



**EUROPEAN
SLOWPITCH
SOFTBALL
LEAGUE™**

**Administrative and Operational Procedures
for the conduct of 2021 ESSL Central,
Italy, Riccione, 27-29 August 2021**

1. **REFERENCES:** Current USA Softball Rule Book, Current USA Softball Playing Rule
<https://www.teamusa.org/usa-softball/media/mobile-apps>
ESSL tournament rules: <https://www.esslsupercup.com/rules/>
2. **WHAT:** 2021 ESSL Central Riccione Softball Tournament
3. **WHEN:** 27-29 August 2021
4. **WHERE:** Riccione Baseball Field
Piazzale 2 Giugno 30, 47838 Riccione (RN), Italy
GPS: 44.0051623, 12.635308
5. **ENTRY FEE:**
 - a. ESSL tournament entry fee has to be paid before the tournament:
Men: EUR 250
Women: EUR 200
 - b. NO player registration fee.
6. **TEAM ROSTERS:** 15 minutes before the game, teams must have completed their lineup and ready. The lineup will include the last name and the full first name as well as jersey number. Only the position of the pitcher is required. Teams will submit the lineup to the umpire before the game starts.
7. **UNIFORMS / GENERAL:** Only baseball or softball hats are allowed.
In general, players should have the same jerseys with a number. For teams that do not have their team uniforms for the tournament yet, there is the following exception rule: uniforms don't have to be the same colors as long as they have a number. Uniforms can be a T-SHIRT with numbers written with black sharpie. NO TAPE. Any shirt/jersey with a number can be used as long as no-one on the team has an identical number. Any team member with an identical number has to identify himself or herself to the umpire, prior to the start of the game.

8. **SMOKING:** The use of tobacco products and the consumption of alcohol in or around the dugout will not be permitted. Use designated smoking areas.
9. **BATS:** All bats MUST have a USA (ASA) Softball Stamp of Approval. If they don't have a USA (ASA) Softball Stamp of Approval they cannot be used.
ILLEGAL BATS: Bats that are found to be illegal must be removed from the dugout at once. They will not be returned until the tournament is finished.
10. **REGISTRATION:** Only players that are registered online (<https://team4.softballeurope.com>) are allowed to play. Current roster of the teams: <https://www.softballeurope.com/players/>
11. **TOURNAMENT RULES:**
- a. Format will be Round Robin games followed by the double elimination (DE) bracket. Seeding for DE of all teams together is based on the following:
 - 1. Winning percentage (games / wins) of all round robin games. For a tied game a team receives 0.5 extra points for the ranking.
 - 2. Head to head
 - 3. Run differential
 - 4. Runs made
 - 5. Runs allowed
 - 6. Coin flip
 - b. Each batter will start with a 1 – 1 count, with NO courtesy foul
 - c. **Balls:** For all ESSL tournaments only USA (ASA) Softball certified .52 COR, 300 MAX. are allowed. The 12-inch size ball will be used for male batters and 11-inch size ball for female batters. The ESSL doesn't provide any balls for the tournaments.
 - d. Unless an official scorer is available, the "HOME TEAM" keeps score of the runs of the game. The umpires will obtain "FINAL SCORE" of the game and annotate the board, where the games are and teams are listed. If there is a discrepancy of the runs both coaches will be brought together to resolve the problem, if both teams are keeping score. If only one team keeps the score of the runs, the other team not keeping score has no reason to make any corrections or appeals of the score in question.
if there are any discrepancies the umpire must be notified in the same inning and it can ONLY addressed by the manager / head coach of the team. If not then no discrepancy will be addressed.
 - e. **Game length:**
The time begins with the first warm up pitch of the game (USA Softball Rule 5, section 10).
- **Round Robin:** 50 min (finish the inning) or 7 innings. **No new inning**

after 45 minutes. A round robin game may end in a TIE.

- **Double elimination:** 50 min (finish the inning) or 7 innings. **No new inning after 45 minutes. Tied games** in double elimination at the end of regulation will be completed in accordance with USA Softball Rule 5 Section 3-B.

- **Championship and IF game:** 7 innings/no time limit.

f. **Run rule** in effect for all games: 20 after 4 and 15 after 5.

g. **Home team** for round robin games home/away is set in the schedule. Double Elimination: for winners bracket higher seed; losers bracket coin flip, Championship game (team from winner's bracket HOME), IF game will be determined by coin flip.

h. **10 home run limit per game, everything after is an out**

i. **BASE STEALING IS NOT PERMITTED!**

k. **Pitcher mask is MANDATORY.** The ESSL takes no responsibility for player injury regarding the issue. Leg/shin guards, and any other form of protective gear are authorized.

l. **Courtesy Runner** allowed (USA Softball Rule 8, section 9):

Any eligible players that may participate on offense or defense and are on the official line-up including available substitutes may be used as a courtesy runner. He may be used once per inning and he is in the game when announced by the coach/manager to the plate umpire. A courtesy runner whose turn at bat comes while on base, the player on base will be called out and the courtesy runner will be removed from base and takes his turn at bat. A courtesy runner may not run for an existing courtesy runner except for an injury. A courtesy runner is in the game when Head Coach (Manager) reports it to the UMPIRE.

m. **Re-entry** allowed (USA Softball Rule 4, section 5):

Any player may be substituted for or replaced and re-entered once, provided the players occupy their same batting position in the batting order. THE STARTING PLAYER AND SUBSTITUTE CANNOT BE IN THE GAME AT THE SAME TIME.

n. **NO METAL SPIKES/CLEATS ALLOWED!**

(USA Softball Rule 3, section 6/G) Players wearing metals spikes/cleats after being warned by the umpire, shall be ejected. If ejected, participants must leave the grounds and have no contact with players or umpires in the game.

o. **Extra Player:** Only one Extra Player is allowed. If an Extra Player (EP) is used, all 11 on the starting line-up must bat and any 10 of those 11 may play defense.

p. **Player Substitution (important):** Managers/Coaches ONLY, have to notify the Plate Umpire of any substitutions except changing

fielding positions on the field. However, a PITCHER CHANGE has to be notified.

q. **Ready for the game:** Teams have to be ready to play 30 minutes before schedule game time. If the prior game ends early and both teams are there, the game starts early.

r. **Playing field:** base distance 70 feet (21.34 meters), pitching distance 50 feet (15.24 meters).

In case of field constructions, the base distance can be shorter, but it must be approved by the ESSL.

s. **Pitching** (USA Softball Rule 6, section 3): the ball shall be delivered with perceptible arc and reach a height of at least six feet (1.8 meters) from the ground, while not exceeding a maximum height of 10 feet (3 meters) from the ground.

t. The final ranking of the tournament is based on the following:

1. Where a team drops out of the double elimination after losing two games. If two or more teams drop out at the same loser's bracket column the ranking will be based on the following:
 - a. Winning percentage (games / wins) of all games of the tournament. For a tied game a team receives 0.5 extra points for the ranking.
 - b. Head to head
 - c. Run differential
 - d. Runs made
 - e. Runs allowed
 - f. Coin flip

12. **FORFEITS:**

Teams not entered in the official game book by the scheduled game time will be given a forfeit. A 5-minute grace period may be granted on a case by case basis, only from the Tournament Director. The score of a forfeited game shall be seven (7) to zero (0) in favor of the team not at fault.

13. **PROTESTS:**

- a. All protests will be settled in accordance with the governing rules of USA Softball, unless a player is declared ineligible during round robin and/or Championship play.
- b. All protests will be resolved on site by the protest committee, but Tournament Director's decision is final.
- c. An Official's judgment is not a protest-able offense.
- d. Protests can ONLY addressed by the team manager / head coach.

14. **SPORTSMANSHIP:**
- a. Players/Coaches/Managers or other team members will not make disparaging or insulting remarks about opposing players, officials, or spectators, or commit other acts of unsportsmanlike conduct. (Examples: profanity, spitting, or acts that may cause injuries to opponents.).
 - b. The penalty for violation of the above, by a player, coach, or manager is an ejection.
 - c. Disqualified players are prohibited from playing but can remain in the team area or serve as a coach/manager. USA Softball Rule 4 Section 8-A.
 - d. The penalty for a player, manager, or coach committing flagrant unsportsmanlike conduct will be suspension for the remainder of the current game and the next game, again depending on the severity of the offense committed.
 - e. Ejected players for unsportsmanlike conduct must leave the field, grounds, sight and sound, and have no contact with the umpires or participants in the game. USA Softball Rule 4 Section 8-B.
15. **AWARDS CEREMONY** Following the Championship Game
16. **Tournament Director** Antonino Grimaudo
17. **Protest Committee:** Richard Rodriguez, Tomo Zezlina, Damien Hall