



OCEANIA REGION UMPIRE ACTIVITY REPORT

TO THE 2011 ISF CONGRESS, OKLAHOMA, USA

By Oceania Regional Coordinator Wayne Saunders

Executive Summary

Oceania is geographically spread over both the Northern and Southern hemispheres and has no regular historic regional competition. With more frequent ISF World Championship qualifiers there is a realistic opportunity for more regular international competition. However with the restriction of appointing only ISF certified umpires to ISF World Championship qualifiers there is little opportunity for umpires outside of Australia and New Zealand to be assigned. In Oceania there is a real need to revert back to allowing competing National Federations the right to select a suitably capable umpire to be assigned to ISF regional competitions.

Communications

- ◆ With such a widely dispersed membership there is much reliance on electronic communications and access to training material available through ISF UmpSchool. The identification of an Umpire-in-Chief in more National Federations has provided the opportunity to increase direct communications with and between umpiring programmes.
- ◆ SKYPE video conferencing - Bob Stanton participated in the pitching presentation to the 2010 SNZ National Umpire Staff meeting and again at the 2011 meeting where current ISF umpiring matters were discussed with both the New Zealand and Australian National Umpiring Staff's.
- ◆ Activity reports were received from Australia, Papua New Guinea and New Zealand and are attached.

Pacific Games Softball was not included in the 2011 Pacific Games held in New Caledonia. The 2015 games to be hosted by Papua New Guinea will see a strong push by the hosts for softball to be reinstated.

Regional Exchanges

- ◆ The Trans Tasman umpire exchange between Australia and New Zealand continues. The first exchanges were in 1993. Participants in 2010 were Jason Carter (Aus) and Richard Gale (NZ) and 2011 Stacey Loveridge and David Casey (Aus) and Mark Porteous (NZ).
- ◆ International Friendship Series, Australia – in addition to umpires from Australian and New Zealand, Peter Chalapan (PNG) and Tony Simitap (PNG) participated in 2010.

2010 ISF Beginner Umpire Clinic, Palau.

Held in-conjunction with the 7th 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).



2011 ISF Beginner Umpire Clinic, Micronesia – FSM

Details have been finalized for a fastpitch/slowpitch beginner's umpire clinic to be held in October. The clinic facilitator will be Scott Rindfleish (State Director of Umpires, NSW, Australia). This brings to four the number of umpire development clinics held in the Island Nations of Oceania in the last four years. Regular annual National and Regional umpire clinics continue to be held in Australia, Papua New Guinea and New Zealand.



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Donation of Umpire Equipment to PNG Many thanks to Softball Australia and in particular Andrew and Scott Rindfleish for their efforts in the collection of umpire equipment for PNG and the ISF for the payment of the \$750 shipping cost. Andrew and Scott facilitated the 2008 Umpires Clinic in PNG.

2011 Oceania ISF Certification Seminar was held at Redlands, Brisbane in conjunction with the Australian Men's and Women's Open Championships. I am pleased to again report that all thirteen candidates obtained certification. Congratulations to Australians Jason Carter, Ian Frame, Ron Houison, Yvonne Kahler, Stacey Loveridge, Helen Strauss, Phil Waller, Howard Watt and Amanda Houison; and New Zealanders Jeremy Jones England, Mark Porteous, David William Shedlock and Riki Tourangi.

Family connections added another dimension to the success of the candidates. Ron and Amanda are husband and wife, Phil follows the ISF umpire path of wife Dianne, Jeremy in the ISF umpire path of father David, while Stacy is the third generation ISF umpire in her family following in the footsteps of father Leigh and grandmother Betty McGuire.



Above: ISF Director of Umpires Bob Stanton and Oceania Regional Umpire Coordinator Wayne Saunders with the assistance of members of the SA National Staff discuss some of the finer points with the candidates.

The next Oceania ISF Certification Seminar is tentatively scheduled for March 2013 in New Zealand in association with the 2013 ISF Men's World Championship. Details will be finalized after regional consultation and confirmation by the ISF Director of Umpires Bob Stanton. Candidate preparation for this event is already underway in Australia, Papua New Guinea and New Zealand.

ISF Sub-committees - listed are Oceania ISF umpires and the sub-committees they service. Mechanics: Wayne Saunders (chair), Kevin Broomhall and Leigh Evans. Standards: Nicky Ogier, Darren Sibraa and Leigh Evans. Social Media: Warren Duff. Administration: Margo Koskelainen and Wayne Saunders.

ISF Accredited Umpires - A total number of 122 have been accredited and recognised since the first World Championship held in Australia in 1965. The updated schedule is attached to this report.

2010/2011 Major International Activities involving Oceania umpires (notified records)

- ◆ Trans Tasman Exchange between Australia and New Zealand
- ◆ International Friendship Series involving Australia, Papua New Guinea and New Zealand
- ◆ XIIth Women's ISF Women's World Championship, Venezuela (three officials)
- ◆ U19 Men's International Test Series, Sydney, Australia.
- ◆ International Women's Challenge Series, Sydney, Australia
- ◆ ISC/SNZ Exchange - Randy McLamb (USA), Wiremu Tamaki (NZL)
- ◆ International Men's Fastpitch Test Series, Canberra, Australia
- ◆ Gillies Shield Tournaments and Aussie Spirit/NZ White Sox Test Series, Australia
- ◆ Micronesian Games, Palau.
- ◆ Asia Pacific Softball Regional Championship tournament, Guam.

Attached: Umpire Reports from Australia, Papua New Guinea and New Zealand. Update Oceania ISF umpire list.

Softball Australia Umpiring Report

The Softball Australia National Umpire Program (NUP) acknowledges and congratulates Darren Sibraa (Qld) as winner of the 2010 Softball Australia Umpire of the Year (*Vivienne Triplett Award*).

Accreditation and professional development

In the past 12 months, the NUP have completed the Introduction to Umpiring, Level 1 and Level 2 manuals. The manuals have received National Officiating Accreditation Scheme (NOAS) endorsement and are available in the umpiring section of the Softball Australia website.

The total number of accredited umpires is 1462 (30 June 2011) broken down as follows:

Umpiring	ACT	NSW	NT	SA	Qld	Tas	Vic	WA
Level 1	22	286	12	58	300	19	240	29
Level 2	8	60	6	27	76	7	46	20
Level 3	9	29	0	13	29	5	14	13
Level 4	1	17	1	5	18	4	5	5
Level 5	2	9	1	1	9	0	5	1
Level 6	1	11	0	3	10	0	9	4
Level 7	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	0
Level 8	1	2	0	4	1	0	3	0
Total	45	414	20	111	442	35	323	72

The following nine umpires attained International Softball Federation (ISF) certification at the ISF clinic conducted in conjunction with the Gilley's Shield Round 4 finals and John Reid Shield.

Ian Frame, Helen Strauss and Yvonne Kahler (Qld)

Howard Watt, Amanda Houison, Ron Houison (NSW) and

Jason Carter, Phil Waller and Stacey Loveridge (Vic)

Leigh Evans and Darren Sibraa were appointed to the ISF Standards Committee. Kevin Broomhall was appointed to the ISF Mechanics Standards Committee. Warren Duff was appointed to the ISF Social Media Standards Committee.

Kevin Broomhall accepted an invitation from Softball Tasmania to present a basic umpiring clinic in July 2011 which was well attended

The following umpires attained their Level 5 umpire accreditation at the conclusion of their respective Australian Championships:

Esther Deason Shield 2011 Australian Under 17 Girls Championship	George Norrish (NSW)
Elinor McKenzie Shield 2011 Australian Under 19 Women's Championship	Chris Trengove (Vic)

The following umpires attained their Level 6 umpire accreditation at the conclusion of their respective Australian Championships:

2011 Gilley's/Edebone-Weber Shield Round 1 Stephen Gutteridge (Qld) and Kyira Cox (NSW)

2011 Gilley's/Edebone-Weber Shield Round 2 Richard Barrow (Vic) and Leanne Gearside (NSW) –

Nox Bailey Shield

2011 Australian Under 19 Men's Championship Jesse Smith (NSW)

Clinics conducted throughout Australia

A total of 455 umpires from level 1-6 completed formal state and national managed umpire development courses. These included Basic rules, Umpire/Coach relationships, Level 1, 2 & 3 clinics, Candidate and Mentoring training courses. Forty-six national umpires were presenters at these state and national umpire development courses.

International appointments

Helen Strauss (Qld) and Yvonne Kahler (Qld) have been selected to represent Australia at the 2011 ISF IX Junior Women's World Championship, Cape Town, South Africa in December 2011

Stacey Loveridge (Vic) was appointed to the 2011 Women's Open Club Championship in Auckland, New Zealand.

David Casey (Qld) was appointed to the 2011 New Zealand Men's Open Club Championship in Wellington.

Yvonne Kahler (Qld) was appointed to the Australian U19 women's tour of Japan, but this tour was cancelled due to the tsunami.

Resources

Technical bulletin

There were five technical bulletins published and circulated during the year:

- ISF points of emphasis pitching (POE)
- Softball Australia POE Phase in Procedure
- Softball Australia Playing Rules POE update
- Foreign Substance
- Softball Australia Manufactured Softball Batter Up bats

Version 2 of the ISF Pitching POE power point presentation and video were been produced and presented at the International Youth Cup in Rockhampton. Member States have been provided with this presentation for distribution to coaches, umpires and players. Leigh Evans is also facilitating the ISF Pitching Presentation internationally through the individual International Federation regions as a special project.

The Softball Rules in Pictures booklet has been finalised and printed. This publication is one of Softball Australia's most popular resources for parent, teachers and beginner coaches. It provides the basic rules of the game with simple, easy to understand illustrations.

Umpiring appointments

Umpires who attended 2011 Australian National Championships

Gilley's, Edebone/Weber Round 1	Gilley's, Edebone/Weber Round 2	Gilley's, Edebone/Weber Round 3
<p>Kyira Cox (NSW) Jay Gibson (NSW) Debbie Grove (Qld) Stephen Gutteridge (Qld) Ron Houison (NSW) Stacey Loveridge (VIC) Andrew Rindfleish (NSW) Scott Rindfleish (NSW) Darrell Shephard (NSW) Helen Strauss (Qld) Diane Waller (Vic) Howard Watt (NSW) Mark Porteous (NZ)</p>	<p>Richard Barrow (Vlic) Kevin Broomhall (Vic) Jason Carter (Vic) Warren Duff (WA) Leanne Gearside (NSW) Stephen Gutteridge (Qld) Yvonne Kahler (Qld) Stacey Loveridge (Vic) Trevor Murphy (Vic) Darren Sibraa (Qld) Jesse Smith (NSW) Steve Wallace-Yarrow (SA) Phil Waller (Vic)</p>	<p>Kyira Cox (NSW) Warren Duff (WA) Ian Frame (Qld) Debbie Grove (Vic) Amanda Houison (NSW) Vicki Lansley (NSW) Neville Lawrance (SA) Damien McCauley (SA) Gavin Shepherd (NZ) Kevin Tannebring (SA) Stuart Tyler (Vic) Phil Waller (Vlic) Steve Wallace-Yarrow (SA)</p>
<p>Australian Under 17 Girls - Esther Deason Shield Championship – Brisbane Rescheduled due to floods</p>	<p>Australian Under 17 Girls- Esther Deason Shield Championship (rescheduled) – Waverley , Victoria</p>	<p>Australian Under 17 Boys - Arthur Allsopp Shield Championship</p>
<p>Richard Barrow (Vic) Leanne Gearside (NSW) Sharyn Girdler (NSW) Debbie Grove (Vic) Amanda Houison (NSW) Sarah Houston (ACT) Trevor Murphy (Vic) George Norrish (NSW) Helen Strauss (Qld) Martin Turnbull (Qld) Peter Walsh (Qld) Howard Watt (NSW) Ron Yardley (Qld)</p>	<p>Richard Barrow (Vic) Richard Dodds (Vic) Ian Frame (Qld) Leanne Gearside (NSW) Trevor Murphy (Vic) George Norrish (NSW) Darrell Shephard (NSW) Kevin Tannebring (SA) Ryan Thorneycroft (Vic) Alex Turnbull (Vic) Martin Turnbull (Qld) Diane Waller (Vic) Peter Walsh (Qld) Howard Watt (NSW)</p>	<p>David Casey (Qld) Mark Gallagher (ACT) Ron Houison (NSW) Stephen Gutteridge (Qld) Neville Lawrance (SA) Kevin Offer (Vic) Kevin Tannebring (SA) Ryan Thorneycroft (Vic) Mark Toft (Qld) Stuart Tyler (Vic) Stephen Wood (SA)</p>
<p>Australian Under 19 Women's- Elinor McKenzie Shield Championship</p>	<p>Australian Under 19 Men's - Nox Bailey Shield Championship</p>	<p>Gilley's Shield Final and Australian Open Men's – John Reid Shield Championship</p>
<p>Nicholas Beashel (NSW) Bridget Cameron (Qld) Kyira Cox (NSW) Sharyn Girdler (NSW) Yvonne Kahler (Qld) Heather Kennedy (NSW) Jana McCaskill (Qld) Darrell Shepherd (NSW) Darren Sibraa (Qld) Helen Strauss (Qld) Kevin Tannebring (SA) Ryan Thorneycroft (Vic) Chris Trengove (Vic) Diane Waller (Vic)</p>	<p>Richard Barrow (Vic) Jason Carter (Vic) David Casey (Qld) Dave Datson (SA) Leigh Evans (Vic) Stacey Loveridge (Vic) Trevor Murphy (Vic) Kevin Offer (Vic) Scott Rindfleish (NSW) Mark Toft (Qld) Phil Waller (Vic)</p>	<p>Kevin Broomhall (Vic) Jason Carter (Vic) Warren Duff (WA) Jeremy England (NZ) Leigh Evans (Vic) Ian Frame (Qld) Debbie Grove (Vic) Amanda Houison (NSW) Ron Houison (NSW) Yvonne Kahler (Qld) Stacey Loveridge (Vic) Mark Porteous (NZ) Andrew Rindfleish (NSW) Scott Rindfleish (NSW) Dave Shedlock (NZ) Darren Sibraa (Qld) Patricia Sibraa (Qld)</p>

		Helen Strauss (Qld) Riki Tourangi (NZ) Diane Waller (VIC) Phil Waller (Vic) Howard Watt (NSW)
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Management

The National Umpiring Committee (NUC) is made up of four Umpires in Chief, five national umpire staff and the eight State Umpiring Directors. The NUC has commenced quarterly meetings with the General Manager Operations and Technical (GMOT) to discuss policy, procedures and review the conduct of national championship. These reviews will assist in implementing changes required for future championships.

With the assistance of Matt Gowty, the NUC has developed a selection criteria matrix for all international umpire appointments.

Richard Barrow has been instrumental in updating the umpiring section of this website, creating a photo gallery and umpire-specific new page. These areas provide an excellent marketing tool for our NUP.

Umpires exam

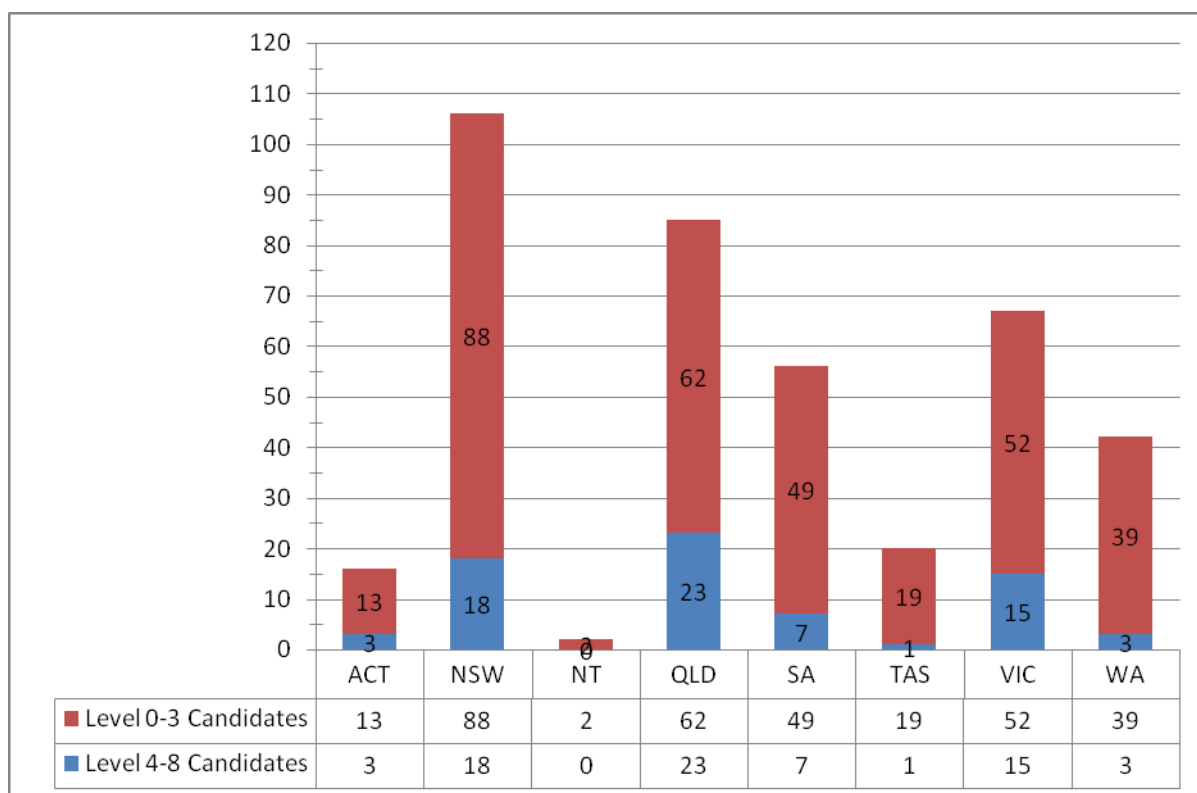
In May 2011, a total 394 umpires sat the 2011 National Rules Exam shown below in the graph, an increase of 4.2% from 2010

- ACT – 16 umpires – 129% increase
- NSW – 106 umpires – a 7% increase
- NT – 2 umpires – a 50% decrease
- Qld – 85 umpires – a 13% decrease
- SA – 56 umpires – a 4% increase
- Tas – 20 umpires – a 43% increase
- Vic – 67 umpires – a 8% increase
- WA – 42 umpires – a 5% increase

The ability to allow Level 1 and 2 umpires to sit the basic exam, continues to provide greater flexibility and an easier pathway for umpire development.

As in 2010, the umpires set the Basic Exam. This process, supervised by Darren Sibraa with the assistance of Jesse Smith and Mark Toft, provides a pathway for umpires to further develop their skills. The NUP uses a database of over 2,000 questions to set the National exam. Graham Bancroft and Robert Harris carried out specific tasks of updating supplementary exams with new rules and on-line reference exams.

Mathew Gowty has designed and developed an analysis program to mark and chart the National exam marking process to simplify the long hours of developing the national exam report and analysis.



Softball Australia would like to thank Leigh Evans for developing the exam and Darren Sibraa, Darrell Shephard and Alan McAuliffe for assisting in the process

2010 International Friendship Series

The International Friendship Series was held in [Sydney] with Amanda Houison (NSW) appointed Tournament Chief Umpire

Thirty - two umpires were appointed to officiate at 70 games. The three umpire rotation system was used for all games.

Peter Chalapan PNG, Tony Simitap PNG, Jeff Weber NZ, Chris Radford NZ, from NSW Ron Houison, Jesse Smith, Leanne Gearside, James English, Sharyn Girdler, Sue Allison, Garry Grimes, Simone Reisman, Steve Smith, Vic Guillaumier , Christiaan Zaiter, Dale Kaimoana, Johnnie Walker , Matt Guillaumier , Melissa Wallace, Myles Lego, Colin Tutt, Dylan Murdoch, James Townsend, Jess Donald-Smith, Lyn Moncaster, Mark Carter, Thomas Sutomo, Todd Winsor, Tony Moncaster, Vikki Armsworth and Chris Trengove, and Dave Addlem,(Vic)

Looking forward

Fifteen umpires have applied for advanced training in preparation for the next ISF certification development clinic to be held in New Zealand in 2013.



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1.0 Introduction

The report briefly highlights domestic and international competitions sanctioned by the Papua New Guinea Softball Federation in its 2009/2010 and 2010/2011 competitions. National umpires and scorers have a team of technical officials that officiated in the local and national competitions during the above seasons. All local competitions in affiliated softball associations normally run their competitions from September to March/ April each year during off season of other major sports competitions.

In 2011, Papua New Guinea (PNG) umpires were given umpiring equipment donated by our colleagues from Softball Australia.

2.0 International Competitions

Two Oceania Accredited Level 4 umpires from PNG, Tony Simitap and Peter Chalapan were invited by Softball Australia to officiate in the 2010 International Softball Friendship Series held in Blacktown, Sydney Australia from the 4th to 9th July 2010. This event was a great opportunity for the PNG umpires to expose their umpiring knowledge and skills and importantly learn from their experience colleagues from Australia and New Zealand.

The opportunity was a significant experience for the PNG umpires particularly with the base mechanics, signals and umpire rotation or base coverage. The experience was shared with fellow umpires in local competitions and has helped to improve standard of umpiring.

It is envisaged that future opportunities will be given to other PNG umpires in exposing them to international competitions as part of their development.

3.0 Domestic Competitions

About 80% of the umpires that underwent the Intermediate Umpire clinic conducted by Andrew and Scott Rindfleish are active in their local competitions. They were privileged to be given the opportunity to attend the training and importantly were formally accredited by the ISF Oceania Region using the Oceania Umpire Accreditation System.

Apart from officiating at local competitions, they have been very much involved in umpiring in two major annual softball events which include the PNG National Softball Championships and PNG National Softball Club Championships.

It has also been realised that more potential and talented umpires are emerging and the PNG Softball Federation Executive has given a firm undertaking to conduct more training prior to the 2012 PNG National Softball Championships with the help of Oceania Softball, Softball Australia and Softball New Zealand.

It has been an ongoing schedule in our training and development plan to run umpire refresher clinics for technical officials (umpires and scorers) week leading to every Championships. This is to ensure umpires keep abreast with rules application and interpretation and adopt changes recommended by the ISF. Due to

limited resources, local associations have their own training schedules, however, it is envisaged that more resources will be available in the next four years for National and International training and development of our umpires in preparation of the 2015 Pacific Games.

4.0 Donation of Umpire Equipment

The PNG softball technical officials particularly umpires expressed their profound gratitude to Andrew Rindfleish, Scott Rindfleish and Chat Grey for the umpire equipment appeal across Australia and sourcing funding to meet the freight cost of the shipment to PNG. Also our sincere appreciation and gratitude to everyone across Australia that generously donated umpire equipment towards this appeal. Whilst softball is a fast growing and entertaining sport in PNG with a huge spectator base, umpires continue to struggle to obtain standard umpire equipment.

5.0 Way Forward

PNG will be hosting the next Pacific Games in 2015 and softball has been nominated as a priority optional sport. A standard training program called 'Grassroots To Gold' for all sports has been developed to train athletes and also technical officials to officiate at the Games. PNG Softball endeavours to increase our capacity with having more trained umpires through the Oceania Accreditation System. Again we would be seeking technical assistance from Oceania Softball, Softball Australia and Softball New Zealand in the development of umpires as well as conduct of softball competition at the Games. Apart from onshore training of umpires, ideally we would also seek opportunities for umpires off shore training and officiating in softball competitions in the region.

PNG Softball will be committed to nominate candidates for the next ISF Umpire training in 2013 as this will be a great lead up to the Pacific Games. It was unfortunate there was no representation from PNG in the training that was conducted early his year.

6.0 Conclusion

With increased participation level of softball competitions at local, National and International levels, there is a great need to increase capacity of umpires in PNG through training and development programs. It is also very crucial that umpires should be consistently and constantly upgrading their knowledge through formal training programs and exposure to both domestic and international competitions particularly those that have the potential to advance further.

PNG Softball cannot do this alone but with technical assistance from Oceania Softball, Softball Australia and Softball New Zealand if we are serious in developing standard of umpiring in PNG and across the region.

Pacific Games and other international softball competitions in the region should be used as stepping-stone for aspiring umpires who have the potential to advance further in acquiring international umpire accreditation. Australia and New Zealand continue to dominate but for softball to grow in the region more technical support should be given to smaller countries in the region particularly PNG which has proven with great potential.

Peter Chalapan
Umpire In Chief
Papua New Guinea

SNZ AGM UMPIRES REPORT 2010

It is my privilege again to report on the activities of your Softball New Zealand umpiring programme. Your National Umpiring Staff continues to work very well as a team for the good of the **“The Programme”**. Again it has been a pleasure to lead this group of widely experienced individuals that understand the importance on meeting the needs of our membership. As a team we continue to place high importance on communications and transparency as the corner stone on how we try to deliver on our **“Mission Statement”**. Our Mission Statement developed in partnership with SNZ's, sets the challenge to deliver world's best practice. A benefit of this is our umpires and national teams are not disadvantage in international competition. The pitching regulations were enforced more strictly at the last Men's World Championship and this approach can be expected at future World Championships. Feedback from prominent players and coaches on our former passive approach towards infringements of the pitching regulations was noted. Last season showed an important step up by umpiring in delivering world's best practice in reference to enforcement of the pitching regulations. A continuation of this practice can be expected at all national tournaments and it will be expected that all SNZ registered umpires will see that the same standards are upheld at local association level.

At the 2009 ISF Congress a number of changes to the pitching regulations were approved. The major change being “Leaping” is now legal. As UIC I have been working closely with the National Director of Pitching in support of her nationwide presentation on the new ISF Pitching Rules. This approach by the National coaching staff can only be commended and supported.

At the 2009 SNZ AGM Nicky Ogier (CB) was named “Umpire of the Year”, whilst Distinguished Service Awards were bestowed on Jeremy England (WN), Stuart Hodges (HB), Cass Seeling (WBOP), Manu and Bill Smith (NH), Trevor Stratford (HV), Lance Type and Riki Tourangi (AK).

SPONSORSHIP The Sirius Sports Ltd sponsorship is now with SNZ. We thank Ken Sommers and Jennifer Hershbein for their continued management of our “Schutt” umpire merchandising programme that sees New Zealand umpires amongst the best equipped in the world.

NATIONAL UMPIRE STAFF AND CLINICS AGM reports are the main source of recording umpiring history. Your NUS for last season was Wayne Saunders (UIC), Deputy Directors Cass Seeling, Daph Turner and Mark McFarlane. We were joined by Regional Directors; Nicky Ogier (South), Lindsay Edwards (Central) and Bill Smith (North) with Wiremu Tamaki recently appointed as a new Regional Director (at large). Notable among our many tasks; Nicky was NZ Rules examiners, Wayne National Tournament appointments, Wiremu Website Manager. Lindsay, Mark, Nicky, Wiremu and Glen Nalepa the Level 7 Advisory Group, whilst Ray Dyason and Don Poy joint members of the NUS as National Tournament Chief Umpires. In addition the Rulebook sub-group has provided considerable lead-in support to SNZ for production of the new Rulebook.

Successful Regional clinics were held in Wanganui, Oamaru, Christchurch and North Harbour. Again there was a good attendance at each clinic and it was pleasing to see new faces amongst this year's list of facilitators. These clinics held in September are now well established. They are an important part of national umpire training as we prepare for each season and up-coming International Examinations.

NATIONAL TOURNAMENTS This year's National Tournaments were well staffed, again the use mainly of National Staff members as Tournament Chief Umpire has provided for in depth reporting and consistency in evaluating. The continuation of “10/2” sessions again proved popular in the developing of umpire knowledge through shared experience.

A total of 105 umpires (including school supplied umpires) worked 1802 assignments at this year's National Tournaments. This season we played host to Jason Carter (Australia - Trans Tasman Exchange) and Randy McLamb (USA - ISC Exchange).

INTERNATIONAL APPOINTMENTS AND INVITATIONS

Recorded for the record is the following

- 2009 ISF Men's World Championship, Canada - Wiremu Tamaki and Mark McFarlane
- 2009 ISC II Tournament of Champions, USA - Mark McFarlane
- Gillies Shield Tournament, Australia - Jeremy England, Mark Porteous and Greg Taylor.
- Trans Tasman Exchange - Richard Gale
- 2010 ISF Women's World Championship, Venezuela - Nicky Ogier
- 2010 ISC World Tournament, USA - ISC Exchange - Wiremu Tamaki
- Junior Black Sox, Friendship Series, Australia - Jeff Weber

Most International field umpiring assignments are now significantly self-funded with limited financial support through SNZ. Whilst it is acknowledge there is a high demand on funding from within our sport your umpiring programme needs thoughtful consideration when it comes to funding. An expansion in International play will place more importance on national tournaments with an expectation that the quality and numbers of umpires will continue to be available. It would be very unfortunate if the ability to pay becomes a pathway roadblock for advancement and retention.

Congratulations and **"Pike Ake"** to Rikki Tourangi, Mark Porteous, Tara Harris, Jeremy England and Dave Shedlock who have been selected to attend the Oceania ISF Certification Seminar, Feb 2011, Australia.

INTERNATIONAL UMPIRING As the Regional Umpire Coordinator I represented both Oceania and New Zealand on the Umpires Commission and the Rules Commission at the 2009 ISF Congress in Venezuela.

The Rules Commission considered 65 proposed rule changes, of those 11 were withdrawn and 10 were rejected. As mentioned earlier there were significant changes to the fast-pitch pitching regulations whilst most other approved changes were of a minor or housekeeping nature. The Umpires Commission considered and approved a number of improvements to the ISF 3/4 umpire field mechanics. Post Congress the ISF Point of Emphasis for Rule 6 the Pitching Regulations (Fast-pitch only) was released.

ISF UmpSchool was launched earlier this year (www.ruleboxsoftware.com/isf.aspx.) This new era web based training tool for umpires (players and coaches too) that want to keep up to date and further their careers. The interactive rules tests will help increase knowledge and set a pathway to being the very best you can be. Also available through UmpSchool is the newly revised ISF 3/4 Umpire Mechanic System, Umpire Manual, Case Book, Rule Interpretations and Technical Bulletins.

GRADING ADJUSTMENTS AND EXAMINATIONS PASSES

As a result of National Tournament evaluations and NUS recommendations the following grading adjustments for the 2009/2010 season are advised.

Level 5 to Level 6 - Mark Porteous (NH) and Rikki Thompson (CO).

Level 4 Badge Examination - the following were successful in the practical NZ Badge examination. Howie Namana (CB), John Wilson (CB), Matthew Ogier (CB), Steve Cooper (HB), Joe Tangitutu (HV), Graeme Love (MN), Brydon Wells (NH), Martin Hunt (NH), Shirley Harvey (NN), Duane Donovan (OG), Tony Kaiaruna (WN) and Ken Phillips (BP)

Level 3 Qualifying Examination - the following were successful in the practical NZ Qualifying examination.

Judi Leaper (AK), Ben Horn (HV), Heath Walker (NH), Michael Lee (NH), Shaun Poata (NH), Josh Charnley (NH), Stuart Power (NN), Sara Emerson (NO), Eric Lord (OG), Rebecca Taylor (OG) and Ngawhetu Dickson (WN).

Level 2 NZ Rules Examination - the following candidates sat the NZ Rules examination and exceeded the minimum pass mark.

Irene Curnow (BP), Ben Horn (HV), Heath Walker (NH), Mike Lee (NH), Shaun Poata (NH), Stuart Power (NN), Sara Emerson (NO), Eric Lord (OG), Rebecca Taylor (OG), Evelyn Kara (WK), Helen Rogers (WK), Jasmine Kara (WK), Lizzy Norris (WK), Sara Worster (WK), Taumanu Hepi (WK), Toa Toimata (WK), Pip Bennion (WN), Steve Sila (WN), Ngawhetu Dickson (WN), Josh Charnley (NH), Pouroto Clair (NH), Ross McKandry (NH) and Cale Wood (NH).

2009 Grading List Summary - the overall number of graded umpires excluding Level 1 has remained relatively constant. Made up as follows: **L7**- 12 down from 13, **L6** – 16 up from 14, **L5** – 18 down from 21, **L4** – 45 up from 42, **L3** – 15 down from 16, **L2** – unchanged at 18 and **L1** - 159 (interim number) down from 226. Additional L1 umpire are expected to be added when final reports are to hand.

My personal thanks to your National Umpiring Staff and all those in softball that have made a contribution to **“The Programme”** and shared the enthusiasm for the future of umpiring. I look forward to a continuing administration role with your talented National Umpiring Staff.

Wayne Saunders (Umpire-in-Chief)

SNZ AGM UMPIRES REPORT 2011

It is my privilege again to report on the activities of your Softball New Zealand umpiring programme. Your National Umpiring Staff continues to work very well as a team for the good of the **“The Programme”**. Again it has been a pleasure to lead this group of widely experienced individuals that understand the importance on meeting the needs of our membership. As a team we continue to place high importance on communications, transparency and future planning as the cornerstones on how we try to deliver on our **“Mission Statement”**. Our Mission Statement developed in partnership with SNZ's, sets the challenge to deliver world's best practice. A benefit of this is our umpires and national teams are not disadvantage in international competition. As briefly mentioned last year I have had the pleasure of working with the SNZ National Director of Pitching and the ISF Director of Umpires formulating SNZ's presentation on the new ISF pitching regulations. After international consultation and some 237 emails I think fastpitch softball now has a much better and workable pitching regulation. With leaping being acceptable in New Zealand since 1991, and now legal in the ISF Rulebook, a point of difference is now removed. I would like to extend my congratulations to National Coaching Staff and National Director of Pitching Debbie Megan for facilitating the introduction of the new pitching regulations on a nationwide basis. This approach, and lessons learnt from the late eighties/early nineties, can be credited with the smooth introduction of these new regulations. The responsible attitude of players and coaches towards the new regulations is also highly commendable. A compliant attitude has made enforcement of the pitching regulations more consistent and now a minor issue in our sport.

SNZ has accepted the National Umpiring Staff's recommendation that the SNZ Annual Umpire Registration fee be discontinued. It has been acknowledged that the management effort required to collect this fee is not cost beneficial and a discouragement to local umpire development.

At the 2010 SNZ AGM Wiremu Tamaki (WN) was named "Umpire of the Year" and "SNZ Softballer of the Year" for a second time. Distinguished Umpire Service Awards were bestowed on Nicky Ogier (CB), Lindsay Edwards (WG) and Daph Turner (HV).

I am pleased to report that the mentoring programme undertaken by our Level 7 Group with our ISF Certification candidates has been 100% successful. All four candidates attending the Oceania ISF Certification Seminar in Brisbane in February were ISF Certified. Congratulations to Rikki Tourangi, Mark Porteous, Jeremy England and Dave Shedlock.

SPONSORSHIP We continue to thank Ken Sommers and Jennifer Hershbein for their management of our "Schutt" umpire merchandising programme that sees New Zealand umpires amongst the best equipped in the world.

NATIONAL UMPIRE STAFF AND CLINICS AGM reports are the main source of recording umpiring history. Your NUS for last season was Wayne Saunders (UIC), Deputy Directors Cass Seeling, Daph Turner and Mark McFarlane. We were joined by Regional Directors; Nicky Ogier (South), Lindsay Edwards (Central) and Bill Smith (North) with Wiremu Tamaki (unattached). Notable among our many tasks: Nicky was NZ Rules examiner; Wiremu Website Manager and Wayne National Tournament appointments. Lindsay continues as convenor of the Level 7 Advisory Group, whilst Ray Dyason, Dawie Sutton and Kevin Tippett joint members of the NUS as National Tournament Chief Umpires. The introduction of Wiremu as Regional Director (unattached) has allowed the NUS the flexibility in targeting additional support.

Successful Regional clinics were held in Tauranga, Wellington, Blenheim and Dunedin. Again there was a good attendance at each clinic and it was pleasing to see new faces amongst this year's list of facilitators. These clinics held in September are now well established and they continue to be important part of national umpire training as we prepare for each season.

NATIONAL TOURNAMENTS This year's National Tournaments were well staffed, again the use mainly of National Staff members as Tournament Chief Umpire has provided for in depth reporting and consistency in evaluating. The continuation of "10/2" sessions again proved popular in the developing of umpire knowledge through shared experience. A total of 101 nationally graded umpires worked this year's National Tournaments. This season we played host to David Casey and Stacey Loveridge (Australia - Trans Tasman Exchange).

INTERNATIONAL APPOINTMENTS AND INVITATIONS

Recorded for the record is the following

- 2010 ISF Women's World Championship, Venezuela - Nicky Ogier (Gold Medal game – 1st base)
- 2010 ISC World Tournament, USA - ISC Exchange - Wiremu Tamaki (Grand Final – Plate)
- Black Sox, Australia – Lance Brown
- Gillies Shield Tournament, Australia - Jeremy England, Mark Porteous and Gavin Shepherd.
- Trans Tasman Exchange - Mark Porteous.
- ISF Certification Seminar, Australia - Rikki Tourangi, Mark Porteous, Jeremy England and Dave Shedlock.
- Junior Black Sox, Friendship Series, Australia – Rebecca Taylor and Tony Kaiaruna
- 2011 ISF Junior Women's World Championship, South Africa – Dave Shedlock

Most International field umpiring assignments have a significantly self-funded component. This subject has been acknowledged and addressed in the umpires' annual budget. The Umpiring programme is

grateful of a renewed support from SNZ for umpires attending ISF World Championships and our established exchange programmes.

INTERNATIONAL UMPIRING As the ISF Regional Umpire Coordinator for Oceania it has been another active season. The Regional Co-ordinators met in Plant City, USA in February. Selected recommendations from this meeting include:

- Revision to ISF Pitching Points of Emphasis
- Revision to third base umpire mechanics. Introduction of alternate mechanic.
- World Championship applicants to have a current ISF or NF evaluation no older than five years.
- If certified before the current 4 yearly rule change period. Obtain a valid rules pass mark for recertification (commencing 2013)
- Certification Seminars - ISF Rules examination prequalification required before acceptance of seminar application. 90% pass mark required. Application fee increase to US\$100.
- No gender restriction for umpires to apply for men's or women's competitions.
- Sub committees: Nicky Ogier (member Rules committee); Wayne (Co-Chair Mechanics committee).
- UmpSchool registration strongly recommended. (www.ruleboxsoftware.com/isf.aspx.)

GRADING ADJUSTMENTS AND EXAMINATIONS PASSES

As a result of National Tournament evaluations and NUS recommendations the following grading adjustments for the 2010/2011 season are advised.

Level 5 to Level 6 – Gavin Shepherd (WN)

Level 4 Badge Examination - the following were successful in the practical NZ Badge examination. Judi Leaper (AK), Ben Horn (HV), Heath Walker (NH), Michael Lee (NH), Shaun Poata (NH), Andrew McManus (NH), Stuart Power (NN), Rebecca Taylor (OG), Garry Tokoa (PB) and Ngawhetu Dickson (WN).

Level 3 Qualifying Examination - the following were successful in the practical NZ Qualifying examination.

Simon Harris (CB), Pip Tuhoro (CB), Cale Wood (NH), Sam Meikle (OG), Steve Sila (WN) Tamati Howard (AK) Karoline Sione (NH), John Collier (PB), Keith Marsh (HV) and Paul Nistor (NN).

Level 2 NZ Rules Examination - the following candidates sat the NZ Rules examination and exceeded the minimum pass mark.

David Rose (CB), Matthew Ngataki (CB), Simon Harris (CB), Pip Tuhoro (CB), Chris Agnew (CB), Shaun Cox (NH), John Collier (PB), Charlotte Meikle-john (OG), Sam Meikle (OG), Colin Weaver (AK), Tamati Howard (AK), Simon Lindsay (NH), Victor Fortin (CB), Brad Fisher (NN), Paul Nistor (NN), Christine Rawlings (AK), Karoline Sione (NH), and Keith Marsh (HV).

Grading List Summary - the overall number of graded umpires excluding Level 1 has remained relatively constant. Made up as follows: **L7**- 16 up from 12, **L6** – 11 down from 16, **L5** – 16 down from 18, **L4** – 55 up from 45, **L3** – 11 down from 15, **L2** – 17 down from 18 and **L1** - 142 down from 156. L1 umpire returns have not been received from all associations and the figure of 142 significantly under reports number of level 1 umpires active throughout New Zealand.

My personal thanks to the National Umpiring Staff and all those in softball that have made a contribution to **“The Programme”** and shared the enthusiasm for the future of umpiring. I look forward to a continuing administration role with your hard working National Umpiring Staff.

Wayne Saunders (Umpire-in-Chief)

ISF OCEANIA UMPIRE REGION - List of Officials (Reissued September 2011)

ISF Administrators

Oceania Regional Coordinator	Name
1 1993 to 1996	Margo Koskelainen (F) and Charles Ernest Phillips
2 1997 to 1998	Margo Koskelainen (F) and Wayne William Saunders
3 1999 to 2007	Margo Koskelainen OAM (F) 2007-Present : ISF Special Projects
4 2007 - Present	Wayne William Saunders

Name	Year	ISF Recognition	Current Status	Participation in World Championships and Olympic Competition
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American Samoa

(No ISF Umpires):

Australia

1	Arthur Allsopp	1965	By appointment	Deceased	65-SW:
2	Bill McIlvena	1965	By appointment	Retired	65-SW:
3	Brian Wheland	1965	By appointment	Retired	65-SW:
4	Harold Davies	1965	By appointment	Retired	65-SW:
5	Ken Wesslink	1965	By appointment	Retired	65-SW:
6	Lorraine Mildren (F)	1965	By appointment	Retired	UIC-65-SW:
7	Margaret Laing (F)	1965	By appointment	Retired	65-SW:
8	Marjorie N. Dwyer (F)	1965	#094 (1979)	Deceased	65-SW:
9	Vi Harrison (F)	1965	By appointment	Retired	65-SW:
10	Dawn Young (F)	1970	By appointment	Retired	70-SW:
11	Vivienne Kay Triplett (F)	1978	#049	Deceased	74-SW; 78-SW; 81-JM/W; 82-SW:
12	Keryn Ann Heinrich (F)	1979	#081	Retired	NA
13	Felix Henri Benaya Menke	1979	#082	Retired	NA
14	Daniel James McKay	1979	#083	Retired	NA
15	Ronald George Boulton	1979	#085	Retired	NA
16	Margo Koskelainen OAM (F)	1979	#086a	Active Admin	UIC: - 95/99/03/07-OQ(AO), 01-JM; AUC:- 00/08-Olympics, 06-SW;
17	Lynette Bishop (F)	1979	#087	Retired	NA
18	Valerie Ruth Johnston (F)	1979	#088	Deceased	NA
19	Margaret Mae Lally (F)	1979	#089	Deceased	NA
20	Tony (James) Dunn	1979	#090	Retired	NA
21	Benita May Kelly (F)	1979	#091	Retired	NA
22	Betty McGuire (F)	1979	#092	Retired	NA
23	William James Frost	1979	#093	Deceased	NA
24	Reginald Alfred Stabb	1979	#095	Retired	NA
25	Audrey McLaughlin (F)	1979	#096	Retired	NA
26	Michael Palmer	1986	#303	Retired	85-JM/W; 86-SW; 87-JW;
27	Ken Culpitt	1989	#385a	Retired	88-SM; 91-JW; 92-SM; 95-JW; 99-JW; 01-JM:
28	Alan Murray McAuliffe	1990	#509a	Retired	90-SW; 91-JW; 94-SW; 96-Olympics
29	Patricia Joy Sibraa (nee Bichel) (F)	1990	#512a	Active Admin	91-JW
30	Toula Connolly (F)	1990	#513a	Retired	91-JW; 94-SW; 95-OQ(AO)
31	Denise Culpitt (nee Overton) (F)	1990	#514	Retired	NA
32	Steven Rodney Suckling	1990	#515a	Retired	91-JW; 93-JM;
33	Andrew James Rindleish	1990	#516a	Active	91-JM; 96-SM; 00-SM 01-JM; 03-OQ(AO);
34	John McAuliffe	1990	#517a	Retired	91-JW; 93-JM; 95-OQ(A/O); 96-SM; 00-Olympics; 01-JM
35	Matthew Gowty	1997	#767a	Retired	97-JM; 00-SM; 01-JM; 02-SW:
36	Derrin Clark	1997	#769a	Retired	NA
37	Kerry Franklin (F)	1997	#770a	Retired	98-SW; 99-OQ(Am); 00-Olympics
38	Karen Kuhn (F)	1997	#771a	Retired	NA
39	Neville R. Lawrance	1997	#772a	Active	98-SW; 03-OQ(Am); 04-Olympics; 07-OQ(AO)
40	Lesley Steedman (F)	1997	#773a	Retired	99-JW; 01-JM;
41	Debbie Grove (F)	2000	#867a	Active	01-JM; 03-JW; 06-SW; 07-JW; 08-Olympics
42	Damien L. McCauley	2000	#868a	Active	01-JM; 04-SM;
43	Michael Smeath	2003	#966a(FP) (NZL)	Active	04-SM; 07-OQ(AO);
44	Debbie Keogh (F)	2004	#1005a(FP)	Active	
45	Leigh Evans	2004	#1006a(FP)	Active	05-JM; 09-SM
46	Sue Itzstein (F)	2004	#1007a(FP)	Retired	07-JW
47	David Crowe	2004	#1008a(FP)	Retired	
48	Darrell Shephard	2004	#1009a(FP)	Active	
49	Diane Waller (F)	2004	#1010a(FP)	Active	06-SW; 07-OQ(A/O); 08-Olympics
50	Bruce R. McCahon	2004	#1011a(FP)	Retired	
51	Warren Duff	2006	#1098(FP)	Active	
52	Darren Sibraa	2006	#1099(FP)	Active	08-JM; 10-SW
53	Scott Aaron Rindflesh	2006	#1100(FP)	Active	08-JM; 10-SW
54	Kevin Broomhall	2006	#1101(FP)	Active	
55	Jason Carter	2011	#1214(FP)	Active	
56	Ian Frame	2011	#1215(FP)	Active	
57	Ron Houison	2011	#1216(FP)	Active	
58	Yvonne Kahler	2011	#1217(FP)	Active	11-JW
59	Stacey Loveridge	2011	#1218(FP)	Active	
60	Helen Strauss	2011	#1219(FP)	Active	11-JW
61	Phil Waller	2011	#1220(FP)	Active	
62	Howard Watt	2011	#1221(FP)	Active	
63	Amanda Houison	2011	#1225(FP)	Active	

Cook Islands

(No ISF Umpires):

Guam

1	Juan F. Garcia	1978	#020	Deceased	
2	Vincente P. Castro	1978	#021	Deceased	

3	Augusto Cepeda	1979	#080	Active Admin	
4	Joaquin V.E. Manibusan	1979	#101	Deceased	
5	Juan A. Pangelinan	1982	#206	Deceased	

Mariana Islands					
(No ISF Umpires):					
Marshall Islands					
(No ISF Umpires):					
Micronesia					
(No ISF Umpires):					
Nauru					
1	Andrew Gibson	1978	#065	Retired**	
2	Michael Patrick Dennehy	1978	#066	Retired**	
3	Peter George Hoiles	1978	#068	Retired**	
4	M. David Costello	1979	#078	Retired**	
New Zealand					
1	Ken Morgan	1965	By appointment	Retired	65-SW:
2	Athol Aitken	1966	By appointment	Deceased	66-SM:
3	Ronald McLaughlan	1968	By appointment	Deceased	68-SM:
4	Jack Allen	1970	By appointment	Deceased	70-SW:
5	Joyce Phillips (F)	1970	By appointment	Deceased	70-SW:
6	Ray Weaver	1972	By appointment	Deceased	72-SM: <i>AUIC-76/80-SM:</i>
7	Merrill Ferguson (F)	1974	By appointment	Retired	74-SW:
8	Michael W. Mulholland	1976	#051(1978)	Retired	76-SM; 78-SW; 86-SW:
9	Donald F. Wilson	1976	#139(1980)	Retired	76-SM; 80-SM:
10	David James England	1976	#264(1984)	Retired	76-SM; 84-SM; 86-SW:
11	Charles Ernest Phillips	1976	#294a(1985)	Deceased	76-SM: <i>AUIC-86-SW; AUIC-93-JM:</i>
12	Don Brewer	1976	By appointment	Retired	76-SM:
13	Murray Jarvis	1976	By appointment	Retired	76-SM:
14	Chan Foo Phooi	1978	#44(MAS)	Retired	NA
15	Hector J. "John" Eagar	1985	#277	Retired	85-JM/W; 86-SW:
16	Elaine Karsten (F)	1985	#286	Retired	86-SW:
17	John Howard Wall	1985	#287	Deceased	86-SW:
18	Wayne William Saunders	1985	#288a	Active Admin	86-SW; 88-SM; 92-SM; 93-JM; 95-JW; 00-SM; 03-OQ(E/A); 04-SM; 04-Olympics:
19	George Parker	1985	#289	Retired	86-SW:
20	Graham McClelland	1985	#290	Deceased	86-SW:
21	Ann McCammon (F)	1985	#291	Retired	86-SW:
22	Edward David James Isaac MBE	1985	#292a	Retired	86-SW; 93-JM; 94-SW; 96-SM:
23	Robert Henry Herewini	1985	#293	Retired	86-SW:
24	Veronica O'Neill (F)	1987	#325	Retired	87-JW:
25	Wayne John Arthurs	1989	#474	Deceased	89-JM:
26	David John Ratu	1990	#573a(1993)	Retired	90-SW; 93-JM:
27	Daphne Turner (*Tesoriero) (F)	1991	#531	Active Admin	91-JW:
28	Raymond Reihana Samuel	1993	#574a	Retired	93-JM:
29	Robert (Bob) Bargiacchi	1993	#579a	Retired	93-JM; 96-SM; 98-SW; 00-SM:
30	Terry Pope	1994	#609a	Retired	NA
31	Sandra Adams (F)	1996	#717a	Retired	99-JW; 02-SW; 03-OQ(AO):
32	Mark Herrick	1996	#719a	Retired	97-JM:
33	Elizabeth "Likky" Edge (F)	1997	#775a	Retired	NA
34	Lindsey J. Edwards	1998	#806a	Active	01-JM; 04-SM:
35	Chris Commene (F)	1999	#846a	Retired	NA
36	Robin Mason (F)	1999	#847a	Retired	NA
37	William M. Smith	1999	#848a	Active Admin	<i>AUIC-01-JM</i>
38	Lance D. Type	1999	#849a	Active	01-JM; 04-SM;
39	Stuart Hodges	2003	#964a	Active Admin	04-SM:
40	Nicola Ogier (F)	2003	#965a	Active	03-JW; 06-SW; 10-SW
41	Wiremu "Wu" Tamaki	2003	#967a	Active	04-SM; 07-JW; 08-Olympics; 09-SM;
42	Mark McFarlane	2004	#1021a	Active	05-JM; 09-SM;
43	Glen Nalepa	2005	#1057(FP)	Active	08-JM;
44	Dennis Duncan Smith	2005	#1096(FP)(RSA)	Active	
45	Lance Brown	2006	#1102(FP)	Active	08-JM;
46	Greg Taylor	2006	#1103(FP)	Active	
47	Jeremy Jones England	2011	#1222(FP)	Active	
48	Mark Porteous	2011	#1223(FP)	Active	
49	David William Shedlock	2011	#1224(FP)	Active	<i>11-JW</i>
50	Riki Tourangi	2011	#1226(FP)	Active	
Palau					
(No ISF Umpires):					
Papua New Guinea					
(No ISF Umpires):					
Western Samoa					
(No ISF Umpires):					
Solomon Islands					
(No ISF Umpires):					
Yap					
(No ISF Umpires):					