



## Softball New Zealand

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25 February 2015

Dear Members,

Softball New Zealand is working towards strengthening relationships with both the ISF & the WBSC, with a specific focus towards our fellow Federation members. Following recent ISF Commission meetings, a number of opportunities have been secured both on and off the diamond.

SNZ has been invited by Softball Australia to attend the U23 Women's State Championships being held at Redlands, Queensland, April 24-27.

I have taken this opportunity to enter a NZ selection team including a mix of current NZ based Junior White Sox members, supplemented by select and available White Sox players. I have discussed this exciting opportunity with current NZ Junior White Sox - Head Coach, Kevin Gettins, who has embraced the opportunity and I am working through process re this.

SNZ sees the opportunity to engage the international competition as crucial in the development of not only the White Sox brand but more-so as a pathway for developing a quality of international player that can continue to drive female success on the world stage.

In addition to the above imminent tour, SNZ are currently working with Softball Australia towards 2016 inclusion into the Toyota Japan Cup. This is a high quality tournament that will provide valuable experience in a World Championship year.

Other opportunities for the 2016 year include possible re-entry into the Gilleys Shield round, and the Southern Cross Challenge being hosted by the Canterbury Softball Association.

SNZ are also strengthening relationships with our friends at ASA/USA and are looking into the opportunity of sending a NZ Development Girls Team to the ASA 16U Championships, in College Station, Texas, 2016.

On the Men's side, SNZ are currently working with the European Softball Federation on an invitation for the NZ Junior Black Sox to attend the 2015 European Men's Super-Cup, August 24-29, in Prague, Czech Republic. I am currently working with JBS management and further communication is imminent.

In addition to this, our friends at ASA/USA are assisting with our planning for the NZ Junior Black Sox to attend the 2016 ISF Junior Men's World Championships, in Midland, Michigan.

Can I also at this time take the opportunity to congratulate the finalists in the recently completed NFC.

To Auckland & Hutt Valley in the Women's finals, and to Auckland & North Harbour in the men's finals. The quality of play was at the highest level and it is a pleasure to see the depth of talent being developed across both genders.





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Congratulations to Auckland on securing the elusive double, well done.

We now look ahead to a busy last month of the domestic season with the SI U15 Championships, the Men's & Women's Club Nationals, and the NZ Div 1 & Div 2 Secondary Schools Championships. I also wish management and players the very best with this weekend's NZ Black Sox Trial.

May I extend my sincere gratitude to all association members for the countless hours and many thankless tasks that each and everyone of you have endured across the season thus far.

The softball family is indebted to your commitment and passion for our game.

Kind Regards

**Tony Giles**

Chief Executive

Softball New Zealand

