

**Minutes of the 2024 Annual Meeting of the National Umpiring Staff (NUS) of SNZ held at  
Sportsville, Hutt Park, Lower Hutt,  
Saturday 8 June 2024 and Sunday 9 June 2024 commencing at 9am.**

**Present:** Mark 'Porty' Porteous, Kevin Gorman, Nicola Ogier, Jill Farquhar, Gavin Shepherd, Ray Dyason, Dawie Sutton, Wiremu Tamaki

**Apologies:** Lindsay Edwards, Eugene Gilbert (SNZ)

**Opening:** Gavin offered karakia, Wiremu offered the mihi whakatau and welcomed everyone. A very warm welcome to our newest Deputy Director, Jill Farquhar and an acknowledgement of thanks to Dave Beaumont and Rikki Thompson for their service as a departing Deputy Director and Regional Director of Umpiring respectively.

Acknowledged those that have passed away amongst the membership.

**Notified bereavements:** Mike Mulholland, Stu Hodges, Greg Beaumont, Andrew Rindfleish (Australia), Selwyn Taylor, Robyn Mason.

**Round the house whakawhanaungatanga:** Health and wellbeing check-in with the team and an indication on what the team wants to achieve from the weekend. Wiremu tabled Lindsay's resignation letter and read it to the group. Further to his resignation the NUS recognised his service of 12 years as a Deputy Director for the programme since 2012 and wished him well for his future.

1.0	<b>Minutes of the 2023 Annual Meeting</b> Confirmed as true and a correct record. Porty/Dawie	<b>Action</b>
1.1	<b>Matters Arising</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Nil</li> </ul>	
1.2	<b>Strategic Planning</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The NUS wishes to continue with the development of our Strat Plan and align it more closely to SNZ. A key focus for our plan is on growth membership development.</li> </ul>	<b>Action</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>JF and WU to review, design and propose new Strat Plan for NUS review.</li> </ol>
2.0	<b>Reporting</b>	<b>Action</b>
2.1	<b>RDU reports – Te Raki (Northern), Te Ika ā Maui (Central), Te Waipounamu (Southern)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reports taken as read by the NUS</li> <li>Concern raised about umpires having to travel outside their area for games as there are none within the area. While not ideal, members are encouraged to do the best they can to keep their participation and umpiring practice in-tact.</li> <li>Discussion held about the information provided as it relates to meaningful context for growth and development of our members.</li> </ul>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Porty and WU to create an SOP for local UICs to provide guidance in reporting writing regarding their members in their UIC report to RDUs at the end of the season.</li> </ol>
2.2	<b>Regional Clinics</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Proposal to offer regional clinics as a centralised online forum</li> <li>For this year's clinics, to be run regionally, members will be asked for feedback regarding an online forum</li> <li>Theme for this year is 'Relationships' across: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Strike Zone</li> <li>Four Essential Elements Theory (FEET)</li> <li>Ourselves and those we interact with.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>WU to include proposal to survey in UIC Flight Deck Briefing.</li> <li>RDUs to put forward to attendees at regional clinic the proposal for a centralise online forum and report back.</li> <li>RDUs to expand on the 'Relationships' theme across the key elements of umpiring i.e., strike zone, player, coach interactions etc.</li> </ol>

2.3	<b>Tournament Chief Umpire Reports</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reports taken as read by the NUS.</li> </ul>	<b>Action</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Porty and WU to create a new SOP for 'At the Tournament' to be read in conjunction with the TCU SOP &amp; Assessors SOP.</li> </ol>
2.4	<b>SNZ CEO Update</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Wiremu met with SNZ CEO Jason Merrett, May 30<sup>th</sup>, 2024. Key points: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Budget for 2025 - unchanged</li> <li>Continued support of the exchange programme opportunities with Australia and Canada. Still a user pays offering.</li> <li>Planning underway for a WBSC Certification Clinic to be held in March 2025 at the Women's Open. Women's Open tournament reserved for the clinic.</li> <li>Regional growth and connection – developing deeper grass roots officiating and understanding their needs.</li> <li>National tournaments <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>NFC to be held in February 2025, Lower Hutt</li> <li>u19 Men to be held in Pukekohe, Auckland</li> </ul> </li> <li>Support for national teams going offshore <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pathway discussed for senior members to collaborate with representative teams heading offshore.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<b>Action</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>WU to send NO regional growth feedback from SNZ Conference May 2024.</li> <li>WU to liaise with High Performance Manager for national team pathway.</li> </ol>
3.0	<b>Assessments Framework – NUS members Nicola, Ray and Kevin to lead this portfolio</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assessment framework now supports two-way feedback between assessor and candidate</li> <li>Assessment framework to be reviewed</li> <li>Current membership makeup is Lindsay, Ray, Mark McFarlane, Kevin, Nicola, Cass. Rebecca Taylor welcomed on board as a new trainee.</li> <li>New NUS Assessments Review process trialled at the end of April worked very well. Recommend continuation and improved reporting for quicker moderation process.</li> </ul>	<b>Action</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>NUS appointees to review processes and propose framework for NUS endorsement including Assessment Review process.</li> </ol>
3.1	<b>Pathways Framework and Workbooks</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Feedback on Level 1, 2, 3 books have been very positive reflecting a great foundational resource</li> <li>Future plan to review the books in the next 2-3 years</li> <li>Adjustments required to framework regarding rule changes and eligibility of next level.</li> </ul>	<b>Action</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>JF to make recommended changes to pathways framework and work books.</li> </ol>
4.0	<b>Grading</b>	
4.1	<b>Grading Review of 2023/24 Assessments – Ratified and Endorsed</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Liam Stewart, Brody Donald, Chris Murdoch, Paddy O'Sullivan – endorsed for Level 4</li> <li>Eric Horsham, Jo Edwin, Rochelle Watson, Jaiden Bell – endorsed for Level 5.</li> </ul>	<b>Action</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>WU to organise certificates and/or badges for RDU distribution/presentation at regional clinics.</li> </ol>
4.2	<b>Recommendations for assessment in the upcoming 2024/25 season</b> Candidates recommended for their next level: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Chris Boyce to be offered a pre-assessment at Men's Open</li> <li>Willie Sadlier, Keith Marsh to be assessed for Level 6</li> <li>Mike McCaw, Daniel Parker and Himi Orupe to be assessed for</li> </ul>	<b>Action</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>WU to contact candidates and confirm acceptance.</li> <li>WU to send confirmed invitation.</li> </ol>

	<p>Level 5</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Alexander Black, Richelle Aubrey and Jenny Smith to be assessed for Level 4.</li> </ul>	
5.0	<p><b>Rules – NUS members Nicola, Jill and Gavin and co-opted member Dave Fortin to lead portfolio.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Team to design and set rules test for August 2024.</li> </ul>	Action
6.0	<p><b>National Tournament Application Process – NUS members Wu and Gavin to lead portfolio.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Overhaul review of entire process to improve delivery to members undertaking the following expectations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Booking flights earlier to minimise cost and maximise more membership attendance</li> <li>General travel and per diems for food while at a tournament needs a revisit</li> <li>Need to get better from our lessons learned i.e., <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>managing umpire expectations</li> <li>improve communications with SNZ, and between our TCUs and members</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> <li>National appointment records to be reviewed, updated and filed</li> <li>National tournament application process to be made available by 1 August at the latest.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Action</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>WU to connect with SNZ representative and coordinate 2024/2025 programme and raise expectations.</li> <li>WU to review missing national appointment records and update for handover to DS</li> </ol>
6.1	<b>Confirmed National Tournament Schedule - Identified and Appointed TCUs and Candidates</b>	

2024/25 Tournament	Abbreviation	Park	City	Date/s	Tournament Chief/Assistant Chief
SNZ u19 Girls	u19G	Surrey Park	Invercargill	9-12 January 2025	Gavin
SNZ u19 Boys	u19B		Auckland	9-12 January 2025	TK
SNZ u17 Girls	u17G	Dynasty Ballpark	Christchurch	16-19 January 2025	Nicola Ogier/Dawie
SNZ u17 Boys	u17B	Fraser Park	Lower Hutt	16-19 January 2025	Porty
National Softball League/Fastpitch	NFC	Fraser Park	Lower Hutt	13-16 February 2025	Wiremu Tamaki
NZ Open Men's Clubs Championships	MO	Dynasty Ballpark	Christchurch	12-16 March 2025	Nicola Ogier
NZ Open Women's Clubs Championships	WO	Rosedale Park	Auckland	13-16 March 2025	TK
Div 1 Sec School Boys & Girls Championships	SSD1	Fraser Park	Lower Hutt	25-28 March 2025	Sheesh/Rebecca
Div 2 Nth Island Sec School B & G Champs	SSD2N	Fraser Park	Lower Hutt	25-28 March 2025	Sheesh/Rebecca
Div 2 Sth Island Sec School B & G Champs	SSD2S	Sir Basil Arthur Park	South Canterbury	25-28 March 2025	TBC - Potential SNZ Liaison Officer

7.0	<b>Awards</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Distinguished Service Award (DSA) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The NUS received three written nominations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Chris Radford on behalf of the Auckland Umpires</li> <li>Lance Brown on behalf of Whanganui Softball Association</li> <li>Dawie Sutton on behalf of Otago Softball Association</li> <li>Lance Brown and Dawie Sutton nominations ratified and endorsed</li> <li>Congratulations to both Lance and Dawie.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> <li>SNZ Umpire of the Year <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Congratulations to Mark 'Porty' Porteous as this year's recipient</li> </ul> </li> <li>SNZ Distinguished Service Award (SNZDSA) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Congratulations to Jeremy England on his SNZDSA award.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<b>Action</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Porty to update and send DSA policy for NUS endorsement</li> <li>WU to update honours board.</li> <li>WU to diary calendar reminder for a call for SNZ Umpire of the Year &amp; DSA nominations to be sent out after last national tournament.</li> <li>WU to send congratulations note to nominees and a note of thanks to unsuccessful candidate.</li> </ol>
8.0	<b>NUS Structure</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The NUS welcomed Jill Farquhar as Deputy Director of Umpiring (DDU) and endorsed and promoted Dawie Sutton to the position of Regional Director of Umpiring (RDU) – Te Waipounamu.</li> <li>The vacant position of DDU will not be filled at this time. The NUS has a lot of mahi to do and has allocated current resources to manage the required programme of work.</li> <li>The structure of the NUS has a ceiling of ten roles but will operate with its current membership of eight.</li> </ul>	
9.0	<b>Policies</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Porty presented draft policies for review</li> <li>Amendments made as appropriate to Annual Rules Test, Grading, Pathways, Code of Conduct, Touring Guide and Distinguished Service Award policies.</li> </ul>	<b>Action</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Porty to distribute policies for NUS endorsement to be posted to the website.</li> </ol>
10.0	<b>Talent management</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A good discussion on the intent of this offering for members.</li> <li>Current pathway that exists is a two-way street of communication for members to organically grow the relationship and need. Don't fix what is not broke!</li> <li>NUS agreement to let the need be driven by choice.</li> </ul>	<b>Action</b>
11.0	<b>SNZ Umpire Records Database – NUS lead Dawie</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dawie to oversee all database administration including, grading, national appointments, SNZ Badge list and other SNZ databases including publication</li> <li>SNZ Badge spreadsheet requires updating and handover to Dawie for on-going monitoring and maintenance.</li> </ul>	<b>Action</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>WU to update SNZ Badge spreadsheet for handover to DS.</li> </ol>
12.0	<b>Round the House</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A strong sense of tighter unity between the group now that all members have a 'job' to do. More Dooey and less Hui!</li> <li>Bat wrap enquiry. While the rule book is not clear on what is exactly acceptable there is a need for more clarity.</li> <li>Bars and Badges – to be added to the TCU SOPs for better visibility and tracking</li> <li>Attire at national tournaments and culture to be raised in our TCU SOPs.</li> </ul>	<b>Action</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>WU to reach out to WBSC Director for clarity on bat wrap.</li> </ol>
	<b>Meeting Closed Sunday June 9<sup>th</sup> 2024 at 12pm</b>	