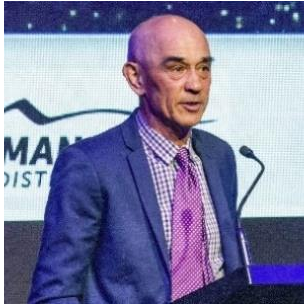


DEANS AND SMALL APPOINTED TO KEY BLACK SOX MANAGEMENT POSITIONS



Softball New Zealand is delighted to announce the appointment of Steven Deans as the New Zealand Black Sox – Assistant Coach.

Deans, the current New Zealand U23 Mens Softball Coach, has been a business owner/operator in the Manawatu for over a decade.

A prolific philanthropist, and supporter of grassroots sport in the region, Deans has been involved in softball since 1982. With over two decades of coaching at senior club, provincial and at a national programme level for the past 6 years, Deans provides a wealth of experience to Black Sox Head Coach, Thomas Makea.

“I am excited to be appointed Black Sox Assistant Coach for the upcoming qualifiers next year with the ultimate goal of attending and performing with distinction at the World Cup in 2025”, say Deans.

“I have spent my whole life growing up as a player and now a coach admiring what the Black Sox team has achieved and what they mean to our wider community. I am looking forward to working alongside Thomas and the playing group to put ourselves in the best possible position for success”.



Softball New Zealand is delighted to announce the appointment of Wayne Small as the Manager of the New Zealand Black Sox.

Softball New Zealand CEO says “Having previously held positions of Manager for the New Zealand Black Sox (2006-2010) and Junior Black Sox (2014-2020), Wayne is one of the most respected and experienced national team candidates on record, providing a wealth of international campaign experience for coach Makea”.

Small, a logistics/movement planner for Headquarters Joint Forces New Zealand, with over 35 years’ experience as a logistician in the New Zealand Army.

“I am humbled to be appointed to the Manager position of the New Zealand Black Sox. I look forward to once again being involved in our sport at the highest level, working with passionate and dedicated athletes and staff. I believe that New Zealand has some of the best softball players on the planet and I am grateful to be given the opportunity to work with these gifted individuals as we look to return the Black Sox to their rightful position among the world's best”.