launch of the Back Softball and International Softball Federation pages on Facebook last week, people from around the world have been becoming fans of one or both. Upon logging in with their username and password (registration is free), Facebook users have been visiting the Back Softball page and clicking on "Become a Fan" from the likes of Australia, Bulgaria, Canada, Denmark, England, Greece, New Zealand, Singapore, Sweden, Thailand, USA, and Venezuela. Visit www.facebook.com today!

EQUIPMENT AID CONTINUES

Besides the visitors mentioned at left, the ISF headquarters has also been busy with shipping activity. Between June 5th and July 10th alone, 55 starter kits plus additional equipment shipments all combining to a value totaling approximately USD\$73 thousand have been sent to seven different countries (Belgium, Belize, British Virgin Islands, Kenya, Nicaragua, Spain, and Sweden).

TEAMS WELCOME FOR MEN'S EVENT

From December 5-7, 2008, the annual Skins International Tournament will take place at the Hawker International Softball Complex in Canberra, Australia. Sanctioned by Softball Australia, the men's fast pitch event has run for the past 19 years and grown from six domestic teams the first year to over 20 now, including international entries. The registration deadline is August 30th. To register and/or for more information, contact Men's Fastpitch League President Geoff Tutt at Geoff.tutt@defence.gov.au.



Visit our Olympic reinstatement website:
www.BackSoftball.com