



## National UIC's Call with Tricia Sibraa

With the resignation of Andrew Rindfleish as our National Umpire in Chief, I will be acting in this position until the finalisation of the selection process for two NUIC positions. Nominations will be sort shortly. Both the Australian and International umpire programs would like to thank Andrew for his many years of service on and off the diamond. Andrew resigned due to work and family commitments, combined with some health issues, meant that Andrew couldn't fully commit to this demanding position.

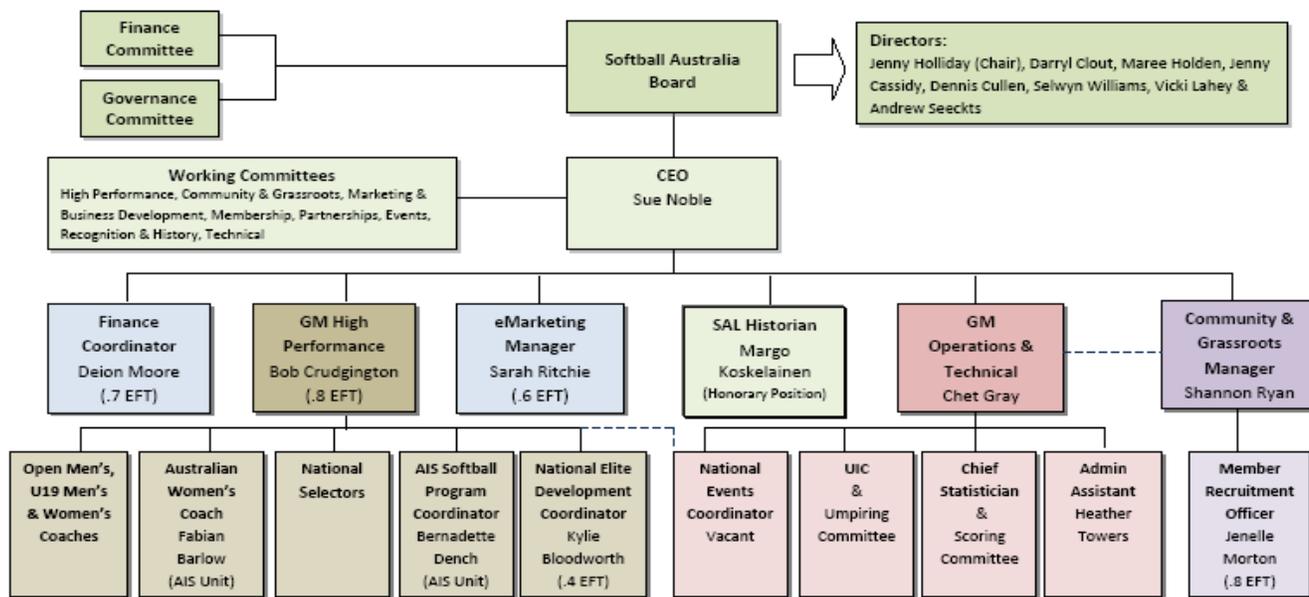
The good news is Andrew will still be on the diamond and more recently worked at the World Masters Games in Sydney and when time permits will work with the management of the Australian Umpire Program on specific task, as Andrew has a lot to offer the program.

On behalf of all umpires in Australia - thank you Andrew.

Since early 2009 Softball Australia Ltd have been reviewing their Organisational and Committee structures and outlined below is how this new structure will impact on the umpiring program.

### Softball Australia Organisational Structure

September 2009



- There are 7.3 EFT Softball Australia staff in the Melbourne office, plus 2.8 staff in the AIS Unit located in Brisbane.
- The staff are supported by a number of volunteers in key positions, including the Open Men's and U19 Men's & Women's Coaches, the SAL Historian, the National Selectors, the Umpiring and Scoring Committee Members and Working Committee Members.

### National Umpiring Program



# Blues News On-Line

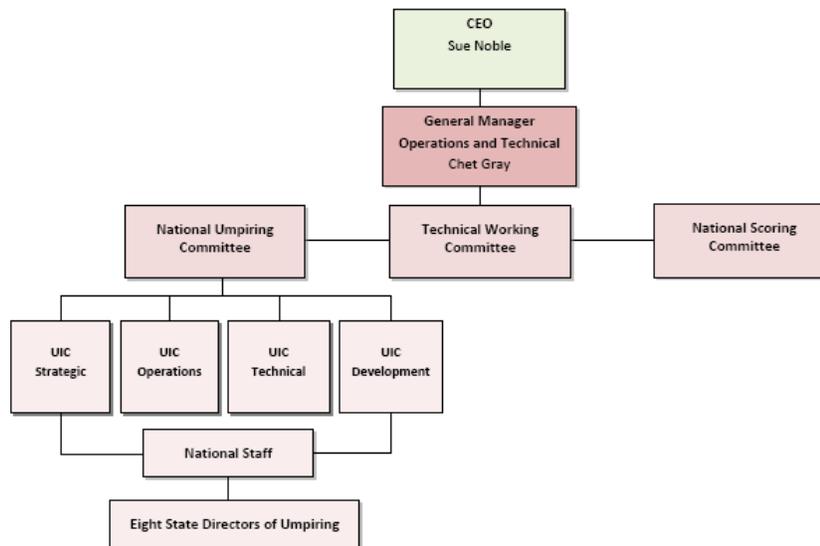
[www.umpiring.softball.org.au](http://www.umpiring.softball.org.au)

Edition October 2009

You can see from the diagram that the National Umpire Program is accountable and reports to the SAL General Manager Operations and Technical Manager, Chet Gray. The National Umpiring Committee consists of the four Umpires in Chiefs. Our current five National Umpiring Staff positions will remain along with the eight State Directors of Umpiring (see diagram below).

## Softball Australia Technical Committee Structure

September 2009



At the recent National Umpiring Committee and State Directors meeting the following areas were discussed. Action plans were subsequently created for each area. "The Australian Umpire Development Program" has been critiqued and rewritten to allow for more flexibility within the Program - (see article in this edition for more information).

Under the new communication distributions systems, our Technical and Mechanics bulletins have been established. Any Technical Bulletins named: SAL\_TB (Softball Australia Limited Technical bulletins) will be for rule changes and clarifications, or SAL\_MB National Umpiring Program (NUP) Mechanics bulletins will be for Mechanic changes. A special edition of BNOL will be published shortly providing all nine SAL\_MB Mechanics bulletins.

We are currently rewriting the Umpires' Operating Code in accordance with SAL style and format and the meeting agreed to change the name of our National Theory Exam to "Softball Rules Exam".

On the International scene, ISF have appointed Mike Hannelly and Neville Lawrance to conduct a scoring course/clinic and an umpiring course/clinic, in conjunction with a South East Asian Men's softball championship which Brunei has agreed to host together with Brunei's Silver Jubilee celebrations. Mike and Neville will be away from 23<sup>rd</sup> October until the 2<sup>nd</sup> November, 2009.

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### National Umpiring Program

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# Aust. Capital Territory

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

## Good start for umpiring in the ACT By Rod Dawson

Recently SUA ACT held the first of the new season's Basic Umpiring Clinics at the Hawker International Softball Centre. The clinic attracted 22 local club umpires and SUA ACT members, and was facilitated by the alarmingly hairy Mark Gallagher. The clinic covered practical umpiring theory, such as making and selling decisions, correct positioning, and handling difficult situations, and finished with a number of base and plate drills. Mark was supported in running this well-attended clinic by senior umpires Amanda Gallagher, Di Kropp, Rod Dawson and the football-mad Sarah Houston. The Basic Clinic finished early in the afternoon and was followed by an intermediate-level refresher course, attended by 11 SUA ACT members.

SUA ACT provided lunch for all umpires attending both clinics. Thanks go to Sarah and Amanda for doing the cooking, as well as to Mark for not filling the gas bottle.

By any standard, there are a great crop of umpires coming up in the ACT community, who will serve their respective clubs and associations very well during the coming season. SUA ACT aims to continue to provide meaningful support and umpiring advice so that this training momentum can be maintained.

## Another successful Tainn Hunter Classic By Dick Gallagher

The weekend of the 25-27<sup>th</sup> September saw the seventh annual Tainn Hunter Classic. The Classic is a mixed slowpitch tournament played for charity - all proceeds go towards medical research for children and the Care Flight helicopter. This year we raised a little over \$7,000, bringing the total raised by the tournament since its inception to over \$30,000.

The technical meeting began at 5 pm on the Friday before, and visiting umpires were treated to overcast skies and temperatures that didn't exceed five degrees. This turned out to be the warmest part of the tournament, as temperatures plummeted and we were treated to wind, rain, hail and even some snow flurries.

The slowpitch variant played at the Classic is a sort of mongrel variant of Canadian mat ball, USA slo-pitch, and ACT ground rules, and when all else failed, the trusty standard fastpitch rulebook was called upon. Slowpitch is commonly derided as slow, boring, and much akin to watching grass grow. However, the regular fastpitch umpires who attended the tournament were soon given reason to revise their opinion of this game - many of the players were in current Australian squads, former Aussie players, or current or former ACT A-grade players, and there was very little time for the luxury of boredom.

Most games were run by a single umpire, which fact also kept people on their toes. The cold weather forced us to wear every bit of warm umpires' gear we could get our hands on, which bulked up our appearance quite considerably. Because of this unflattering look, I decided not to take any photos - I'd like to survive long enough to go to the World Masters! My strongest memory of this tournament will be the camaraderie that developed, not only amongst the umpires, but also between the umpires and the teams. The umpires who attended were: Brian Higinbotham and Dean Hansson from Sydney, and Bob Miles, Di Kropp, Dick Gallagher, Sandee Southwell, and Sarah Houston from the ACT.



# Queensland

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

## New Breed of Level three umpires by Mark Toft

At the recent Queensland Under 16 Girls State Championships five Queensland umpires were assessed for their Level Three accreditation.

Stuart Fort (Brisbane), Janelle Hicks (Brisbane), Kim Timomen (Mt Isa), Tina Thorburn (Maryborough) and Keith Thorburn (Maryborough) were all successful in their next step of their umpiring career.

The accreditation of these umpires has strengthened the Queensland umpiring program, especially in their current level. It is hoped that these umpires will now be working towards their Level 4 in years to come, becoming senior umpires within the State.



Successful Level 3 Candidates - (Back L-R) Stuart Fort, Janelle Hicks, Kim Timomen (Front) Tina Thorburn and Keith Thorburn



Under 16 Girls State Championships - President's Cup Finals Crew - (L-R) Neville Baggow, Tina Thorburn, Morton Ward



Under 16 Girls State Championships - Championship Final Crew - (L-R) Stephen Gutteridge, Norelle Thomas, Ian Goodman.

### SCHOOL SOFTBALL

The National Primary Schools Softball Exchange will be played at Redlands in November 23 - 27, Ted Gross has been appointed UIC.

While the Primary Schools Girls State Championship was held in Toowoomba recently two sides were selected to play in the exchange, along with two umpires. The umpires selected to represent Queensland were Keith Thorburn (Maryborough) and Chris Rodgers (Toowoomba).

Congratulations to both of these umpires for a job well earned and to keep up the good work.

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# Victoria

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

## New State Director of Umpiring (Victoria)

Many of you will be aware that Diane Waller has stood down recently from her role as State Director Umpiring Victoria (SDU) after several years.

I take this opportunity to thank and congratulate Diane for her tireless work as the SDU. Diane has agreed to continue on the Victorian Umpire Committee (VUC) in the capacity of Allocations Coordinator.

I have been advised this month that Victorian Softball Association board have considered my application for the position of State Director and approved my appointment to this role; I thank them for their confidence.

I will be supported by a dedicated group of volunteers on the Victorian Umpire Committee (VUC), who give their time to ensure that operational and strategic decisions are made in the best interests of the sport and umpires within the state.

I also take this opportunity to invite all Victorian umpires and members of the Victorian Softball community to contact members of the VUC or myself with positive, constructive feedback to assist us in our roles.

These members are the VUC:

Director	-	Kev Broomhall
Examinations	-	Debbie Grove, Leigh Evans
Training	-	Jason Carter, Stacey Evans
Allocations	-	Dianne Waller, Trevor Murphy
Communications & Marketing	-	Richard Barrow, Stuart Tyler
Junior Representative		TBA
Schools Coordinator	-	Merv Later

I look forward to your support and the coming season.

Kevin Broomhall (KevB)  
Victorian Director Umpiring

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# Victoria

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

## Victorian Training Course with Jason Carter

The VUC Training subcommittee held a Candidates Course on 19 September at the State Softball Centre, Altona.

Of the 8 level one candidates who were sent an invitation, all 8 were able to attend which was terrific.

Candidates who attended were:

- David Luisetto (Glen Eira)
- Brett Tyler (Waverley)
- Natasha Shelvey (Waverley)
- Bernard Vella (Casey)
- Adrienne Hnatjuk (Northern Districts)
- Alex Van Kesteren (Albury)
- Alan Van Breda (Albury)
- Simon Ross (Waverley)

Presenters on the day were:

- Jason Carter
- Kevin Broomhall
- Stacey Evans
- Stuart Tyler
- Trevor Murphy



There were several changes to the course this year based on feedback from last year.

- More time was spent outside providing practical tuition on plate stance, signals and rotations that cause the problems for candidates during assessments. This was well received.
- All theory presentations were kept mostly to time to ensure the pace didn't slow down.

Changes that I may implement for the next candidates course:

- 6 hours is not long enough to run the course. 8 hours is most likely about right.
- Would like to spend more time on rules and more time on the diamond. Some of the less useful material (from a practical assessment point of view) could come out of the course and be left for candidates to read in the manual.

The candidates were very enthusiastic and there were plenty of opportunities for a few laughs along the way. I was impressed with the commitment they showed and I wish them all well with their assessments at the state U16 championships. Thanks to the parents who drove their kids to Altona - not a short drive for some people. Of course the trip was much longer for Alex and Alan, who came from Albury - well done guys!

My thanks to all presenters for assisting with the running of the course. Thanks also to Kevin Broomhall for his trainer mentoring and for cooking an excellent barbeque lunch (the burgers were especially good!). Special thanks to John Larter for providing his time and facilities on the day - always a great supporter of softball in Victoria.

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# Umpire Development Program

## Australian Softball International Umpire Development Program

20/10/09

The Australian Softball International Umpire Development Program has recently been revamped to enable it to be more flexible, open and meet the future requirements of training umpires for ISF certification.

With the Australian Softball Umpire Program so strongly recognised internationally, it is important that we have a program which is not only sustained but continues to develop and, accordingly, allows selected umpires the opportunity to be capable representatives of Australia Internationally.

The purpose of the Australian Development Program is to prepare the participants for possible selection for future international umpire commitments both in Australia and overseas, and, ultimately, International Softball Federation (ISF) Certification if the required standards are met and maintained.

With ISF Certification comes the opportunity of possible appointment to World Championships and selection to other International events.

The Australian Development Program is an on going commitment and all Level 5 and Level 6 umpires not yet ISF certified may apply for consideration to participate. Members of the Program can change each year depending on whether participants meet and continue to meet the Program requirements. A copy of the [Selection and Program requirements](#) has been published on the SAL website. [www.umpiring.softball.org.au](http://www.umpiring.softball.org.au) go to training and development.

Level 5 and 6 umpires will receive a letter shortly asking for expressions of interest to be considered for selection to the Program. I urge you all, to seriously consider applying as it is a great Program to enhance your skills and also great fun too.

Since the timing of the next ISF certification clinic has been unknown until recently, we will need to run an expedited Program for selected Level 6 participants to meet the next ISF Clinic date of 2011.

**Debbie Grove**

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National Umpiring Program  
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# International Appointments

## Aussie umpire has time of his life in Canada and USA with Kevin Broomhall

### Canada Cup

Monday 29 June - Another two emails from Canada, very impressed with their information and communication. Packed and ready to go, half my personal luggage gifts for umpires and officials, with more than 30 umpires across the three venues I will be umpiring in.

17 hours flying; 5 hours waiting and a 2 hour car ride arrived at the Ramada Langley - Surrey Canada. The Liaison Byron Jones was waiting for me at the airport; I was to see a fair bit of Byron over the next two weeks, a most gracious host. Byron and his wife Judy made certain that I got the royal treatment, along with Bonnie another visiting umpire. On day one went to White Rock beach for Canada Day (back to Byron's for refreshments); day two the grand tour of Toronto (back to Byron's for refreshments.) Met Keith Hazel (TCU) and his Co-TCU (Blakie - who ran the futures program) had a few refreshments. Day three went with Byron to pick up umpires from a regional airport and back to the umpire's tech' meeting, on the boarder (US - Canada) at Glenn Todd's business (owner/patron of the Canada Cup.)

Two independent competitions were conducted - Senior and Junior (Futures.) The senior double elimination games had teams grouped either as International or North American; the finals had all international teams seeded and the top four North American teams in sudden death knock out. Allocations for games over the ten days were spread across both groups and lasted on average about two hours.

First day I had, three games; 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 1<sup>st</sup> bases last two back-to-back, the rest of the tournament two games a day usually one plate and one base all four umpire systems. The weather changed from sunny 32 - 35 degree days, to a few rainy, overcast days of 10 - 12 degree (high) and back to 30 again at the end; overall quite nice. The Australian side battled strongly for third place against the Canadian national side in the final (I had 2<sup>nd</sup> base), which played off against the winning US side in the Cup grand final. The crowd (up to 3,000) over the ten days were knowledgeable, enthusiastic and good support for local and visiting sides alike.

I was the only non-North American Umpire, with mainly Canadian and a few umpires from across the boarder in the US. The crew were a very social group with many interesting characters, and although we were not (hotel) accommodated together, bonded very well.

Some came with interesting nick-names while other developed their own e.g. "Dusty Waters." Dusty got his name from his first International Plate (day two), when he (a fellow of 6 feet plus and 250lbs) was laid flat by a (5 feet nothing, 100 lb ringing wet) runner, rounding third base. Later Dusty was to extend his name when he decided that a wet piece of ground near the pitchers plate needed to be kicked at; it was a sprinkler head and stopped the game for over half-an-hour. Nothing different in an umpires change room no matter where you are; well done John, sorry it had to be told.

An experience I will always treasure (Never got to see that moose!)

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# International Appointments

## US World Cup

Early start the next day - off to Oklahoma (still have to sing the song) City, via Dallas Fort worth, for 5 days of the US World Cup - missing my equipment bag, which arrived the following day. Day three met the UIC (Kevin) and the rest of the crew - Managers meeting, dinner and crew meeting. The crew was a good international mix, two US, Two Japanese, one each from Netherlands, Italy, Canada (Bonnie from Canada Cup) and I. Working with umpires limited English is an interesting experience, one which in most cases was overcome with patients and a fair bit of sign language.

Six international teams played double rounds with a single game play-off for finals (1 plays 2, 3 plays 4, 5 plays 6.) Australia finished 2<sup>nd</sup> and played the US in the final and to my surprise I had a base in that game. As most of you know, the final score 3 -1, however the 'Spirit' took it up to them the whole game and should be proud of their effort. All of the USA games including the final were broadcast on ESPN, I'm sure some of you will have caught them.

Weather at the tournament was hot from high 30s to mid forties all days, on day two had tornado that cleared the stadium - hail as big as golf balls. No big deal for the locals as we were back on the diamond within the hour.

On the third day one of the umpire's twisted his ankle, with eight umpires only that meant we all had at least one back-to-back - quite testing in the 40 degree heat. The mood and the spirit in the umpire's room was terrific, and all joined in, including our Japanese friends. One of whom was a Michael Jackson fan and danced "thriller" whenever it was played, including once on the big screen in the stadium.

The liaison - John Koumbis and his partner Kim more than adequately met our needs, where they demanded that they take home and do our washing each night... who was I to argue; thank you both for making it a little easier for us all.

## Demo Games - Storm USA

The next day wash/pack, a 1 pm team meeting, 1:45 pick-up for the 3 pm flight to LA via Dallas. A two and a half hour delay at Dallas, put us into LAX at around 11 pm, where our hosts "Storm USA" (John, Bonnie, Mark and several extremely helpful parents) were waiting with transport.

From LAX to Corona where we stayed and where Storm played was around 1 hour drive via the freeway. While in LA the team had training and a few "free" afternoons, while I was joined by my wife (Carol), who took this opportunity to visit Disneyland. At nights we were entertained and hosted by Storm our most gracious and generous hosts at various functions

'Storm' is a progressive team of college players from all over the states, who come together during the summer to train and play. They invited Spirit to play two - two game demonstration games as a warm up to their competition (sought of like or state championships.)

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# International Appointments

The first of these was Friday before the competition started; this was against the Storm, both games were very close and won by Spirit; the last a three run home-run walk off by Brenda de Blaze. On Saturday they played two all-star teams made up from the competition, which were also close games and won by Spirit. I was involved in all games (3-umpire) and got to umpire with more new and friendly people.

## Finally

I mentioned earlier that Carol joined me. After I left the tour and the team went to Japan, Carol and I extended our trip to various other North American locations including; Vegas, New York, Toronto and Niagara Falls.

This trip has been an opportunity to further my softball experience and a personal experience that I will never forget. I have met some incredibly friendly people, not the least of which are our own Aussie Spirit, of which I am very proud.

I'd like to formally thank Fabian, the players, his travelling management crew and his support at home (Bernie), for their assistance and inclusion into activities with the Australian national team.



USA Cups

P.S. On my return I was advised that I have been appointed to the position Victorian Director of Umpiring

## Two Aussies off to Brunei by Tricia Sibraa NUIC

As NUIC I am pleased to announce that ISF have appointed Mike Hannelly and Neville Lawrance to conduct a scoring course/clinic and an umpiring course/clinic, in conjunction with a South East Asian Men's Softball Championship which Brunei has agreed to host together with Brunei's Silver Jubilee celebrations.

Mike and Neville will be away from October 23 until the November 2, 2009.

We wish Mike and Neville are the best.

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# Umpires are necessary

## Umpires are necessary and important to the game with Merle Butler

Rules are written for players to play by, for coaches to coach by, and for umpires to enforce. One team is not supposed to take advantage of the other by misusing a rule, and that is the role of the umpire - to keep teams from abusing the rules. In recent years we have had teams use communication devices between the dugout and/or coach's box, and the stands. We have seen offensive coaches call conferences, bringing all runners together, and following the conference, send runners to different bases in order to have more speed at second or third, when it was necessary to score.

I often wonder if coaches stay awake at night thinking of ways to take advantage of the rules. And then when coaches start manipulating the rules, the ISF has to introduce yet another rule prohibiting or counterbalancing what the coaches have dreamed up. But I congratulate the umpires who use common sense on the field to overcome situations they have not seen before.

Unlike officials in sports where judging is prevalent (i.e. boxing, gymnastics, figure skating, etc.), softball's arbiters must be prepared to keep the game on an even scale, without one team taking advantage of a rule in order to win.

And just as coaches want to win a league championship or a tournament, umpires want to officiate at the highest level possible, and be assigned to the championship game for every league or tournament they umpire in.

Little girls dream of playing softball in the Olympic Games, and umpires have the same aspiration. Only their dream is umpiring for that little girl playing in the Olympics.

Coaches and umpires are very much alike. Coaches should understand that

- Umpires are human beings, just like they are!
- Umpires want authority, just like they do!
- Umpires have an ego, just like they do! And
- Umpires put their pants on one leg at a time, just like they do!

If the coach understands the umpire and what his or her responsibilities are, they will better understand how to approach the umpire during a game. This will help make their job as a coach easier, and the game much more enjoyable.

Listed below are five tips that can make the umpire's game go smoother and be more enjoyable for all, including the umpire:

1. Umpires should expect that there will be arguments during the course of a ball game. The closer the call, the more likely that a player or coach will have something to say



# Umpires are necessary

- Umpires should learn to respond. Never react. When an umpire reacts to a coach's comment, he/she has lost control of the situation and quickly loses respect.
  - Speak to the coach in a manner you wish to be spoken to in.
  - If the coach is screaming, you should respond in a calm tone. Bring the conversation to your level, not his/hers.
  - While the coach is stating his/her opening remarks, the umpire can be preparing his/her response.
  - If the coach changes the subject, quickly remind him/her what is being discussed and nothing else needs to be brought up at this time.
  - Never threaten a coach either verbally, with body signals, or pointing fingers.
2. If the coach feels that you may have missed a call due to the angle you were at, or you may have missed a rule interpretation, and he/she asks you to check with your partner, do it! If the decision has to be changed, change it! The bottom line is for the umpire crew to be correct in their final decision. This is where you gain respect.
  3. Be firm, but not overbearing; positive but not rude; dignified, but never cocky. Remember the good umpire doesn't have to have the last word. And, never tell the players how to play their position or the coach, how to coach his/her team. Your job is to umpire and attend to that only.
  4. Exercise patience and common sense in the ejection of players. Don't order them out except for good cause. Ejection of players for trivial offenses is indefensible and reflects badly upon the umpire. Ejections too quickly could mean you have a chip on your shoulder, or too late means you are someone who can be pushed around. Ejections should be made at just the right time for control.
  5. Keep in mind that the game is more important than the wishes of any individual player or coach, or the ambitions of any individual umpire.

Yes, umpires are necessary for the game; are important to the teams, coaches, and all involved in the game of softball; and should not be on the field to impact the final result of the competition.

*Merle Butler is the former ISF's Director of Umpires and a member of the ISF Hall of Fame.*

(This article appeared in the May-Aug. 2006 issue of World Softball magazine)



# Friendship Series

## Advance Clinic and International Friendship Series By Haydyn Wood and Sarah Houston

This year's Advanced Clinic was a real cracker with 8 participants who all bonded really well over the three days of the clinic then again during the week for the Friendship Series. Our two presenters were Andrew and Scott Rindfleish, who tag teamed throughout the weekend like seasoned professionals.

The week started off as we booked into the Prospect Hotel and headed out on the Friday night to start the Clinic. Andrew and Scott were not big about leaving us in our comfort zones - so out we came as we were split into 2 groups and were asked to produce an umpiring recruitment and retention campaign (in 30 minutes!!!), including goals, slogans, promotional posters and so on, and then had to present it to the group. It's amazing what you can do when you're pushed!! - This exercise was a lot of fun and some great ideas and artwork came out of this.

Day 2 and we looked at issues such as Mentoring, learning styles, philosophy of umpiring..... Then we went outside and spent a large amount of time working on the slot, our voices, timing and judgement. We all took a lot away from this session.

Day 3 saw more lectures and practical work, with Big George nearly knocking a couple of us over with his thunderous "Safe" calls, we looked at the intricacies of illegal pitching, check swings and using our voices. We talked about difficult situations and how to get ourselves out of them in professional ways. We spent time talking about our goals and some ideas flowed about different ways to set our goals and write our development plans.

And then they let us loose on those poor unsuspecting coaches & players that attended the 2009 International Friendship Series.

The Clinic seemed to fly by and we were up to the pointy end of the clinic where we had to don our uniforms and go out to umpire at the Friendship Series. There was one game at the 5.00 pm time slot and as 4.40pm ticked over, we all sat nervously listening to the final words of wisdom from Andrew and Scott, waiting to see who would get the opening game - once it was announced there was a frenzy of belts, shoes, balls, socks, shirts and the game started on time.

Armed with all our new knowledge, we announced our arrival to the coaches and players with our enthusiastic, and correct, illegal pitch warnings and calls of **ILLEGAL PITCH** and the subsequent base awards. Our honed coach/player/spectator management skills from the Clinic got tried out and proven with a couple of the coaching staff having to be reminded of correct pitching/check swing techniques.

We all got the chance to strut our stuff and receive valuable feedback from Clinic co-facilitator, Scott. Whilst we are all used to getting feedback from our local Blues, or at least we should be, it was a huge benefit to have a fresh set of eyes look and critique our performance on the diamond. Scott managed to get lots of still shots and a DVD of most, if not all, of us. The DVD certainly takes away the 'I don't do that'.. and 'No I don't' replies, doesn't it!



# Friendship Series

Our KIWI Blues, Gavin Shepherd & Dave Fortin, showed us that our profession is being ably represented across the ditch in Aotearoa. Although Dave was born a Canada we reckon that he's assimilated well and truly as he even sounds like one of 'em!

Sarah displayed her ability to problem solve when she was presented with her accommodation bill which was double what she'd been told! After a few calculations and she finally calmed and all was sorted. Dave made a tough 'bang-bang' call at first in one of the Australian vs NZ games.



Grand final for the Girls was an all Australian affair with Aussie Green vs Aussie Gold. Blues were Sarah Houston [P], David Fortin [1B] and Chris Trengrove [3B]. (Pictured above)

Grand final for the boys saw NSW Metro vs ISA NZ. Blues were Gavin Shepherd [P], Haydyn Wood [1B] and Sharyn Girdler [3B]. (Pictured Left)



The Friendship Series proved to be exactly that for us umpires, we came, we learnt, we played, we umpired, we laughed, we formed friendships that should stand the test of time. A huge thank you to Andrew and Scott and Amanda Houison (TUIC)

Thoroughly recommended to all...



The Advanced Clinic/Friendship Series Crew

Left to Right - Sarah Houston, David Fortin, Sharyn Girdler, Haydyn Wood, Scott Rindfleisch, Chris Trengrove, Norelle Thomas, Gavin Shepherd.

National Umpiring Program

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# TECHNICAL BULLETIN

Date: 28/09/09

**Subject:** SAL TB 2009-1 v1.1  
Clarification and interpretation of Interference by a Batter Runner or Runner with a Defensive Fielders view while fielding a batted ball.

## Background.

Following a review of International reports from Australian umpires attending International events and the subsequent interpretation clarification from the ISF Director of umpires and ISF Regional Umpire Coordinators on runner interferences, Australia's interpretation has been revised. Australia's interpretation has been to call a runner out if he runs directly in front of a fielder and at that precise time the fielder errors the batted ball.

## Rules.

There are several ways by rule a runner can interfere with a fielders opportunity to field a batted ball.

Listed below are relevant runner interferences from the rule book but not limited to:

1. When he is struck with an untouched fair-batted ball in fair territory while off base and in the umpire's judgment, any fielder had an opportunity to make an out.
2. When he intentionally kicks a ball that a fielder has missed.
3. When he interferes with a fielder attempting to field a fair-batted ball, regardless of whether the ball has first been touched by another fielder, including the pitcher, or intentionally interferes with a thrown ball.

In all these cases the runner is out and the ball is dead.

## Clarification.

Providing the runner does not break stride, stop or change direction and in the umpire's judgment intentionally interfere with the vision of the fielder it is not interference, even if the fielder errors the ball, providing he does not physically interfere with the fielder.

Note: While we do not want to call a runner out for merely running in front of a fielder fielding a batted ball, there is a case where interference could be called without contact.

If in the umpires judgement there was a genuine attempt to field a batted ball and at the precise time the fielder is about to glove the ball, he lifts his head to avoid collision.

## Ruling.

A runner merely running to the next base in front of the fielder attempting to field a batted ball is no longer to be interpreted as interference, even if there is a subsequent error.

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