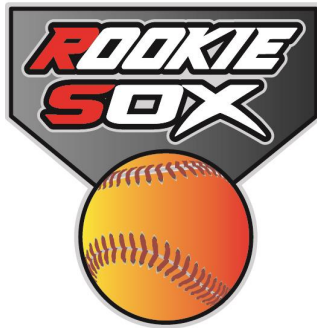


# NATIONAL ROOKIE & EMERGING SOX PITCHING & CATCHING PROGRAMMES



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## OVERVIEW

The National Rookie & Emerging Sox Pitching & Catching Programme has been developed in line with the SNZ Strategic Plan and the National Player & Coach Development Pathway. The purpose of the programme is to increase the quality and quantity of pitching and catching stocks across New Zealand. It aims to ensure young ball players receive the necessary opportunities to acquire the essential skills of being a pitcher or catcher.

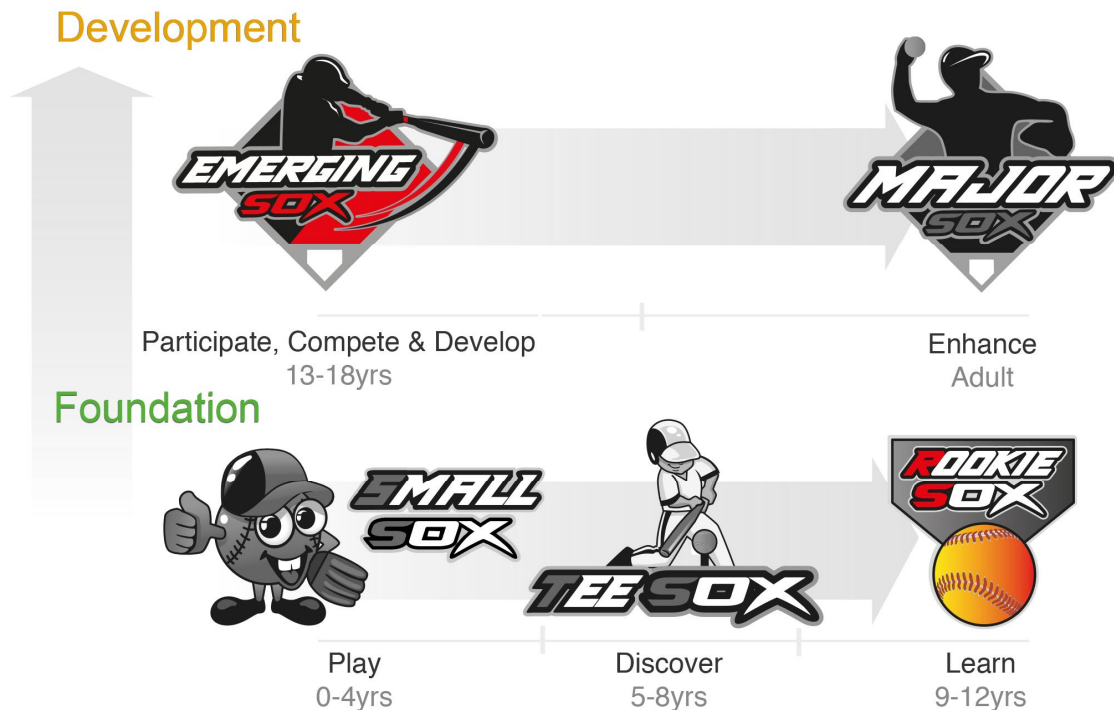
To ensure the programme is successful and runs effectively the program will be staggered over two years. The pitching programme commenced in the 2014-15 season with the catching programme rolled out this 2015/16 season.

The driving factors behind the programme are to develop a deeper pool of pitchers and catchers increasing the level of talent and competition in youth softball across New Zealand.

The programme has been designed to be sustainable, encouraging clubs and Associations to adopt in and in doing so grow more regional and national battery coaches for future years.

Please note the Rookie & Emerging Sox Battery Pathway replaces the existing SNZ Pitching & Catching Pathway as developed by the previous National Pitching Director. The rationale is to ensure simplicity and consistency by having a programme that mirrors the National Player & Coaching Development Pathway.

## Rookie & Emerging Sox Stages



### OBJECTIVES

1. Identify and develop key individuals throughout the regions to deliver quality pitching and catching programmes.
2. Increase the number of regional Battery Coaches across New Zealand.
3. Provide children and youth more opportunities to develop skills as a pitcher or catcher
4. Provide financial support for local instructors to implement and sustain regional Rookie & Emerging Sox programmes long term.
5. Provide a nationally branded programme bought into by clubs and Associations.
6. Provide Associations suitable marketing resources to promote the Rookie & Emerging Sox programmes.

### TARGET AUDIENCE

Boys and girls between ages of 9 and 18 wishing to develop their pitching and catching skills are welcome. No pitching or catching experience is required although Associations and instructors will form a decision on who will be invited to attend the programmes. SNZ encourages clinics to be gender specific, however mixed programmes are welcome if required in order to maximise resources.

## PITCHING & CATCHING PROGRAMMES

- Each programme is 6 weeks in duration including drills and fundamental mechanics
- In order to ensure pitchers & catchers receive the required attention and assistance on a more personal level the ratio of participant to instructor will be no more than 6:1
- Regional instructors will receive resources to deliver the programme
- Pitchers involved in the Emerging Sox programmes must supply their own catchers equipped with appropriate catching equipment and able to receive in a crouched position for the 6 week programme.

## APPROVED INSTRUCTORS

Associations will call for applications from local coaches willing and capable of delivering a pitching or catching programme to the desired target group. To ensure quality programmes are delivered and a success, it is critical quality coaches apply for the role. In an attempt to encourage this instructors will be financially compensated for their time and commitment. Associations will decide which applicants are successful and notify SNZ of their decision.

Pitching instructors must complete Stage 4 - Pitching Mechanics & Rules of the SNZ coach accreditation programme before applying. This module can be either done through a SNZ approved presenter or online at [www.softballnz.safeas.co.nz](http://www.softballnz.safeas.co.nz). To receive a login please email [glen@softball.org.nz](mailto:glen@softball.org.nz).

It is advantageous for catching instructors to complete the SNZ Catching module before becoming an approved presenter. The module can be undertaken through an approved SNZ Coaching presenter. An online module is currently being developed.

Please contact your association for upcoming coach accreditation modules.

### National Player & Coach Development Pathway

Stage 4	Pitching Mechanics & Rules	For Developing Coaches	2 hour practical on pitching mechanics and pitching rules
Stage 4	Catching	For Developing Coaches	2 hour practical on all catching skills

### Police Vetting

All instructors must be policed vetted before final approval. Associations can undertake this process if they wish or alternatively SNZ can on an Associations behalf. Further information on the police vetting service can be located at <http://www.police.govt.nz/advice/businesses-and-organisations/vetting/vetting-process>.



**National Player & Coach Development Pathway**

## **IDENTIFICATION OF REGIONAL INSTRUCTORS**

It is crucial instructors identified are both confident and capable of delivering programmes maximising both opportunity and the experience for developing pitchers and catchers.

**The qualities and characteristics we are looking for in our instructors are:**

1. People with technical and tactical softball knowledge or those who have a good understanding of fundamental movement skills for children and youth.
2. People with a passion and enthusiasm for the game.
3. People who are relaxed and confident in their presentation style, and have a sense of humour.
4. People who are organised and have clear oral communication skills.
5. People that have pride in their appearance.
6. People that are honest, encourage, patient and open to suggestion.
7. People that engage the audience, invite discussions and feedback and
8. People that are real, meaningful, interactive and interesting.
9. People that are empathetic for participants attempting to understand and learn the skills required.

## **PROPOSED PAYMENT FOR PITCHING & CATCHING INSTRUCTORS**

### **Rookie Sox (under 13)**

SNZ recommends participants pay \$50 for the 6 x session programme. 6 participants x \$50 = \$300, total amount will go towards the services of the regional instructor.

### **Emerging Sox (under 15)**

SNZ recommends participants pay \$60 for the 6 x session programme. 6 participants x \$60 = \$360, total amount will go towards the services of the regional instructors.

### **Emerging Sox (under 19)**

SNZ recommends participants pay \$75 for the 6 x session programme. 6 participants x \$75 = \$450, total amount will go towards the services of the regional instructors.

## **SNZ RESOURCE & MARKETING SUPPORT**

### **Approved Regional Instructors**

- Associations will receive promotional material to promote the 6 x week programmes i.e. a flyer (digital)
- Regional pitching and catching instructors will receive Rookie or Emerging Sox 6 x week programme resources
- Regional pitching and catching instructors will receive a quality polo including the Rookie and Emerging Sox branding

- Pitchers and Catchers in the programme will receive a Rookie or Emerging Sox programme including information, drills and homework to take away.

## QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

- Q.** Can an Association run more than one programme for the same group of pitchers or catchers?
- A.** Yes, so long as an Association can identify capable instructors more programmes for one age group are possible.
- Q.** Can a regional instructor present more than one program?
- A.** Yes, although our preference is that an instructor focuses on one group at a time.
- Q.** Can a club implement these programmes?
- A.** No, programmes are coordinated through the local Association. Associations will promote the programs through normal means.
- Q.** Who will collect the instructor's fee?
- A.** Instructors will be responsible for receiving registration forms and payments prior to the first session.

For further information on the Rookie and Emerging Sox program please contact Glen on 021537082 or [glen@softball.org.nz](mailto:glen@softball.org.nz).



**National Player &  
Coach Development  
Pathway**