



## International Softball Federation Regional Coordinators Meeting, Plant City, USA – 8-10 January 2011.

**Minutes of the Regional Coordinators Meeting - Issue A, 17 February 2011.**

**Present:**

Chair: Kevin Quinn (ISF), Director of Umpires: Robert Stanton (ISF), Regional Coordinators: Marlies Struyve (Europe), Tommy Wang (Asia), Wayne Saunders (Oceania), Santos Vasquez (Latin America), Teboho Vincent Maoeng (Africa), Special Projects: Margo Koskelainen.

**In Part:** ISF President: Don Porter, Secretary General: Low Beng Choo, Director General: Toma Malikoff.

**Apologies:**

Julie Johnson (North America), Julio Hellburg (Latin America).

**Acronyms:**

DOU (ISF Director of Umpires), RUC (Regional Umpire Coordinator), NF (National Federation).

<b>1</b>	<b>Introductions</b>	<b><u>Action</u></b>
1.1	Chair Mr Quinn introduced and welcomed Mr. Porter the President of ISF to address the meeting. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Mr. Porter outlined recent International events and stressed the importance of umpiring with respect to the image of our sport on the international stage. He thought that softball was fortune to have a robust umpiring programme that serves the sport well.</li> </ul>	<i>Noted</i>
1.2	DOU Bob Stanton thanked Mr Porter and remarked briefly outlining the tasks and challenges ahead over the next three days.	<i>Noted</i>
<b>2</b>	<b>DOU/RUC Reports</b>	
2.1	The DOU and RUC's spoke to their reports. Written copies attached. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Director of Umpires               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- UmpSchool registration was discussed</li> <li>- We need to consider umpires coming in 2 days before World Championships.</li> <li>- Julie Johnson (North America) has stood down from her role. ISF is currently considering a replacement.</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Europe.</li> <li>▪ Oceania.</li> <li>▪ Asia</li> <li>▪ Latin America. It is recorded that due to his current health, Julio Hellburg has not been able to attend this meeting.</li> <li>▪ Africa</li> </ul>	<i>Attached</i>
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Recertification – Discussion</b>	
3.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Aim:</b> Ensure all umpire nominations for ISF Appointed Events demonstrate they are up to date with current the criteria.</li> <li>▪ <b>Rules:</b> Educate and measure knowledge. Measure current rule knowledge of appointees for appointment to an ISF Event.               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Certified at an ISF Certification Seminar within the current 4 yearly rule change period.</li> <li>- If certified before the current 4 yearly rule change period. Obtain a valid pass mark for recertification. 30 questions, 90% pass mark. Particular reference to new rule changes.</li> <li>- Full implementation by calendar year 2013.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<i>Noted</i>  <i>Recommended</i>

	<p><u>Action Item</u>: <i>recertification examination</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Mechanics</b>: Confirmation by IUS/NF of current level of compliance. Acknowledged on World Championship application form by NF or IUS Evaluation.</li> <li>▪ <b>Evaluations</b>: Applicants to have a current evaluation ISF/or alternately a NF evaluation no older than 5 year.</li> <li>▪ <b>Applications</b>: Updated career record to accompany application. <u>Action Item</u>: <i>Outline career record template.</i></li> <li>▪ Pilot programme to be considered for Europe.</li> <li>▪ Updated records and current evaluations to be maintained on central ISF records.</li> </ul>	<p><u>DOU</u></p> <p><u>Wayne</u></p>
<b>4.0</b>	<b>ISF Strategic Plan Briefing</b>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Briefing for Secretary General Low Beng Choo</li> <li>▪ Instructors Course to ensure candidates are instructed on what is expected for ISF certification.</li> <li>▪ Regional clinics are targeted at various levels to meet regional needs.</li> <li>▪ Maintain and communicate ISF appointment register.</li> <li>▪ Standardization by ISF of all course material.</li> </ul>	<i>Noted</i>
<b>5.0</b>	<b>World Championships/Selection of Umpires</b>	
5.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Refer to recertification recommendations</li> <li>▪ Current criteria in code</li> <li>▪ No gender restriction for men's or women's competitions</li> <li>▪ No more than three games per day. Plan on two per day.</li> <li>▪ Second uniform – dark shirt and grey pants for night games using our light blue shirts and dark pants for day games.</li> <li>▪ <u>Action Item</u> - <i>Nomination form by NF to Umpire at an ISF World Event to be updated.</i></li> </ul>	<p><i>Noted</i></p> <p><i>Noted</i></p> <p><i>Noted</i></p> <p><i>Recommended</i></p> <p><i>Discussed</i></p> <p><u>Margo</u></p>
<b>6.0</b>	<b>Review of Certification Seminars</b>	
6.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Certification Seminars. Recommendations.</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Application fee to increase to US\$100 to offset associated costs.</li> <li>- Candidates - 12 Min, 20 Max</li> <li>- ISF to pay for travel of instructors (Min 2) and host to provide accommodation and meals. <u>Action Item</u> – <i>Draft costing template.</i></li> <li>- Hosts to provide facilities, ground transportation</li> <li>- Hosts set rules for tournament.</li> <li>- Instructors are not expected to UIC's tournaments</li> <li>- 2 days classroom, 3 games minimum for evaluation. Should evaluations be rained-out, DOU will advise alternative. <u>Action Item</u> – <i>Candidate feedback form to be reintroduced</i></li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ <b>Certification Seminars Prequalification</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- ISF Rules examination prequalification before acceptance of seminar application. 100 questions 90% pass mark required (via UmpSchool preferred option. Hard copy alternate option)</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ <b>Evaluation Form</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consider review of case plays/pitching machine making and format.</li> <li>Bench mark / good-default/guideline for marking to be developed. <u>Action Item</u> – <i>Revise seminar agenda, tests and evaluation form.</i></li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ <b>Application form</b></li> </ul>	<p><i>Recommended</i></p> <p><i>Noted</i></p> <p><u>Margo</u></p> <p><u>DOU</u></p> <p><u>DOU/ UmpSchool</u></p> <p><u>Marlies</u></p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- NF to endorse applications.</li> <li>- Prequalification rules examination mark to be shown.</li> </ul> <p><u>Action Item</u> – <i>Revise application form</i></p>	<u>Margo</u>
<b>7.0</b>	<b>Strategic Planning</b>	
7.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ To provide umpires to the highest standards to service ISF Events</li> <li>- <u>Please note that the International Umpire Staff will work on Strategic plan over the next 8 months for presentation at the 2011 Congress</u></li> </ul>	<u>For Congress</u>
7.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Communications. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Protocol established and published</li> <li>- International Umpire Staff to respond to receipt of emails.</li> <li>- International Umpire Staff to state timelines for response.</li> <li>- Conclusions required and communicated by originator.</li> <li>- The use of social networking to be explored with ISF</li> <li>- ISF published documents to be ISF owned.</li> <li>- Use of SKYPE for regular communications. SKYPE addresses required.</li> <li>- Wider use of social networking.</li> <li>- All International Umpire Staff to be on UmpSchool. Accounts to be provided.</li> <li>- UmpSchool questions have been reviewed. Corrections are to follow. Review: Nicola Ogier/Mark McFarlane/Dennis Smith (Softball New Zealand).</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p><i>Noted</i></p> <p><i>All</i></p> <p><i>All</i></p> <p><i>All</i></p> <p><i>All</i></p> <p><i>All</i></p> <p><i>All</i></p> <p><i>DOU/ISF</i></p> <p><i>DOU</i></p> <p><i>DOU/</i></p> <p><i>UmpSchool</i></p>
<b>8.0</b>	<b>Budget – Planning.</b>	
8.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ DOU has compiled 2011 budget from RUC replies. Budget now with ISF for approval.</li> <li>■ Annual budget reply to ISF by 1 December. RUC reply to DOU by 1 October. DOU to request replies 1 July.</li> </ul>	<p><i>Noted</i></p> <p><i>RUC's</i></p>
<b>9.0</b>	<b>Administrative Documents.</b>	
9.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Inclusive items <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Approved rule change list - reason for change.</li> <li>- Legal responsibility of ISF appointed umpires and the IUS</li> <li>- Financial – budget, umpires attending World Championships.</li> <li>- RUC positional description and organisational chart</li> <li>- WC umpire list update.</li> <li>- ISF Code, Technical Code, Performers, Operational Policy.</li> </ul> </li> <li>■ Equipment Inspection <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- We seek legal advice on legal responsibility for equipment checks.</li> </ul> </li> <li>■ Standing Committees (SC) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Rules Interruption – DOU and DDOU plus appointees</li> <li>- Mechanics</li> <li>- Examinations</li> </ul> </li> <li>■ Ad Hoc committees to be wound-up. Members to be notified.</li> </ul>	<p><i>Rules (SC)</i></p> <p><i>DOU/ISF</i></p> <p><i>DOU</i></p> <p><i>Margo</i></p> <p><i>Margo/Wayne</i></p> <p><i>DOU/Margo</i></p> <p><i>DOC/ISF</i></p> <p><i>To be advised</i></p> <p><i>To be advised</i></p> <p><i>To be advised</i></p> <p><i>Co-chairs</i></p>
<b>10.0</b>	<b>Females in Umpiring</b>	
10.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ FIU working group has been operational for around three years</li> <li>- Original membership has declined. This group is now effectively inoperative. The Co-chairs recommend that this working group be wound-up. Social networking is seen as a more effective.</li> </ul>	<i>Recommended</i>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Current level of female participation at ISF level is around 10%</li> <li>- RUC's confirms their support for promoting and developing females in umpiring.</li> <li>- Social network participation is promoted.</li> <li>- <b><u>Recommendation:</u></b> <i>ISF produce a promotional handout promoting umpiring among females at the next Junior and Senior Women's World Championships.</i></li> </ul>	<a href="#"><u>DOU/ISF</u></a>
<b>11.0</b>	<b>Pitching Rule interpretation</b>	
11.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ The introduction of the new pitching regulations has been well understood.</li> <li>- ISF Points of Emphasis issued January 2010</li> <li>- ISF Pitching Presentation issued August 2010. ISF acknowledges the contributions of Softball Australia, Softball New Zealand and Softball Canada.</li> <li>- DOU has received feedback on the introduction of the new regulations.</li> <li>- ISF Points of Emphasis "Start of the Pitch" to be reviewed against intent of the 2010-2013 rule changes.</li> <li>- Emphasis to be placed on a fluent continuous motion and if leaping the hands are separated prior to the landing of either foot.</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Action Item</u></b> – <i>Review of the ISF Points of Emphasis and Pitching Presentation.</i></p>	<a href="#"><u>Wayne</u></a>
<b>12.0</b>	<b>Mechanic change proposals</b>	
12.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ ISF Field Mechanics 3 &amp; 4 Umpire System Revision 1.3 - tabled for review.</li> <li>■ Rotation of U3 (3<sup>rd</sup> base umpire). Pages 4, 6, 9, 12, 15, 18, 21, 24 and 27.</li> <li>- <b>Preferred ISF Mechanic.</b> U3 - Move down foul territory, bounce into the infield for any play at 3<sup>rd</sup> base. (Exact wording varies on each page, shown in "<b>RED</b>" text)</li> <li>- <b>Alternate Mechanic.</b> Used only when a play dictates to have the four essential in front. U3 - Be prepared to move to the leading edge for a possible call on the Lead Runner or the Batter-Runner; move inside for any play-back at 3<sup>rd</sup>. (Exact wording varies on each page, shown in "black" text)</li> <li>■ DOC advised the 3/5 umpire system maybe more universally accepted than the 4/6 system. Future staffing cost reductions for ISF Events may lead to change.</li> <li>■ P - (Plate umpire) .... and watch (or call) the catch. Consistency of wording.</li> <li>■ Mechanic trial recommendation for four umpire system. With runners at 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> base, preliminary starting position for U2 be on the 3<sup>rd</sup> base side of 2<sup>nd</sup> base just short of the leading edge.</li> <li>■ Document facilitator Kevin Broomhall, peer review Leigh Evans (Softball Australia)</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Action Item</u></b> – <i>Revise ISF Field Mechanics 3 &amp; 4 Umpire System Revision 1.3.</i></p>	<a href="#"><u>Wayne</u></a>
12.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Slow-pitch</li> <li>- ISF currently don't have certification programme</li> <li>- ISF will discuss with ASA, SC, ESF certification of Slow-pitch umpires</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Action Item</u></b> – <i>Contact and follow-up.</i></p>	<a href="#"><u>DOU</u></a>

## [Reports Attached](#)

DIRECTOR OF UMPIRE'S REPORT TO EXECUTIVE  
January, 2011

In 2010, the Umpire's Program was busy with a number of activities.

**Educational Material:**

Umpire Manual – The ISF Umpire Manual has been finalized and is available on-line through our UmpSchool Website and is downloadable as a PDF file.

Case Book – The ISF Case Book has been up dated with all rule changes and references from the 2010-2013 rule changes approved at the 2009 Congress. It too is available on-line at UmpSchool in a downloadable PDF format.

Instructor/Evaluator Manual – The first edition of the ISF Instructor/Evaluator Manual has been completed and used at one instructor/evaluator clinic in Thailand. Based on the experiences at that clinic, revision to the manual are underway to improve the delivery of the material and to add come content in relation to teaching umpires at both beginners and intermediate levels.

Rule interpretations – All current rule interpretations are placed on the UmpSchool site on an on-going basis.

UmpSchool – Our UmpSchool has over 1500 practice questions that registered umpires can assess to help them better understand the rules and to prepare for clinics, Seminars and Tournaments. UmpSchool also contains the visual aids for the 1, 2, 3 and 4 umpire systems. The cost to register on UmpSchool is \$15 USD; \$8.00 of which is retained by the website owner and \$7.00 is forwarded to the ISF. We currently only have 110 umpires registered from around the world so this is an issued which needs to be addressed.

Pitching Power Point Presentation with embedded video. Softball Australia with the input from Softball New Zealand and Softball Canada created a Power Point Presentation with embedded video that covers the main points of the pitching rule that was adopted at the 2009 Congress. The main feature of the pitching rule is the legalizing of pitchers leaping. One issue yet to be completely resolved is the pitchers arm movement and hand separation. This will be clarified at the RUC meeting in January and will be distributed to all member Federations.

**Certification Seminars:**

Three Certification Seminars were held in 2010.

Harlaam, Netherlands - 18 umpires attending from 7 Countries. Eleven umpires attained ISF Certification

Bangkok, Thailand 36 umpires attending form 9 countries. Twenty-three umpires attained ISF Certification.

Plant City, USA – 28 Umpire attended from 9 countries. 22 Umpires attained ISF Certification.

Large Seminars are challenging in that there are not enough games or evaluators to properly evaluate the umpires. A study on how to make the Seminars more manageable in terms of numbers and costs will be undertaken.

### **Clinics**

The ISF assisted in the funding of a clinician to instruct a clinic in Palau. A total of 11 umpires attained local accreditation.

Our first Instructor/UIC/Evaluator Clinic was held in Thailand along with the Certification Seminar. 11 Umpires attend and received either an International or Regional rating.

### **World Championships:**

The ISF XII World Women's Championship - held from June 23 to July 2<sup>nd</sup> in Caracas, Venezuela. A total of 22 umpires were used at the Championship and despite the initial challenges imposed by the new stadium not being ready, the logistics of transportation and the many delays and umpire crew persevered and were able to be mentally prepared for each game.

For the first time we used a hand held bat tester which after some initial glitches served us well. Only a few older bats failed the test. Testing and approving the bats at the Technical Meeting allowed any bat issues to be resolved prior to the teams arriving at the field.

It was noticed that at this World Championship and in others that there is a certain degree of inconsistency between umpires from around the World. This can partially be attributed to the difficulty that umpires previously had in accessing information that will keep them updated on new mechanics and rules. We will make it mandatory that any umpires going to a World Championship must register on UmpSchool, take a rules test and download current mechanics and positioning information. Another option that we are looking at is to hold a mini clinic prior to each tournament. This Clinic would run for one and ½ days and would cover rule changes, umpire systems and mechanics. The cost associated with such a pre-Championship Clinic would have to be considered but would mainly involve rooms for accommodations and meals for an extra two days.

The Easton World U-16 Cup – held from December 30, 2010 to January 5, 2011 in City, Florida. Twenty-two teams played over 100 games. A Certification Seminar was held in Plant City in conjunction with the World Cup. 8 umpires from the Seminar worked the Tournament as did 12 non-seminar umpires.

### **Women in Umpiring:**

This has proven challenging however following the lead of Softball Canada the umpire program is looking to develop a presentation that can be made to young women during ISF competitions and events.

The fact that Federations have failed to respond to our survey on women in umpiring has made the little data that we have been able to compile meaningless.

### **Next Steps/Future Actions:**

1. UmpSchool – look at various methods to increase registration, including advertising on ISF Website, Publications and materials. Considering offering Federations a rebate of \$3.50 for each one of its members who registers with UmpSchool.
2. Look at funding for Seminars so that at the very least, they are a break even proposition.
3. Stream line approved bats process. Perhaps consider adopting the ASA approved bat list.
4. Look to strengthen efforts to recruit more women in officiating by creating promotional material, DVDs that Federations could use.
5. Develop networking for beginners and intermediate umpire training manual for use by Federation that do not any. Many federations have great instructional manuals and clinic outlines. We propose to create a network of Federation umpire programs that will encourage federations to share material and trainers.
6. Look at Pre-tournament clinics – Two extra days of accommodations and meals.
7. Re-certification – develop criteria and methodologies to allow umpires to be recertified on-field every 10 years. Umpires will be required to write a rules test, after every rule change year. On-field re-certification will be explored at World Cups, World Championships, Certification Seminars and via video
8. Unification of umpire mechanics and positioning. We propose a Summit of the major Federations that have developed umpire systems and mechanics be held during the next Congress to begin a process to unify umpire mechanics and systems. Countries/Federations who should be asked to attend are: Amateur Softball Association, Softball Canada, Softball Australia, Softball New Zealand and the European Softball Federation. Other areas and the Isf would be represented by the Director of Umpires and the RUCs.
9. Continue development and refinement of educational materials
10. Update and rationalize the ISF Certified Umpire list. This is underway and shows that we have over 1100 umpires who were ISF Certified of which approximately 250 are considered sufficiently active to be considered for nomination and selection to an ISF tournament.

Respectively submitted on January 9, 2011.

Bob Stanton  
Director of Umpires.

## ISF European Umpire Coordinator report 2010

### **In 2010 the following activities took place in Europe.**

To certify national umpires for the European competition, an ESF umpire fast pitch seminar as well as an ESF umpire COED slow pitch seminar were held.

Also in Europe an ISF seminar was held in conjunction with the European Cup Women A.

Twelve ESF tournaments took place, 5 European Championships (2 youth fast pitch, 2 senior fast pitch and 1 senior slow pitch), 7 European cups (4 senior women fast pitch, 2 senior man fast pitch and 1 senior COED slow pitch).

In all these tournaments European umpire were assigned in resulting in 95 fast pitch umpire evaluation reports.

In Europe the regional umpire coordinator is assisted by 7 deputies (from BEL, Great Britain, NED, ISR, ITA, SWE). And two deputies are at large (from ITA and CZE). The deputies are UIC of an European tournament, instruct locally as well as being brain storm partners for the regional umpire coordinator.

At the European tournaments an afford is made to have the federation UIC become the assistant of a tournament UIC. This takes care of informing/instructing the federation UIC and thereby give him/her tools to instruct the federation umpires in an uniform ISF way. At some tournaments it was managed to have them assisting the UIC.

In Europe 23 federations supply umpires for European tournaments. In each of these federations a contact person especially for umpire business have been established. Often the contact person is the same as the approved UIC of a federation. With almost all of them a good cooperation and more important communication is established.

### **ESF umpires 2010**

At the end of the 2010, there are 130 ESF licensed umpires on the list, of which 13 female, 35 with a fast pitch ISF license and 17 with a slow pitch ESF license.

In 2008 the umpire were categorized based on following criteria:

A Excellent knowledge rules, leadership, take over were things go wrong, being in charge, excellent mechanics, executing proper 3 umpire system, knowledge of 4 umpire system (future item), good timing, good signals, excellent consistent and excellent strike zone, good save/out calls, excellent off field behaviour, game experience (enough games called), role model, consistence performance during several years, good physical condition, excellent focus on tournament

*For an A license , the umpire needs to have received umpire evaluations reports of ESF senior A-pool tournaments<sup>1</sup> with an average of at least 8 in each year over the past three years*

B good knowledge rules, take over were things go wrong, being in charge, good mechanics, executing proper 3 umpire system, good timing, good signals, good consistent and good strike zone, good save/out calls, good off field behaviour, game experience (enough games called), good physical condition, good focus on tournament

<sup>1</sup> A-pool tournaments are European Championship: women A, men and U22. Also European cups women A and men.



*For a B license the umpire needs to have received umpire evaluations reports of ESF senior A-pool tournaments with an average of at least 7 in each year over the past three years*

C fair knowledge rules, fair mechanics, fair 3 umpire system, timing, signals, consistent strike zone, good save/out calls, fair off field behaviour, game experience (enough games called), fair physical condition.

*For a C license the umpire needs to have received umpire evaluations reports of ESF senior B-pool<sup>2</sup> tournaments with an average of at least 7 in each year over the past three years*

D fair knowledge rules, fair mechanics, fair 3 umpire system, timing, signals, fair strike zone, fair save/out calls, game experience (enough games called), fair physical condition

*For a D license the umpire needs to have received umpire evaluations reports of ESF senior B-pool tournaments with an average of at least 6 in each year over the past three years*

E knowledge rules, mechanics, knowledge 3 umpire system, signals: clinic participants

*For an E license the umpire needs to have successfully pass the ESF umpire seminar*

Due to the norm established this year, the ESF umpires could be categorized as follows: Fast pitch: 23 in A category, 35 in B category, 42 in C category, 11 in D category, 4 in E category and 2 have a provisional E license.

COED slow pitch: 7 in A category, 4 in B category and 6 in E category.

The umpires represented 22 European Federations. With all is a contact person or point specifically for ESF umpires issues established. With these so-called National Umpire Commissioners a fair to good to excellent cooperation is in place.

## Summary

<i>ESF Licensed umpires</i>	2008	2009	2010
Total	152	128	130
Female umpires	19 (12%)	16 (13%)	13 (10%)
Male umpires	134 (88%)	101 (87%)	117 (90%)
Fast pitch umpires	118	116	117
A license	8	8	23
B license	51	48	35
C license	36	37	42
D license	14	12	11
E license	9	11	6
ISF license	24	29	35
Slow pitch umpires	19	15	17
A license	9	7	7
B license	6	5	4
E license	4	3	6
ISF license	2	0	0

<sup>2</sup> B-pool tournaments are all tournaments not mentioned under A-pool tournaments.

### **Federation vs umpires vs teams**

In 2010 based on performance of previous years, some umpires were not longer eligible for an ESF assignment. In the next table is listed per federation the amount of eligible umpires, the amount of ESF tournaments these umpires were assigned too and the amount of teams who participated in an ESF tournament

federation	x ESF umpires	x assignments	x teams	federation	x ESF umpires	x assignments	x teams
AUT	5	5	6	ITA	13	15	4
BEL	7	11	6	NED	11	11	7
BUL	4	2	3	POL	1	2	2
CRO	6	5	6	ROM	0	0	2
CZE	13	15	10	RUS	4	5	5
DEN	7	5	6	SLO	2	1	4
FRA	6	5	6	SMR	0	0	1
GBR	5	7	7	SPA	3	2	2
GER	5	7	3	SRB	0	0	2
GRE	3	0	4	SUI	0	0	2
GUE	0	0	1	SVK	4	2	3
HUN	1	0	0	SWE	6	3	3
IRE	2	4	3	TUR	0	0	2
ISR	3	3	2	UKR	1	2	2

### **Preview into 2011**

In 2011 beside the regular 10-12 ESF tournaments, fast pitch umpire seminars are planned in the Balkan region (i.e. Bulgaria, Turkey, Serbia) and in the Czech Republic.

And an UIC deputy seminar (based on the ISF seminar) will be held in conjunction with the European Championship Cadette Girls in Belgium.

Marlies Struyvé

ISF Regional Umpire Coordinator for Europe



## OCEANIA REGION UMPIRE ACTIVITY REPORT

Presented at the Jan 2011 RUC Meeting, Plant City, USA.  
By Regional Umpire Coordinator Wayne Saunders

- ❖ **February** – RUC attended the 2010 Australian Men’s Open and Gilleys Shield Women’s State Finals Canberra, Australia. Met with Sue Noble (SAL CEO), Darryl Clout (ISF Vice President), SAL National Umpiring Staff (Tricia Sibraa-UIC, Leigh Evans and Debbie Grove) and National coaching Staff members Bob Harrow, Bob Crudgington, Barry Blanchard and John Neilson. Activities included:
  - The continuation of a close working relationship between the Australian and New Zealand umpiring programmes.
  - Observe in action current ISF certified umpires and potential future ISF Seminar candidates.
  - Draft planning for the 2011 ISF Certification Seminar.
  - Trial the draft ISF Umpire Evaluation form and report to Bob Stanton.
  - Discussed and observed the application of the new ISF rules.
  
- ❖ **ISF UmpSchool** – below is the current Oceania membership of UmpSchool. UmpSchool is being used outside of the annual rules examination as a tool to examine individual umpires.

Oceania NF	No		
Am. Samoa	1 (2)		Aviles, Luis. <del>Beaumont, David.</del>
Australia	28	473	Aiken, Nancy; Andrews, David; Bennett, Hugh; Bichel, Tricia; Brookes, Mathew; Carter, Jason; Dodds, Richard; Evans, Leigh; Frame, Ian; Grove, Debbie; Houison, Amanda; Houison, Ron; Kahler, Yvonne; Lansley, Vicki; Priolo, John; Reddacliff, Adam; Reisman, Simone; Rindfleish, Andrew; Sheppard, Rhonda; Sibraa, Darren; Strauss, Helen; Thorneycroft, Ryan; Toft, Mark; Waller, Diane; Waller, Phil; Watt, Howard; Winsor, Todd; Wood, Haydyn.
Mariana Islands	1		Guerrero, Robert A.
New Zealand	23 (22)	354	Donovan, Duane; England, Jeremy; Harvey, Shirley; Howard, Tamati; Kaiaruna, Tony; Kawe, Guy; Meiklejohn, Charlotte; Nalepa, Glen; Ogier, Nicola; Paul, Darrel; Porteous, Mark; Saunders, Wayne; Shedlock, David; Smith, Dennis; Tamaki, Wiremu; Taylor, Rebecca; Tippet, Lynda; Tourangi, Riki; Vercoe, Daryl; Walker, Heath; Watts, Duncan; Williams, Peter; Beaumont, David.
Palau	1		Kumangai, Bradley

- ❖ **June – SNZ Annual National Umpire Staff meeting** – Bob Stanton, via SKYPE live-link participated in the SNZ Pitching Presentation by Debbie Mygind and a Discussion Paper to alter the Illegal pitching Penalty presented by Nicky Ogier.

- ❖ **July - Oceania ISF Beginner Umpire Clinic, Palau** held in-conjunction with the 7<sup>th</sup> Micronesia Games.

**Convenor:** Baklai Temengil (Manager PNOC)  
**Facilitator:** Kevin Broomhall (State Director of Umpires, Victoria, Australia). The Oceania Umpire Grading System was adopted and grading certificates were presented as follows: **Level 4:** Tobias Marbou (Palau). **Level 3:** Millan Isack and Leo Teriong (Palau); Simon Pinaula (Guam). **Level 2:** Rosendo Skang, Johnson Joshua and Alvino Kenty (Palau); Glen Santos (Guam). **Level 1:** Grace Ongalibang and Dwight Ngiraibai (Palau); Rebel John (Republic of the Marshal Islands).





## OCEANIA REGION UMPIRE ACTIVITY REPORT

Presented at the Jan 2011 RUC Meeting, Plant City, USA.

By Regional Umpire Coordinator Wayne Saunders

- ❖ **ISF Accredited Umpires** - A total number of 109 have been accredited and recognised since the first World Championship held in Australia in 1965. National Federations have reported “Active” status of their members to the ISF.
- ❖ **The Oceania ISF Certification Seminar** is scheduled for February 2011 in Brisbane, Australia and will be held in conjunction with the Australian Men’s Open and Gilleys Shield Women’s State Finals. Preparation is well advanced with confirmed candidates from Australia and New Zealand.
- ❖ **Major International Activity involving Oceania umpires (notified records)**
  - XIIth Women’s ISF Women’s World Championship, Venezuela (3 ISF officials)
  - 2010 Trans Tasman Exchange - Jason Carter (Aus), Richard Gale (NZ).
  - U19 Men’s International Test Series, Sydney, Australia.
  - International Women’s Challenge Series, Sydney, Australia
  - ISC/SNZ Exchange - Randy McLamb (USA), Wiremu Tamaki (NZ)
  - International Men’s Fastpitch Test Series, Canberra, Australia
  - Aussie Spirit/NZ White Sox Test Series, Mirrabrook, AustraliaAdditional International Softball continues to be played between Oceania Federations and other ISF Federations and continues to provide opportunities for the Region’s umpires.
- ❖ **Awards and recognition**
  - SAL - Hall of Fame – Ken Culpitt.
  - Induction into ISF Hall of Fame – John McAuliffe (Aus), Wayne Saunders (NZ).
  - SAL - Vivienne Triplett Award – Darren Sibraa and Diane Waller
  - SNZ - Softballer of the Year and Umpire of the Year - Wiremu Tamaki.
  - SNZ - Umpire Distinguished Service Award - Daphne Turner, Nicola Ogier and Lindsay Edwards.
  - ISF Umpire committee contributions – Margo Koskelainen, Nicola Ogier, Tricia Sibraa, Kevin Broomhall, Leigh Evans and Wayne Saunders.

*Wayne Saunders*

ISF RUC - Oceania  
New Zealand





## Asia Umpire Coordinator report



2009 - 2010

**To: International Softball Federation**  
**From: Tommy Wang, ISF Regional Umpire Coordinator for Asia**

**1. 17 – 20 July 2009**

1.1 Women's Fast Pitch Softball was re-instated onto the sports program for the 8<sup>th</sup> World Games 2009 held in Kaohsiung, Taiwan. The competition was played at the Lide Baseball Stadium which was converted into a Softball field, where many of the games were played to capacity sell-out spectatorship.

1.2 Mr. Tommy Wang (Chinese-Taipei) was the competition Umpire-in-Chief; assisted by Ms. Haruhi Goto from Japan as Deputy Umpire-in-Chief.

1.3 11 umpires who are ISF or SCA certified were appointed from the following countries for the competition:

- 1 from Japan
- 2 from Korea
- 1 from Russia
- 1 from Thailand
- 6 from Chinese-Taipei

4 scorers from Chinese-Taipei were also appointed.

A total of 6 teams participated. They were Chinese-Taipei, Japan, Republic of Korea and Singapore. The other 2 teams were from Canada and Russia.

The teams played a single-round robin preliminary competition and the results at the completion of the preliminary round were as follows:

Preliminary Round: First – Chinese-Taipei	2 <sup>nd</sup> – Japan
3 <sup>rd</sup> - Korea	4 <sup>th</sup> – Russia
5 <sup>th</sup> - Canada	6 <sup>th</sup> – Singapore

1.7 The top 4 teams then played a page system play-off, and the final results were as follows:

	Champion:	Japan		2nd	Chinese-Taipei
3rd		Korea		4th	Russia
5th		Canada		6th	Singapore

2. 26th – 28th October 2009

2.1 Brunei Amateur Softball Association, in collaboration with the Softball Confederation Asia (SCA), organized an SCA Umpires Certification Course/Clinic and also a national Brunei Scorers Clinic in Brunei Darussalam.

2.2 SCA Chief Umpire Mr. Tommy Wang and Mr. Neville Lawrance, an ISF-certified umpire from Australia, conducted the Course/clinic. After the Theory sessions, the practical assessment of the umpires was conducted during the ASEAN Men's Softball Championship held from 29 October to 1 I November 2010.

2.3 The Scorers Clinic was conducted by Michael Hannelly (from Australia).

2.4 A total of 15 umpires from several SCA members attended the Umpires Course and 25 participants from Brunei attended the Scorers Clinic.

2.5 3 of the umpires obtained SCA certification.

3. 29 October - 1 November 2009

3.1 The 10th ASEAN Men Softball Championship hosted by the Brunei Amateur Softball Association in conjunction with BASBA Silver Jubilee Anniversary was played in the Hassanal Bolkiah National Sports Complex Softball Field, Brunei Darussalam.

Tommy Wang was the competition Umpire-in-Chief.

3.3 12 umpires were appointed from the following countries for the competition:

7 from Brunei  
2 from Malaysia  
1 from Philippines  
2 from Singapore

3.4 The 6 teams that participated were Brunei A & Brunei B, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines and Singapore. The teams played a single round robin preliminary round. The top 4 teams then played a page system playoff. The final teams' standing was as follows:

Champion	Philippines	Runner-up	Indonesia
3rd	Brunei A	4th	Singapore
5 <sup>th</sup>	Malaysia	6 <sup>th</sup>	Brunei B

#### **4. 10 -12 December 2009**

- 4.1 Softball Association of Malaysia, in collaboration with the SCA, organized an SCA Umpires Course/Clinic in Kuala Lumpur.
- 4.2 SCA Chief Umpire Mr. Tommy Wang and Mr. Neville Lawrance (Australia) conducted the Course. The theory part of the course was held in Olympic Sports Hotel and the practical field assessment was carried out during the Asian Junior Women (19 & Under) Softball Championship.
- 4.3 A total of 24 umpires (21 Males & 3 Females) attended the Umpires Course/clinic.

#### **5. 13 - 16 December 2009**

- 5.1 Softball Association of Malaysia (SAM), in collaboration with SCA, organized the Asian Junior Women (19 & Under) Softball Championship held at University Putra Malaysia, on a temporary softball diamond that was converted from a soccer field) in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.
- 5.2 ISF Director of Competitions, Ms. Laurie Gouthro, was present to assist the technical team during the Championship. Mr. Tommy Wang was the competition Umpire-in-Chief.
- 5.3 24 umpires from the following countries were appointed for the competition:
- 1 from China
  - 3 from Chinese-Taipei
  - 1 from Indonesia
  - 1 from Japan
  - 1 from Korea
  - 11 from Malaysia
  - 5 from Singapore
  - 1 from Thailand
- 5.4 The championship served as a qualifier for the ISF IX Junior Women Softball World Championship 2011 scheduled to be held 6 - 17 December 2011, in Cape Town, South Africa.
- 5.5 9 teams participated, that were China, Chinese-Taipei, India, Indonesia, Iran,

Japan, Republic of Korea, Singapore and Thailand participated. It was Iran's first time competing in a regional women's softball championship.

- 5.6 The teams were divided into 2 divisions, with each division playing a single round robin preliminary round. The top 4 teams in each division then played a double page system playoff and the final results were as follows:

Champion: Japan  
3<sup>rd</sup> China

Runner-up: Chinese-Taipei  
4<sup>th</sup> Korea

Most Valuable Player:  
Best Pitcher:  
Best Hitter:  
Best Defense:

Ms. Yamato FUJITA (Japan)  
Ms. Sayuri YAMANE (Japan)  
Ms. Toshiko TSNUGUCHI  
Ms. Li Szu Shih (Chinese-Taipei)

- 5.7 The three top finishers in the Championship, that were Japan, China and Chinese-Taipei qualified to play in the ISF IX Junior Women's World Championship 2011.

## **6. 29 July – 1 August 2010**

- 6.1 Indonesia Softball Federation, in collaboration with the SCA, hosted the 10<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Softball Championship 2010 from 29 July - 1<sup>st</sup> August 2010.

- 6.2 The competition was played at the Senayan Sports Complex, Jakarta, Indonesia. 2 competition fields were used, both located adjacent to each other, and within a 10 minute walk from the Athlete Century Hotel, where all the athletes and officials were housed

- 6.3 6 teams from South East Asia participated, i.e., 2 teams from Indonesia, 1 team each from Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore and Thailand.

- 6.4 14 umpires from the following countries were appointed for the competition:

- 11 from Indonesia
- 2 from Malaysia
- 1 from Thailand

- 6.5 There was an Opening Ceremony in the afternoon of 29 July 2010, which was officiated by Mrs. Rita Subowo, an IOC member and also President of the Indonesia National Olympic Committee (INOC), in the presence of other invited dignitaries and guests.

- 6.6 The teams played a single-round robin preliminary competition and the top 4 teams then played a page system play-off. The final results were as follows



Champion: Philippines	2 <sup>nd</sup> : Indonesia Merah
3 <sup>rd</sup> : Thailand	4 <sup>th</sup> : Singapore
5 <sup>th</sup> : Indonesia Putih	6 <sup>th</sup> : Malaysia

#### Individual Awards

Best Pitcher:	Puri Indraswari (Indonesia)
Best Hitter:	Luvelyn Maganda (Philippines)
Best Slugger:	Luvelyn Maganda (Philippines)
Most RBI:	Radhiana Iskandar (Indonesia)
Most Stolen Base:	Fu Xing Han (Singapore)
Most Valuable Player:	Luvelyn Maganda (Philippines)

- 6.7 The prizes for the winners were given away by Mr. Gugun Yudinar, President of the Indonesia Softball Association, in the presence of Mr. Kikik Lukman Ernawam, the Organising Chairman of Championship and SCA Secretary-General, Ms. Beng Choo Low.

## **7. 3 – 6 September 2010**

- 7.1 SCA, with the consent of the ISF, and in collaboration with the Amateur Softball Association Thailand, organised the following:

- a 3-day Umpires-in-Chief/Course Conductors Seminar; and
- a 4-day ISF-SCA Umpires Clinic and Certification Course 2010;

from 3 – 6 September 2010, in Bangkok, Thailand.

- 7.2 ISF Chief Umpire, Mr. Bob Stanton conducted the Course Conductor Seminar. SCA Umpire-in-Chief, Mr. Tommy Wang conducted the theory part of the Umpires Clinic-Course. They both conducted the practical field assessment of the umpires' for the Umpires Course.
- 7.3 The theory part of the Seminar and Umpires Clinic-Course was held in the Lecture Rooms at the Thammasat University, and the practical field assessments were held in conjunction with the Thailand National Softball Championship 2010 held at the softball field of the Thammasat University.
- 7.4 A total of 11 umpires-conductors from the following countries participated in the Seminar. The Seminar was the first ever course conductors' course organized by the SCA and the objective was to train senior umpires to conduct umpires courses. The umpire-conductors' were evaluated and given "national", "regional" or "international" level competency to conduct courses.
- 1 from Brunei
  - 1 from China

- 2 from Chinese-Taipei
- 1 from Hong Kong
- 1 from Indonesia
- 1 from Japan
- 2 from Malaysia
- 1 from Singapore
- 1 from Thailand

7.5 35 umpires from the following countries attended the Umpires Clinic-Course, comprising of 8 female- and 27 male- umpires.

- 2 from Brunei
- 3 from China
- 4 from Chinese-Taipei
- 2 from Hong Kong
- 1 from Philippines
- 2 from Korea
- 4 from Malaysia
- 2 from Singapore
- 15 from Thailand

6.6 23 umpires obtained ISF certification and 11 umpires obtained SCA certification.

## **7. 18 – 26 November 2010**

7.1 The 16<sup>th</sup> Asian Games was held in Guangzhou, China where the Women Softball competition was held from 19<sup>th</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup> November 2010 at the Tianhe Softball Field in the heart of Guangzhou commercial area.

7.2 SCA Chief Umpire, Mr. Tommy Wang was the UIC and Ms. Jia Ali from China) was the Deputy UIC.

7.3 12 umpires who are ISF or SCA certified from the following countries were appointed for the competition; 5 were females and 7 were males.

- 3 from China
- 2 from Chinese-Taipei
- 2 from Japan
- 2 from Korea
- 1 from Malaysia
- 1 from Singapore
- 1 from Thailand

7.3 6 teams participated in the Softball competition: China, Chinese-Taipei, Japan, Republic of Korea, Philippines and Thailand.

7.4 The Technical Meeting was held on 18 November 2010. ISF President Don Porter was present at that Meeting and also stayed on to witness the first day of the Softball competition.

7.5 The 6 teams played a single round robin preliminary competition and the results after the completion of the preliminary round were as follows:

Preliminary Round: First - Chinese-Taipei                 2<sup>nd</sup> Japan  
                                  3<sup>rd</sup> China                                     4<sup>th</sup> Korea  
                                  5<sup>th</sup> Philippines                     6<sup>th</sup> Thailand

7.6 The top 4 teams then played in a page system playoff and the final results were as follows:

Gold: Japan                 Silver: China                 Bronze: Chinese-Taipei  
4<sup>th</sup>: Korea                 5<sup>th</sup>: Philippines                 6<sup>th</sup>: Thailand

## **8. SCA-India Umpires Certification Course/Clinic and Scorers' Clinic**

8.1 India Softball Association, in collaboration with the SCA, organized an SCA-India Umpires Certification Course/Clinic in conjunction with the 4<sup>th</sup> Asian Junior Men's Softball Championship in Mumbai, India from 9 – 16 December 2010 (Theory from 9 – 12 December and practical assessment from 13 – 16 December 2010).

8.2 SCA Chief Umpire Mr. Tommy Wang conducted the Course/Clinic, with the assistance of 2 umpires from Malaysia, Mr. Marayanasamy and Mr. Shahrudin.

8.3 25 umpires from India and 1 from Malaysia attended the Course/Clinic.

8.4 The Scorers Clinic was also conducted by 2 senior scorers from Chinese-Taipei, Mr. Mr. Chang Sy Chau and Mr. Liang Chung Fang.

8.5 8 scorers from India attended the Clinic and assisted in the scoring for the competition.

## **9. Asian Junior Men's Softball Championship**

9.1 India Softball Association together with the Maharashtra State Softball Association Federation, in collaboration with the SCA, hosted the 4<sup>th</sup> Asian Men's Softball Championship 2010 from 12 – 16 December.

9.2 The competition was played at the Navi Mumbai Sports Complex, where a

cricket-soccer field was converted for the softball competition.

9.3 Although initially 7 teams had confirmed participation, 3 of them withdrew due to visa and other issues. The remaining 4 teams that competed were India, Japan, Malaysia and Singapore.

9.4 6 umpires from the following countries were appointed for the competition:

- 1 from Japan
- 3 from Malaysia
- 1 from Singapore
- 1 from Thailand

9.5 There was an Opening Ceremony in the afternoon of 12 December 2010, which was officiated by the Minister of Sport of the Maharashtra State, the SCA President and other SCA Executive Committee members, the President of the India Softball Association, in the presence of other invited dignitaries and guests. About 300 school children gave a very colourful medley of cultural dances and Indian traditional sports.

9.6 The teams played a double-round robin preliminary competition and the top 2 teams then played a final with the 3<sup>rd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> ranked team playing for the 3<sup>rd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> placing. The final results were as follows:

Champion: Japan  
Second: Singapore  
3<sup>rd</sup>: India  
4<sup>th</sup>: Malaysia

## **10. Umpires Programs Planned for 2011**

The following umpires' and scorers' courses/clinics are planned for Asia in 2011. The dates and venues are yet to be determined. It is proposed that the host country pay the cost and expense of the hotel accommodation, food and local transportation of the course conductors.

### 10.1 ISF-SCA Umpires Certification Course/Clinic

Estimate Air-fare for 2 Course Conductors:	US\$5,000.00
Estimate Allowance and other Expenses:	US\$1,500.00

### 10.2 ISF-SCA Umpires' Course Conductors' Course

Estimate Air-fare for 2 Course Conductors:	US\$5,000.00
Estimate Allowance and other Expenses:	US\$1,500.00

### 10.3 SCA Umpires Certification Course

Estimate Air-fare for 2 Course Conductors:	US\$2,500.00
Estimate Allowance and other Expenses:	US\$2,500.00

### 10.4 ISF-SCA Scorers' Course/Clinic

Estimate Air-fare for 2 Course Conductors:	US\$5,000.00
Estimate Allowance and other Expenses:	US\$1,500.00

## 11. **Conclusion**

I would like to thank SCA President Bryan Cho and SCA Secretary-General Beng Choo Low, and all SCA affiliate-members and their respective officials/affiliates who have helped and supported in ensuring the success of SCA's programs and events. In particular, I record my appreciation to SCA for ensuring a very active program for the development of the umpires in Asia.

Generally, in order to save on costs due to lack of finance, SCA has collaborated with the host country of SCA competitions to appoint umpires from local-host country, and for the local host-country to pay for the cost and expense of the accommodation, food, per diem allowance and local transportation of umpires appointed from other countries.

I also extend my thanks to the ISF President Don Porter and all the ISF Executive Board members and all ISF members and to ISF Director Umpire Bob Stanton for their invaluable guidance and support extended to me and to the SCA, especially the umpires' program.

I further thank Mizuno for their generous contribution and sponsorship, especially for the umpires' uniform for 2010 Guangzhou Asian Games, and to Japan Softball Association for their financial contribution towards the running of the SCA administration, and all other sponsors, individuals and organisations that have supported SCA directly and indirectly.

### **Report By:**

**Tommy Wang**  
**ISF Regional Umpire Coordinator for Asia**  
**Date: 31 December 2010**

**COORDINATOR REPORT  
INTERNATIONAL TOURNAMENTS IN OUR REGION**

- 1. February, 2010 (February 11-20, 2010).  
San Andrés Islas – Colombia  
Men's qualifier – Mayaguez 2010.  
Venezuela and Dominican Republic went to the Gran final, Venezuela won the Gold Medal.**
  
- 2. April 2010 (April 8-15, 2010)  
Panamá City – Panamá  
Central American Games  
Panamá both teams women and men) won the Gold Medal over El Salvador and Honduras respectively in the Gran Final.**
  
- 3. June 2010 (June 23-July 2, 2010)  
Caracas – Venezuela  
Women World Championship  
USA's team went to the Gran Final vs. Canada – USA won the Gold Medal.**
  
- 4. July 2010 (July 19-30, 2010)  
Mayaguez – Puerto Rico  
Central-American and Caribbean Games**
  
- 5. August 2010 (August 3-17, 2010)  
Bogotá – Colombia  
III Pan-American Championship Sub.19  
USA's team won the Gold Medal playing to Canada in the Gran Final  
Venezuela won both Gold Medals (women and men) Dominican Republic won the silver ones.**

## **AFRICA SOFTBALL UMPIRE REGIONAL REPORT:**

### **INTRODUCTION**

In Africa with the separation of softball and baseball we now have a great challenge of to get softball in the north, east and central Africa, because regions are still attached to ABSA. Also ABSA would not let go of the softball with the fear that teams or countries playing softball might fold.

Discussions with the two vice Presidents in Africa has been going on to determine the way forward to group the Zones to be able to do clinics or schools for umpires.

The Africa Softball Confederation must still meet and approve the five year programme I have submitted to get the umpire programme to progress.

### **UMPIRE PROGRAMME**

In the past two years I have not been visiting the central and north Africa due to lack of funds and contact persons. I requested info from ABSA at the time which I did not get cooperation. I am worried that they countries that I have laid a foundation about the programme will loose interest and I might lose umpires in that area or national federation. Two umpires were prepared for certification and only one from Botswana could attend the seminar.

#### **Botswana:**

The programme is well managed and the number of umpires is growing and their women umpire programme is getting better at schools softball and national leagues. I have conducted two umpires' clinics, one for schools and the other for senior league. I have also invited umpires from Botswana to work games in South Africa as part of the exchange program. There was a challenge when the UIC resigned Jayson Majase and had to appoint a new UIC- Abel Mataboge.

#### **South Africa:**

South Africa is well advance in the programme, and has five ISF certified umpires. Basic and advanced clinic are run by the team of umpires including the ISF certified umpires, as I delegate other senior umpires to run clinics around the country. The number of umpires is very big close to 120, and has 50 in the level 4, regional ranking. We are losing a lot of umpires because they are now unable to work games they are willing to stay and do administration. I have sent an umpire to junior boys' championship in Canada. We are working hard to improve on the evaluation that was given to all umpires that were assigned to the ISF sanctioned tournaments.

I have been supervising the National championships in South Africa.

The preparation for the junior women championship is going ahead as planned, after the ISF visit to Cape Town. The draft fixture (games schedule) has been done for the games to discuss with the ISF.

**Lesotho:**

The Zone Six tournament was hosted by Lesotho where four countries participated, Namibia, Lesotho, Botswana and South Africa. There is a need of umpires in the country, all the basic schools that were done we do not see umpires coming through.

**Kenya:**

An umpire's clinic was conducted in October 2009 where 20 umpires attended.

**Ghana, Lesotho, Namibia, Zambia, Kenya, Uganda, Cameroon, Egypt and Senegal**

A serious intervention is needed to be able to say yes softball is played in those countries. As I do not have UIC operating in those areas it is difficult to track the programme.

**General:**

A five year programme was submitted to the president of ASC. In the programme my suggestion is to have umpire clinics running per regions to get every body to a common place this will be cost saving and will be able to do a few countries at the time.

As soon as we get more umpires ready for certification then will request the school to be in Africa. If by the end of 2011 I do not have enough to call for a school I will be forced to send them some else to be certified.

The challenge of doing work for ISF is more financial than anything else, communication is very expensive for the UIC regional..

**Conclusion:**

With the help of the two ISF Vice Presidents Africa, Mr. Morule and Mr. Marapjane, I am hoping will cover a lot of African countries and prepare for the reinstatement of the All Africa Games. There will be a lot of work to do in Africa that will call for the financial backing. Very busy schedule visiting the countries in Africa is envisaged.

I hope to do more schools to help umpires to attain the higher level of international umpiring.