

Oceania Softball Region

ISF Intermediate Umpire Clinic, Port Moresby, March 2008

Executive Summary

A softball umpires' clinic was conducted for **Papua New Guinea** umpires in Port Moresby from 25 to 31 March 2008.

The clinic was conducted by: Andrew Rindfleish – Clinic Facilitator
 Scott Rindfleish – Assistant Facilitator

The clinic comprised class room and on diamond practice sessions, held at the PNG Sports Foundation conference facility. The participants were then assessed on the diamond at the PNG National Championships, held over four days at Easter.

A five level certification scheme was developed by the **PNG President and Umpire-in-Chief**, in conjunction with the **Oceania Regional UIC and course facilitators**. The course participants were assessed against the criteria established and presented with their certificates at the Presentation Ceremony, following the conclusion of the National Championships.

The support of **Oceania Region Softball** is recognized and acknowledged in providing funding for the attendance of the Course Facilitator. The support of Scott Rindfleish, who self funded his travel to PNG, is also acknowledged.

Facilitators

Andrew Rindfleish – Clinic Facilitator
Softball Australia Umpire in Chief
ISF certified Umpire (1990)

Scott Rindfleish
Softball Australia National Umpire Staff Member
Softball NSW Training Officer, ISF Certified Umpire (2006)

Venues

Classroom and on diamond practical sessions were conducted at the PNG Sports Foundation Complex at Boroko. The venue proved ideal, aside from numerous blackouts, with the Board room and adjacent rooms proving more than adequate for the class room sessions and break out areas. There were ample playing fields adjacent to the complex for the practical sessions.

The National Championships, conducted in male and female divisions, were conducted at the Port Moresby Softball Field, Boroko, and provided the ideal opportunity for on-diamond assessment of the umpires' performance.

Course Details

Class room and practical sessions were heavily structured around participation by the umpires attending. Methods of delivery included lectures; group work; practical demonstration; question and answer sessions; group presentation. Manuals were provided for each participant.

The topics covered included

Uniform and Equipment, Rule Knowledge, Signals, Basis of Calling a Play, Game Management, Plate Mechanics, Calling Balls and Strikes, The Rotation System, Base Umpire Mechanics and Game Protocols.

Rules Examination

The current Basic Softball Australia Rules Examination was used as a rules examination for the course. The answer sheets were marked and returned. The questions answered with most difficulty were discussed in detail with the group.

On Diamond Assessment

The PNG National Championships, in Male and Female Divisions, were held from 21 to 25 March (over Easter). The Championships were conducted on three diamonds at the Port Moresby Softball Fields and a fourth temporary diamond at the **PNG Sports Foundation** complex. The umpires were rotated through the four diamonds on a daily basis so there was ample opportunity to assess all umpires as they worked games.

Feedback was provided to umpires following games and crew debriefs were conducted at the end of each day.

Certification of Umpires

A five level certification was developed for PNG umpires through consultation with the Oceania Region UIC (Wayne Saunders), PNG Softball President (Chris Bais), **PNG Softball UIC (Tony Simitap)** and course facilitator (Andrew Rindfleish). A brief description of the five levels is attached to this report. All course participants were assessed against the criteria for each level and awarded a certificate at the presentation ceremony following the National Championships. A list of the certification levels awarded is below.

Name	Association	Level
Moses Tolingling	Port Moresby	4
Anthony (Tony) Simitap (UIC)	Port Moresby	4
Peter Chalapan	Port Moresby	4
Leo Duba	Softball Star Mountain, Tabubil	3
Cornelius Terra	Port Moresby	3
Lucas Powaseu	Madang	3
Lucas Sorang	Kavieng, New Ireland	3
Andrew Moe	Port Moresby	2
Jeff Maira	Rabaul, ENB	2
Vincent Taule	Rabaul, ENB	2
Alfred Baiai	Rabaul, ENB	2
Robin Malusan	Port Moresby	2
Samuel (Sammy) Nguruk	Kavieng, New Ireland	2
Betty Pokowas	Port Moresby	2
Robert Eron	Kavieng, New Ireland	2
Henry Takaili	Madang	2
Leonard Sabadi	Tabubil, Western Province	1
Noah Kimi	Lihir, New Ireland	1
John Cambell	Lihir, New Ireland	1

Future Development

It has been seventeen years since the last clinic was conducted for softball umpires in PNG. It is recommended that more regular clinics be conducted, at a frequency of perhaps every two years.

Whilst the ultimate level of attainment for individual umpires would arguably be ISF certification, there are few who have developed sufficiently to realistically attempt ISF certification, at this point in time. A number of umpires showed enough potential and with the right development and opportunities could reach that level of competency. There were two umpires, **Peter Chalapan** and **Moses Tolingling**, who would be capable of umpiring at Australian Underage National Championships or State Championships. It is recommended that opportunities be found for one or both these to attend a suitable championship in Australia.

Acknowledgements

The assistance provided by the PNG Softball officials to the course facilitators was very much appreciated, particularly that provided by Harry Ketet, Treasurer and Chris Bais, President.

Chris Bais

President, Papua New Guinea Softball Federation

Andrew Rindfleish

Umpire-in-Chief, Softball Australia, Facilitator for the ISF Oceania Region

Postscript

Since the time of the clinic, Peter Chalapan has been elected Papua New Guinea Softball Umpire in Chief.

Oceania Umpire Grading System as adopted by the Papua New Guinea Softball Federation

Level 1

Local Association Grading

Local Association Umpire who has not sat and passed the Rules Examination

Level 2

Passed Rules Examination (pass mark 60%)

After a minimum of two years umpiring regularly in Local Fixtures, may apply for Practical Examination having achieved a current year Rules Examination Pass of (70%).

Level 3

National Badge Holder – Passed Level 2 Practical Examination

Expected to umpire regularly in Local and National fixtures.

Involved with Local umpire programme.

Rules Examination Pass mark (70%).

Level 4

Senior National Badge Holder

Has a minimum of five years umpiring experience.

Expected to umpire regularly in Local, National and Regional fixtures.

Rules Examination Pass mark (80%)

Involved with Local and National umpire programme.

May be recommended to attend ISF Certification Clinic.

Level 5

ISF Certificate Holder (International Umpire)

Has attended an ISF Certification Clinic and has been certified. Aggregate Pass mark (90%).

Expected to umpire regularly in Local, National, Regional and International fixtures.

Involved with Local and National umpire programme.

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Standing, left to right

Scott Rindfleish, Leo Duba, Betty Pokowas, Noah Kimi, Vincent Taule, Cornelius Terra, Tony Simitap, Andrew Moe, John Cambell, Robert Eron, Andrew Rindfleish

Kneeling, left to right

Henry Takaili, Moses Tolingling, Alfred Baiai, Robyn Malusan, Jeff Maira

Sitting, left to right

Peter Chalapan, Sammy Nguruk, Leo Powaseu, Leo Sorang, Leonard Sabadi