

INTERNATIONAL SOFTBALL FEDERATION

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UPDATE

4 May 2007

ISF AT SPORTACCORD

International Softball Federation (ISF) representation at last week's SportAccord conference in Beijing included ISF President Don Porter, Secretary General Andy Loechner, Deputy Secretary General Ms. LOW Beng Choo, ISF VPs/Asia Steven Huang and Masanori Ozaki, and ISF VP/Olympic Softball Mme. HE Huixian.

ISF meetings included Association of Summer Olympic International Federations, General Association of International Sports Federations, World Games 2009, and individual meetings with exhibitors/sponsors. The softball delegation also met with representatives of the Beijing Organizing Committee for the Olympic Games (BOCOG), including venue review and inspection. The ISF will hold another test event, the China Cup, this October at the Olympic Softball venue, which last year (August/September) opened with the XI Women's World Championship.

The ISF representatives also met with officials from the China Softball Association.



(seated, left to right) Andy Loechner, Don Porter, BOCOG official (standing, left to right) Masanori Ozaki, Steven Huang, Low Beng Choo, Chen Xu (China Softball Association)

ISF, SPECIAL OLYMPICS MEET

For two days last week, representatives from Special Olympics International and the ISF met at the latter's world headquarters in Plant City, Florida. The proceedings were joint efforts to produce various up-to-date softball publications for use by Special Olympics softball coaches as well as by those new to the sport in general. These tools complement existing resources that the ISF already has in place, such as the "Softball in the Schools" manual, "What Is Softball?" brochure, and the Skills portion of the Development section of the website.

Taking part in the meetings were ISF Director of Competition Laurie Gouthro and Director of Communications Bruce Wawrzyniak. Special Olympics was represented by Senior Manager, Sports & Competition, Sports Resources Ryan Murphy, Director of Individual Giving David Thomason, Special Olympics Inc. Technical Delegate – Softball Andy Dooley, Special Olympics Arizona Softball Doug Liebman, and Special Olympics Maryland Softball Pam Mest.

Softball is on the programme of this year's Special Olympics World Summer Games in Shanghai (October 2-11). The ISF is working to develop numerous disciplines for softball including, among others, arena (indoor) softball and wheelchair softball.



On Monday Ryan Murphy from Special Olympics International (right) followed up on last week's meetings with the ISF by visiting Don Porter upon the ISF President's return to the world headquarters from the SportAccord meetings.

WORLD SOFTBALL DAY NEXT MONTH

For the third year in a row "World Softball Day" will be celebrated on June 13. Coinciding with the date (in 1991) when it was announced that softball (women's fast pitch) would be added to the Olympic programme, beginning with the 1996 Games in Atlanta, World Softball Day is made up of global activities by the ISF's member national federations.

The world governing body is again encouraging its members to mark the date with World Softball Day-specific activities that enable men, women, boys, and girls to play the sport. Encouraged by worldwide celebrations the last two years, the ISF is hopeful that softball will be specially promoted for June 13. In addition, the media are asked to devote a portion of their sports coverage that day to softball.

47 days until the ISF VIII Jr. Women's World Championship (19-and-under)