Minutes of the 2017 Annual Meeting of the National Umpiring Staff of SNZ held at SNZ Offices, Sat  $24^{th}$  & Sun  $25^{th}$  June 2017.

**Present**: Wiremu Tamaki (WT), Lindsay Edwards (LE), Jeremy England (JE), Eugene Gilbert (EG), Mark Porteous (MP), Gavin Shepherd (GS), Lance Brown (LB), Dave Fortin (DF), Kevin Gorman (KG).

**Apologies**: Nil

Opening: Wiremu offered the mihi whakatau and welcomed all

Notified bereavements: William "Bill" Smith, Kyosuke "Joe" Okada, Elva Dyason, Veronica O'Neil

Minute recording: Lance Brown

1.1 Minutes confirmed as true and accurate record - KG/MP - passed  1.2 Matters Arising from the previous meeting:  • LE - mentioned the perennial crew members who consistently pull out of tournaments to possibly name and shame  • DF - bat stickers and bat processes to be directed to general business  • LB - mentioned that SNZ have the concussion protocols as a topic at national level therefore no further discussion. LE - at regional clinics to discuss a course of action moving forward for the immediate season and for SNZ to have this added to the tournament handbook  • WT - recording of game tallies to be structured on a database system  • Level Six Cap - idea disbanded  • TCU performance review - desk file on how best to run a tournament as a TCU  • Uniform - task to be assigned  • Off diamond attire - communication to our fraternity to ensure our umpires are conscious about off diamond appearance  • Policy review - parked  2.0 Strategic Planning & Development  2.1 SNZ Umpire Progression Framework Darrel Paul (DP) presented the draft framework to the NUS meeting via Skype.  • The working sub-committee members are Darrel Paul, Gavin Shepherd and Jill Farquhar  • DP articulated the rationale for the framework and the need for the umpire's programme to have a transparent and clear pathway for umpire development  • Framework concentrated on the beginning stages of umpiring through to becoming a qualified SNZ Badge holder (level four)  • Framework starts at Level Zero (Novice/Recruit) with a progression map from level zero to level four  • Each level has a learning module with clear objectives for demonstrating the required level  • Each level has an assessment module with recommended tournaments to attend in order to progress to the next level  • The NUS acknowledged Darrel's great presentation and the work of the team	1.0	Minutes of the 2016 Annual General Meeting	Action
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3.0 International Program	3.0	International Program	

3.1	WBSC Certification 2018.	Advise candidates and manage
	<ul> <li>Proposed WBSC certification clinic to be held in 2018 has now</li> </ul>	expectations of those who may be
	been postponed until 2019	ready.
3.2	International Relations	
	WT talked about developing relationships with other countries	
	within WBSC. The WBSC international schedule is set to	
	increase with more products on offer for both men and	
	women	
	U23 and the Friendship Series - now established as the	
	resurged Trans-Tasman exchange	
	These tournaments to target our level 4 and level 5 umpires	
4.0	Regional Reports (Summaries)	Action
4.1	Regional Director of Umpiring – Northern Region. Mark Porteous.	
	Presented his report	
	MP talked about the number of tournaments the region	
	facilitated, the challenges they had staffing them and how	
	exciting the season had been	
	There were many opportunities for umpires to chief	
	tournaments	
	Auckland umpire of the year - Heidi Leathart, North Harbour	
	umpire of the year – Heath Walker, Counties Manukau umpire	
	of the year – Chris Boyce	
4.1.1	Grading nominations put forward by the RDU- NR & Association UICs	
	for NUS review	
	Simon Lindsay L5	
	Shaun Poata L5	
	Dave Taiwhanga L5	
	Geoff Simmonds L5	
	Tama Howard L6	
	Robbie Sadgrove L6	
	Heath Walker L6	
4.2	Regional Director of Umpiring – Central Region. Jeremy England	
7.2	Presented his report	
	Thanked Gavin for his work in Tairawhiti and the grading	
	framework	
	Talked about last year's regional clinic, the up-coming season     and the Control Perional Clinic, Tainvelit (Cish area)	
	and the Central Regional Clinic – Tairawhiti (Gisborne) –	
	September 23/24	
	JE has taken the position of intercity UIC/scheduler within his	
	regional	
4.2.1	Grading nominations put forward by the RDU-CR & Association UICs	
	for NUS review	
	Daniel Parker L4	
	Hamilton Maere L4	
	Jason Tamanui L4	
	Api Takoko L4	
	Willie Sadlier L5	
	Gary Tokoa L5	
	Dallas Joseph L3	
	Tom Kingi L6	
	Stu Murray L4	
	Andrew Lawson L5	
4.0	Ben Dyason L5	
4.3	Acting Regional Director of Umpiring – Southern Region. Dave Fortin	
	(ARDU)	

	Preser	nted his report		
4.3.1		nations by the ARDU-SR & A	Association UICs for NUS	
	review			
	Craig Allen L5			
	Dennis Ormsby	, L5		
	Heath Lyttle L5			
	Robin Griffith L			
	Sam Meikle L5	.•		
4.4	Regional Umpi	res Clinics		
7.7		ern Clinic, 16-17 Septembe	r Auckland	
		al Clinic, 23-24 September (		
		ern Clinic, 23-24 Septembe		
5.0	Umpire Evalua		Christenaren	Action
5.1	•	res Assessed for Promotion	n - Ratified & Endorsed	RDUs to communicate with
3.1	-	– Promotion to Level 6	Ratified & Endorsed	successful candidates
	•	– Promotion to Level 5	Ratified & Endorsed	Successial callalates
		Promotion to Level 5	Ratified & Endorsed	
		omery – Promotion to Level		
		Promotion to Level 5	Ratified & Endorsed	
		romotion to Level 5	Ratified & Endorsed	
		Promotion to Level 5	Ratified & Endorsed	
5.2	·	ion for Assessment/Evalua		WT to contact candidates to be
3.2	season	ion for Assessmenty Evalua	ition during the 2017-10	graded, with UICs & RDU cc'd.
	D Taiwhanga	to be assessed for L5	Endorsed by NUS	graded, with oles & NDO cc u.
	G Simmonds	to be assessed for L5	Endorsed by NUS	
	T Howard	to be assessed for L6	Endorsed by NUS	
	R Sadgrove	to be assessed for L6	Endorsed by NUS	
	C Allen	to be assessed for L5	Endorsed by NUS	
	H Lyttle	to be assessed for L5	Endorsed subject to	
	meeting criteria		Endorsed subject to	
	R Griffith	to be assessed for L6	Endorsed subject to	
	passing the rule		Lildorsed subject to	
	S Meikle	to be assessed for L5	Endorsed by NUS	
	D Parker	to be assessed for L4	Endorsed subject to	
	passing the rule		Lituorseu subject to	
	H Maere	to be assessed for L4	Endorsed subject to	
	passing the rule		Lituorseu subject to	
	J Tamanui	to be assessed for L4	Endorsed by NUS	
	A Takoko	to be assessed for L4	Endorsed by NUS	
	G Tokoa	to be assessed for L4	Endorsed by NUS	
	D Joseph	to be assessed for L3	Endorsed by NUS	
	S Murray	to be assessed for L4	Endorsed by NUS	
	A Lawson	to be assessed for L5	Endorsed by NUS	
	B Dyason	to be assessed for L5	Endorsed by NUS	
5.3	•	Mentoring Program	Endoraca by NO3	LE to communicate with members
5.5		nering members with a coa	ch / mentor	and mentors
	T Montgomery	_	, mentor	
	S Meikle	Dave Fortin		
	M Andrell	Dennis Smith		
	B Dyason	Dennis Smith		
	H Lyttle	Dennis Smith		
	K Kwong	Gavin Shepher	4	
	G Tokoa	Gavin Shepher		
	W Sadlier	Gavin Shepher		
	T Howard	Jeremy England		
	R Taylor	Jeremy England	l .	

H Leathart Jeremy England H Walker Lance Brown R Sadgrove Lance Brown J Farquhar Mark Porteous L Hopa Mark Porteous D Ormsby Mark Porteous C Boyce Tony Kalaruna  6.0 Nationals Tournament Chief Umpire Reports Presented. Major themes – there still appears to be a lack of preparedness when attending nationals, lack of rules application in games, a noticeable slip in mechanics – domestic comp mechanics versus national mechanics, transportation to and from airports, a concern that personal commitments whilst attending national tournaments as a fully assigned umpire to the tournament has created a number of headaches for TCUs umpire to the tournament has created a number of headaches for TCUs T gumpires were appointed to last year's roster L E discussed the challenges of managing the national tournament application process and trying to communicate this early to the membership LE mentioned the rational/reasons for appointing umpires to tournaments and the criteria he has to manage in making those decisions ie budget, umpire development, locals versus visitors LE noted the rosters for each tournament are driven by the number of confirmed teams attending which is generally not known until a month out LE also mentioned the limpact of the rules test and umpires being evaluated requiring a rules test result need to be considered in being assigned to the national tournament roster LE advised there is no easy solution but will continue to find solutions with SNZ to manage the process WT closes with uncoupling the rules test to national appointments, as it is becoming too hard to staff tournaments. However the NUS will continue to encourage members to complete the annual rules test MOTION: Uncouple the rules test with national scheduling but retain for being evaluated for next level. WT/LE. Passed.				
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## 6.3 Confirmed National Tournament Schedule. Identified Tournament Chief Umpires (DRAFT)

Tournament	Abbrv	Location	Date	TCU / ATCU
Junior Secondary School Nationals	JSS	Akina Park, Hastings	27-30 Nov 2017	TBC
NFC U23 Men's	U23	Rosedale Park, Albany	7-10 Dec 2017	L Edwards R Dyason
U19 Boys	U19B	Mizuno Park, Christchurch	4-7 Jan	D Beaumont / M McFarlane
U19 Girls	U19G	Rosedale Park, Albany	4-7 Jan	M Porteous / B Wells

U17 Boys	U17B	Colquhoun Park, Palmerston North	11-14 Jan	G Nalepa / R Dyason
U17 Girls	U17G	Ellis Park, Dunedin	11-14 Jan	D Sutton / D Poy
U15 Boys North Island	U15B NI	Haitaitai Park, Wellington	18-21 Jan	T Kaiaruna / G Shepherd
U15 Girls North Island	U15G NI	Prince Edward Park, Papakura	18-21 Jan	K Gorman / C Seeling
U15s South Island	U15 SI	Surrey Park, Invercargill	18-21 Jan	R Thompson / L Hopa
National Fastpitch Championship	NFC	Rosedale Park, Albany	15-18 Feb	L Edwards / M McFarlane
Men's Club Nationals	МО	Fraser Park, Lower Hutt	7-11 March	L Edwards / R Dyason
Women's Club Nationals	wo	Mizuno Park, Christchurch	8-11 March	W Tamaki
Division 1 Secondary School Nationals	SSD1	Fraser Park, Lower Hutt	19-23 March	D Smith / R Dyason
Division 2 Secondary Schools North Island	SSD2 NI	Resthills Park, Hamilton	20-23 March	C Seeling / L Type
Division 2 Secondary Schools South Island	SSD2 SI	TBC	20-23 March	L Hopa / M Andrell

7.0	Annual Rules Test	Action
	Rules test statistics     The overall average score was 81.4%, with 74 participants completing the test. In comparison to last year – 83.92% and 96 respectively  General Discussion	Continue with online
	<ul> <li>DF talked about the development of the rules test and how it came to be. Talked about the successful working relationship between the working committee</li> <li>DF discussed that rules tests are a training tool and therefore the format is acceptable. If it is desired that the rules test be an assessment, then a "Rule Box-type" set up would be required</li> <li>The consensus was that the rules test was excellent and the NUS agreed to continue with a similar-style rules test be continued next season.</li> <li>Further discussion was held on rules test for levels 1-3 being an introductory test to be completed at the start of the season and the main rules test to be at the end of the season, as per the last two seasons to assist with next season's allocation. This to be looked at in line with the SNZ Umpiring Progression Framework</li> <li>Agreed to keep the rules test open to allow recommended members requiring a rules test for evaluation to complete this task. Date to officially close to be advised by DF and WT.</li> <li>Recommend to keep the working committee as status quo</li> <li>LE discussed how some umpire associations are completing the rules test together which raises integrity issues. There is a need for individuals to complete the rules test as individuals and come together as a group after the test has been completed.</li> </ul>	rules test with video.  2. Readjust for new SNZ Umpire Progression framework – L1 – L3  3. Next rules test to include advice to members to sit the test as an individual rather than a group
8.0	Softball New Zealand	Action
8.1	SNZ CEO Tony Giles.	
3.2	Tony discussed a new operational direction for SNZ to deliver quality national and international tournaments	

	<ul> <li>Tony mentioned the success of the TAB Challenge and confirmed the tournament for the 7<sup>th</sup> -11<sup>th</sup> of February 2018</li> <li>Talked about potential umpire development with tournaments being developed at a World Baseball Softball Confederation (WBSC) level, to include - 16U Girls – Oklahoma, USA August 2018, 23U Men's – 2020, an Elite 8 Men's – 2020, Olympic qualifier – 2018</li> <li>SNZ have included a National Fastpitch Championship (NFC) U23 Men's, which is scheduled for the 7<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> December 2018 at Rosedale Park</li> </ul>	
9.0	Awards	Action
9.1	Research Jeremy to research criteria of the award and check membership for who may fit the criteria.	
9.2	Presentation of award Wiremu presented Kevin Gorman with his distinction award for his services to softball.	
9.3	Nominations of SNZ Umpire of the Year  Three nominations received - Dawie Sutton, Tony Kaiaruna and Heath Walker.	
10.0	General Business	Action
10.1	• LE – advises that this concept never got traction and recommends that this be disestablished.  • MOTION: The Level 7 Group he disestablished LE/GS. Passed	
40.0	MOTION: The Level 7 Group be disestablished LE/GS. Passed	NUIC I I I I
10.2	<ul> <li>The Alumni Assessment Team / Practical Evaluation of an Umpire:         <ul> <li>LE talked about the proposed alumni group members of Mark McFarlane, Ray Dyason, Cass Seeling and Dennis Smith</li> <li>Purpose of the group is to oversee the assessment/evaluation process throughout the country.</li> <li>Due to resourcing this may be hard to achieve so ATCU roles may include an Alumni member assigned to a tournament</li> <li>LE requested the NUS members read the document titled "Terms of Reference"</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	NUS members to read the terms of reference and get back to LE asap
10.3	National Umpires Conference:  JE provided a briefing about the National Conference. This is still a work in progress.	
10.4	Regional Director of Umpiring – Southern Region  The role is currently vacant. DF is the acting regional director of Southern.  The NUS will advertise the role of RDU-Southern.	WT to action the advertisement, the application process and the timings of the RDU Southern. WT to look at the position description
10.5	RDU at Large  Template to be developed for TCUs for a self-evaluation form to be added to the toolbox and to be part of the TCU Umpires report	LB to action
10.6	SNZ Bat Check Process  Proposal to complete an in-depth bat check process at the beginning of the season at local level that provides a warrant of fitness for the entire season. At national tournaments physical tests to be completed to validate eligibility for use at the tournament. This would cut down on some of the admin processing tasks.  To gather more data on rejected bats, forms to add in a section to record this information	DF to draft proposal and research appropriate bat stickers.  LB to amend current bat check documents
10.7	SNZ Umpires Code of Conduct  - Review and look to ratify and load to SNZ Umpires website for 2017/2018 season	WT to post and communicate to membership

10.8	<ul> <li>From the minutes of the 2014 National Umpires Staff meeting, the SNZ Code of Conduct was already ratified.</li> <li>MOTION: ratify Code of Conduct and to be included as policy MP/GS. Passed.</li> <li>Health &amp; Safety</li> <li>SNZ to research concussion protocols with different codes/sports.</li> <li>NUS to provide advice to the tournament committee to include in their handbook ie automatic stand down and replacement rule to be used</li> </ul>	WT to provide advice to the tournament committee
10.9	National Uniforms  - National shirt still being provided by Fieldhouse  - Suggest to local associations to look at an alternate local strip preserving their national uniform for national tournaments	1. WT to follow up with TK regarding keeping a relationship with Fieldhouse to keep stock up 2. RDUs to contact their regional UICs to consider an alternate strip
10.10	Travel policy – Review Vans/transportation were utilised during last season. It is a must have at the bigger centres, Auckland, Wellington, Christchurch. MP mentioned the reduced pressure on locals.	Already noted
	MEETING CLOSED: WT closed with Karakia. Meeting closed on Sunday the 25 <sup>th</sup> of June 2017, 3pm.	

## Supplement to the above minutes recorded 14/9/2017

## Late additions to minutes in consultation with appointed RDU Te Waipounamu - D Beaumont

Umpires recommended for evaluation - 2017/2018 season:

R Watson L4 (omitted by NUS after being recorded in the tabled UIC report from Southland)

C Wallace L3 (omitted by NUS after being recorded in the tabled UIC report from Southland)

C Smeekes - L4 – late addition tabled by the D Beaumont – RDU Te Waipounamu

## **Endorsements:**

R Watson L4 – endorsed by SNZ UIC 14/9/2017

C Wallace L3 - endorsed by SNZ UIC 14/9/2017

C Smeekes L4 - endorsed by SNZ UIC 14/9/2017