



## OCEANIA REGION UMPIRE ACTIVITY REPORT

TO THE 2009 ISF CONGRESS, VENEZUELA

By Oceania Regional Coordinator Wayne Saunders

### Appreciation

The Oceania Region is indebted to former Regional Coordinator Margo Koskelainen for the dedication she has shown towards the advancement of umpiring within our Region. Margo had represented Oceania since 1993 and now serves as a Special Projects member of the International Umpiring Staff.

### Communications

The geographical spread off Oceania and the different outlook for softball within member Federations requires the understanding that a one solution approach will not meet the needs of all the umpires in the region. The aspirations and needs of the many smaller island Federations are different from the challenges faced by the two larger Federations who have a continuing obligation to keep pace with what is expected at the highest levels of international participation.

An effort has been made to establish regular communications with all member Federations however the success of this much depends on the contact person the emails are sent to and how they disseminate the content to their membership. In the ideal world this contact should be the National Umpire-in-Chief who should have the principle responsibility to administer and deliver the Federation's umpiring programme. I am indebted to former Australian Umpire-in-Chief Andrew Rindfliesh for supporting the view that the Australian and New Zealand umpiring programmes have a responsibility to encourage umpire development and provide opportunity for aspiring international umpiring candidates. To support this both Federations have extended invitations to participate.

### Oceania - ISF International Certification Clinic

It has been communicated that ISF has set the bar for participation at a very high level and expects all aspiring future candidates to be well prepared. It is encouraging that at this early stage Papua New Guinea, Australia and New Zealand have indicated that they will have candidates attending the next clinic, proposed to be held in Australia February 2011.



#### Oceania – ISF Beginner Umpire Clinic, Samoa

Convenor: Hellen Omeri-Levale, Vice-President, SSF; Facilitator: Nicky Ogier (NUS- SNZ). Thanks to Softball Canada for the use of their Level 1 certification manual. Samoa adopted the Oceania Umpire Grading System and grading certificates were presented as follows:

**Level 3:** Labuto Siaosi; Hellen Omeri-Levale; Uaealesi Toelupe; Sooupu Kolose. **Level 2:** Bill Cable; Seiuli Masa Levale; Peleiupu Young Yen. **Level 1:** Vaiaoga Leatuva.

Seiuli Masa Levale was appointed Umpire-in-Chief with Upu Young Yen Assistant Umpire-in-Chief. Seiuli holds a Matai Title with connections to the Royal Family.



#### Oceania – ISF Intermediate Umpire Clinic, Papua New Guinea

Convenors: Harry Ketet, Treasurer and Chris Bais, President, PNGSF; Facilitator: Scott and Andrew Rindfliesh (UIC-SA), assistant Scott Rindfliesh (SA). Thanks to Softball Australia for the supply of resource materials. Papua New Guinea adopted the Oceania Umpire Grading System and grading certificates were presented as follows:

**Level 4:** Moses Tolingling; Anthony (Tony) Simitap; Peter Chalapan. **Level 3:** Leo Duba; Cornelius Terra;



## OCEANIA REGION UMPIRE ACTIVITY REPORT

TO THE 2009 ISF CONGRESS, VENEZUELA

By Oceania Regional Coordinator Wayne Saunders

Lucas Powaseu; Lucas Sorang. **Level 2:** Andrew Moe; Jeff Maira, Vincent Taule; Alfred Baiai; Robin Malusan; Samuel (Sammy)Nguruk; Betty Pokowas; Robert Eron; Henry Takaili. **Level 1:** Leonard Sabadi; Noah Kimi; John Cambell.

Post clinic, Peter Chalapan was appointed Umpire-in-Chief.

Thanks to ISF Vice President Bob Leveloff for the clinic approvals and NOC funding support.

**Proposed Oceania- ISF Advanced Umpire Clinic, Guam** for the northern region umpires is still in the planning phase. Thanks to Oceania President Bob Steffy for his efforts to date.

### Oceania Umpire Grading System as adopted by Samoa and PNG

#### Level 1 - Local Association Grading

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.

### ISF Accredited Umpires

At the request of the ISF the Oceania list of officials has been updated. A total number of 109 have been accredited and recognised since the first World Championship held in Australia in 1965. A total of 22 remain active as field umpires while a further 10 are active as umpire administrators.

### Major International Activity involving Oceania umpires (notified records)

- ❖ XIIth Men's World Championship, Canada (3 ISF officials)
- ❖ XXIXth Olympic Games, Beijing, China (4 ISF officials)
- ❖ VIIIth Junior Men's World Championship, Canada (4 ISF officials)
- ❖ Oceania Men's World Championship Qualifier, New Zealand (10 ISF officials)
- ❖ South Pacific Games, Samoa (3 officials)
- ❖ Pacific Series Men, Australia (2007) and Samoa (2009).
- ❖ ISC/SNZ Exchange - Rich Silva (USA), Mark McFarlane (NZ)
- ❖ ISC Tournament of Champions (2008) - Nicky Ogier (first female umpire appointed)
- ❖ 2009 Trans Tasman Exchange - Phil Waller (Aus), Tara Harris (NZ)
- ❖ 2008 Trans Tasman Exchange - Warren Duff, Kevin Broomhall (Aus), Jeremy England (NZ)
- ❖ International Women Series, Black Town Australia (Apr08)
- ❖ Canada Cup, Jul08.

Additional International Softball continues to be played between Federations within Oceania and with other ISF Federations and continues to provide many opportunities for the Region's umpires.