

Softball New Zealand

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Dear Members,

Following the recent WBSC Congress a number of rules changes have been adopted for world championship events.

After consultation with Softball NZ UIC Wiremu Tamaki and his national staff, the rule changes below are to be adopted domestically with immediate effect:

STRIKE ZONE

The space over any part of home plate between the *bottom of the batter's sternum (chest plate) and the bottom of the batter's knee cap, when they assume their natural batting stance.*

(The natural batting stance is the stance the batter takes after the release of the pitch when deciding to swing or not swing at the pitch).

This is a change from the current armpit to knee zone.

PITCHING RULE – (MALE & FEMALE)

Pitchers may now start with their back foot off the plate

Pitchers are not obliged to utilise this pitching change and can continue with the existing back foot engaged rule if desired.

Additional rule modifications have no impact on the domestic game and SNZ national coaches will be consulted re international impacts accordingly. If you wish to discuss further please do not hesitate to contact your local Chief Umpire in the first instance.

Regards



Tony Giles

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