

**Minutes of the 2006-07 Annual Meeting of the National Umpiring Staff of SNZ held at the SNZ office, Hutt City, Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> June and Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> July 2007. Issued 30 July 2007**

**Present:** UIC -Wayne Saunders (Chair), NUS - Cass Seeling, Daph Turner & Mark McFarlane, RDU- Michael Smeath, Nicky Ogier, Lindsay Edwards.

**Apologies:** Nil

**Bereavements:** Former UIC Ray Weaver (WN) and ISF Umpire Graham McClelland (HV).

**Minutes of the 2006 Annual Meeting:**

Confirmed as a true and sufficient record. Mark / Bill.

1. **Matters Arising** **Action**
- 1.1 **Umpires Traveling Overseas** - All members of the SNZ umpiring programme are required to obtain clearance from SNZ if they intend to umpire softball overseas as an official SNZ umpire. All traveling umpires need to be aware of their personal insurance responsibilities when umpiring overseas. SNZ provide their standard insurance coverage for umpires traveling as part of a NZ touring squad. International tournaments often provide notification to umpires of their tournament requirements. SNZ has undertaken to check with other National and International Associations. **All to take note**
- 1.2 **Distinguish Service Awards** – Selection criteria will be similar to the SNZ Distinguish Service Award. Awards to be reviewed annually. Bill and Daph will form the selection panel. RDU's to request nominations from associations and forward to Bill and Daph by 31<sup>st</sup> July. **Daph Bill**  
**Moved Mark/Bill - Numbers be limited to 20 live recipients. - Passed**  
Successful nominations to be announced at SNZ AGM. Awards presented at the regional clinics.
- 1.3 **ISF Rule Books** - All ISF umpires should have a copy of the 2006-2009 ISF Rulebook. **Rulebooks required for Lindsay, Cass, Greg, Lance, Glen, Stu and Dennis.** **Daph**
- 1.4 **Oceania ISF Regional Umpire Clinic** – Held October 2006. RNZAF base facilities used for the meals and accommodation. Games at North Harbour. Examiners Merle Butler and Margo Koskelainen assisted by Wayne Saunders. Candidate preparation for this examination is essential. Next clinic scheduled for Australia in 2009. **A list of examination marks to be obtained from ISF.** **Bill**  
**NZ Umpire Annual Registration Fee** - Discussed at length.  
**Moved Mark / Lindsay - The annual fee to continue. Fee be unaltered at \$25.00 plus GST and payable by all active SNZ umpires Level 3 and above in that season. - Passed.**
2. **Meeting Attendance - Dale Eagar (CEO, SNZ)**
- 2.1 Budget required by SNZ. CEO/UIC to address and action funding options including PM scholarship options. **UIC/CEO**
- 2.2 Umpire registration fee - UIC to provide updated 2006-2007 grading list. SNZ to bill for the 2006-2007 season all active umpires Level 3 and above on this grading list except **UIC/**

umpires elevated to Level 3 during last season.

CEO

Local Umpire Associations will be asked to furnish a list of active umpires for next season with their Associations National Tournament Application form. SNZ will bill from this list of umpires in December for the 2007-2008 season. Any variations should be noted in the Association's end of season Annual Report. Variations and non-payment policy to be formulated by the NUS/SNZ.

2.3 **National tournaments** – Matters arising from feedback to the NDU are resolved as follows:

- RDU's to request through local associations, suitable accommodation for this years tournaments. These recommendations are to be forwarded to Daph who in turn will liaise with SNZ and approve this year's accommodation. Daph
- It was recommended that 10am be the start time for the first games on day one. Sufficient local plus traveling umpires to be available for the first time slot, all other umpires to arrive at the park by 11am. A traveling TCU is expected to attend the managers meeting the night before the tournament. Any traveling umpire may request with their tournament application to travel the day before the tournament. In both cases accommodation will be provided for the night before the tournament. SNZ
- SNZ will provide a travel reimbursement schedule. This will be distributed with the first issue of the Appointment Schedule. SNZ
- Travel arrangements should allow an umpire the opportunity to work a scheduled final unless agreed otherwise.

2.4 The Tentative International programme including the Trans Tasman and ISC umpire exchange programmes were discussed These umpiring opportunities will be posted to the International page on the umpires website and nominations requested as and when appropriate. Noted

### 3 Regional

#### 3.1 Lower South Island

- RDU written report tabled. Annual Reports received from Southland, Otago, Central Otago, North Otago posted to website.
- No new grading recommendations.

#### 3.2 Upper South Island

- RDU written report tabled. Annual Reports received from Canterbury, Marlborough posted to website.
- No new grading recommendations.
- RDU position is now vacant.
- Moved Mark/Nicky. Both Lower and Upper South Island Regions merge to form one new South Island Region. Existing LSI RDU Nicky Ogier will become the new RDU and will be assisted in the LSI by Rikki Thompson (CO) and Dawie Sutton (OG) - Approved

#### 3.3 Central

- RDU written report tabled. Annual Reports received from Turanga, Hawkes Bay Manawatu, Wanganui, Wellington, Hutt Valley posted to website.
- Grading recommendations. Bob Jones (WN) L4 to L5, Jo Gibbs (MN) L4 to L5. Approved.

- 3.4 Northern
- RDU verbal report presented. Annual Reports received from North Harbour, Auckland, Waikato, WBOP, Rotorua posted to website.
  - Grading recommendations. Andrew Laird (AK) L5 to L6 to be examined at a suitable National Tournament this season. Approved
- 3.5 Regional Clinics scheduled for Auckland, Lower Hutt and Dunedin (16/17 Sept) and Nelson (22/23 Sept) **RDU**
- 4 **National**
- 4.1 SNZ constitution “The Control of Umpires” requires review and updating. SNZ has appointed a UIC. Following discussion  
Moved Daph/Cass The current three DDU’s be re-designated as the National Umpiring Staff (NUS). Approved
- 4.2 **Committee responsibilities**
- Finance and Budget** – UIC/SNZ  
**Sponsorship** - TBA  
**Annual Rules Examination and Refresher** - Nicky and Mark  
**National Tournament Appointments, Accommodation and Travel** - Wayne  
**National League Appointments, Travel and Accommodation** – Wayne  
**External and Internal International Appointments** – Wayne/NUS  
**Training Aids and TCU Instruction/ Report form** – Daph/Wayne  
**RDU Liaison** - Cass Seeling  
**International and ISF** - Wayne (Bill)  
**Website Manager** - Wayne assisted by Wiremu Tamaki  
New - **Accommodation Recommendation to SNZ** - Daph  
New - **Level 7 Group** – Lindsay, Mark, Michael
- 4.3 **Rules Examination**
- Examination date Monday 15<sup>th</sup> October. The Examination paper to be emailed to associations by Friday 12<sup>th</sup> October.
  - Draft copy to checkers Lindsay, Bill and Michael plus NUS by mid August with comments return to Nicky by the 15<sup>th</sup> September
  - L2/3 examination results required for National Tournament appointments by 25<sup>th</sup> October.
  - RDU’s to obtain email addresses for Level 1 umpires and forward to Nicky and Wayne. Notice emailed to Level 1 umpires by 1<sup>st</sup> October inviting them to sit examination and advising that the examination will be emailed direct to them on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> October.
  - Answer sheet to be posted at the end of November. Local Chief Umpires may request a copy earlier
- 4.4 New - **Level 7 Group** – Lindsay will convene this group. This group’s objectives are to provide an independent mentoring and knowledge development environment for Level 7 umpires and umpires aspiring to ISF Certification. This group will encourage participation at the top tournaments and will request an annual activity return schedule **Lindsay**

from each Level 7 umpire. These returns will be forwarded to the UIC along with updated Career Resumes by early November each year.

#### 4.5 National Tournament Applications

- Requests for Applications to be emailed to associations early September. Returns from associations to Wayne by Friday 5<sup>th</sup> October.
- Appointment and travel schedule to be emailed to associations early November.
- Associations will be responsible for advising their members and advising Wayne immediately of any change requests.

**Local  
Associations**

#### 4.6 Confirmed National Tournaments and National Tournament Chief Umpires 2007/2008

TOURNAMENT	VENUE	START	FINISH	TCU
Women's Provincial Cup	Nelson	03.01.08 Thurs	06.01.08 Sun	Wayne Saunders
Under 19 Boys	Hawkes Bay	03.01.08 Thurs	06.01.08 Sun	Cass Seeling
Men's Provincial Cup	Auckland	09.01.08 Wed	12.01.08 Sat	Wayne Saunders
Under 19 Girls	Canterbury	09.01.08 Wed	12.01.08 Sat	Daph Turner
Under 15 Boys (NI)	Wanganui	15.01.08 Tues	18.01.08 Fri	Lindsay Edwards
Under 15 Girls (NI)	WBOP	15.01.08 Tues	18.01.08 Fri	Cass Seeling
Under 15 Boys (SI)	Marlborough	15.01.08 Tues	18.01.08 Fri	Nicky Ogier
Under 15 Girls (SI)	Marlborough	15.01.08 Tues	18.01.08 Fri	Nicky Ogier
Under 17 Boys	Waikato	21.01.08 Mon	24.01.08 Thurs	Michael Smeath
Under 17 Girls	Wellington	21.01.08 Mon	24.01.08 Thurs	Daph Turner
NZ Women's Open Club	North Harbour	17.03.08 Mon	20.03.08 Thurs	Bill Smith
Easter		21.03.08 Fri	24.03.08 Mon	
NZ Men's Open Club	Hutt Valley	25.03.08 Tues	29.03.08 Sat	Wayne Saunders
Secondary Schools	Canterbury	31.03.08 Mon	04.04.08 Fri	Mark McFarlane
SS Div 2 NI (TBC)	Counties Manukau	31.03.08 Mon	04.04.08 Fri	Ray Dyason
SS Div 2 SI (TBC)	Southland	31.03.08 Mon	04.04.08 Fri	Dave Beaumont

## 5 Policy Review

### 5.1 Umpire Examination System

- That a minimum Rules Examination pass mark for Level 2 of 60% be valid for three seasons (currently two seasons). Passed
- Moved Nicky/Michael. To be eligible to be field examined for Level 4 a Level 3 umpire must obtain a minimum Rules Examination pass mark of 70% in the season of the Level 4 examination. Passed. This policy to be introduced in the 2008-2009 season. A policy change notice to be added to the National Tournament application form.

**UIC**

### Umpire Grading System

- Moved Bill / Wayne - All holders of ISF certification and active in the umpiring programme be graded as Level 7 (see below). Umpires not available for ISF appointments will be graded Level 7 "R". Umpires who are not available for ISF appointment but fully active in the umpiring programme be will be graded Level 7 "A". Passed
- Moved Lindsay/Bill - Starting in the 2007/08 season, in addition to officiating at a U19 and above National Tournament each season, the minimum number of games per season to retain an active grading will be Level 5 – 20, Level 6 – 30 and Level 7

- 40. Passed

Umpires who fail to meet the minimum requirements will retain their grade that season followed by the letter “R”. Special circumstance will be taken into consideration by the NUS.

- Policy statement to be upgraded and reposted to website. The letter “A” to be used for other active umpires only principally involved in Administration.

5.2 **Grading List Review**

- All umpires listed as active in Association Annual Reports have been included. Umpires listed as active in the 2005-2006 season and not active last season move to “ia” inactive. Umpires listed as “ia” in the 2005-2006 season and not active last season have been removed.
- Approved grading recommendations above have been included
- Grading amendments due to policy changes have been included

6 **Meeting Attendance – Cliff Bowden (Development Manager, SNZ)**

- Metal Badges (Level 4) have been ordered. Outstanding badges will be distributed to RDU’s by UIC upon receipt. **UIC**
- Year bar sample to be provided by Daph. SNZ to order for the 2007/2008 season. **Daph**
- Last season bars have been given to and are available from RDU’s
- Proposed new U15 pitching rule was discussed. SNZ to keep umpiring advised.
- The availability of umpires for National Tournaments was discussed. Scheduling changes by SNZ should help.
- NZ Points of Emphasis and Rules specific to SNZ will be progressively published. It is planned to have these included in the next reprint of the rulebook.
- Bill inquired if SNZ would fund NZ developed video analysis software for training umpires.
- Any changes by SNZ to travel and accommodation schedules to be highlighted.
- Concern was expressed that the \$5 daily allowance received for National tournaments was inadequate. It was hoped that SNZ would review this and work towards a more realistic allowance.

**General**

- 6.1 Mark McFarlane, Black Sox to Canada – Report on pitching  
No issues with lead-up games. ISC pitching rule used allowing back foot off the back of the pitching strip. In the internationals the back foot was toed up. Stepping forward of pitching strip of pivot foot was not allowed. Management of the pitching rule was the approach used to gain compliance. The management of the pitching rule was much the same as our current NZ field application.
- 6.2 Bill Smith was thanked for his contribution to umpiring and more especially in his outgoing role as NDU. It is also recorded that Bill has made his experience available to the NUS by accepting an ex-officio role as a Consultant to the NUS.

Bill expressed his thanks for the assistance and support given to him during his tenure as the NDU

Meeting closed at 3pm Sunday