



## PRESS RELEASE

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IPBS and WSXBALL, the two main organizations of paintball events in Italy, respectively, for the discipline of speedball the first and for woodsball-scenario the second, decided for the year 2015 to join forces in a collaboration aimed at qualitative growth of the events and increase of number of players active in both circuits.

The two organizations have chosen the new portal [www.IPBA.it](http://www.IPBA.it) as common point of reference within which to gather all the information about players, teams, referees and their events. The portal aims to be the litmus test of paintball Italian, offering a clear and tangible view of what is the real dimension of our sport in real time.

Before proceeding to the description of what are the goals of the season that is about to begin, it is right to make a point about the situation of Italian paintball, clarifying how IPBS and WSXBALL want to position themselves within it.

Currently paintball in Italy reached a size and a geographical distribution more than satisfactory, thanks to the work made by the fields and in particular by some people that in the last five years especially have expenses for the growth of our sport and for his final statement in our country.

All fields in Italy currently offer paintball as a recreational activity, while only a part of these also develop a sport program involving their members in scheduled practices and creation of teams. It's for this last kind of reality that IPBS and WSXBALL look for, to give to those who participate at the activities in each field the opportunity to meet with other players in a competitive (IPBS) or amateur (WSXBALL) way.

Both IPBS and WSXBALL, but in particular the people representing the two organizations, have collaborated in the past to large projects targeted to a general coordination of Italian paintball. The two main examples are the FISP, an association with intake of a federation founded in 2012 and with whom IPBS collaborated for the championship in 2013; the second example is CSEN Paintball, which recently changed its name also in FISP, proposing a project as well with federal ambition, but breaking away from the previous project of the same name and that in the while it is still formally active.

This situation not easy to understand, especially for non-experts, that see an "old" and a "new" FISP, but especially the positive competition that we see in our industry for years between the various Sports Promotion Associations (to name the most active CSEN, AICS, ASI, ACSI, Libertas, UISP) with the goal of convincing the various clubs to join and take advantage of their insurance services in particular, puts our two organizations inevitably faced with a choice.

Choose to forge a partnership with one of these realities, it could mean at this time get within a competition we do not want and do not have to take part as event organizers. Keep an open mind towards all sports promotion bodies and to all projects, we believe it is the best choice to ensure maximum freedom of participation in our tournaments. Obviously we'll keep open a line of dialogue and constant collaboration with all those who want to interact with us and promote themselves through our channels, without preferences, but giving everyone the same opportunities, believing that in this way we will contribute much more to the growth of our sport.

We thank everyone for the proposals of cooperation that we have received, such as the invitation received from Csen Paintball or "new" FISP, to attend a meeting for the analysis and coordination of the activities they planned for 2015. For the reasons above mentioned we won't participate to the meeting, while hardly trust that the work of all these projects, as well as ours, will only bring higher and higher our sport, up to the main goal to see him one day between those sports that the Italian Olympic Committee CONI has considered worthy of setting up their own official federation.

We conclude this point, emphasizing that we will work to ensure that our events are compatible with all insurance coverage provided by the various sports promotion bodies, to ensure the widest choice to our teams.

After this long but necessary introduction, we now come to the important news regarding the 2015 season that is about to begin. The most important concern international collaborations that our organizations have been able to set up, but there are also important changes at the organizational level.

1. It has been recently confirmed the collaboration with the European Federation for Paintball EPBF. This means that IPBS will be the partner of EPBF for Italy. This involves the assignment of management Ranking EPBF for our country, which is a European system that assigns a score based on the ranking obtained from each team in tournaments recognized by EPBF. IPBS will use the ranking for its national championship, being only available for 5man tournaments, but will make completely free the use of the ranking by any other tournament that is in line with the EPBF specifications, not wanting anyone to preclude the use of this tool.
2. The collaboration with EPBF also concerns the management of the national teams that will have the opportunity to participate in the European Championship: national men greater, national men under 19, national women. IPBS, who in the past had promoted a project for the management of national teams, will soon publish the steps and methods that will lead to the selection of players.
3. It's confirmed the collaboration with Euroref, already begun with the first course held in Padua in late 2014. EUROREF will work with IPBS and WSXBALL for training and coordinate their referee crews.

On the previous points we were allowed by EPBF to disclose in advance, but will follow an official communication by EPBF and EUROREF in the next weeks.

About the organizational aspects, the news born from the collaboration between WSXBALL and IPBS are the following:

- Will be unified management of ID Card thanks to the features offered by the website IPBA. It will be possible to request them both for individual events, both in combined form for multiple events, with the intention to offer advantages to those that activate the ID Card for more championships.
- Will be unified management of the referees, this will give the opportunity to those who occupy this role to have as many as 20 events throughout 2015 to attend as a marshall. Will follow later on by EUROREF more details about how they will manage referees and events.
- The portal IPBA will collect data from all events of IPBS and WSXBALL, offering individual players and teams a complete profile that over time will become their certificate curriculum.
- Will be unified the management of sponsorships, proposing to companies as a single entity but with a very wide range of possibilities. We believe to become in this way the most important opportunities in Italy for companies looking for promoting themselves in the italian paintball market.

These novelties are not the only, others will follow, others were already announced, one of all the live streaming of the national championship, which we believe is perhaps one of the most important news for our sport in Italy in 2015.

**IPBS - Italian Paintball Series**

**[info@ipbs.it](mailto:info@ipbs.it)**

**WSXBALL**

**[info@wsxball.com](mailto:info@wsxball.com)**