

Another very busy season is over and end of season Local Association, Tournament Chief Umpire and Region Director Reports have all been received and reviewed at the Annual National Staff meeting held earlier this month. I am pleased to list the names of and congratulate the following candidates who were successfully with their National Tournaments field examinations and additionally advise of grading adjustments approved at the National Staff meeting.

Level 5 to Level 6 (Evaluated) - Richard Gale (NH) and Liz Kawana (MN).

Level 4 to Level 5 (RDU recommended) -Mark Porteous (NH), Eugene Gilbert (WK) and Phil Packer (HV).

Badge Examination (Level 4) the following were successful in the practical NZ Badge examination. Chris Radford (AK), Barry Hedley (ML), Coral Hedley (ML), Daryl Vercoe (NN), Kevin Tippet (NN), Duncan Watts (OG), Peter Wilson (OG), Hutana Campbell (WK) and Willy Hunapo (WK).

Qualifying Examination (Level 3) the following were successful in the practical NZ Qualifying examination. Howie Namana (CB), John Wilson (CB), Matthew Ogier (CB), Steve Cooper (HB), Joe Tangitutu (HV), Graeme Love (MN), Brydon Wells (NH), Guy Kawe (NH), Tauhiki Taimai (NH), Martin Hunt (NH), Ray Lowther (NH), Shirley Harvey (NN), Duane Donovan (OG), Garry Tokoa (PB) and Tony Kaiaruna (WN).

Here are a few items of interest from the NUS meeting (a full set of minutes are posted to our website)

- Nicky Ogier and Glen Nalepa have been added to the Level 7 Group.
- Wiremu Tamaki was the winner of the 2009 Sport Wellington Official of the Year.
- Rikki Thompson has been appointed assistant website manager.
- The Annual Rules Examination and Refresher will be held on [Monday 12 October 2009](#). Please note this is one week earlier this year.
- National Tournament Applications Forms to be emailed to associations [early September 2009](#). Returns from associations to Wayne [by Friday 2 October 2009](#).
- Eight nominations were confirmed for SNZ Umpire Distinguish Service Awards. These names have been forwarded to SNZ for confirmation and announcement
- Dave Fortin (CB) and Gavin Shepherd (WN) had previously been appointed to travel with the Jnr White Sox and Jnr Boys Development teams to Australia.

2009 Grading List Summary the total number of graded umpires including Level 1 has increased 16% from 304 to 353. Made up as follows: **L7**- 13 down from 14, **L6** – 14 up from 12, **L5** – 21 unchanged, **L4** – 43 up from 32, **L3** – 16 up from 14, **L2** – 18 down from 30 and **L1** - 228 up from 181.

With your help the NUS has set the goal of having as many Level 1 umpires as possible sit the rules examine on 12 October so they may obtain the Level 2 grading and increase their knowledge of the rules. To help in achieving this goal would Association obtain and forward email addresses to the UIC by [31 July 2009](#).

Oceania Update

The next Oceania ISF Certification Seminar to be held in Australia has been rescheduled to 2011. Emails I have received show there is a keen interest to participate. Australia and New Zealand have selected their candidates and have started the process of ensuring that each are well prepared for this examination. PNG have indicated that they are likely to have candidates ready for examination also. The practical examination at this seminar is likely to be undertaken at a Senior Men's and Women's Fastpitch Tournament. To help candidates in their preparation both Softball Australia and Softball New Zealand will offer umpiring opportunities to Oceania umpires at their National Tournaments in January/February 2010.

Congress 2009 is fast approaching. Each ISF Region is required to submit a report covering International Umpiring activities over the last two years. If you have anything you wish included in this report please forward details to wsaunders@skm.co.nz by [7 August 2009](#).

Wayne Saunders
Umpire-in-Chief