



Position:	New Zealand White Sox – Battery Coach
Position Type	Fixed Term Permanent
Department:	High Performance
Reports To:	GM – High Performance
Location:	Flexible

About Softball New Zealand/Poiuka Aotearoa

Softball in Aotearoa is a whānau sport. Across the generations the sport brings families and communities together for play and enjoyment. A truly gender equal game, softball is alive with growth and opportunity with over 20,000 participants nationwide. It is also a game popular with Maori and Pacific families who make up more than 60% of the game’s participants.

Softball New Zealand is the national sporting organisation charged with the responsibility of leading softball in New Zealand. We ensure our Men’s Black Sox and Women’s White Sox teams are competitive on the world stage; we develop and deliver quality national sports programmes at community and high-performance level; and we run world class events and tournaments.

To do this we have a great team of people who live and breathe our Softball New Zealand values. We put people at the centre of our purpose, we are open, we have fun, we strive for excellence, and we share in each other’s knowledge and success.

Our Vision: Whakakitenga – we want softball to be a sport for life. One that evolves as it needs to, is enjoyed by all those who connect with the game in any capacity and is characterised by success.

Our Collective Purpose: He Kaupapa – We are all tasked with working together to enable kiwis to participate in whatever way they choose and to have a great time in doing so to ensure that they stay involved and get the best experiences from the game.

Our Approach: Nga Huarahi Mahi

- Focus on the needs of the people wanting to be involved in our game
- Open to change and doing things differently
- Inclusive
- Play to our strengths
- Work together

About the role

The purpose of the Battery Coach role is to:

- Support optimal performance of the White Sox women's team and supporting the national squad.
- Support the Head Coach of the national women's programme and the development of a high-performance culture.

OUTCOMES:

- Provide a culture for sustainable success where player and staff wellbeing are paramount, and an environment where players, coaches and support staff can be at their best to perform to the levels expected of an international programme.
- Team and individual players are well planned and prepared with clear understanding of team strategies, individual focus areas and performance targets.
- Support a high-quality and effective battery daily training environment.
- Support a robust and well-planned battery national selection process.
- Strategic alignment with GM High Performance, Head Coach, CEO, and with the broader national women's pathway programme, including the Junior White Sox.

Key Responsibilities

National Women's High Performance programme

Support a high-performance culture within the White Sox team. This includes an environment of honesty, trust, transparency, open communication, and a high level of care.
Support the development and implementation of the White Sox battery programme.
In collaboration with the GM High Performance and Head Coach, align the White Sox and National Squad programme to the underpinning battery talent programme and overall Softball New Zealand high performance strategy.
Take an active role in succession planning for national battery players and coaches.
Contribute to the Softball New Zealand high performance strategy.

Hands-on Coaching

Support the coaching and preparation of the White Sox battery group and wider National Squad athletes.
Coach and support the coaching of other nationally identified athletes in both a team environment and individual sessions.
Support the training of athletes to ensure that they are appropriately prepared for selection and elite performance.

Daily Training Environment

In collaboration with the Head Coach, manage an effective daily training environment for White Sox battery group that motivates and enhances performance.
Provide high level battery coaching expertise, technical and tactical direction to the Head Coach and the National Squad athletes.
With the support of the GM High Performance and Head Coach, support the effective planning and integrated delivery of high-quality battery performance services that support the White Sox team and National Squad athletes.

Key Responsibilities	
Planning and Monitoring	In conjunction with the GM High Performance and Head Coach, support the implementation of an annual campaign plan based on the current World Cup cycle and other pinnacle and qualification events. Support Individual Performance Plans (IPP) for each identified athlete, and through key staff, ensure the IPP is monitored and updated. Support and evaluate athlete performance and lead the collection of relevant data to ensure standards are met and potential is maximised. Provide regular reports via the Head Coach to the GM High Performance following key phases or identified tournaments.
Culture & Leadership	This has emerged as one of the key priorities of the programme. Develop future leaders, an environment that encourages and supports elite performance.
Selection	Support the selection of the White Sox and National Squad in compliance with the national selection policy and framework. Actively and regularly communicate with selectors to aid selection of White Sox Teams and squads. Contribute to the management and development of the Softball New Zealand selection policy and framework. Communicate directly and in a timely manner to players regarding selection process and criteria.
Self-Management	Actively drive your own personal development. Monitor your own performance, striving to optimise personal health, well-being and life balance.
Other	Conduct other reasonable duties as directed by the GM High Performance or Head Coach.

Qualifications, Experience and Skills
<p><i>Qualifications and Experience</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● High performance coaching accreditation or equivalent is required. ● Demonstrated successful battery experience coaching elite athletes at the national or international level. ● Experience and proven capability in the holistic development of athletes and programmes. ● Demonstrated experience in planning, organising and implementing a comprehensive high performance battery coaching programme for elite teams and athletes. <p><i>Knowledge and Skills</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Is widely respected and trusted and role models the Softball NZ values and behaviours. ● Capable of supporting a performance culture and fostering player and staff wellbeing in a team environment. ● Outstanding softball knowledge of individual and team principles including techniques, tactics, coaching trends, and international developments. ● In-depth understanding and application of the principles of pitching and catching, coaching, sport science, medicine and technology within a high performance programme. ● Ability to work as part of a team to achieve outcomes. ● Can give and receive constructive feedback to enhance performance. ● Proven capability to work in high-pressure environments.

- Exceptional people skills, with an emphasis on the development and performance of players.
- Effective communication skills.
- Attention to detail.
- Able to work irregular hours as may be required by the programme.

Competencies	
Relationship Building	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Builds and maintains trusted relationships with athletes, staff and stakeholders. ● Maintains an open and approachable manner and treats others fairly and respectfully. ● Values and supports team members, and proactively manages conflict.
Communication	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● A clear, consistent and comprehensive communicator. ● Gives and receives information and feedback in a constructive and fair manner. ● Encourages and maintains two-way dialogue on issues.
Planning and Organising	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Highly organised. ● Plans and prepares in advance and keeps track of activities. ● Keeps self and team focused on key priorities by setting milestones.
Team Culture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Brings a high level of energy, motivation and enthusiasm to the team. ● Ensures joint ownership of goal setting, commitments. ● Accomplishments, Involves everyone in the team.
Drive for results	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Strong on implementation – passionate, driven and focused on getting to the desired outcome. ● Makes timely, informed decisions that take into account the facts, goals, constraints, and risks.

Relationships:	
Main internal stakeholders	SNZ CEO GM High Performance White Sox Head Coach SNZ Office Staff National team players and support team National pathway coaches, management, and players
Main external stakeholders	Sport NZ Regional associations, Softball community, World Baseball Softball Confederation (WBSC).

Dated: March 2024