

**Minutes of the 2022 Annual Meeting of the National Umpiring Staff (NUS) of SNZ held at
Sportville, Hutt Park, Lower Hutt,
Saturday 11 June 2022 and Sunday 12 June 2022 commencing at 10.00am.**

Present: Lindsay Edwards, Mark Porteous, Dave Beaumont, Rikki Thompson, Kevin Gorman, Gavin Shepherd, Ray Dyason, Lance Brown, Wiremu Tamaki

Apologies: Eugene Gilbert (SNZ)

Opening: Wiremu offered the mihi whakatau and welcomed everyone. Acknowledged those that have passed away amongst the membership.

Notified bereavements: David Ward.

- Round the house whakawhanaungatanga
- Best for decisions workshop
- Messages from the Flight Deck of the CEO – Tony Giles
 - o 2022 Events Pre-World Cup
 - Black Sox trials October 2022
 - NFC October 2022
 - Black Sox Invitational series November 2022
 - International Invitation series November 2022
 - Men’s World Cup December 2022
 - Underlying message from the CEO is that we have a very busy season coming up!

| | | |
|-----|---|---|
| 1.0 | Minutes of the 2021 Annual Meeting Confirmed as true and a correct record. Porty/Lindsay | Action |
| 1.1 | Matters Arising <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recognition from the Chair that the impact of Covid-19 has been significant leading to many of the activities we tasked ourselves with last season either remaining unfinished or not started. Focus this season is to prioritise and be the best that we can to ourselves and our members. • Diversity, inclusivity – a main topic for discussion for the NUS to dig deeper to support this mahi • First point of business - Dave Beaumont presented with his distinguished service award which was outstanding for the past two seasons. Congratulations Dave! | |
| 1.2 | Strategic Planning <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reviewed current plan and discussed the future of our next plan forecasting for the next five years • No major changes. Strong focus on recruitment. | Action Wu to compile next plan for NUS review |
| 2.0 | Reporting | Action |
| 2.1 | Northern Region – Mark Porteous <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report taken as read by the NUS • Porty raised the lack of content from TCU reports. These reports inform the NUS of umpire progression and development. Simply putting game numbers is not enough • Porty also raised accommodation expectations as recent lodgings have been disappointing in his region | Remind TCUs to fully complete the report Write to SNZ with accommodation expectations to inform future bookings especially in Auckland, Manawatu and other smaller |

| | | |
|-----|---|---|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regional clinic during the season was cloud based. It worked well and provided learning and development opportunities for both learners and facilitators. There was a lot of material shared. Recommendation to set up a repository to share with other regions. Up and coming regional clinic to be in the second week in September at Rosedale. Details to be confirmed. | <p>association areas – minimum requirements – 3 to a room, laundry and cooking facilities, distance to the park.</p> <p>RDU's to contact and liaise with the local UIC to work through up-and-coming logistics for a national tournament in their area. Focus on accommodation, changing facilities and food.</p> |
| 2.2 | <p>Central Region – Gavin Shepherd</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Report submitted verbally The region has been doing well under the Covid conditions. Tairāwhiti has been active domestically and regionally, Hawkes Bay has seen some growth and Manawatu continues to deliver a strong umpiring programme. Wanganui has seen significant growth in their playing numbers which has provided good challenges for the officiating team. Hutt Valley has seen a lift in numbers and works towards delivery quality umpiring – opportunities here to strengthen the relationship. Wellington has actively delivered umpiring services to its community with smaller numbers. Regional clinic confirmed for the second week in September to be held in Wanganui. | |
| 2.3 | <p>Southern Region – Dave Beaumont</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Report taken as read by the NUS No clinics delivered last season due to Covid Nelson has a new leadership team. Potential to work more collaboratively to promote umpiring. Ashburton has seen some growth and have requested a clinic as well as Timaru The region is looking to run four regional clinics this year. | |
| 2.4 | <p>Tournament Chief Umpire Reports</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reports taken as read by the NUS. Feedback to recent reports was not favourable. Reports lacked umpire observations and comments. Focus for TCUs to provide more information in this space. Recommendation to send invited TCUs with a copy of the TCU standard operations manual, the TCU end of tournament report and a guidance in how to complete this report. | <p>Provide invited TCUs with standard operations manual and TCU end of year report with guidelines.</p> <p>Rikki to put together a JD for TCU and update TCU toolbox with resources</p> <p>Rikki/Lindsay to compile standard operations manual and TCU end of year report with guidelines.</p> |
| 3.0 | <p>Assessments Framework – Lindsay Edwards and Rikki Thompson</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lindsay provided a briefing on the Softball Umpiring Assessment Tool as a manual and job description for assessors. Outcome for this document is that it becomes the standard operation manual for our Assessors. | <p>Lindsay to send the team the draft document for further feedback</p> <p>Lindsay to submit final draft to NUS for endorsement</p> |

| | | |
|-----|--|---|
| 4.0 | Grading | Action |
| 4.1 | Grading Review of 2021/22 Assessments – Ratified and Endorsed <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Doug Aull level 3 to level 4 - endorsed • Bridget Baker level 3 to level 4 - endorsed • Jaiden Bell level 3 to level 4 endorsed • Russell Harvey level 3 to level 4 - endorsed • Connor Lyttle level 3 to level 4 - endorsed • Mike McCaw level 3 to level 4 - endorsed • Lucy Pearce level 3 to level 4 - endorsed | Certificates and badges given to RDUs for distribution |
| 4.2 | Recommendations for the upcoming 2022/23 season <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kam Kwong to be assessed for Level 6 • Sam Mickle to be assessed for Level 6 • Heath Lyttle to be assessed for Level 6 • Michael Lee to be assessed for Level 6 • Casey Smeekes to be assessed for Level 6 • Ben Dyason to be assessed for Level 6 • Kevin Sheehy to be assessed for Level 5 • Eli Lesperance to be assessed for Level 5 • Rochelle Watson to be assessed for Level 5 • Phil Easdown to be assessed for Level 5 • Simon Lindsay to be assessed for Level 5 • Tarsha Raina-Nash to be assessed for Level 4 • Rob Flannagan to be assessed for Level 4 • Daniel Hobbs to be assessed for Level 4 | UIC to send invitations to candidates |
| 5.0 | F45 The NUS discussed this event alongside the heavy programme SNZ will put in play to support pre world cup events for the Men’s World Cup. The NUS recognises the value of this tournament promoting softball to wider New Zealand. To ensure all our top umpires are present, the UIC will chief the final of tournament. Selection of umpires to the finals will be made on UIC recommendation. | |
| 6.0 | Rules Porty shared with the team the new rules that relate to the Temporary Runner. It is important for our members to be aware of these new rules. Especially application and consequences. In addition, Porty put together the SNZ Rules Addendum for review by the NUS and endorsement to SNZ for publication. Rules Exam Dave B provided an overview of last year’s rules test and the survey that followed it. 46 responses were received. The rules test was released in September 2021 in two sections – level 1 to 3 and level 4 to 7. The structure of the rules test followed a pathway that put a time clock on completing the test. There were mixed reactions to the pathway we followed however the feedback we received was good and constructive. | Action Share new WBSC rules with members. Share at regional clinics as a presentation Porty to provide a synopsis for regional clinics with primary points of emphasis. Send updated SNZ Addendum to SNZ Eugene. |

| | | |
|-----|---|--|
| | <p>The results from our tests showed that of the 73 candidates who attempted the Level 1-3 test, the average score was 61% (down 21% from last year). Of the 82 who attempted the Level 4-7 test, the average score was 73% (down 14% from last year). While the results indicate a significant fall, we are mindful of the timing of the test during a lockdown period and the impact of placing a clock on the test.</p> <p>Our approach to the up-and-coming rules test will be the same with increased time limits on the clock. Further, we will improve the quality of the videos.</p> <p>NUS recommendations from feedback.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Two-hour time limit 2. Improved video visibility and relevant to our sport of softball 3. UIC to encourage L6/L7s to complete the rules test. 4. Dates are the same, last week of August, 1st week of September 2022 for two weeks. | <p>Tournament handbook – Eugene to send handbook to Dave B for review. Opportunity to standardise the handbook as it relates to the rules.</p> |
| 7.0 | <p>Code of Conduct (COC)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The NUS recognises the code of conduct document is robust and working well. No changes have been recommended. • The NUS agrees that the Code should have more visibility in our tournaments and be revitalised as a living document as part of our application process and made more visible at the beginning of tournaments by our administrators. | <p>Action</p> <p>TCU SOP to include reference to promoting COC as part of tournament attendance by members</p> |
| 8 | <p>National Tournament Application Process</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dave B provided an update on last year’s process. Given the impact of Covid-19 there wasn’t much to manage as many of the cardinal tournaments were cancelled. • Lessons learned from the shortened season was managing expectations, continuing to improve upon a communication between SNZ and our TCUs/members and travel/accommodation. Items on the agenda for planning for the up-and-coming season • An acknowledgement that RDUs and local chief umpires need to take a leadership role with their members applying for tournaments and managing their expectations. Furthermore, local chief umpires to be proactive when there is a tournament in their backyard to seek out the TCU to provide support on the ground. • National tournament application process to be released end of August, first week of September. Dave B to set up process and release the coms. • The NUS continues to recognise the distance umpires travel to national tournaments. Especially those who travel 45 minutes. The process will be mindful of those who are captured in this space and make suitable arrangements that are reasonable, safety focus and fiscally responsible. | <p>Action</p> <p>UIC to discuss with SNZ (Eugene) service level agreement</p> <p>UIC to send SNZ (Eugene) with appointed names of umpires to NFC, Men’s and Women’s open.</p> <p>UIC to send email confirmation to appointed umpires</p> <p>SNZ (Eugene) to arrange flights as soon as possible.</p> <p>NUS to re-establish and reconfirm service level agreements for delivery of information to TCUs.</p> |

| | | | | | | | |
|--|---|---------------------------|--------------|---------------------------|---|---|--|
| 8.1 | Confirmed National Tournament Schedule - Identified and Appointed TCUs, Candidates and Evaluators | | | | | | |
| 2022/23 Tournament | Abbrv | Park | City | Date/s | Tournament Chief Umpire | Candidates | |
| SNZ u19 Girls | u19G | Resthills | Hamilton | 5-8 January 2023 | Dave Beaumont | Tarsha Raina-Nash | |
| SNZ u19 Boys | u19B | Mizuno Ballpark | Christchurch | 5-8 January 2023 | Rikki Thompson | Daniel Hobbs, Rob Flannagan | |
| SNZ u17 Girls | u17G | Hataitai Park | Wellington | 12-15 January 2023 | To be confirmed | | |
| SNZ u17 Boys | u17B | Colin Lawrie Fields | Auckland | 19-22 January 2023 | Tama Howard/Heidi Leathart | | |
| Fastball 45 Finals | F45 | TBC | Wellington | 18-19 February 2023 | Wiremu Tamaki | | |
| NZ Open Men's Clubs Championships | MO | Rosedale Park | Auckland | 15-19 March 2023 | Wiremu Tamaki | Kam Kwong, Sam Miekle, Heath Lyttle, Michael Lee, Casey Smeekes, Ben Dyason | |
| NZ Open Women's Clubs Championships | WO | Fraser Park | Lower Hutt | 16-19 March 2023 | Dave Beaumont | Kevin Sheehy, Eli Lesperance, Rochelle Watson, Simon Lindsay, Phil Easdown | |
| Div 1 Sec School Boys & Girls Championships | SSD1 | Mizuno Ballpark | Christchurch | 27-31 March 2023 | Dave Beaumont/Rikki Thompson/Leon Hopa | | |
| Div 2 Sth Island Sec School B & G Champs | SSD2S | Mizuno Ballpark | Christchurch | 28-31 March 2023 | | | |
| Div 2 Nth Island Sec School B & G Champs | SSD2N | Akina Park | Hastings | 28-31 March 2023 | Liz Kawana/Ray Dyason | | |
| 9 | Pathways Framework | | | | | | Action |
| | The framework has been very successful providing new and current members with an onboarding experience that is linked to best practice information. The NUS is aware that there is one remaining part of the framework for completion - Level Three. Further there is a need to update the content to keep in line with the restructured SNZ national tournaments and assessment tournaments. | | | | | | Wu to contact Jill and discuss remaining uncompleted parts Gav to oversee all updates of the framework by mid-August Repository box: One-Stop-Shop of resources for our members. Rikki to manage. |

| | | |
|----|--|---|
| | | Team to send all their resources to Rikki for uploading. |
| 10 | Website | Action |
| | The website continues to be a space that has not keep pace with online delivery for our members. While efforts have been taken to look within the membership for website capability we will continue to reach out to our members and the wider community. | Gavin to reach out to Glen Roff for support |
| 11 | Apparel – on diamond <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Uniforms for umpires coordinated via Canterbury Softball. Apparel – off diamond <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Off diamond uniforms can be obtained via Dynasty. Members to order directly with Dynasty. Check their website for the catalogue. The NUS discussed and supports the request for an Assessors uniform. This is to be in line with our current offering through Dynasty. | Action Dave B to send a coms to the membership regarding orders and timelines for on and off diamond apparel. Lance B to liaise with Dave B on contact details for off diamond apparel |
| 12 | Awards <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Distinguished Service Award (DSA) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The NUS received a nomination for John Hickman on behalf of the North Harbour Association. The nomination met the DSA criteria and was moved by Lindsay and endorsed by the NUS. It was noted that nominations for this award must be received in writing, one month prior to the NUS annual meeting and within the guidelines set in the DSA policy. SNZ Umpire of the Year <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No award for the 2021/2022 season due to the impact of Covid-19. | Action UIC to inform SNZ (Eugene) to include John Hickman in awards recognition RDUs to reach to local UICs to communicate policy to ensure nominations are received one month prior to NUS meeting. UIC to fix up honours board. UIC to look at policy for bringing into 2022 |
| 13 | NUS Structure The NUS welcomes Dave Beaumont as Deputy Director of Umpiring (DDU) and Rikki Thompson as Regional Director of Umpiring (RDU) – Te Waipounamu. The NUS also welcomed Lindsay’s reconfirmation to his former role of Deputy Director of Umpiring and continued Alumni Convenor of the Assessors. All appointees will hold their role for a term of two years with re-elections to be held in 2024. The NUS accepted Lance Brown’s resignation as Deputy Director of Umpiring and acknowledges and thanked him for his service to the team. The structure of the NUS is made up of nine positions – a UIC, two DDUs, three RDUs and three Assistant RDUs. The UIC role is up for re-election at the end of the 2023 season. The DDU roles at the end of the 2024 season along with the RDU Te Waipounamu. The RDU Central and RDU Northern are up for re-election at the end of the 2023 season. | Action |
| 14 | Policies | Action |

| | | |
|----|--|---|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> There are five policies requiring renewal as they have expired - the grading, the annual test, the touring guide, the DSA and the bat test. | UIC to renew policies and provide to NUS for endorsement |
| 15 | <p>Diversity, Inclusivity</p> <p>Tony Giles spoke to this topic in his briefing to the NUS about the 2022 pre-world cup events. SNZ is fully committed to inclusivity and has the backing of its Board to work with Sports NZ and other agencies to raise the level of inclusivity across all areas of the sport, namely in participation and leadership.</p> <p>As part of this mahi, Rikki presented to the team the results of the diversity survey that was surveyed amongst our female membership prior to our NUS meeting. The feedback came from a wide cross section of our members and was well received by the NUS. We heard that we as a body need to raise our game in female attraction and selection, leadership representation, provide support to raising umpiring opportunities for our female membership and to engage with parties more in-tune with diversity design, process and solution focussed outcomes.</p> <p>As a result of the feedback, the NUS reviewed its TCU appointments process and commenced a pathway towards more inclusivity in leading our tournaments. Further the NUS will reach out to Sports NZ for an expert in this field to support us in supporting inclusivity in the mahi we do for SNZ.</p> | |
| 16 | <p>Talent management</p> <p>The NUS discussed its talent management pool for WBSC certification. The following members have been identified for preparation for the 2024/2025 season.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Robbie Sadgrove - Gary Tokoa - Jill Farquhar - Tama Howard | <p>Action</p> <p>Lindsay to prepare a programme to support each candidate towards certification.</p> |
| 18 | <p>Round the House</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A general reflection amongst the team is that this season we are more intent and deliberate about actioning the things we said we would do. The NUS thanked Lance for his service and wished him all the best in his future endeavours. | <p>Action</p> |
| | Meeting Closed Sunday June 12 20 at 1.45pm | |