** Softball New Zealand Scorers Association**

**September 2016**

**Welcome to the first Bulletin for the 2016/2017 Season**

**Congratulations** to the SNZ Scorer’s Deputies, Marie Byrne, Ian Ditfort and Lynette Leathart who have all been returned to the Deputies Positions for another two years.

**Overseas Travel to World Series:** Congratulations to Vicky Griffiths who travelled with the NZ White Sox team to Canada and to Joanne Hyde who scored for the NZ Junior Black Sox at their World Series. The Junior Black Sox excelled to win the Silver Medal, and the White Sox finished in the top eight. I’m sure Joanne and Vicky were very proud of their teams.

**Scorer of the Year:** Congatulations to Elaine Karsten for being awarded the Scorer of the 2015/2016 Season Trophy at the recent Softball New Zealand AGM – a well deserved award.

**Clarification on Grading and Status:** For our Grading Lists, we have listed Scorers into three categories that come under different headings, depending on the following:

Active Scorers: These scorers score locally for their Associations, regularly attend National tournaments, and sit their Refresher Exam every three years.

Associate Scorers: Score locally (either Official or Team) and sit their Refresher Theory Exam every three years, but do not score at tournaments. In order to maintain their grading Associate Scorers will also need to sit a practical "bar" exam every three years, arranged through their respective Deputy Chief Scorer.

Inactive: No longer scoring at all.

**Manuals:** We are pleased to report that the Scoring Manual is well underway and should be completed by the end of the year. We know this seems to have taken a long time, but there is a huge ammount of work to do with both the diagrams and examples, plus Rules and Printing. Please be patient and I know you will agree that the wait is worth it. The Stat trak Manual is also underway and will be completed once the Scoring Manual is completed.

**Erasable Pens:** We know a number of Scorers find these convenient, as twink is no longer required, BUT, we now have to advise that these may no longer be used at any SNZ tournaments. The reason for this is that after a time, the scoresheets that have had the erasable pen used on have faded badly, with some of the details no longer legible. Tournament scoresheets need to be kept as a record for a certain time, so they must be able to be clearly read.

**New Scoresheet:** From the tournament Scoresheets, we have noticed a few mistakes being made, particularly the OE’s and the FC’s Columns. To help clarify what should go in these columns, please refer to the following:

* OE Column – This should incude On Base Errors made on the Batter, but not on any advance errors. The OE column should also include KWP’s and KPB’S, plus any batter who gains first base when an error is made on a proceeding runner, e.g runner reaches second base because third base made an error throwing to second and they should have been out. Of course you score the batter reaching first base as an FC56, but their reach is recorded as an error in the OE Column. However, it should NOT include a batter reaching base because of a catchers obstruction (COE2). This is already recorded in the HP/CO column.
* FC Column – This column is only for Fielders Choices where a preceding runner has NOT been taken out, not those that have resulted on an out being made on a proceeding runner.
* Cross Checking Reach Base - The correct way to make sure your reach columns balance is to add the following columns; BB, HP, CO, H, OE, FC

**Ball and Strike Count:** When you are totalling your balls and strikes at the end of each innings, don’t forget to count the resulting pitch. Most of these will be as strikes – EXCEPT for a BB and HP. In the case of Intentional Walks (IBB) you will need to count 1 Ball for the IBB.

**New Uniform**: We did relax the rules about the current Black Scorer’s Uniform for new scorers at tournaments, advising that uniform options may include; dress black trousers, black or white tops, black, white or grey shoes/sandals, (sandals must have a filled in or a strap at the back) and a black jacket. We are keeping an eye on this, as because of the expense, we don’t expect you to purchase everything at once, but we do expect you to gradually purchase an article of clothing every so often, starting with the Official Black or Grey tops (most scorers have one of each colour) with the Scorer’s Logo printed on them. At this stage, we have 31 registered scorers who have applied for tournaments, who do not have any part of the new uniform. Could Association Chief Scorers please check on all of their scorers, making sure that they know the pathway for wearing the new uniform. We don’t want to eventually exclude scorers without uniforms from tournaments. The expectation that all Tournament Chief Scorers and all scorers officiating at the NFC tournament have the new uniform remains.

Raewyn Fergusson is our Uniform contact person and you can contact her for prices and orders. Contact her on raewyn.fergusson@westpac.co.nz

**Scorer’s Levies:** Accounts were sent out last season for levies to be paid by scorers, with several Associations having paid the accounts sent. However, there are still some who have not paid, so when this season’s accounts are sent out, these Associations will have an account rendered noted as well as the new amount. Please get these paid, as you do not want your Scorers to be unfinancial. We have had some questions about what these cover and we assure you these funds are required for several things that are done on your behalf, including the following:

* The postage, envelopes and printing for sending out the SNZSA Refresher and NZ Theory Exams. (Not a cheap exercise by any means.)
* Courier Bags, Memory Sticks etc sent out.
* The cost of sending laptops around the country to various tournaments
* Ink for printers
* Replacement of computer peripherals and accessories

These are just a few of the items that are expenses to be covered.

We do not include any Panel Meeting, as Softball NZ have our meeting budgeted for, and they pay expenses for this.

**Overseas Appointments:** There are opportunities for appointments to travel with NZ Teams. The NZ Black Sox, NZ White Sox, NZ Junior Black Sox and NZ Junior White Sox to World Series every two years (and possibily other tours in between times) Development Boys and Girls teams travel to Australia every year. These positions are self-funding. However we do try hard to source some form of part funding for scorers travelling with these teams. Have a think about this and if you think you might like to travel with teams, make an application when they're advertised – or even have a chat to your Deputy Chief Scorer about what is required for these positions. The White Sox and Junior Blacksox have just returned from their World Series, and will both travel to WS in 2018. 2017 will see the NZ Black Sox and the NZ Junior White Sox travel away to World Series, as well as the 'development' teams. Therefore keep your eyes open for when these positions are advertised. To travel with any of the four 'senior' team (Black Sox, White Sox, Jnr Black Sox, Jnr White Sox) you must be a qualified 6 or 7 scorer and experieced at tournament statistics. For the "Development" teams to Australia, you must be a qualified NZ Scorer, graded 4 or 5 and have knowledge of statistics. A Job Description will accompany application forms when the positions are called for.

**Tournament Applications:** Thank you all very much for your tournament applications. We have excelled this season and all tournaments are full. The first Draft appointments have been made and were sent out today. Please note that they are draft appointments until tournament entry numbers are known and we may need to make tweaks. If the worst should happen and you are unable to attend a tournament that you have been appointed to – please let Tournament Co-ordinator, Elaine Karsten know AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

**We will keep you up to date as the season progresses, and if there is anything you think we should know, or you want to know, please do not hesitate to contact your Deputy Chief Scorer.**

***Regards from Your SNZSA Panel: Chief******Lil Natana, Deputy Chief Scorers Marie Byrne for the South, Ian Ditfort for Central, Lynette Leathart for the North, and Statistician Elaine Karsten. We will see you around the diamonds.***