

## **SOFTBALL NZ – Strength & Adapt Project**

In May 2020, the New Zealand Government announced funding in the form of a Recovery Package to assist play, active recreation, and sport organisations to deal with the impacts of COVID-19. Sport NZ has formulated an approach to assist a group of National Partners to make the best use of the Recovery Package, which includes a National Partner Strengthen and Adapt Programme.

Softball NZ has been chosen by Sport NZ to be part of this programme because of the impact our strategy is having on the physical activity outcomes of New Zealanders.

Sport NZ has made it clear that the future of the sport sector will not be maximised if we simply replay the current approach. They want to see innovation. The disruption caused by COVID-19 has created a once in 30-year opportunity for organisations to rethink and reimagine their future.

Through this Strengthen and Adapt Programme, Softball NZ aims to evolve the softball system, enabling capable, aligned, and consistent delivery.

### **Consultation**

Sport NZ expects Softball NZ to submit a 'Strengthen and Adapt Plan', after which they will consider any investment. Sport NZ is supporting this Softball Strengthen and Adapt Project through providing funding support to engage Ivan Harré as an independent advisor and Tracey Diack as project manager.

To achieve this plan, we will undertake two steps:

Step one will include consulting with the softball community as well as bringing all previous data and research together. During July, consultation will be undertaken with various organisations, groups and individuals with the aim to thoroughly understand the current state of softball and the potential future state of softball in regard to the key areas of high-performance pathways and alignment, and the softball delivery structure.

Step two will involve exploring further the proposed key area/s of transformation including further targeted consultation (yet to be determined) before Softball NZ submits our plan to Sport NZ at the end of September 2022.

### **Steering Group**

We have established a Steering Group to provide critical advice and guidance for this project. Members of the Steering Group are:

- Tony Giles, Softball NZ CEO
- Megan Harlick, Softball NZ Board Member
- Glen Roff, Softball NZ Softball Manager
- Ivan Harré, Independent Project Advisor
- Nicky Sheriff, Softball NZ President
- Dale Eagar, Softball NZ Life Member
- Lyn Lockhart, Softball NZ former Board Member/White Sox Management
- Nardi Leonard, Auckland Softball President

Additionally, Jo Cheatley from Sport NZ will provide advice and information, and Tracey Diack, Project Manager, will support the group.

We will keep you updated via our normal communication channels so keep an eye out for opportunities to contribute to this project and to stay up to date with progress.