

PRESS RELEASE – May 12, 2017



## **European Baseball Championship moved to 2019 to serve as a pre-qualifier for the Olympic Qualification Tournament of the 2020 Tokyo Olympic Games**

New format for the competition approved by CEB Executive Committee

The Confederation of European Baseball and the Deutsche Baseball und Softball Verband have agreed on moving the 2018 European Baseball Championship to 2019 to serve as a pre-qualifier for the Olympic Qualification Tournament of the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games.

The rescheduling comes after a demand from the World Baseball Softball Confederation which is currently working on the Olympic Qualification system. Still to be confirmed, the qualification process for European teams would get through a March 2020 6 teams OQT gathering the best team from Africa and the first five teams of the 2019 EBC. The OQT runner-up would get a second chance to go to Tokyo by participating to a final OQT with teams from other regional qualification tournaments.

The 2018 now 2019 European Baseball Championship was awarded in September 2015 to Germany, the Bonn Capitals and Solingen Alligators being the two support clubs.

Gathered in Zagreb, Croatia on March 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> the Executive Committee of CEB also decided to bring changes to the competition format, keeping the first round unchanged with two groups of 6 teams playing a round robin, but replacing the second round which consisted of a new round robin with the top 3 teams of each group by a single elimination bracket of ¼ finals, ½ finals, 3<sup>rd</sup> place and Championship Game.

CEB voted the change to bring more intensity to the competition and create a better environment for teams, fans and sponsors.

Already qualified teams for the 2019 European Baseball Championships are the 10 best teams of the 2016 EBC: The Netherlands, Spain, Italy, Germany, Czech Republic, Belgium, France, Sweden, Great Britain and Croatia. The two remaining spots have to be decided by EBC Qualifiers to be played in 2017 and 2018.

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### **About the Confederation of European Baseball**

Headquartered in Zagreb, Croatia, the Confederation of European Baseball is the governing body of baseball in Europe. CEB has 38 National Federations and governs all European clubs and national teams competitions such as the Champions Cup and the European Baseball Championship.

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**About the German Baseball and Softball Federation**

The German Baseball and Softball Federation (Deutscher Baseball und Softball Verband e.V. (DBV)) was founded in 1950. It is the governing body for Baseball and Softball in Germany. Currently approximately 22,000 players are organized in about 200 clubs throughout the country. Germany has won the U15 European Championship in 2015 and the U12 European Championship in 2016. The DBV hosted the 2010 and 2014 European Championship, as well as the 2009 Baseball World Cup and the 2012 World Baseball Classic Qualifier.

For more information please visit [www.baseball-softball.de](http://www.baseball-softball.de) or contact the DBV through [office@baseball-softball.de](mailto:office@baseball-softball.de)