



National UIC's Call

With Tricia Sibraa

One hundred and sixteen national umpire appointments, which included Darrell Paul, Liz Kawana, Glen Nalepa and Gavin Shepherd from New Zealand covers the nine National Championships held from October 2011 to February 2012. From these Championships, nine umpires achieved their Level 5 and Level 6 Accreditation.

Congratulations are extended to Bridget Cameron and Jana McCaskill (Queensland); Jay Gibson (New South Wales) and Trevor Murphy (Victoria) on achieving their Level 6, while Norelle Thomas and Jamie Harries (Queensland); Richard Dodds (Victoria); Haydyn Wood (South Australia) and James English (New South Wales) for achieving their Level 5.

SAL will be hosting Japan in a test series at Hawker Softball grounds, Canberra from 21-24 March. Leigh Evans will be the Tournament Chief Umpire, with Howard Watt, Darrell Shephard, Phil Waller, Jason Carter and Warren Duff appointed.

I must also make mention of our two umpires appointed to the XIII World Women's Championship, July 13-22, Whitehorse, Yukon, Canada. Congratulations to Debbie Grove and Diane Waller, both from Victoria.

The NUC recently held their quarterly meeting and were able to finalise the portfolios for recently-appointed National Staff members Bridget Cameron and Kyira Cox. Bridget will be the new editor of BNOL and will maintain the National Umpires' database, while Kyira will be looking after our website, umpire merchandise and Australian Level 6 umpire caps.

Finally, congratulations to the 2011 Vivienne Triplett Umpire of the Year, Scott Rindfleish. Scott's commitment to local, state, national and international events proves him to be a most worthy recipient of this prestigious award.

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Technical Memo from ISF Regional UIC

From Umpire in Chief – Oceania; Wayne Saunders

A question was raised following the 2012 New Zealand National Fastpitch Championships if silver masks are suitable for plate umpires in ISF competitions. These masks are now available to purchase in some stores and online.

This question was put to the ISF Director of Umpires Bob Stanton who consulted the ISF Regional Umpire Coordinators. With reference to Rule 10 of the ISF Rule Book, the consensus on the silver wired mask is that they are not permitted for ISF play.

Please take this into consideration when purchasing clothing and equipment.

Softball Australia Awards Night

At the completion of the Open Men's and Women's National Championships Softball Australia held their annual awards dinner at Rooty Hill RSL where Scott Rindfleish was awarded the Vivienne Triplett Umpiring Award for 2010-2011.



Photo by Donkin Gook Photography: Scott Rindfleish and Margo Koskelainen

IX ISF Junior Women's World Championship

Cape Town – South Africa 7-17 December 2011: by Yvonne Kahler and Helen Strauss

Wow... What an amazing experience on and off the diamond.

When you are selected to go to your first World Championship and as time gets closer, you have a mix of emotions: amazing excitement, high expectations of your preparedness and performance, and that feeling of being a little bit scared. This experience was all of that and so very much MORE.

We travelled to South Africa with the Aussie Pride team a week prior to the Championship, and it was great to get to know some of the players we have been umpiring over the years. We didn't stay with the team, but did some sightseeing and practice matches with them prior to the start of the tournament. Usually at softball tournaments you don't get to see a lot of city you travel to, but by arriving a week early, we had the opportunity to see a lot of Cape Town and its surrounding Cape Peninsular.

All the umpires and official statisticians stayed in the same hotel. Yvonne was roomed with Munsook Jeon from South Korea, and Helen was roomed with Maria Theresa Mejia from Columbia. There wasn't too much of a language barrier with 98% of the umpires all speaking quite good English.

We received great hospitality from Softball South Africa - the support staff and liaisons were so friendly and could not do more for us. We have made many new friends, not only from the umpire crew and the Australian players/supporters, but also the South African support staff and liaisons, and other travellers we met at our hotel.

Prior to the Championship Starting: As an umpire crew, we did a ground inspection at the stadium two days prior to the Championship (Mon 5/12) – where Bob Stanton (our UIC) and Vincent Maoeng (Deputy UIC) took us through some mechanics and rotations on Diamond No.2, and a short discussion took place regarding the use and management of the 20 second clock, which most of us had never used before. Zimbabwe did not arrive at the Championship so all their games were forfeited causing a loss of seven games from the schedule.

The official Championship Technical Meeting took place on the morning of the Opening Ceremony (Wed 7/12) at the hotel where all the teams were staying. A promotional video was shown – this included footage from all four Olympic Games. Don Porter opened the meeting and spoke about the push to get Softball back into the Olympics. Don also spoke about the change to the World Championship schedule from four years to two years. He emphasised the move by ISF to promote softball into new areas and modified games. All

team bats were checked and stamped at this meeting (in a separate room), and the coin toss was done for all games.

We then had our official umpiring technical meeting, where all the umpires gave a brief history of their umpiring experience. Many umpires were attending their very first World Championship, however Jai Ali (China) had umpired at the 2008 Olympics, and Shiego Kamata (Japan) had the most years of experience at international tournaments. The main item discussed at the umpires' technical meeting was managing the 20 second clock.

Facilities: The stadium was of an excellent standard, with seating for approximately 2,500 at the main diamond. The second diamond and team warm-up fields were in the same complex as the main stadium, with temporary spectator stands erected for Diamond 2. Food, soft drinks, souvenirs and a spectators' bar were in between the main diamond and the second diamond. We obviously never made it to the spectators bar, but we heard it was a fun place to be, with many parents re-living every pitch, hit and, as usual, a few umpiring decisions!

We had our own private "umpires room" on the top floor of the stadium, where we kept our gear bags and clothes, and had separate male and female showers/toilets and change room. We also had a dining area where we were provided with hot lunches, soft drinks, tea and coffee every day. Like most umpire rooms - you didn't have a lot of room to spread out your gear, and after a few days, it really did smell like your normal locker room!

There were no laundry facilities in our hotel, and we couldn't get to a laundromat due to late evening game times, so we got very proficient at hand washing in our bath tubs and drying our clothes by the air conditioner in our rooms.

Crew: There were 22 umpires in total, plus our UIC and Deputy UIC. Australia, Canada and China were the only Federations to send two umpires. There were also a few umpires from countries without teams in the competition. We were issued with our Mizuno umpiring uniform two days prior to the opening, and it didn't take long for us to bond; trying on and pinning/hemming your umpire pants brought out a lot of personalities, and it was clear that we were going to have some fun. Throughout the whole Championship, it didn't matter if you didn't understand Spanish or Chinese, things were easily explained and "laughter" comes with no language barrier. What a great bunch of new friends we now have!

Opening Game: After the official opening and welcoming of all the teams, the Opening Game was played between South Africa and Botswana. Helen was assigned third base, and Yvonne was on the clock. This was exciting for both of us, but Yvonne was more out of her comfort zone - on the clock for the very first time 'ever'. This game went to a 9 innings tiebreaker which was a great opener and a prelude of the many great games to come. After all the excitement and expectations getting here – we slept well that night.

Mechanics: We started the first two days of the Championship using the four umpire system; however, with the loss of seven games that Zimbabwe forfeited, we changed to using six umpire systems going forward to give umpires more games. The additional umpires were in

left and right field, and took responsibility for fly balls to the outfield. It was a little disappointing to have practised and studied our four umpire system, to have not used it for the entire Championship, but whilst being an outfield umpire sometimes got a little boring, you had to be always on your toes and ready for the outfield action the whole time – and that's what it was all about. Hopefully we both remember to rotate next time we do a four-man! We both found it quite easy to work with all members of the umpiring crew – it really does show the importance of learning/practising the ISF mechanics that are taught worldwide.

Games: Our daily game allocations were posted either at the stadium at the end of the day, or at the hotel that evening. The Medal Game allocations were announced to the crew at 9:30am at the hotel on the final day of the Championship. Helen did 17 games, and Yvonne did 16 games during the Championship, with two practice matches prior (AUS v USA, and AUS v South Africa).

Each day our three 12 seater buses would depart to the stadium at either 10am, 12pm or 2pm, so depending what game you were on, you could decide which bus to get. Most people chose to go to the stadium early to either watch games, catch up with their team, or to take advantage of the free wi-fi and make contact with friends and family at home (laptops, iPhones, smart phones, iPads were on constant charge).

It was great to work with umpires from all over the world, and there were not any major issues with communication with our crew or the coaches. The teams were great too, with Australia playing very well throughout the Championship and unlucky not to make the medal games (they finished 5th). Japan and USA fought it out in the Gold Medal game in an extremely tight game. Helen was assigned the plate on this game, and Yvonne second base. It was an all-girl crew for the final which was an outstanding achievement for all girls on the diamond. The game was fast - approximately 1hr 25 mins, and had the crowd captivated the whole time (and all the crew's focus and heartbeats were at full throttle). USA hit a grand slam in the fourth innings to go to a 4-0 lead, but Japan never gave up, with the final score 4-1. We were so very proud to be assigned positions on this Gold Medal game.



From Yvonne: Dream the dream – just never know how it will turnout... 2012 saw a year in my umpiring career that while I dreamed of doing great things, I don't believe I ever expected it to happen so quickly. After attaining my ISF accreditation in February of 2012, I was honoured to be one of two umpires to be selected for the Junior Women's World Championship. When told of my appointment it seemed so far away. As the time came closer, it was exciting and scary all at the same time. Once we arrived and settled into the tournament, we discovered we were able to relax and enjoy the whole experience. The games were well within our ability and the only difference from Nationals was the different languages, which in the end were not difficult to overcome. I was fortunate to be allocated to a number of very close and hard-fought games, but being appointed to the Gold Medal game was the icing on the cake. Sharing the experience with my very good friend Helen, made the whole experience something that will live long in my memory. So many photos, so many memories and so many new friends.



From Helen: Never Give In – believe in your abilities... This was such a special experience! The attitude of all the umpiring crew, coaches and players at this Championship was fantastic. We (umpires) put in so many hours on the diamond (and off), striving for our best performance for the players and the game. We hope to be selected for an international championship one day, and when it comes, you really feel all the work has been worthwhile. For me, after battling some health issues for the past three years and sometimes not able to umpire due to surgery or medical treatments, every moment at this World Championship was treasured. It doesn't matter what your obstacles are – believe in yourself and stay strong. I want to thank every umpire who has ever debriefed me, mentored me, helped me out of a tough spot, and supported me. I would not have been ready for this opportunity without you all. And to all umpires striving for their next level at their home association or Nationals, or those working towards International appointments, the hard work and dedication you put in will bring you rewards far beyond what you could ever imagine.

Gilley's I – Glen Waverley

Gilley's I kicked off at Glen Waverley, Melbourne on 28 October 2011. The crew included the talented UIC Debbie Grove and Examiners Leigh Evans and Ian Frame, who bravely attended to the umpiring pack of Helen Strauss, Vicki Lansley, Bridget Cameron, Stacey Loveridge, Steve Wallace-Yarrow, Jason Carter, David Datson, Phil Waller and Stuart Tyler. But the talent did not stop there, as we were joined by our New Zealand counter-part Darrel Paul.

Day One managed to only fit in a couple of games in the morning as the rain also wanted to join in the fun. The rain provided an opportunity to the umpiring crew to eat dinner before 10pm!!

Day Two kicked off with much the same rainy weather but most of the games were played as players and officials were desperate to get some game time in to start off the National Championships – particularly our umpiring candidate.

I managed to get some games in with Darrel Paul. It was interesting to learn how NZ umpires have some slight differences but we adjusted well, had a lot of fun on the diamond and I learnt a lot about NZ – on the park and the best wine regions; Hawkes Bay.

Day Three brought much of the same weather with only three games completed. The candidate and her crew buddy, Phil Waller were featured on all of them. Notably, South Australia was the only team that managed to play all their games over the weekend leaving Gilley's II umpires with some extra duties.

On behalf of the crew, a big thank you to our TCU Debbie Grove and her side kicks, Ian Frame and Leigh Evans for an amazing weekend. While it is normally accustom to also congratulate a successful candidate from the Championship, as the writer of this article is one and the same (Bridget Cameron), that's just awkward! That being said, I was successful in achieving my Level 6 accreditation – thank you to the exceptionally supportive crew.

Writer: Bridget Cameron

Gilley's II – Brisbane

With the clouds rolling in and the humidity at its best, the first game of Gilley's II in Brisbane was unpredictable. Friday saw the sky clear and the sun shining for a hot day of softball. The heat was a killer for New Zealand umpire Liz Kawana, as she left her home town with a temperature of 14 degrees.

The weekend continued with the hot weather, and the game intensity continued with most score lines only having minimal run difference. Top plays and outstanding batting just added to the excitement.

On the Friday night the crew went for dinner at the most amazing little Greek restaurant, everyone was very pleased with the service and the splendid food, with the haloumi being the highlight dish.

Under hot and trying conditions, the two successful candidates were very pleased with the outcome. Congratulations Jay Gibson (NSW) and Jana McCaskill (QLD). Both Jay and Jana umpired over 6 hot but close games and achieved their Level 6 accreditation - a job well done!

The Gilley's II umpiring crew had a great weekend catching up with friends from all over the country and umpiring some first-class ball. Special thanks to Tricia Sibraa the TCU of Gilley's II for making it such a great weekend.



Photo: Jay Gibson and Jana McCaskill

Writer: Jay Gibson

Gilley's III – Canberra

On the second day of a new year the Australian contingent of the Gilley's III umpiring crew assembled in Canberra. With only one extra game to make up from previous rounds we were all looking forward to a fantastic week with the Edebone-Weber Shield up for grabs and the Australia v New Zealand Test Series to follow.

Our New Zealand counterpart Glenn Nalepa joined us on Tuesday for the first day of competition and we all headed out on the diamond to umpire in 35°C heat. Throughout the week, the average game time of over 2 hours seemed to be continuing from previous Gilley's, but the rapid turnaround of diamonds from the fantastic grounds crew meant that we still managed to get back to the accommodation at a decent hour on most nights. The reasonable umpiring hours enabled the crew to enjoy each other's company off diamond on multiple occasions for dinner, though there was some gentle disappointment expressed due to the limited availability of duck anywhere in Canberra. Additionally, the Belconnen Way Hotel and Motel provided us with the perfect balcony setting to share our softball experiences and stories.

On the diamond the crew worked marvelously together and congratulations must go to the Edebone-Weber final crew of Jason Carter (Plate), Di Waller (1st Base), Ryan Thorneycroft (2nd Base), and Glen Nalepa (3rd Base).



Front: Mark Gallagher, Di Waller, Bridget Cameron, Glen Nalepa, Kyira Cox, Ryan Thorneycroft
Back: Ian Frame, Neville Lawrance, Jana McCaskill, Jason Carter, Steve Wallace-Yarrow, Richard Barrow, Steve Gutteridge. Missing: Tricia Sibraa TCU

While the majority of the crew headed off home or to U17 tournaments in Melbourne or Hobart, the ISF contingent of Di Waller, Neville Lawrance, Glen Nalepa, Jason Carter and Ian Frame stayed in Canberra to officiate the three games of the Australia vs. New Zealand Test Series.

Many thanks to our terrific TCU Tricia Sibraa, who with the help of her deputies Di Waller and Ian Frame, managed to keep the whole week running smoothly.

Writer: Jana McCaskill

Under 19 Women's - Perth

The weather for the week was hot, with the first day being hot enough to make a Daisy wilt!!

The crew for the U19 Women's Nationals assembled in Perth faced with a week of hot weather. Our accommodation for the week was at Hillary's Resort - an excellent location and close to many eateries - from here it was a 20-30 minute drive to the grounds. Big thanks to a driver for the week, Neville Lawrance.

The games were played in a competitive spirit with several games entering tiebreakers - Vicki Lansley and Leanne Gearside were magnets for these extra innings games with each of them being involved in three each and between them were involved all tiebreakers.

During the week the 'Strike Out Breast Cancer' program was a focal point, with many teams incorporating pink into their uniforms. This included the base umpires who wore pink base hat on the diamond. Over the week various sponsors donated money for each strike out - there were 273 K2s for the week which raised \$2534. In total \$8800 was raised in various fundraising activities for the week. The crew enjoyed being involved in this valuable and worthy community event.

Congratulations to Norelle "Pinkie" Thomas on successfully obtaining her Level 5 accreditation - well done Norelle. Also congratulations to the grand final crew of Chris Trengove (Plate), Warren Duff (1st Base), Stuart Tyler (2nd Base) and Ian Frame (3rd Base) - a job well done in very trying conditions.

Due to the game schedule organizing a crew dinner was difficult; however, we were able to share breakfast at a nearby cafe on the final day of the Championship, which was enjoyed by all.

Thank you for Di Waller (TCU) for a job well done in a memorable week. A special thanks to the volunteers in the canteen at Mirrabooka for providing us with a plate of sandwiches and platter of fresh fruit each day - it was greatly appreciated all of the crew.

Writer: David Datson

National Umpiring Program

Website: www.softball.org.au and go to Umpiring Resources.

Under 19 Men's - Canberra

It was with excitement that umpires arrived in Canberra to work this tournament. With some of the umpires arriving from earlier National Championships conducted in Melbourne and Hobart, the umpires meeting was performed on the morning of the tournament, during which discussion was conducted about the various ground rules for the tournament.

Given that there was five or six games each day, all umpires were provided with a great opportunity to receive feedback in relation to their performance. Thanks from the umpiring crew are extended to TCU Tricia Sibraa and Examiners Leigh Evans and Darren Sibraa for the advice and assistance provided throughout the tournament.

Additionally, with some very experienced umpires in the crew, the post-game debriefs were also very beneficial. I am sure that all umpires developed skills and new knowledge from the assistance that was provided during the tournament.

With the location of the accommodation being close to the ballpark, it allowed us to walk to the park. Additionally, the restaurants at Hawker Shopping Centre allowed us to eat well during the tournament. We had Chinese meals about three times during the tournament and Rocksalt was a great venue for breakfast.

Congratulations are extended to Trevor (Murph) Murphy for successfully achieving his Level 6 accreditation during the tournament.

The following umpires were rewarded for their umpiring during the tournament by being appointed to the grand final crew: Scott Rindfleish (Plate), Jesse Smith (1st Base), Mark Gallagher (2nd Base), Andrew Rindfleish (3rd Base).

The umpires involved in this event had a great time and appreciated the support and assistance provided during the tournament.

This tournament was a selection event for the 2012 Australian U19 Men's Squad. Congratulations are extended to the players selected in this squad. We also wish good luck to the players and officials appointed to the Australian U19 team selected to compete at the ISF IX Junior Men's World Championships in Parana, Argentina from 1-10 November 2012.

Writer: David Casey

Under 17 Men's - Altona

The crew: Debbie Grove (UIC), Ron Houison and Darrell Shephard (Examiners), Richard Barrow, David Casey, Richard Dodds, Jay Gibson, Jamie Harries, Jana McCaskill, Trevor Murphy, Chris Trengove, Stacey Loveridge (P/T) and Stuart Tyler (P/T).

This year's Under 17 Boys event was notable for a number of reasons: (1) the length of the games; (2) the coolness of the weather; and (3) Richard Barrow's ankle! With regard to the latter, Richard rolled his ankle at Gilley's III in Canberra and looked unlikely to umpire the Championship with his ankle still wrapped in bandages on Saturday evening.

Sunday's games were played in pleasant sunny conditions, which were to prove most unrepresentative of what lay in store later in the week. It became apparent quickly that the start times were optimistic with game lasting longer than two hours, even two and half hours. The SA vs. QLD game saw 270 pitches thrown in 5 innings with 22 walks!

An organised team get-together at a local restaurant seemed like a great idea at the start of the week. Trevor Murphy collected orders and phoned the local Italian restaurant for an ETA of 9pm. The last game was scheduled for 6:30pm and Ron "just watch this" Houison at the helm what could go wrong? WA & VIC players tried Ron's game management as 10pm approached. Thankfully, the remainder of the crew arrived soon after, and a pleasant meal ensued.

The next few days proved that Ron was the "Jonah" on game lengths with the assistance of Jay Gibson and the two candidates, Richard Dodds and Jamie Harris. On Monday, Richard (with Ron and Jay on the bases) presided over the tournament's longest game around 2:50 between QLD and WA.

Probably the highlight of Tuesday was WA vs. SA (crewed by Casey, Houison and Trengove), which resulted in the tournament's only tie-breaker. A plucky SA overcame a 5-1 deficit to get up 8-7 in the 8th and record their first win. Another highlight was the return of Richard Barrow to the diamond, at 3rd base, in the last game of the day. Unfortunately, this game was interrupted by rain (the only such game), and needed to be completed the next morning. Richard's ankle survived and he followed up this early start with his first plate for the tournament, after which he never looked back.

Late nights and arctic conditions on Wednesday caused the postponement of a team barbecue at Trevor Murphy's place (located a couple of kms from the accommodation). With Thursday's timings and weather no better the BBQ proceeded (at 11pm and 11degrees) as the food was purchased. The food and the company was great... Just before we wound up, Debbie, huddled in rugs, handed out the Friday allocations, with Jana drawing the short straw of the 10am plate. Many thanks to Trevor and Pattie Murphy for their generous hospitality at such short notice.

By the time finals rolled around Friday afternoon, things were running smoothly; the games were back on time, the candidates seemed happy, and everyone was "pumped", thanks to liberal doses of Van Halen played from Jay's phone. When the preliminary final crew (Ron (Plate), Jay, David and Chris) stepped out onto the diamond on Saturday morning, things seemed to be heading for a grand final clash between semi-final winners NSW and QLD (undefeated in the rounds). However, ACT had other plans, scoring three runs in the first, before prevailing 7 to 6 against QLD in a see-saw encounter.

Shortly afterwards the grand final crew was announced; Congratulations to Jana (Plate), Trevor, Darrell and Richard. They did a great job on the game, although ACT was unable to repeat their heroics of the morning, succumbing 7 runs to 0 to NSW in six innings.



Photo: The grand final plate meeting conducted by Jana McCaskill.

The closing ceremony was held immediately afterwards, with the umpires attending in our walk-out shirts – quite convenient for those who needed to travel straight away. Debbie presented the certificates to our two successful candidates; congratulations Richard and Jamie on a job well done.

Thanks go to our two part-timers, Stacey and Stuart, who supported us throughout the week. Thank you to our TCU Debbie Grove, who led us in her own inimitable style, and was ably supported by Ron and Darrell. I'm sure all of us appreciated your good humour and constructive comments. Finally, thanks go to Softball Victoria for the smooth management of the tournament and for looking after us with sandwiches, tea, coffee, etc.

Writer: Chris Trengove

Under 17 Women's - Hobart

The crew – Darren Sibraa (TCU), Amanda Houison (Examiner), Phil Waller (Examiner), Leanne Gearside, Steve Gutteridge, George Norrish, Kevin Offer, Ryan Thorneycroft, Steve Wallace-Yarrow, Peter Walsh, Ron Yardley, James English (Candidate), Haydyn Wood (Candidate).

Day 1 – Majority of the crew flew into Hobart early Saturday morning with the two Steves and I arriving later in the evening after umpiring at Gilley's III in Canberra. However the arrival may have been even later as we charged to the gate with the "Last Call" sign flashing in Canberra. The cause for our lateness is still being debated.

Day 2 - The first day of umpiring and we arrived at the grounds at 8am with the help of our wonderful liaisons, Kelvin Clarke and Di Palmer – thank you!

Day 3 – Upon arriving at the grounds it was hard not to notice Darren sporting a pair of crutches. Apparently, Darren received a hairline fracture in his ankle after getting hit with the ball at Skins. Continuing to walk on a sore leg is not good for it!

Day 4 – By Day 4 the nerves for the candidates were gone and the singing commenced with the crew enjoying the voice of Haydyn (even if we all didn't know the songs). The statisticians joined in on the fun by creating nicknames for each of us (however, what happens on tour stays on tour). We were also able to enjoy the company of our liaisons Di and Kelvin and State Umpiring Director, Wayne Clarke for our dinner at a local Chinese restaurant.

Day 5 – Round 2 started and teams raised the bar and so did the weather with rain! With statisticians having tent issues I was notified that if the weather conditions were to worsen I would have to walk to the back net and tell the statisticians the changes whilst they sat in the Range Rover! Conditions didn't get that bad! The first upset of the tournament was when TAS defeated VIC 9-6 in an exciting finish to the game and the day.

Day 6 – QLD vs. WA provided the only tiebreaker for the tournament with QLD winning 8-7 in the 8th. Phil, Leanne and I managed the game, and I'm pretty sure Phil volunteered fault for its longevity. Dinner with the statisticians was at Amigo's Mexican Restaurant, and was enjoyed by all.

Day 7 – With the rounds completed out came the 4 umpire system for the finals. This presented some excitement for those not so familiar with the rotation. While most of the crew were adapting to the cold temperatures, it appeared Leanne had not. Leanne went out onto the diamond wearing at least 4 shirts, 2 pairs of socks, a pair of shorts underneath her pants and her jacket. She was satisfied after that!

Day 8 - Only 2 games to go!! NSW defeated SA in the preliminary final 3-0 in a pitcher dominated game. The Grand Final was played between QLD and NSW in a highly exciting game, with New South Wales winning 3-1.

Grand Final Crew: Phil Waller (Plate), Ryan Thorneycroft (1st Base), Steve Wallace-Yarrow (2nd Base), Kevin Offer (3rd Base) – Congratulations.

At the Championship Dinner it was great to see so many supporters and parents in attendance. Darren was able to congratulate James English (NSW) and Haydyn Wood (SA) for successfully attaining their Level 5 accreditation. Well done guys!

Final Thoughts - A huge thanks to Kelvin Clarke and Di Palmer, our fantastic liaison officers. Their warmth, friendliness and commitment were appreciated by all!!!! And thanks Wayne Clarke for his organisation prior to the tournament's commencement. Also big thanks to Darren, Amanda and Phil for managing the crew. Your feedback, managerial styles and good humor were appreciated. The smoothness in which the tournament was conducted is a true reflection of your commitment and abilities you offer this sport.



Writer: Ryan Thorneycroft