

*UIC News*  
*Issue No1 2012*  
**SNZ AGM UMPIRES REPORT 2012**

It is my privilege again to report on the activities of your Softball New Zealand umpiring programme. Your National Umpiring Staff continues to be a pleasure to work with, as together we balance the need to grow the “**The Programme**” while making provision for succession planning. ISF certification is a common umpiring goal for many and this season was the start of another three year cycle that leads to the next Oceania ISF Certification Seminar which New Zealand will host in 2014. Our next group of lead-in candidates has been identified and with the assistance of the Level 7 mentoring group our final selection of candidates should be well prepared. The last two seasons I have mentioned how well our sport has embraced the recently amended pitching regulations. The benefits of working together are best illustrated by comparing illegal pitching statistics from the 2010 Men’s Open when 131 illegal pitches were called to 2012 Men’s Open when only 30 were required to be called. Again the responsible attitude of players and coaches towards the new regulations is highly commendable.

ISF rules knowledge and mechanics are the foundations of our “**Mission Statement**” in delivering world’s best practice. These teachings and umpiring culture are shared through regular local and regional clinics. The Rugby World Cup played havoc with last season’s Regional Clinics. However a very successful Central Region clinic was held in Palmerston North, with a wide range of facilitators presenting. This season’s clinics will see an emphasis on the application of rules as we prepare for the new season.



At the 2011 SNZ AGM Lance Brown was named “Umpire of the Year”. Among Lance’s appointments were: Plate Umpire to the Championship game between the Black Sox and Australia Gold in Canberra. Plate on the Final of the Men’s National Fast-pitch Championship and 1st Base on the Grand Finals of the Men’s Open and the Under 19 Boys National Tournament. Lance was also on the crew for the North Island Junior Secondary Schools Tournament. Additionally Lance serves as President Wanganui Softball Association.

I would like to thank the staff at SNZ and especially Eugene Gilbert for their continuing support and assistance with many logistical and planning tasks that make the show run.

### **Umpire Merchandising**

We continue to thank both Ken Sommers and Jennifer Hershbein for their management of our “Schutt” umpire merchandising programme that sees New Zealand umpires amongst the best outfitted in the world. Mark McFarlane is now the NUS point of contact.

### **NATIONAL UMPIRE STAFF**

AGM reports are the main source of recording umpiring history. Your NUS for last season was Wayne Saunders (UIC), Deputy Directors Cass Seeling, Daph Turner and Mark McFarlane. We were joined by Regional Directors; Dawie Sutton (Lower SI), Nicky Ogier (Upper SI), Lindsay Edwards (Central) and Bill Smith (North) along with Wiremu Tamaki (unattached). Notable among our many tasks: Nicky was Rules examiner; Wiremu Website Manager, Mark McFarlane Merchandising, Cass Seeling Clinics and Wayne National Tournament appointments. Lindsay continues as convenor of the Level 7 Advisory Group, whilst Ray Dyason, Dave Beaumont and Denis Smith joined members of the NUS as National Tournament Chief Umpires.

The National Rules refresher is held in October very year and has now been running for over twenty years. This “open book” rules test is available to anyone to sit. Increase rules knowledge benefits all.

### **NATIONAL TOURNAMENTS**

This year’s National Tournaments were fully staffed to meet SNZ staffing expectations. Thank you to Nicky Ogier for stepping at late notice to TCU the Women’s Open. National Staff members were again mainly used as Tournament Chief Umpires. This has provided better consistency with evaluating and reporting. The National Tournament experience is still an ideal environment for umpires to continue to

develop to develop their knowledge and learn the culture of umpiring from their more experienced colleagues.

A total of 89 nationally graded umpires worked this year's National Tournaments. This season we played host to Trevor Murphy and Leanne Gearside (Australia - Trans Tasman Exchange).

### INTERNATIONAL APPOINTMENTS AND INVITATIONS

Recorded for the record is the following

■ 2011 ISF Junior Women's World Series, South Africa	Dave Shedlock
■ Gilley's Shield & Edebone-Weber Shield R1, Victoria	Darrel Paul
■ Gilley's Shield & Edebone-Weber Shield R 2, Brisbane	Liz Kawana
■ Gilley's Shield R3 & Edebone-Weber Shield Final	Glen Nalepa
■ ISF Oceania Men's World Series Qualifier, Canberra	Glen Nalepa, Mark Porteous, Wayne Saunders (UIC)
■ Trans Tasman Exchange	Gavin Shepherd,
■ ISC Exchange	Mark McFarlane,
■ International Youth Series, Australia	Judy Leaper, Andrew McManus
■ ISF XIII Women's World Series, Whitehorse, Canada	Nicola Ogier
■ Black Sox North America Tour	Wiremu Tamaki
■ ISF IX Junior Men's World Series, Parana, Argentina	Mark Porteous, Jeremy England

While most International field umpiring assignments have a self-funded component your umpiring programme is grateful of support from SNZ for umpires attending ISF World Championships and our established exchange programmes.

### INTERNATIONAL UMPIRING

As the ISF Regional Umpire Coordinator for Oceania it has been another active season. The ISF Congress was held in Oklahoma, USA in October 2011 and a Regional Co-ordinators meeting in Plant City, USA in June 2012. Selected points of interest from these meetings include:

- The development and issuing of the ISF Pitching Points of Emphasis and Video
- Revised three/four umpire mechanics to be uploaded to UmpSchool
- Oceania ISF certification Seminar confirmed for February 2014 in New Zealand
- Technical Bulletins will be issued by the Director of Umpire to cover interim rulings.
- Rule period recertification will be effective from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2014.
- All active ISF umpire are encouraged to be registered on UmpSchool ([www.ruleboxsoftware.com/isf.aspx](http://www.ruleboxsoftware.com/isf.aspx).)

### GRADING ADJUSTMENTS AND EXAMINATIONS PASSES

As a result of National Tournament evaluations and NUS recommendations the following grading adjustments for the 2011/2012 season are advised.

**Level 5 to Level 6** – David Beaumont (CB) and Jeff Weber (AK)

**Level 4 to Level 5** – Terry Ratu (HV) and Andrew McManus (NH).

**Level 4 Badge Examination** - the following were successful in the practical NZ Badge examination. Tama Howard (AK), Pip Tuhoro (CB), Keith Marsh (HV), Karoline Sione (NH), Sam Meikle (OG) and Steve Sila (WN).

**Level 3 Qualifying Examination** - the following were successful in the practical NZ Qualifying examination.

Phil Easdown (CB), Mark Andrell (ML), Neil Forde (ML), Warren Herd (ML), Ben Dyason (MN), Kieran Williams (NH), Simon Lindsay (NH), Steff Chambers (NH), Tristan Hutchinson (NH), Brad Fisher (NN), Johnathon Savage (NN), Lisa Dawson (CM), Reipa Kelly (CM), Robbie Sadgrove (AK) and Cowley Harris (WK).

**Level 2 NZ Rules Examination** - the following candidates sat the NZ Rules examination and exceeded the minimum pass mark.

Robert Sadgrove (AK), Joeseeph Sampson (AK), Michael Forde (AK), Tai Waru (AK), Alan Pumfleet (AK), Justin Leef (AK), Nicholas Hiku (AK), Megan Farrell (AK), Melanie Gettins (AK), Mere Stokes-McLeod (BP), Phil Easdown (CB), Lisa Dawson (CM), David Taiwhanga (CM), Jack Myers (CM),

Reipa Kelly (CM), Joshua Gettins (HB), Neil Forde (ML), Mark Andrell (ML), Warren Herd (ML), Ben Dyason (MN), Mitchell Hutchinson (NH), Tristan Hutchinson (NH), Glen Schmidt (NH), Greg Donaldson (NH), Kelvin Chiles (NH), Kieran Williams (NH), Steff Chambers (NH), Tracey King (NH), Johnathon Savage (NN), Jarrod Blay (OG), Veronica Wilson (OG), Murray Rei (OG), Jeremy Rei (OG), Andre Walker (WK), Marcus Fletcher (WK) and Tarryn Fletcher (WK)

**Grading List Summary** - the overall number of graded umpires has remained relatively constant. Made up as follows: **L7** - 15 down from 16, **L6** – 11 unchanged, **L5** – 23 down from 26, **L4** – 42 down from 55, **L3** – 20 up from 11, **L2** – 30 up from 18 and **L1** - 164 up from 159. L1 umpire returns have not been received from all associations and the figure of 164 significantly under reports number of level 1 umpires active throughout New Zealand.

My personal thanks to the National Umpiring Staff. Deputy Director of Umpiring since 2004 Daph Turner did not stand for re-election. Daph's many years of experience, wise counsel and tireless support for women in umpiring will be sorely missed. Lindsay Edwards our Level 7 Group convenor and Regional Director for Central was elected as the incoming Deputy Director along with returning Deputy Director Cass Seeling. Thank you to all who contributed to **"The Programme"**. I hope you enjoyed your umpiring experience enough to return again next season. As long as we have competitive players and coaches there will always be a need for good umpires

*Wayne Saunders*

**Umpire-in-Chief**