

## INTERNATIONAL SOFTBALL FEDERATION

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# UPDATE

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### SOFTBALL OFFICIAL ELECTED TO NOC

Romell Knowles, the Bahamas Softball Federation President, has been elected Secretary General of the Bahamas Olympic Association. International Softball Federation President Don Porter sent his congratulations to Mr. Knowles on his "election to this important position within the Olympic Movement." He joins other softball leaders that hold positions with their country's national Olympic committee such as the Dominican Republic, Guam, Guinea-Bissau, and Mali.

### FINAL PRE-GAMES VISIT PAID TO BEIJING

Two representatives of the ISF were in Beijing, China, last week doing final inspections as the 2008 Olympic Softball competition nears (August 12-21). Deputy Secretary General Low Beng Choo (Malaysia) and Acting Director of Umpires Bob Stanton (Canada) spent three days there, reviewing the last preparations before the sport has its fourth appearance at the Games. Ms. Low will be a Technical Delegate for the competition and Mr. Stanton will serve as the event's Umpire-In-Chief. Among others, the two met with Mr. Chen Xu, the Competition Manager for the eight-team softball tournament, and representatives from the China Softball Association (see photo below).



### EURO EVENT STARTS TODAY IN DENMARK

The 2008 European Championship Men "A" gets underway today in Copenhagen, Denmark. The six-day fast pitch tournament will see the following eight countries participating: Belgium, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Great Britain, Israel, the Netherlands, and Slovakia. The Czech Republic is the defending champion. This event will qualify the European participants for next year's ISF XII Men's World Championship. For more information visit [www.eurofastpitch2008.dk](http://www.eurofastpitch2008.dk).

This Thursday (July 31) the 5<sup>th</sup> Central American Junior Female Championship begins in El Salvador. The five-day tournament will include the host team as well as the national junior teams (players born in or after 1988) from Belize, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua.

### JAPAN HEADS TO GAMES WITH CUP TITLE IN HAND

When the other seven participants play Japan at next month's Olympic Softball competition, they'll be facing the 2008 Canada Cup champions. The Japanese defeated Australia, 4-2, just over a week ago to claim the title at the 15<sup>th</sup> edition of the annual event, which is an ISF-sanctioned tournament. By way of a 3-1 loss to the Aussies, Canada earned the bronze medals. Other participants in the women's fast pitch event included the Czech Republic, Chinese Taipei, Venezuela, and club teams from Canada, China, and the United States. Final standings, game box scores, and more can be found at [www.canadacup.com](http://www.canadacup.com).



### FANS CAN WRITE ABOUT SOFTBALL FOR THE WEB

Last week the ISF announced an initiative with Sportingo that allows fans to write articles about international softball, to be published on the Internet! Sportingo is Europe's largest platform for fans to write about sport and softball is now one of them. There is no cost to register as an author on their website, and articles that get sent in will be professionally enhanced and edited by them and published on the Sportingo website, before being forwarded on to the ISF for the world governing body to consider for posting on [www.internationalsoftball.com](http://www.internationalsoftball.com). Last week's announcement also included Sportingo placing links to online softball video in the More Sports section of [www.getsport.tv](http://www.getsport.tv). For full details on this new offering, please visit [www.internationalsoftball.com/english/latest\\_news/sportingo.asp](http://www.internationalsoftball.com/english/latest_news/sportingo.asp)



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