

## National UIC's Call

with **Tricia Sibraa**



With two Gilley's Shield rounds already completed I am pleased to announce that Kyira Cox, Leanne Gearside (NSW), Richard Barrow (VIC) and Stephen Gutteridge (QLD) have attained their level 6 National accreditation. Congratulations to you all.

In January we had Gilley's round 3 been played at Mirrabooka, Perth. These games were played on their new skinned diamonds. Also in January we have the Under 17 Boys in Adelaide, the Under 17 Girls in Brisbane followed by the Under 19 Men's in Melbourne and the Under 19 Women's in Sydney.

Helen Strauss, Yvonne Kahler, Ian Frame, Ron Houison, Amanda Houison, Stacey Loveridge, Howard Watt, Jason Carter and Phil Waller along with Jeremy England, Gavin Shepherd, Mark Porteous and Riki Tourangi from New Zealand have all been preparing themselves for their ISF certification clinic in February. Bob Stanton (ISF Umpire-in-Chief), and Wayne Saunders (Oceania Umpire-in-Chief) are coming to the Open Men's and Gilley's final to facilitate the clinic.

NOAS level 1 and level 2 accreditation courses have been accepted by the Australian Sports Commission (ASC) for commencement in the ongoing accreditation structure of the Softball Australia Umpire program. Debbie Grove and her two working groups must be congratulated for their endless hours of work to have these manuals completed.

Upon accreditation, and once completing your registration form, you will be allocated a National registration number, and details will be logged with the ASC. (Privacy and confidentiality issues have been addressed within our requirements, and details will not be utilised for any other purpose than registration). All umpires wishing to hold official umpiring accreditation must undertake registration and remain active across the four-year updating period.

There is still a huge amount of work under way rewriting the SAL umpires code and changing policy inline with SAL direction. The web site continues to be updated and improved.



# New South Wales

[www.nswumpires.softball.org.au](http://www.nswumpires.softball.org.au)

## Childhood Dream Comes True for Rindfleish by Amy Wadwell



As a young kid you may dream of winning a gold medal at the Olympics, breaking the 100metre sprint world record or even donning the baggy green. But for Scott Rindfleish, he dreamt of one day emulating the feats of his dad, Andrew, and becoming a Level 8 umpire.

At the Softball Australia Awards of Excellence Dinner on Friday 19 November, Scott's childhood dream became a reality when he was awarded his Level 8 umpiring accreditation.

At just 28 years of age, Rindfleish becomes the youngest active umpire in Australia to achieve the highest level of umpire accreditation. It is an achievement that he is immensely proud of, but how does he describe the feeling?

"With difficulty," a modest Rindfleish said.

"Whilst it was a very big aspiration, I didn't realise the logical steps to get there, but I've got to say that I feel very humbled by the opportunity to be in a small group of people that have achieved success and I feel happy about that.

"I've been passionate about umpiring all my life and I started very young, so achieving success relatively quickly in the scheme of things was good, and to be the youngest in Australia is kind of exciting."

Rindfleish has come a long way from the young boy whose first words were foul "ball", to now umpiring on the world stage. But for Scott, the highlight of his umpiring journey came in July of this year when he was appointed to the plate of the semi final match between the USA and Japan at the Women's World Championships in Venezuela.

"To umpire the plate on that game was obviously an honour and very thrilling to be recognised with a plate at that stage of the tournament. To work with the best female pitchers in the world, such as Cat Osterman is right up there," Rindfleish said.

Now that he has achieved his level eight accreditation the logical question is "What's next?"

"Now my aspiration, as it has been for a while, is to umpire at an Open Men's World Championship, and that's hopefully the potential in the near future," he said.

"I think it's almost like a starting point if you like. I see it as though I have to continue to umpire well, and look to continue to improve my game. I want to be the best umpire possible and that means I have to continue to work hard.

"I'm certainly not resting on my laurels. I don't think to achieve our highest accreditation level is a time to slow down, I think it is the time to step up."

And step up he will.

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## **Diamonds are a girl's best friend** by Amy Wadwell

They say diamonds are a girl's best friend, and at Blacktown Olympic Park it was true as an all-female umpiring crew took to the diamond for the Women's State League Grand Final between Northern Storm and Bankstown Bandits.

Amanda Houison was one of three given the honour of wearing the green Pep's Auto Spares shirts for the final game of the season, an honour that wasn't lost on the plate umpire.

"It was an excellent game. Early on it looked like Bandits would run away with it. But it got exciting towards the end, particularly when Northern Storm came back in the sixth inning with runs and loaded bases," Houison said.

"The real highlight for me today was that it was a female grand final with an all-female crew. I'm not sure how often that has happened but it was a great showcase for women in sport."

Northern Storm entered the title decider as favourites, beating Bankstown Bandits in the major semi-final earlier in the day, 6-3. Defeating Manly to have another crack at the title, Bandits got the early jump in the Grand Final to lead 3-0, before Northern Storm rallied only to eventually go down 3-2.

NSW Deputy Director of Umpiring, Andrew Rindfleish acknowledged the challenges and opportunities that the umpires faced throughout the season.

"It has been challenging at times. The requirements across masters, divisional tournaments and other weekend competitions have meant that we have sometimes been a bit light on for numbers. But the umpires that have been regulars and chipped in, have done a great job," Rindfleish said.

"It's a bit of a double edged sword. While I think the standard of play on both the male and female side has dropped a bit, it means that the level one and two umpires have done well and the opportunities afforded to them have been great.

"In years gone by, I think they (the level one and two umpires) would have been gobbled up a bit, but the sport is evolving and we have a lot of new umpires coming along that we need to nurture and provide opportunities to."

The curtain may have been lowered on the women's State League competition, but the men are still doing battle, with their decider to be played on Sunday 28 November.

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## Orange Memories for Triumphant 8 by Jesse Smith



**Successful Level 2 candidates: (L to R), Dylan Murdoch, Brook Whitfield, Colin Tutt, James Townsend, Vicki Armsworth, Jessica Donald-Smith, Tony Moncaster. (Insert Todd Winsor)**

Good things generally come in threes, but in Orange at the Softball NSW U14 State Championships good things came in the form of eight successful level two umpires.

It will be a weekend to remember for Vikki Armsworth, Jessica Donald-Smith, Tony Moncaster, Dylan Murdoch, James Townsend, Colin Tutt, Brooke Whitfield and Todd Winsor – the eight candidates who showcased the skills and mechanics necessary to be awarded their Level Two National Umpiring Accreditation.

Eight candidates, eight successful umpires – not a bad result when you take into account that there

were 77 games to be umpired over the weekend for 25 teams of excited U14 softballers.

Successful candidate Colin Tutt (Cumberland Nepean) has been working hard throughout the season at Waratah League and more recently State League to ensure he was as best prepared as possible.



**U14 Boy's grand final crew (L to R), Third Base: Craig Myers, Plate: George Norrish First Base: Robert McIntosh**

"It's a fantastic feeling to achieve my level two and it's even better knowing that we all passed," Tutt said.

"I'll keep working hard over the next 12 months and hopefully next year I'll be able to go for my level three."

The threat of rain, chilly winds, or piercing sunshine wasn't going to dampen the spirits of the 51 umpires who made the trip for a fabulous weekend that delivered a bucket load of laughs and plenty of on-diamond action.



**U14 Girl's grand final crew (L to R) Third Base: Stephen Smith, Plate: Paul Bourke, First Base: Chris Ioannou**

"The championship was a huge success - it has to be a success when you have eight candidates and all eight pass," Championship UIC Amanda Houison said.

"One of the most pleasing aspects of the weekend was the fact that the successful candidates came from a mix of country and metropolitan associations. It's great when you can say that you've passed candidates from Tamworth, Coffs Harbour and Wagga Wagga."

The success of a weekend isn't just measured in the achievement of level progression, but also in the team-work and support all 51 umpires demonstrated towards each other.

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## PROJECT 5000 rolls out across NSW by Jesse Smith

The roll out of umpire development clinics as part of PROJECT 5000 continued in recent weeks with clinics held at Tweed Heads, Newcastle and the Central Coast.



**Plate Mechanics demonstrated by: (L-R) Scott Rindfleish (back to camera), Jay Gibson (squatting) and Jesse Smith**

Four NSW umpires – Scott Rindfleish, Howard Watt, Jay Gibson & Jesse Smith – travelled to Tweed District Softball Association on 30 – 31 November to facilitate a clinic for 18 trainee umpires.

Saturday provided some of the clinic participants with the opportunity to have a clinic facilitator 'shadow' them on the diamond as they completed their umpiring duties. A small group also took part in a fun and interactive practical session on starting positions, plate mechanics and signals.

Sunday arrived and 18 eager trainee umpires, including a young nine year old trainee blue, were ready to learn the fundamentals of umpiring. The day consisted of both practical

and theory sessions, covering topics such as rotations, signals, plate mechanics, calling a play and rule knowledge.

Meanwhile, on the Central Coast, George Norrish facilitated a clinic for 16 future Level 1 umpires, whilst Nick Beashel visited Newcastle District Softball Association to help out 14 local umpires.

The purpose of PROJECT 5000 is to provide club and association blues the opportunity to become accredited umpires by improving their competency on the diamond.

The popularity of the clinics and the way they have been received by associations to date has been very pleasing to see, according to NSW Director of Umpiring Scott Rindfleish.

“I believe PROJECT 5000 has been a great success thus far. It has been very rewarding to work with association umpires of all ages and experiences and it is great to see such enthusiasm to achieve formal accreditation. The umpiring programme in NSW will be in good hands if we see these people come on board as level one umpires in the future.”

Rindfleish also paid tribute to the many people who assisted with the roll out of PROJECT 5000 to date. “This has been a large project to manage and it certainly would not be possible without the support of many different people. To all those involved – SNSW, the SNSWUA Executive, the facilitators, the associations and, most importantly, the participants – I extended my personal gratitude.”

The next PROJECT 5000 clinic will be held in Wagga Wagga this weekend with a further 15 umpires anticipated to attend.

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## **PROJECT 5000 arrives in a wet Wagga** by Jesse Smith

When two Sydney-based umpires travelled to Wagga on the weekend to conduct a PROJECT 5000 umpire clinic they did not quite expect the reception they received.

With 25 softballers eagerly wanting to learn the basics of umpiring, it was straight to work for Director of Umpiring Scott Rindfleish and co-facilitator Ron Houison.

In very hot conditions the local blues were put through their paces umpiring local fixtures. Wagga Wagga UIC Dylan Murdoch said that it was extremely beneficial having two very experienced umpires providing feedback to his junior blues.

“It was absolutely fabulous to see Scott and Ron walking around the diamonds providing feedback to umpires during the games. Seeing my junior blues out there doing some great work was very satisfying and the help the two provided them was excellent,” Murdoch said.

The use of video feedback throughout the day was also very popular and proved to be a great learning tool. “It is very rare for country umpires to have their games videoed and then analysed,” Murdoch went on to say.

The weekend not only provided opportunities for umpires to learn new skills, but some eager coaches unexpectedly had the opportunity to pick the brains of Scott Rindfleish in an ‘umpire-coach relations’ workshop. This was an unplanned session that Murdoch thought was very well received.

“The session Scott ran with the coaches had the most surprising response. In all 13 coaches attended the session and seemed to enjoy it just as much as Scott did presenting it.”

With the skies opening late Saturday afternoon, Sunday’s clinic was moved indoors for the most part. Nevertheless, the wet weather did not dampen the enthusiasm of the 25 participants.

Despite the limited space indoors, as many interactive activities as possible were used. According to Murdoch the clinic materials, which are broken down into individual learning modules, were just as popular as the interactive activities.

“The materials provided at the clinic were extremely useful. A lot of work has obviously been put into the new manuals and the participants were keen and very grateful to take them home.”

Following the clinic, the umpiring programme in Wagga looks set to expand and improve. As many as four local umpires are almost at the point of either re-gaining their currency or being awarded their Level 1 accreditation in the not too distant future.

In summing up the weekend, Murdoch was optimistic about the future and enthusiastic to see many more level one umpires at Wagga Softball Association.

“I think the programme was a great success. We had a fantastic response and it looks like the programme in Wagga will only improve in the long-term. The clinic definitely sparked a lot of interest at our association and it is great to see umpiring on peoples’ minds,” Murdoch concluded.

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## **Sibraa receives Level 8 accreditation by Mark Toft**

Queensland umpire, Darren Sibraa, has achieved the ultimate umpiring award when he was presented with his Level 8 accreditation at the Softball Australia Awards of Excellence recently. NSW umpire, Scott Rindfleish, was also recognised with the same award on the night.

It has been a whirlwind journey for this Queensland umpire who becomes the first Queensland umpire to achieve a Level 8 accreditation. Other Queensland umpires who achieved this recognition have done so when officiating in different States and Territories.

Darren has been officiating for more than a decade and received his Level 1 accreditation in 1998. The years to follow saw Darren achieve Level 2 in 1999, Level 3 in 2000 and Level 4 in 2001.

Darren attended his first National championships, as a Level 5 candidate, in Melbourne at the 2003 Under 16 Boys National Championships and after a week of extreme heat and extremely long games Darren emerged with his Level 5 accreditation. Two years on Darren went to Launceston to the 2005 Open Men's National Championships where he was a successful candidate for his Level 6 accreditation.

The following year Darren was given the opportunity to present for his International Softball Federation (ISF) accreditation at an ISF Certification clinic in New Zealand. The realisation of ISF accreditation was shared with three other umpires from Australia, Kevin Broomhall, Warren Duff and Scott Rindfleish and also with umpires from New Zealand.

What could be described as one of Darren's highlights came in 2009 when he was selected in the umpiring crew for the Under 19 World Junior Men's Championships in Canada. Following a successful tour of duty and in recognition of his service to the National Umpiring Program, Darren received his Level 7 accreditation.

Earlier this year Darren was appointed to the Open Women's World Championships in Venezuela and subsequently was awarded the highest honour with his Level 8 accreditation.

Darren's dedication to the sport of softball has been evident ever since his introduction to the sport. As a coach, administrator and an umpire Darren has shown the way to senior and junior umpires alike. Darren is a very modest man and has been available to assist many current umpires in the Umpiring Program.

"Often umpires focus too much on accreditation levels. It is very true that you are only as good as your last game, and this is not related to the level you have attained. I believe there is a greater expectation on those that achieve higher levels, and the consistency of performance that is then expected. That is why I place a strong emphasis on continued improvement, and always ensuring you put the game and its participants first," Darren stated.

"I have also benefited greatly from observing the many senior umpires that I was able to work with during my development, and listening to their feedback. If I can also be a role model and inspire others to achieve, then that will be my most satisfying achievement."

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# Queensland

[www.umpires.qld.softball.org.au](http://www.umpires.qld.softball.org.au)

## **Sibraa takes top gong** by Mark Toft

Queensland umpire Darren Sibraa has made it back to back wins when he took out the prestigious Vivienne Triplett Umpire of the Year award at the Softball Australia Awards of Excellence recently.

Darren is the first umpire to record a hat-trick of awards since the inception of this award more than a decade ago. Darren also won this award in 2006 and again in 2009.



There were three other nominees for this year's award Kevin Broomhall (Vic), Warren Duff (WA) and Leigh Evans (Vic).

Darren is currently the Queensland State Director of Umpiring; a position he has held for seven years and has been a National staff member on the National Umpiring Committee for the past three years. On the same night Darren also was awarded the highest accreditation of Level 8 along with NSW umpire Scott Rindfleish.

Darren gives a great deal of inspiration to umpires throughout Australia, especially in his home state and has a special bond between himself and fellow blues. The sharing of his experiences encourages other umpires to excel and progress through the umpiring ranks.

Darren acknowledged Vivienne Triplett and her dedication to all facets of softball, especially umpiring and stated that it was a privilege to receive her award due to her recent passing.

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# Victoria

[www.vuc.softball.org.au](http://www.vuc.softball.org.au)

## **Men's challenge to again have an impact by Richard Barrow**

The 10/11 Impact Challenge kicked off again last week. The top male players in the State will come together on a Tuesday night under lights for their fourth season to play high-level softball. With ground improvements and lights installed at more suburban locations, games this season will be played at Casey, Werribee, Sunshine and Geelong.

This season will again be staffed by umpires using the 3 and 4-umpire systems. Many umpires use this tournament to prepare for their next level and the VUC use this tournament to provide feedback and to carry out assessments.

Each Tuesday will see a double-header at two venues. Game one will be a regulation 7 innings; while game two will see the action speed up with modified rules. Played over one hour, batters will start with a count of 1 Ball, fouling off with 2 Strikes will be out, and runners will start on different bases each innings.

Trevor Murphy will be managing allocations for the competition this year, much appreciated. The players and organising committee have again expressed their thanks and appreciation of our work, enabling them to look forward to another top quality competition.

## **2010 Victorian Masters - Shepparton by Brett Tyler**

I drove Graham and my dad (Stuart Tyler) from Melbourne to Shepparton for a weekend of Masters Softball. It was exceptionally warm in the afternoons all the weekend, considering it was the middle of winter, but it was still very cold in the mornings. The trip didn't quite start the way I wanted it to though, because I forgot to pack my umpiring shirts and pants, so that delayed us for an extra half hour.

We stayed at a motel only a few minutes from the grounds. I had been designated the fold-out couch as my bed for the weekend, but what my parents didn't know was that it had a huge TV right in front of it. The first morning was the hardest to wake up on, chilling weather and a 6am wake up isn't the best way to start the weekend, especially when my breakfast was a banana.

On arrival at the grounds there were many new faces and of course the many known faces that you get to know through all the other softball tournaments. The first day I had been lucky to get the first time slot off and I was able to gain a little warmth by putting on a few more layers of clothing and having a good bacon and egg sandwich. The very first game I umpired was on diamond 3, which was just outside the umpires change room. I was on third base in a three-umpire system and one of the teams was my Mum's which I'm kind of use to now days.

It was also very nice to see so many faces that you only see at these tournaments, and of course the very close friends that you see most weekends. In the end I was happy to be allocated the C-Grade Men final, which was a very good experience. It was also very enjoyable having a few high-levelled umpires at the tournament and being able to get advice and feedback from them was very helpful and supporting.

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# Kevin visits Palau for clinic

## Palau Umpire Clinic

An ISF clinic was held in July in conjunction with the 7th Micronesia Games. Kevin Broomhall State Director of Umpiring, Victoria, Australia facilitated this clinic with assistance of Baklai Temengil (Manager PNOC) and her staff, and Palau Softball officials.

Activities consisted of two phases; Pre-accreditation umpire clinic, divided into class room theory and on diamond practical; and accreditation assessment of both theory and practical. The 2010 Australian Basic Theory assessment was used for this clinic. Practical assessments were carried out during the Micronesia round robin games, prior to the finals. The Oceania five level grading system developed for the Oceania Region and accepted by Papua New Guinea and Samoa was adopted. The following provides the successful umpires and the accreditation level attained.

Level 4 accreditation was awarded to Tobias Marbou (Palau). Millan Isack (Palau), Leo Teriong (Palau) and Simon Pinaula (Guam) were presented Level 3 accreditation. Rosendo Skang, Johnson Joshua, Alvino Kenty and Glen Santos, all from Palau, received Level 2 accreditation. Grace Ongalibang (Palau), Rebel John (Marshal Islands) and Dwight Ngiraibai (Palau) were awarded Level 1 accreditation.



# News in Brief

- Kyria Cox (NSW) and Steve Gutteridge (QLD) were successful Level 6 candidates at the Opening round of this year's Gilley's Shield at Blacktown recently.
- Leanne Gearside (NSW) and Richard Barrow (VIC) were successful Level 6 candidates at Gilley's round 2 in Melbourne.
- David Casey (QLD) and Stacey Loveridge (VIC) will represent the National Umpiring Program as the 2012 Tasman exchange umpires.
- Following the Skins in Canberra an international series between Australia, New Zealand and Argentina was played. Umpires officiating were Patricia Sibraa (UIC), Leigh Evans, Yvonne Kahler, Phil Waller, Mark Toft, Jesse Smith, Trevor Murphy, Sarah Houston and Lance Brown from New Zealand.
- **Softball Australia's 2010 - 2013 Official Playing Rules & Rules Case Book is now available for purchase. The new edition of the Playing Rules will only be available for sale via Member States. To order from your Member State please contact them directly.**

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# International Series

## International Series by Mark Toft

OMG! What a blast. A tri-series with three of the top 10 men's teams in the world....bring it on!

Following the annual Canberra Skins Tournament five umpires earned two days of rest and relaxation (R & R). Tricia, Leigh, Lance, Trevor and myself did a bit of sight seeing and a lot of relaxing. I had been to Canberra a number of times but did not ever get the opportunity to see the sights. This was a perfect opportunity as Lance was on his first visit to our Nation's capital.

Unfortunately the weather played its part with rain, thunderstorms and flash flooding; luckily however the Canberra ground crew were up to the task only losing two games for the entire series. Tricia and the tournament committee were kept busy doing many redraws and allocations, but we got the job done.



**Cooking up a storm: (L to R), Tricia, Leigh, Lance and Trevor tried their skill as chefs at one of the local pubs where you cook your own steak. Compliments to the chefs, what a great night.**

The International crew consisted of Tricia Sibraa (UIC), Leigh Evans, Lance Brown (NZ), Mark Toft, Phil Waller, Yvonne Kahler, Jesse Smith, and Trevor Murphy, supported by locals Sarah Houston, Mark Gallagher and Brett Atkinson.

Yvonne, Jesse and Phil arrived early on the starting day of the international series, while local umpires, Sarah, Brett and Mark filled-in and assisted throughout the week.

The series had many highlights, especially for the rookies of the umpiring ranks.

The first time the Kiwi's did the haka I was on the other side of the fence; I definitely felt a chill up the spine. I must say when I was on the diamond and the Black Sox went through their ritual it was mind-blowing. You could feel their passion and feel the intensity of the haka and what it meant to the boys across the ditch.

At the opening ceremony they played the Argentinean, New Zealand and Australian anthems .... as I listened to the rendition of Advance Australia Fair by one of the local young ladies I felt that it was being sung just for me. It was a moving experience, one I will never forget.

You could feel the tension in every game, but nothing was more intense as when the Australian Gold team took on the Black Sox. If this was a friendly series, you would never have known as all teams didn't give an inch.

It was exhilarating to officiate at this high level and to work with a bunch of true friends. Lance Brown from New Zealand added to the international flavour of the tournament and was inspirational on and off the field.

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# International Series



Lance Brown in action in the Gold Medal Game

Each night, after the games were done it seemed to be the week of trivia .... of course this was led by Trevor who has a whole bag of unforgettable trivia (Yes! some of it I did forget....as there was too much to take in, in four days).

The opportunity to umpire at this event has been embedded in my mind forever; I thank the National Umpiring Committee for giving me the chance of a lifetime.

Below is an email sent by Lance Brown on his return to New Zealand.

***Hello all,***

***I hope this message finds each of you well. I certainly am, after such a wonderful experience.***

***I'd like to thank the "powers that be" of Softball Australia, Softball New Zealand and my National Umpiring Program, for allowing a New Zealand umpire to officiate at two amazing tournaments.***

***Thank you Tricia for the appointments and the umpiring crew for making me feel part of the team. Thanks Sarah for the work you did & Tofty for not snoring too loud. It was great to catch up with friends and to meet new.***

***Best of luck for the future and keep calling.***

***Kind regards***

**Lance**

**Kiwis starting the Haka**

**The intensity of this warrior ritual  
would put chills up your spine!**

Photograph courtesy of the Canberra Times.

Photographer Graham Tidy.

BNOL appreciates the Canberra Times  
permission to use this photograph.



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# Technical Report

## Technical Report

### Rules exam

- In total 378 umpires sat the 2010 National Rules Exam across the country in May, a 19.75% decrease from last year
- ACT – 7 umpires sat the exam, a 36% decrease from last year
- NSW – 99 umpires sat the exam, a 34% decrease from last year
- NT – 3 umpires sat the exam, the same number as last year
- QLD – 98 umpires sat the exam, a 20% decrease from last year
- SA – 54 umpires sat the exam, a 17 % increase from last year
- Tas – 13 umpires sat the exam, a 22% decrease from last year
- Vic – 62 umpires sat the exam, a 6% decrease from last year
- WA – 40 umpires sat the exam, a 13% decrease from last year

Total candidates

Level 0-3: 311, 21% less than last year. Level 4-8: 67, 12% less than last year. Total Candidates 378, 19.75% less than last year

An average pass of 67 for level 0-3, 82.2 for levels 4-8 and 69.2 for all levels was achieved.

The exam was developed by Leigh Evans, proof-read and edited by Darren Sibraa, Rod Dawson and Alan McAuliffe

This year was the second year Level 1 and 2 umpires could sit the basic exam to gain or maintain their level, this provides greater flexibility and an easier pathway for entry level and Level 1 umpires.

This year we again used umpires to set the Basic Exam, this has a development effect on the program, Darren Sibraa supervised this process and he was assisted by Graeme Bancroft and Rob Harris.

3 umpires sat the basic exam for level 2 accreditation

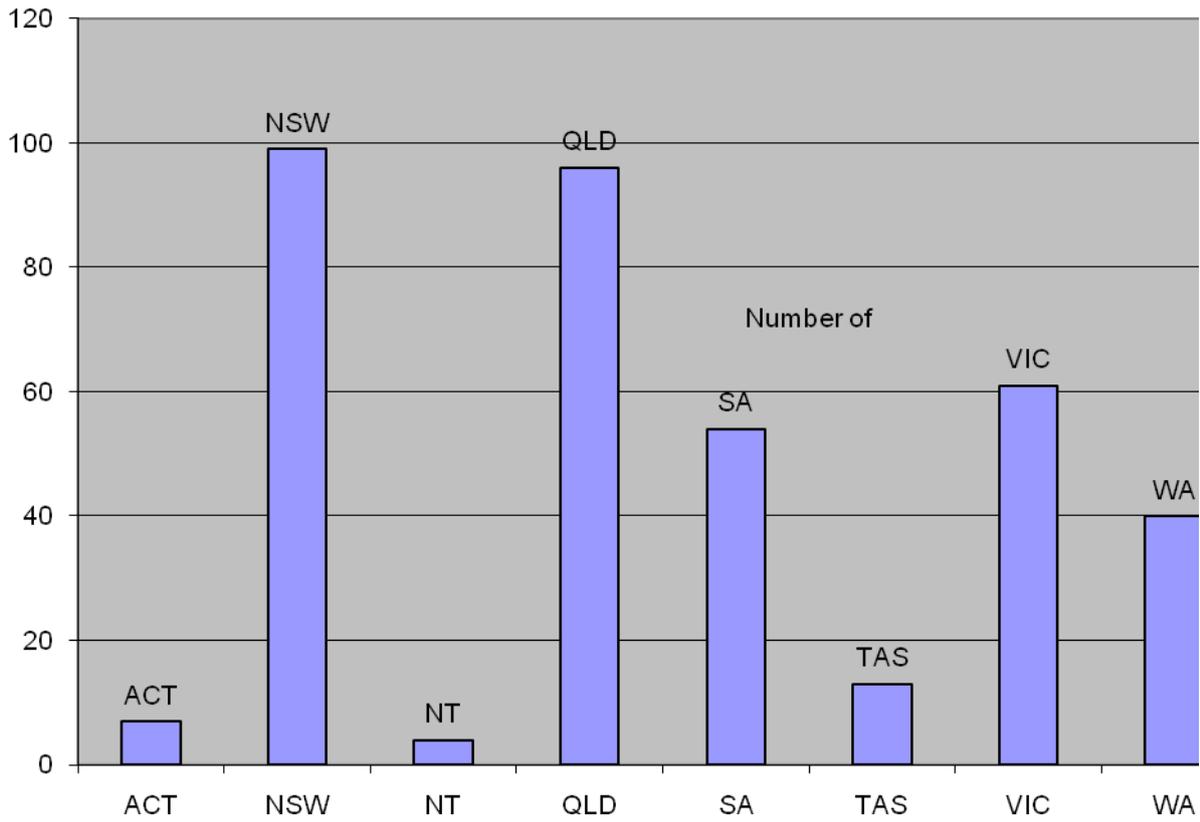
Four umpires sat the 2010 National supplementary exam nationally.

Highest achievers all levels; **Tasmania** Craig Williams, **ACT** Bob Miles, **Northern Territory** Anne Manfong, **South Australia** Dave Roberts, **Western Australia** Peter Baker, **Queensland** Ian Frame, **Victoria** Stacey Loveridge and **New South Wales** Scott Rindfleish

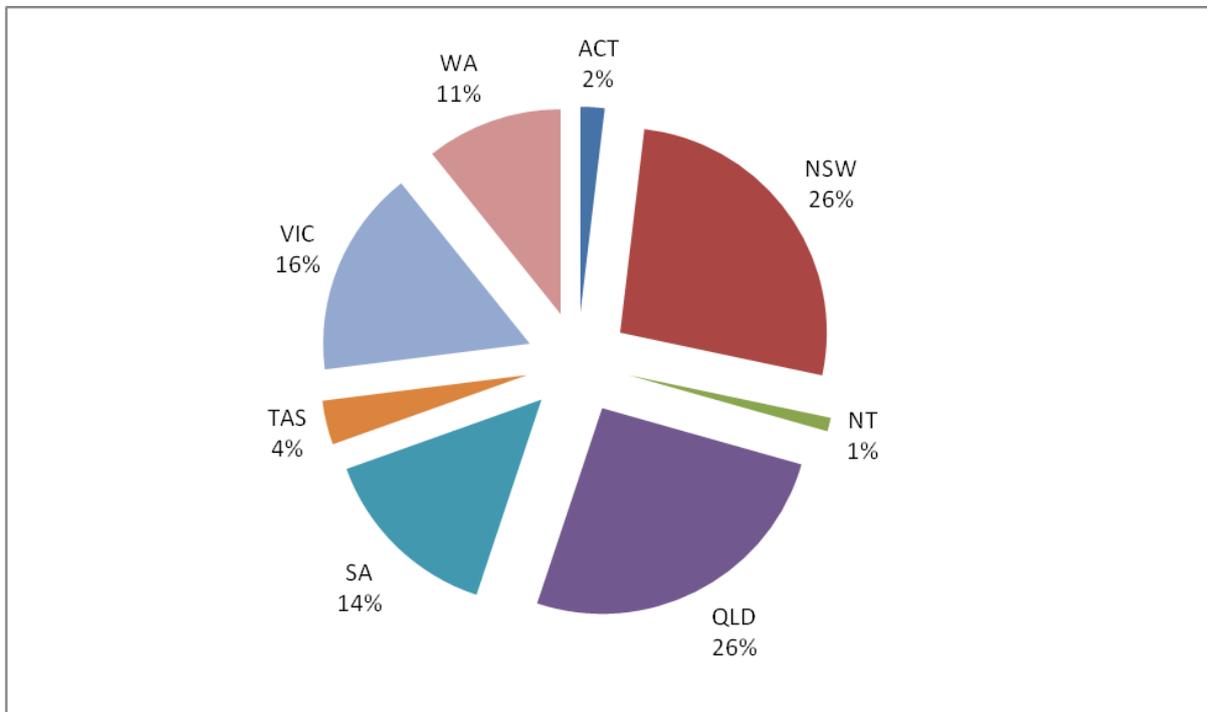
The National Umpiring Program uses a data base of over 2,000 questions to set the National exam.

The task of moving rule 9 questions (dead and live ball) into the rule book main questions has been completed; we now need a new panel to undertake the task of moving questions from rule 1 definitions into the body of the rule itself to improve the exam generator. Now that the new rule book is complete the data base also needs updating with the changes to rule book references from congress of 2009, then the complete data base has to be re-categorized for the generator.

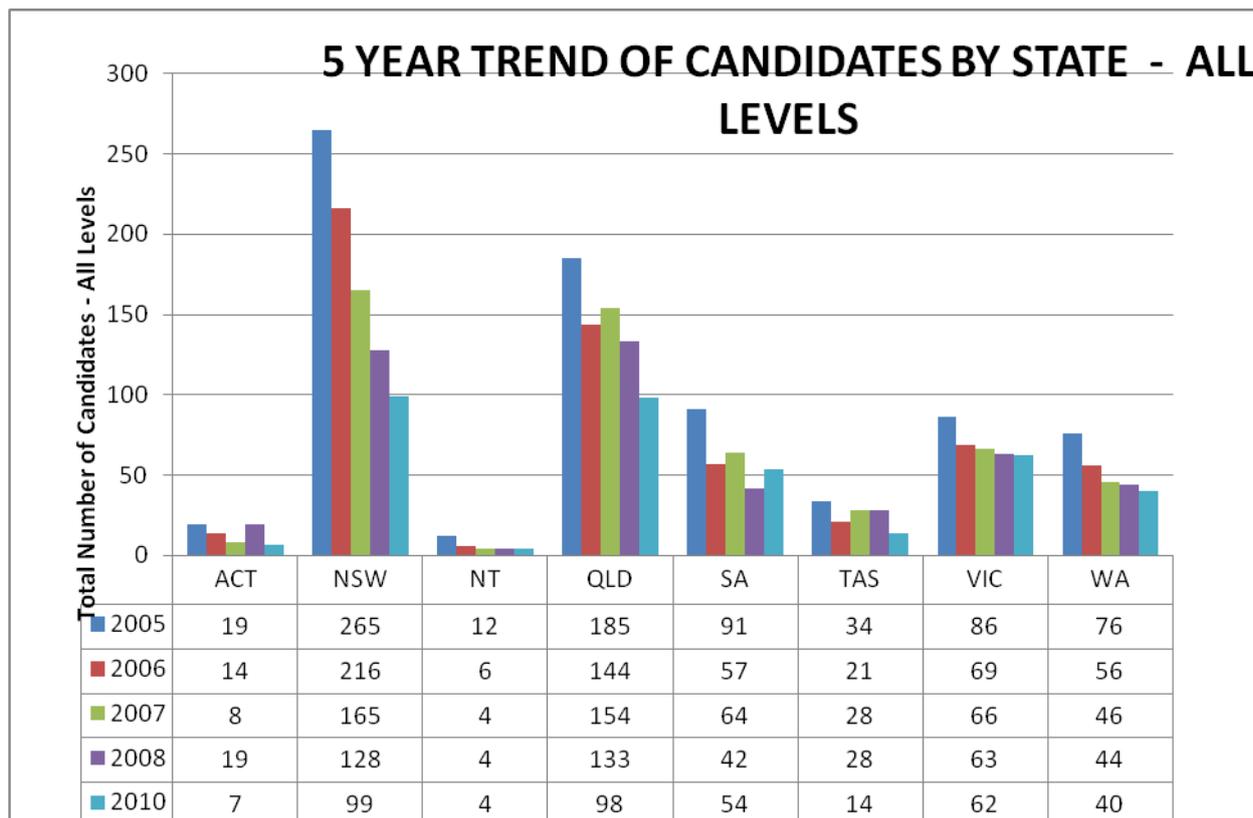
The following table shows the total number of umpires sitting the National exam.



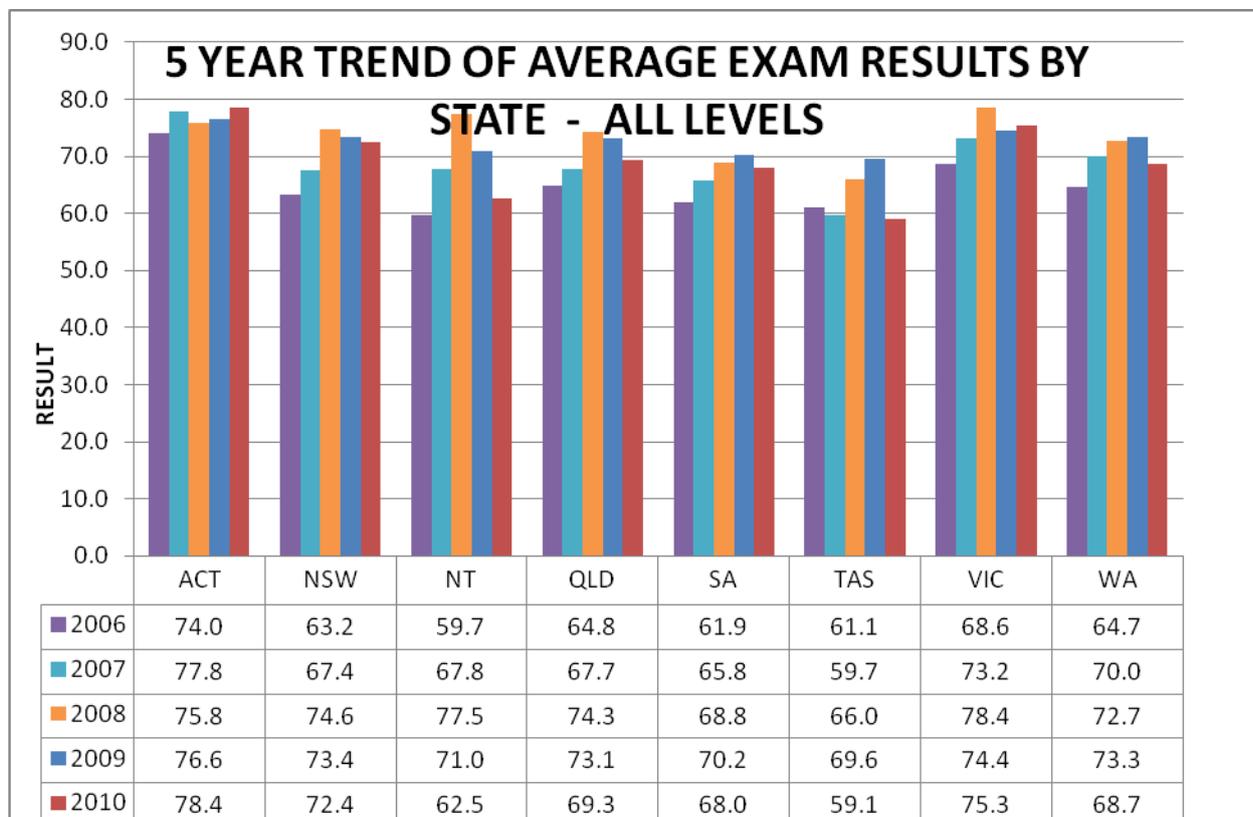
The following table shows the percentage of umpires sitting the exam from each state.



The following table shows the five year trend of umpires sitting the exam



The following graph shows the exam result by state



## Top ten most incorrect answers all levels

Question Number	Percentage incorrect
86	88
91	81
54	69
33	69
81	65
6	64
8	63
49	62
37	59
97	58

## ***Exam analysis***

A new analysis project is under way to help mark the national exam headed by Matt Gowty; Matt is working on a stream lined process for the exam data input phase and improving the automation of the final analysis.

## ***International Softball Federation (ISF) Rule changes***

The rule changes for the playing season of 2010 were circulated by technical bulletin SAL 2009-2v2; there were changes to; Appeal Play, Force out, Offence Player Only, Flex Player, Scoring of runs, Defensive Conference, Pitching, Interference by non-playing team member, Interference by Runner, The Runner is out and Deception Plays.

## **SAL Playing Rules**

The new 2010 SAL rule book including POE and Case book was drafted by Alan McAuliffe with initial proof-reading and final approval from Leigh Evans. The new SAL rule book for 2010-2013 is now available. The NUP thanks Alan for his tireless work on this massive project.

The rules section of the SAL Level 2 Accreditation Manual was proof-read and edited including graphics and diagrams.

## **Rules in pictures**

The 2010-2013 Softball Rules in Pictures booklet, which is a valuable resource for school teachers, parents and players wanting to learn the basics of the rules of the game, has also been reviewed by Alan McAuliffe, Leigh Evans, Debbie Grove, Patricia Sibraa, and Helen Strauss and is currently at print.

## ***Bulletins***

There were five technical bulletins published and circulated during the year, the ISF pitching points of emphasis (POE), the Strike Zone, the 2010 rule changes, the batters box markings, the clarification of interference by a runner and the Batted Ball Speed (BBS) bulletin was also re-released.

There were 12 umpire mechanics bulletins published and circulated, the inside outside theory, position for calls at first base, outfield movement corrections, use of vocals, the count and signal, plate umpire work, check swing mechanics, dropped third strike and trapped balls mechanics, infield fly mechanic, ready set position, tags at bases and Base Mechanics.

## ***International 3 & 4 Umpire System***

The SAL NUP has provided an updated version of the 3&4 Umpire system manual to ISF to be used at the Open Women World Championships. Kevin Broomhall has been directly involved with Wayne Saunders Oceania UIC and ISF in editing the document with peer reviews by SAL Technical UIC Leigh Evans at ISF level.

## **International training resource document sharing.**

The SAL NUC has been involved with ISF, Softball Canada and Softball New Zealand in sharing training resources across countries. We have recently proof-read and edited the ISF one and two umpire systems and provided copies and feed back to ISF to be used in the ISF UmpSchool web site, thank you to the assistance from Helen Strauss.

The ISF Umpire Mechanics Manual was also reviewed and current world practices put into place in Australian Mechanics Bulletin.

## **International Friendship Series**

A Video, information session and power point presentation of the new pitching rule was presented to Coaches and Umpires at the International Friendship Series in Sydney.

## **Scoring**

The national umpiring committee has been involved with the National scoring committee in setting rules questions for their training program and helping with the rule knowlege component in thier manuals.

Regards

**Leigh Evans**

**Umpire in Chief - Technical**

**National Umpiring Program**

**Softball Australia**

