



22-25 October 2009

International Softball Federation XXIV Congress Isla de Margarita, Venezuela. 22 October 2009.

Minutes of the Umpires Commission Meeting.

Commission Members Present:

Chair: Kevin Quinn (CAN), Vice-Chair: Gabriel Waage (CZE), First Vice President Clovis Lodewijks (AHO), Director of Umpires: Robert Stanton, Marlies Struyve (NED), Margo Koskelainen (AUS), Wayne Saunders (NZL), Teboho Vincent Maoeng (RSA), Julio Hellburg (AHO), Julie Johnson (USA), Juan Arambula (MEX), Franco Caverzan (VEN), Jancinto Cipriota (ARG), Juan Maratita (MAR), See Kok Wooi (MAL), Brian Van Os (CAN), Hiroyuki Yokota (JPN). ISF Staff Liaison: Teresa Mulqueen

1.0 Preliminaries

1.1 The meeting was called to order by Kevin Quinn. The Commission Roll Call was taken and special guest ISF First Vice President Clovis Lodewijks was welcomed. This was followed by around the table introduction of the Commission members.

2.0 Review of Activities since 2007 Congress

2.1 A moment of silence was observed as a mark of respect for the late Merle Butler ISF Director of Umpires.

2.2 Director of Umpires Robert Stanton gave a verbal report on events

- Olympic Games, Beijing, China (August 2008) – Good crew performance. 12 assigned.
- ISF Junior Men's World Championship, Whitehouse, Canada (July 2008). 16 assigned.
- ISF Men's World Championship, Saskatoon, Canada (June 2009) – Good outcomes with pitching compliance. 3 UIC's used, 18 assigned.
- ISF 16 and Under Easton Foundation World Youth Cup, Prague, Czech Republic (August 2009). Younger crew performed very well.
- ISF Certification Seminars
 - Japan, March 2008. 12 new ISF Umpire were certified (Attendance : 35)
 - Belgium, May 2008. 4 new ISF Umpire were certified.
 - Canada, July 2008. 12 new ISF Umpire were certified (Attendance: 20).
- ISF clinics
 - Beijing, China, July 2008. Umpire/coach clinic.
 - China, March 2009. Umpire clinic.
 - Brunei, October 2009. Umpire/Scorer clinic
- Regional Coordinators annual meeting, ISF Headquarters, Plant City, USA (February 2009)

2.3 At this time President Mr Don Porter was welcomed to the meeting. Mr Porter addressed the meeting and commented on the large number in attendance which reflected the wide interest shown in the ISF Umpiring Program. He thanked all members for their contribution to this commission and also thanked those umpires who are serving on other commission.

Mr Porter made special mention of long standing Chair to the Umpire Commission Vice President's Clovis Lodewijks. Mr. Porter thanked Mr. Lodewijks for his invaluable contribution and outstanding leadership of the ISF Umpiring Program.

3.0 Regional Co-ordinators Reports

3.1 Latin America: Julio Hellburg (verbal report)

- Venezuela is doing a good job many due to their higher standard of softball. Brazil has a good program, as do Argentina and the Dominican Republic.
- Umpires continue to be lost to baseball due incentive inducements.
- Funding for attendance and continued education is still a very major issue.
- 160 ISF Certified Umpires – approximately 50% are either retired or deceased. Over 50% of the remaining is over 50 years old. There is an immediate need to provide more certifications Seminars. Funding will be an important element in ensuring these seminars are successful.

3.2 North America: Julie Johnson (verbal report)

- A number of ISF events are previous covered in the DoU report item 2.2 above.
- Canada Cup held in 2008 and 2009.
- World Cups held in USA. 5 National Federations attendance. 6 outside umpires invited.
- ISF Certification Seminars proposed for 2010. Date and venue to be advised.

3.3 Asia: Tommy Wang was not present. No report was available.

3.4 Africa: Vincent Maoeng (verbal report)

- 5 ISF Certified Umpires.
- ISF Vice President Africa has request that we endeavor to facilitate next year an umpire clinic in each of our six regions
- Progress is being made on identifying and appointing UIC's in each country.
- A joint ISF Certification Seminar with Europe is currently being considered. Date and venue to be advised

3.5 Oceania: Wayne Saunders (written report tabled and attached)

- Beginner Clinic, Samoa (February 2008). Facilitator: Nicky Ogier (NZL).
- Intermediate Clinic, Papua New Guinea (March 2008). Facilitator: Andrew Rindfliesh (AUS).
- Oceania Men's World Championship Qualifier, New Zealand.
- Trans Tasman umpire exchange between Australia and New Zealand continues. This is now in its 18th year.
- Pacific Series Men, Samoa (2009).
- ISF Certification Seminars proposed February 2011. Date and venue to be advised.
- Advanced Umpire clinic for the Oceania Northern region is proposed to be held in Guam, 2010

3.6 Europe: Marlies Struyve (verbal report)

- Of the 29 European National Federations, the 23 active Federations have contact with the European UIC.
- 2 Fastpitch and 1 Co-ed Slowpitch European Certification clinics, all hosted by the Czech Republic
- 8 European Championships (co-ed slowpitch, youth, adult). 13 European Cups (all adult), Maccabiah Games. All resulting in 240 umpire evaluation report.
- Mentoring instructors are working with National Federations.
- European umpire website is currently being updated to include mechanic manuals and clinic facilitation advice.
- Africa/Europe ISF Certification Seminars proposed for August 2010. Date and venue to be advised.

4.0 Sub-committee reports

4.1 Mechanics: Co-chairs Julie Johnson and Wayne Saunders

- A PowerPoint presentation on six recommended mechanic changes and two recommendations for discussion were presented. All six recommendations were supported. Outcomes of the discussion items are to be advised.

4.2 Female Umpire Program: Co-chair Margo Koskelainen

- ISF participation survey was sent to National federations. 18 replies have been received. Points of note from the survey are listed below
 - Preference for more female facilitators
 - Recruitment and retention difficulties include lack of respect for coaches, advancement opportunities.
 - Recruitment through the scoring programs
 - Follow-up report is recommended to be sent

4.3 Administration: Co-chair Margo Koskelainen

- Budget currently being compiled. Regional Coordinator input required.
- Five sub-committees established with Regional coordinators appointed as co-chairs with committee members sourced from National Federations. All Terms of Reference are now approved. Committee work is principally undertaken electronically.
- ISF Certification Register will continue to be a work in progress. Status definition to resolved dependent on the ultimate end use of this list. Responsibility to provide updated information lies with the National federations.
- Technical Bulletins approved by the DoU have been issued by the ISF Office and are posted on the ISF website.

4.4 Umpire Selection Criteria: Director of Umpires Bob Stanton

- An overview of the proposed selection criteria was discussed. This proposal is to be included in the Technical Code and is currently before Congress for approval. This proposal will help ensure that quality of umpires assigned to World Championships is maintained and advanced.
- Clovis Lodewijks advised it is in the best interest of all umpires to remain in good standing with their National Federation.

4.5 Education: Co-chair Vincent Maoeng

- A review of currently issued ISF umpire publications has been undertaken
- Updates and reproduction actions will be formalised once sub-committee recommendations have been approved and their publication option formalised.
- It is recommended that an ISF Umpire Elevators instruction manual be developed to ensure worldwide uniformity with the evaluation process.
- Previously issued manual were withdrawn due to potential copyright issues. It is proposed to have a new manual on line by early 2010.

4.6 Umpire School: Co-ordinator Bob Stanton

- This is an online educational tool introduced by the ISF and cooperation with Softball Canada and providers the Rule-Box company.
- Provided online is a rule examination/educational option sourced from a database of as many as 1500 questions. Individual will have selection options and result can be compiled to provide statistical information at a national and international level.
- Available from this website will also be the rulebook, casebook and mechanic manuals.

- Launch is programmed for November 2009. At first it will only be available in English. It is proposed to have a Spanish version available within 6 months
- Annual fee to be paid by individual members is likely to be about US\$12/15.

5.0 ISF Certification Seminars and Umpire Development Clinics

5.1 ISF Certification Seminars

- Director of Umpires Bob Stanton advised that it is planned to hold two Regional Seminars per year. The program for Seminars will be confirmed with the Regional Co-ordinators.
- At these seminar candidates are required to obtain an evaluation mark of 90% or better to awarded ISF Umpire Certification status.

5.2 Umpire Development Clinics

- Director of Umpires Bob Stanton advised that these clinics are regionally based and designed to develop differing levels of umpiring. Beginner, Intermediate or Advanced Clinics are to be programmed to meet the need of the region.

5.3 Facilitator participation funding will be included in the umpiring budget.

Signed:
(Kevin Quinn – Chair - Umpires Commission)



OCEANIA REGION UMPIRE ACTIVITY REPORT

TO THE 2009 ISF CONGRESS, VENEZUELA

By Oceania Regional Coordinator Wayne Saunders

Appreciation

The Oceania Region is indebted to former Regional Coordinator Margo Koskelainen for the dedication she has shown towards the advancement of umpiring within our Region. Margo had represented Oceania since 1993 and now serves as a Special Projects member of the International Umpiring Staff.

Communications

The geographical spread off Oceania and the different outlook for softball within member Federations requires the understanding that a one solution approach will not meet the needs of all the umpires in the region. The aspirations and needs of the many smaller island Federations are different from the challenges faced by the two larger Federations who have a continuing obligation to keep pace with what is expected at the highest levels of international participation.

An effort has been made to establish regular communications with all member Federations however the success of this much depends on the contact person the emails are sent to and how they disseminate the content to their membership. In the ideal world this contact should be the National Umpire-in-Chief who should have the principle responsibility to administer and deliver the Federation's umpiring programme. I am indebted to former Australian Umpire-in-Chief Andrew Rindfliesh for supporting the view that the Australian and New Zealand umpiring programmes have a responsibility to encourage umpire development and provide opportunity for aspiring international umpiring candidates. To support this both Federations have extended invitations to participate.

Oceania - ISF International Certification Clinic

It has been communicated that ISF has set the bar for participation at a very high level and expects all aspiring future candidates to be well prepared. It is encouraging that at this early stage Papua New Guinea, Australia and New Zealand have indicated that they will have candidates attending the next clinic, proposed to be held in Australia February 2011.



Oceania – ISF Beginner Umpire Clinic, Samoa

Convenor: Hellen Omeri-Levale, Vice-President, SSF; Facilitator: Nicky Ogier (NUS- SNZ). Thanks to Softball Canada for the use of their Level 1 certification manual. Samoa adopted the Oceania Umpire Grading System and grading certificates were presented as follows:

Level 3: Labuto Siaosi; Hellen Omeri-Levale; Uaealesi Toelupe; Sooupu Kolose. **Level 2:** Bill Cable; Seiuli Masa Levale; Peleiupu Young Yen. **Level 1:** Vaiaoga Leatuvaio.

Seiuli Masa Levale was appointed Umpire-in-Chief with Upu Young Yen Assistant Umpire-in-Chief. Seiuli holds a Matai Title with connections to the Royal Family.



Oceania – ISF Intermediate Umpire Clinic, Papua New Guinea

Convenors: Harry Ketet, Treasurer and Chris Bais, President, PNGSF; Facilitator: Scott and Andrew Rindfliesh (UIC-SA), assistant Scott Rindfliesh (SA). Thanks to Softball Australia for the supply of resource materials. Papua New Guinea adopted the Oceania Umpire Grading System and grading certificates were presented as follows:

Level 4: Moses Tolingling; Anthony (Tony) Simitap; Peter Chalapan. **Level 3:** Leo Duba; Cornelius Terra;



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Lucas Powaseu; Lucas Sorang. **Level 2:** Andrew Moe; Jeff Maira, Vincent Taule; Alfred Baiiai; Robin Malusan; Samuel (Sammy)Nguruk; Betty Pokowas; Robert Eron; Henry Takaili. **Level 1:** Leonard Sabadi; Noah Kimi; John Cambell.

Post clinic, Peter Chalapan was appointed Umpire-in-Chief.

Thanks to ISF Vice President Bob Leveloff for the clinic approvals and NOC funding support.

Proposed Oceania- ISF Advanced Umpire Clinic, Guam for the northern region umpires is still in the planning phase. Thanks to Oceania President Bob Steffy for his efforts to date.

Oceania Umpire Grading System as adopted by Samoa and PNG

Level 1 - Local Association Grading

Association Umpire who has not sat and passed the Rules Examination

Level 2 - Passed Rules Examination (pass mark 60%)

After a minimum of two years umpiring regularly in Local Fixtures, may apply for Practical Examination having achieved a current year Rules Examination Pass of (70%).

Level 3 - National Badge Holder – Passed Level 2 Practical Examination

Expected to umpire regularly in Local and National fixtures. Involved with Local umpire programme. Rules Examination Pass mark (70%).

Level 4 - Senior National Badge Holder

Has a minimum of five years umpiring experience. Expected to umpire regularly in Local, National and Regional fixtures. Rules Examination Pass mark (80%). Involved with Local and National umpire programme. May be recommended to attend ISF Certification Clinic.

Level 5 - ISF Certificate Holder (International Umpire)

Has attended an ISF Certification Clinic and has been certified. Aggregate Pass mark (90%).

Expected to umpire regularly in Local, National, Regional and International fixtures. Involved with Local and National umpire programme.

ISF Accredited Umpires

At the request of the ISF the Oceania list of officials has been updated. A total number of 109 have been accredited and recognised since the first World Championship held in Australia in 1965. A total of 22 remain active as field umpires while a further 10 are active as umpire administrators.

Major International Activity involving Oceania umpires (notified records)

- ❖ XIIth Men's World Championship, Canada (3 ISF officials)
- ❖ XXIXth Olympic Games, Beijing, China (4 ISF officials)
- ❖ VIIIth Junior Men's World Championship, Canada (4 ISF officials)
- ❖ Oceania Men's World Championship Qualifier, New Zealand (10 ISF officials)
- ❖ South Pacific Games, Samoa (3 officials)
- ❖ Pacific Series Men, Australia (2007) and Samoa (2009).
- ❖ ISC/SNZ Exchange - Rich Silva (USA), Mark McFarlane (NZ)
- ❖ ISC Tournament of Champions (2008) - Nicky Ogier (first female umpire appointed)
- ❖ 2009 Trans Tasman Exchange - Phil Waller (Aus), Tara Harris (NZ)
- ❖ 2008 Trans Tasman Exchange - Warren Duff, Kevin Broomhall (Aus), Jeremy England (NZ)
- ❖ International Women Series, Black Town Australia (Apr08)
- ❖ Canada Cup, Jul08.

Additional International Softball continues to be played between Federations within Oceania and with other ISF Federations and continues to provide many opportunities for the Region's umpires.