Electronic Scoring Policy including Guidelines and Accreditation Process

1. Rationale:

1.1. To describe electronic softball scoring in New Zealand and outline an assessment criteria and process for the accreditation of scorers undertaking electronic scoring of softball games under the auspices of the New Zealand Softball Scorers Association.

2. Scope:

2.1. Primarily the function of electronic scoring is to provide live play by play action through the Softball New Zealand (or other) website.

2.2. National teams may also require appointed scorers to undertake electronic scoring in addition to the paper scoring role. The outcomes of this role may differ.

2.3. It is important to note that the Softball New Zealand 'paper' scoring system is the official method of recording softball games in New Zealand and the Statrak database is the official recognised software system to keep the statistical records of softball games in New Zealand.

3. Officially Recognised Programme and Device:

3.1. The officially recognised programme for the provision of electronic scoring will be i-Score. It is noted that this is an application that has primarily been developed for Baseball and utilised in the North American setting.

3.2. To maintain consistency and alignment to the Softball New Zealand scoring system, the Softball New Zealand Scorers Association has developed New Zealand guidelines for scoring using i-Score. Those guidelines must be followed when undertaking Softball New Zealand scoring appointments.

3.3. The guidelines must also be followed for any Softball New Zealand accredited scorer.

3.4. A process for accreditation has been developed to ensure that scorers are using the i-Score application correctly.

3.5. The recommended device for electronic scoring is an iPad with either a standalone wifi connection (eg 3D or 4D) or the ability to hotspot off another device. The use of android tablets should only be made with the prior approval of a member of the Softball New Zealand Interpretation panel. This requirement is made because android devices have a different interface and in some situations do not handle information in the same way as iPad devices.

4. Fixtures:

4.1. Electronic scoring is undertaken by scorers alongside official scorers undertaking paper scoring at selected Softball New Zealand fixtures. This may be a tournament where multiple games are covered by Electronic Scorers or a one-off fixture (such as the final of a tournament). Where the fixture is a one-off game, an appropriate email contact will be supplied by the fixture organiser and/or chief scorer for the pre-game link to be sent to.

5.   Electronic Scoring Roles

- IT Chief Scorer
- Electronic Scorer

5.1. IT Chief Scorer

At a tournament where there are multiple games being covered using electronic scoring, an IT Chief Scorer should be appointed. This role will oversee the electronic scoring function at a tournament and ensure that live and post-game links to games are publicly available.

5.1.1. Duties:

- Operate a master device which all games in a tournament will be entered.
- Create the appropriate league, teams and games.
- Ensure that all electronic scorers have set up their devices appropriately and a register of the device IDs is kept. This includes loading any software updates. (Exception: where an update is published during a tournament, this should NOT be loaded until it is able to be tested)
- Liaise with Softball New Zealand for access to the Softball New Zealand website (or other similar website) on which to load game and file links.
- Liaise with the Tournament Chief Scorer to appoint Electronic Scorers to fixtures.
- Ensure that there is an accessible designated email address to which Electronic Scorers will send game links.
- Oversee that Electronic Scorers obtain appointed games from the master device, email the game links and export to the server at the end of the game.
- Load on to the Softball New Zealand (or other) website for each game:
- Links to the live play by play action by the start of each game
- Links to the play by play summaries after each game
- Link to the box score after each game
- Final result after each game
- Undertake checks during games to ensure that the live updates are active
- Troubleshoot issues that occur
- Undertake checks during the tournament that the electronic scoring is accurate, consistent and timely.
- Liaise with the tournament Chief Scorer regarding any personnel issues.

5.1.2. Specification:

The IT Chief Scorer

- Will be an accredited Electronic Scorer
- Should have assisted an experienced IT Chief Scorer in a previous tournament to learn the role.
- Will have knowledge and ability in website editing
- Will preferably be at least a Grade 6 Scorer

5.2. Electronic Scorer

Electronic Scorers will be appointed to appropriate fixtures as identified by Softball New Zealand through the Scorers Interpretation Panel. This role will undertake electronic scoring of games in alignment with the official records to provide timely live updates and post-game summaries.

5.2.1. Duties

- Follow the pre-tournament directives of the IT Chief Scorer in regards to setting up the device. This will include ensuring that relevant updates to the software have been made. (Exception: where an update is published during a tournament, this should NOT be loaded until it is able to be tested and advised by the IT Chief Scorer).
- Prior to each appointed game, obtain the game from the IT Chief Scorer's master device using data sharing.
- Send a link of the game to the designated email address prior to each game.
- Set up each game with the batting order and appropriate batting/fielding order (top/bottom).
- Ensure that the game and device is set up with synchronisation enabled and the appropriate gender.
- At the start of the game check to see that the game is being broadcast, and make regular checks during the game.
- After the first pitch, enter the officials' details using the notes function.
- Electronically score each game alongside an official scorer, entering information into the device as scored by the official scorer. The decisions of the official scorer must be respected and
- Enter information in a timely manner, with the objective of providing live play by plays.
- Contact the IT Chief Scorer (or other designated person) immediately should any issues arise.
- Be mindful that the scorer undertaking paper scoring is the official scorer and communication with umpires and other personnel must be through that role.
- Maintain the Softball New Zealand Scoring requirements in regards to disclosing information pertinent to appeal plays.
- Maintain the Softball New Zealand Scoring requirements in regards to uniform and conduct.

5.2.2. Specifications:

- The Electronic Scorer:
- Will be an accredited electronic scorer or in the process of becoming an accredited electronic scorer at the event concerned.
- Will be regularly undertaking electronic scoring.
- Will demonstrate the ability to work as part of a team, particularly alongside official scorers on games.
- Will have the i-Score password set to the universal SNZ Scorers password.

6. Accreditation Process for Electronic Scorers

6.1. The accreditation process is to ensure that Electronic Scorers are able to provide accurate and timely electronic records of games aligned as much as possible to the Softball New Zealand system of scoring.

6.2. Assessment Pre-requisite

6.2.1. Be a SNZ Scorers Badge holder

6.2.2. Have undertaken electronic scoring of a minimum of 6 (six) games which is evidenced by submitting the ID of the device(s) on which the scoring has been undertaken. (NB data on devices will need to be exported to the server in order for the games to be viewed). These should be live games and not scored from a paper scoresheet.

6.2.3. Demonstrate regular paper scoring is being undertaken as well.

It is preferable that the accreditation assessment process take place in a tournament setting.

6.3. The electronic scorer will be appointed to games, of which a minimum of four games will be used for assessment.

6.4. Assessment will be undertaken by a Softball New Zealand Interpretation Panel member (or their appointee) and will include a combination of the following

- Physical observation during a game
- Comparing the play by play summary with the official scoresheet
- Watching the live scoring of the linked games

6.5. If the assessment of four games is not practicable, assessment of one nominated and acceptable prior game that is accompanied by the scoresheet of a Badge Holder Scorer may be made. The Badge Holder Scorer will be a different scorer from the Electronic Scorer. Games electronically scored from a scoresheet are not considered to be acceptable.

6.6. During the assessment process, the Electronic Scorer will need to demonstrate;

- Setting up a game including downloading games, sending links, setting gender and enabling synchronisation.
- Accurate scoring that reflects the official scorer's scoresheet and judgement
- Timeliness of entering information
- Correcting recording substitutions
- Noting special plays using the notes function
- Undertaking any troubleshooting during or post games
- Post-game exporting

6.7. A scorer seeking accreditation outside of a tournament may make application to do so to their respective Deputy Chief Scorer.

6.7.1. The scorer should meet all of the pre-requisite requirements and will be assessed in a similar way over four games.

6.7.2. As with assessment in a tournament setting, one nominated and acceptable prior game that is accompanied by the scoresheet of a Badge Holder Scorer may be made.

6.7.3. The Badge Holder Scorer will be a different scorer from the Electronic Scorer. Games electronically scored from a scoresheet are not considered to be acceptable.

6.7.4. The Assessor will be a Deputy Chief Scorer or their nominee and the same criteria will be used.

6.8. Re-accreditation

6.8.1. Electronic Scorers should keep current by submitting the link for one game per year (if not appointed to a fixture) and be formally assessed at one game every three years.

7.   Appendices

Softball New Zealand Scorers Association

Electronic Scorer Application for Accreditation

Please complete the following details.

Name	Click here to enter text.	Email	Click here to enter text.
Mobile Phone	Click here to enter text.	Home Phone	Click here to enter text.
Association	Click here to enter text.	Grade	Choose an item.

Length of time that you've been electronic scoring	Click here to enter text.	Device I-Score ID	Click here to enter text.
(NB this is live games, not games scored from a paper scoresheet)		*(Please ensure that you have exported all of your games to the server and set your password appropriately.)*	

Please provide details of the last 6 games (scored live)

	Date	Team 1	vs	Team 2
1	Click here to enter a date.	Click here to enter text.		Click here to enter text.
2	Click here to enter a date.	Click here to enter text.		Click here to enter text.
3	Click here to enter a date.	Click here to enter text.		Click here to enter text.
4	Click here to enter a date.	Click here to enter text.		Click here to enter text.
5	Click here to enter a date.	Click here to enter text.		Click here to enter text.
6	Click here to enter a date.	Click here to enter text.		Click here to enter text.

Please provide the number of games you have scored and give an indication of what timeframe this is in.

Paper Games		Electronic Games	
Click here to enter text. Choose an item.		Click here to enter text. Choose an item.	
Enter # *Enter timeframe*		*Enter #* *Enter timeframe*	
Preferred Fixture(s) for assessment		Click here to enter text.	
Date		Click here to enter a date.	

A Deputy Chief Scorer will be in contact with you regarding this application and confirmation of the assessment date(s).

Office Use:

Experience Verification Choose an item.   Game Verification Choose an item.

Fixture(s)	Date (s)
Approved Assessor:	Choose an item.