

UIC News

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First and foremost I would like on behalf of all umpires to acknowledge and sincerely thank our outgoing National Director of Umpiring Bill Smith. During his eight year term, Bill's contribution and stabilising influence has steadily seen a marked improvement in the umpiring environment in New Zealand. Bill stepped up at a time when New Zealand umpiring was in need of administration leadership at the top. Bill professionally represented and promoted successfully the New Zealand umpiring programme in the International arena and here at home. Bill has indicated that his experience will not be lost to umpiring and we will see him in a consultant's role assisting the National Umpiring Staff. Please join me in wishing Bill and Manu a pleasant retirement in the new home at Waipu in the winterless north.

It is intended that the new **"UIC News"** will be posted on this page to keep you regularly informed on what is happening in the National Umpiring programme.

Your new National Umpiring Staff's first task for the new season is the Annual NUS meeting to be held over the weekend of 30 June / 1 July at Softball headquarters in Lower Hutt. All Regional Directors and Deputy Directors including new Deputy Director Mark McFarlane will be in attendance.

I am pleased to report that all expected Umpire Association's Annual Reports have been received. Association Reports will be posted for information to this website. Local Association grading recommendations have been received by the Regional Directors and these will be considered in conjunction with the National Tournament reports. We have a very busy agenda.

In starting the new season our core values have been reviewed with CEO, Dale Eager. The following Mission Statement has been agreed and puts into words much of what we already do. Our Mission Statement will help focus as we deliver umpiring, as a team, to the next generation.

SNZ Umpiring – Mission Statement

- To maintain, and further develop, an umpiring programme focussed on quality delivery to all participants.
- To create an environment which enables successful recruitment, retention and recognition of all involved with umpiring at any level.
- To seek continuous improvement by both developing and adopting world best practice.
- To provide an effective communication and training structure through the Local, Regional and National umpiring staff and to develop the New Zealand umpiring website.

Wayne Saunders

Umpire-in-Chief