

UIC News

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Over recent weeks SNZ has been in the process of a major restructuring of their website. You can now gain access to our umpire webpage under the **“The Game”** at <http://www.softball.org.nz/>. You will find the majority of the information is now in a convenient PDF format. After a quick whiz around you will unlock a number of new postings that will help you with your self development programme. There are other new postings that include historical information on the history of umpiring in New Zealand. Look in the future for the new **“Oceania”** page which is currently under construction.

Regular **“News Flashes”** on our home page will keep you up to date between **UIC News** issues. The most exciting **News** item was the announcement at the ISF Congress held in Manila that Wiremu Tamaki (one of our three nominees) along with Australians Debbie Grove and Di Waller were selected in the twelve umpires to attend the next Olympic Games. Hearty congratulations and well done Wiremu, Debbie and Di.

Successful Regional Clinics were held in Auckland, Lower Hutt, Dunedin and Nelson. A big thank you to all of you that facilitated at these clinics. I would also like to acknowledge the fine work of Rules Examiners Nick Ogier and Mark McFarlane and the Exam checkers Lindsay Edwards and Bill Smith. Thank you to Wiremu Tamaki for his work in updating the rules with picture for SNZ. Also thank you to those who provided input through Debbie Grove for the ISF Forum on Females in Umpiring.

Mark McFarlane, Glen Nalepa and Dennis Smith have been appointed to the Canberra Skins and Pacific Series in Australia. We will host Rich Silva from the USA the ISC exchange umpire and German ISF umpire Niema Mobascheri. Scott Rindfliesh from Australia along with Lindsay Edwards, Stu Hodges and Greg Taylor officiated at the U19 Men’s friendship games in Hastings. We will shortly announce our Trans Tasman exchange umpire whilst further International appointments are in progress.

The latest National Tournament Appointment, Examination and Travel/Accommodation Schedules, Issue C, will be posted to Associations and the website in the next few days. SNZ have nearly finalized travel and accommodation details. Details will be posted to Associations ASAP. Air travel ET’s will be emailed to each umpire as soon received. A very impressive 27 candidates will be under examination at this seasons National Tournaments and 27 have already gained a Rules Examination mark for Level 2 qualification.

At the ISF Congress in Manila, I attended a number of sessions including the Umpires Commission as secretary, Females in Umpiring, BackSoftball the ISF’s return to the Olympics campaign and the Oceania Confederation meeting. Minutes from the Umpires Commission will be available through your Association and will be distributed to the Level 7 Group by Lindsay. Further information on a new ISF recertification and upcoming ISF certification clinic programmes will be made available in due course. Whilst Margo’s presentation on Females in Umpiring showed Oceania leading the way in percentage participation, special efforts will be initiated to increase female participation as part of the BackSoftball campaign. We all need to consciously support this Special Project.

A word or two of appreciation to our former Oceania UIC Margo Koskelainen, Margo moves to ISF Special Projects. Last week it was announced that I had been appointed to the vacant Oceania UIC role.

Michael Smeath leaves to live and work in Australia in January. Please join me in conveying to Michael and his family our best wishes and hope that he has continuing success with his promising umpiring career.

Accounts for the SNZ Annual umpire registration fee for this season can be expected this month.

I hope you all have an enjoyable holiday season with your family and friends, and that your National Tournament Appointments are a pleasant experience.

Wayne Saunders
NZ Umpire-in-Chief