





CONTENTS

Our People	3
Our House	4
The Blueprint	5
SNSWUA Merchandise	6
2014 Successes and Stats	7
State Championships	8
Grand Final Appointments	9
Umpire Academy	10
Umpire Development	11
Schools Events	12
Winter League	13
State League	13
National & ISF Events	14
Andrew Rindfleish Inducted into Hall of Fame	15
Annual Awards	16
Scott Rindfleish - SNSWUA Life Member	19

CONTACT US

Softball NSW Umpires Association
Secretary - Vicki Lansley
PO Box 274, Stanhope Gardens, NSW 2768
M: 0410 624 737
E: nswumpires@gmail.com

www.nswumpires.softball.org.au
www.facebook.com/softballnswumpires

Official Photographer
Tom Ryan Photography

Tom Ryan
Photography

OUR PARTNERS

The Softball NSW Umpires Association would like to thank our partners for their support and contribution to the SNSW umpiring program:





OUR PEOPLE

2014 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Director of Umpiring
 Deputy Director of Umpiring
 Secretary
 Treasurer
 Executive Member
 Executive Member
 Executive Member
 Executive Member
 Executive Member
 Executive Member

Scott Rindfleish
 Andrew Rindfleish
 Vicki Lansley
 Jay Gibson
 Leanne Gearside
 Amanda Houison
 Jesse Smith
 Kristina Travers
 Ron Houison (January - May 2014)
 James English (May - December 2014)

UMPIRE DEVELOPMENT

STRATEGY TEAM

Scott Rindfleish - Chairman
 Leanne Gearside
 Vicki Lansley
 Andrew Rindfleish

IMPLEMENTATION TEAM

Amanda Houison
 Darrell Shephard
 Jesse Smith
 Kristina Travers

PUBLIC RELATIONS

Jesse Smith - Chairman
 Vicki Lansley
 Scott Rindfleish

LIFE MEMBERS

Edna Nash*
 John Reid*
 Dawn Young
 Catherine Vincent*
 Peter Hill*
 Rhonda Buckley
 Andrew Rindfleish
 Kay Thompson
 Darrell Shephard
 Michael Hannelly
 Lesley Steedman
 David Crowe
 Sue Itzstein
 Bruce McCahon
 Scott Rindfleish
 * deceased





OUR HOUSE: BRINGING OUR HOUSE TO LIFE

In 2010, the SNSWUA built Our House. Our House captures who we are, where we fit and our ambitions. It is the essence of softball umpiring in NSW. The foundations of Our House are rock solid and we have striven to remain focused on our plans and longer term vision. Since 2010, Our House has undergone some renovations and we've even built a few extensions along the way.

Here is a brief snapshot of what we have been doing to bring Our House to life:

Key Result Area 1 - Admin & Management

"Our family will lead the way in the effective management of softball umpiring."

- Constitutional review and member protection regulations review.
- Continued good governance practices and strategic and operational planning.
- Launch of new Corporate Branding and Logo.

Key Result Area 2 - Service to Softball

"Our family will deliver umpiring services with excellence to all levels of the sport."

- Provided quality service to Softball NSW State Championships, Winter League, State League, Regionals, Schools Competitions, Junior International Challenge, hosted National Championships and the International Friendship Series.
- Facilitated the National Rules Exam and Basic Exams.

Key Result Area 3 - Recruitment of Umpires

"To ensure the survival of our family we will work alongside local Associations to engage and promote the benefits of umpiring to a wider audience, encouraging them to join our family."

- The SNSWUA Recruitment Toolkit continues to support local Associations.
- Development of the Community Umpiring Program to attract and support new umpires.

Key Result Area 4 - Development of Umpires

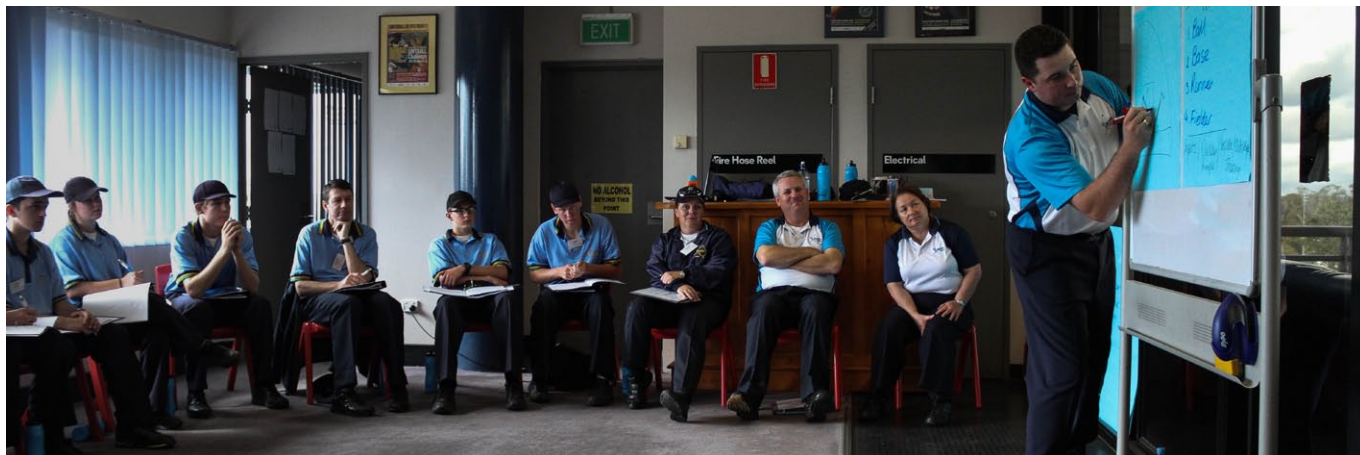
"Our family is multi-skilled. We will provide further opportunities to our family to encourage their growth and advancement both on and off the diamond."

- Basic and Intermediate Clinics – 29 umpires
- Basic and Intermediate Umpire Academy continues to be hugely successful – 23 umpires graduated in 2014.
- Examination process provides a huge learning opportunity for umpires. Our skilled examiners have supported many candidates this year.
- Free rules sessions were run for umpires in preparation for the Softball Australia Rules Exam.

Key Result Area 5 - Retention of Umpires

"Our family will work as one to ensure that all are actively engaged."

- Our website and Facebook page continues to drive proactive communication to our family and our international and interstate friends. Facebook page likes are up to 680 likes.
- Driving retention through a sense of belonging. The SNSWUA Merchandise expanded with 6 new clothing leisurewear items. We stand out from the crowd and attract positive attention.
- Annual Awards continue to recognise members and Associations for their outstanding contributions and commitment to excellence.



THE BLUEPRINT

It is my privilege to present the 2014 Softball NSW Umpires Association Annual Report.

This is the 5th annual report I have presented as the SNSW State Director of Umpiring and this year like the past four feels great to reflect back on a year full of successes, enhancements, development of new initiatives and growth.

The SNSWUA and the umpiring family is a thriving organisation, where our talented and committed people constantly strive to promote and develop umpiring and softball. Throughout this report you will read about many successes and achievements that have been experienced at all level of our sport. As individuals and as an umpiring family, we have continued to challenge ourselves to raise the bar higher in all facets of our technical area; this commitment to excellence is what sets our program apart.

Umpires across NSW from the local club umpires that work games on a part time basis to our most elite international umpires all play a significant role in providing service to competitions allowing games to be played, and for our sport to grow. First and foremost I extend my personal and profound thanks to umpires who volunteer their time and energy to support our sport.

'Our House' the SNSWUA Strategic Plan continues to represent the essence of softball umpiring in NSW as it forms the basis of our strategic plan. We continue to renovate Our House with a strong Operational Plan with new initiatives, evolving ideals and enhanced programs and I hope that you will continue on this exciting journey with us as we continue to bring Our House to life.

This year we were excited to launch our new logo for NSW Umpiring with a great looking new merchandise range including polo shirts, hoodie, tracksuit and cap. The immediate sales show that our umpires are committed to our umpiring family and to each other. I am proud to see our umpires looking great on and off the field.

Congratulations to the 42 candidates from all over NSW who have successfully achieved higher accreditation. The opportunity to allow umpires to progress and achieve success is a great thing, and we are proud of all candidates who have shown great commitment to their growth and improvement. I look forward to seeing you continued success and hope to umpires a few games with you all.

Recruitment of umpires and service to softball is best seen right across NSW, the dedicated UICs and Coordinators at local affiliates play a vital role for the local programs. Your contribution allows new umpires to join our family and start the ball rolling for a great career within umpiring. Thank you to you all for your outstanding enthusiasm and proactivity to help umpires get started. You are truly valued!

State Championships and events continue to showcase the softball talent in all areas including the technical codes. I acknowledge the many umpires who contribute to the Softball NSW State Championships. Your contribution helps to bring the events to life contributing to the growth, development and promotion of softball. Winter League and State League are also critical steps in the softball pathways. To all the umpires and volunteer who participated, I express my sincere thanks, and hope that the excellent standard of games provided great enjoyment and learning opportunities.

Umpire development has continued to be a strength of the SNSWUA and we have been innovative and creative to drive learning and development right throughout NSW. This year we have made modifications and enhancements as we provided formal SNSWUA events include Basic and Intermediate Clinics, Basic and Intermediate Umpire Academies and Rules Sessions. My sincere thanks to the senior umpires and trainers who generously give their time to pay it forward and help the new and developing umpires.

Retention and umpire engagement is paramount. Our communication via a variety of mediums is a core focus and thanks to our Public Relations Sub Committee who is committed to excellence. We are excited to see our Facebook Page likes grow and grow. This time in 2012 we had 334, in 2013 524 and now more than 680 page likes. In 2014 our top ten Facebook posts reached a total of approximately 15,000 people. This is awesome, thank you all for your support.

I acknowledge the elected Board Directors of the SNSWUA. They have driven many positive changes throughout the year and I personally appreciate all their hard work and thank you on behalf of the NSW umpiring community.

We are pleased to report that we have formed a strong relationship with Tom Ryan Photography as our official photographer for the SNSWUA. The benefits are awesome across many areas of our program. Our website, Facebook and reports come to life with personality and thanks to Tom's skill and creativity. The photos are also helping our umpire development clinics and academy by having excellent photo analysis.

To our partners: Adam Dean and Whatley Trophies – I greatly appreciate your ongoing support. The contribution of your sponsorship provides us the opportunity to make a difference for all umpires in NSW. On behalf of all NSW Umpires, thank you.

Scott Rindfleish
Director of Umpiring



SNSWUA MERCHANDISE

In November 2014 we launched our new logo and merchandise range.

The new logo symbolises the fresh new approach the SNSWUA will take into 2015, which promises to be full of international, national, state and local umpiring for members of our umpiring family.

Shop now to look the part on and off the diamond and show your pride to be part of the NSW Umpiring Family

Visit us online to order your merchandise at www.nswumpires.softball.org.au

POLO SHIRTS



CAPS



JUMPER/HOODIE



TRACKSUITS





2014 SUCCESSES AND STATS

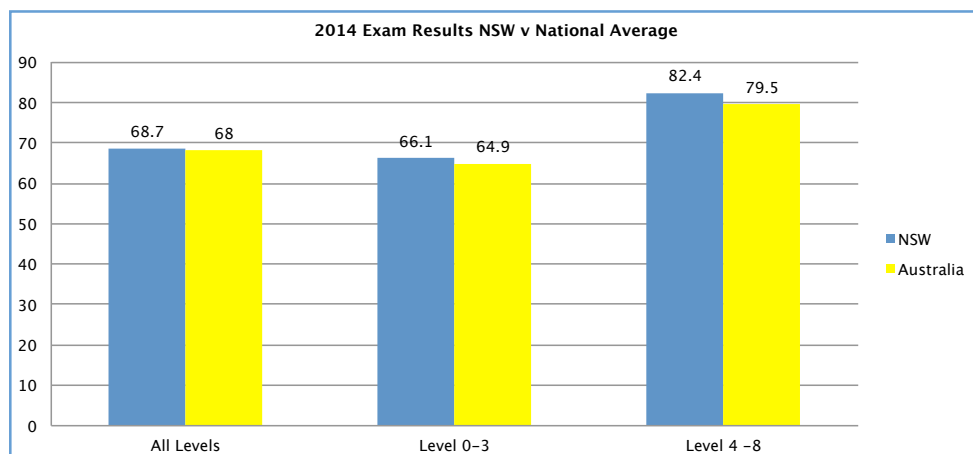
LEVEL ADVANCEMENT

	Level 5	Level 1	
26 Level 1 umpires			
7 Level 2 umpires	Robert McIntosh	Melanie Bulmer	Jennie McKenny
3 Level 3 umpires		Ashleigh Daus	Zoe Megarry
1 Level 5 umpire	Level 3	Chelsea Davis	Alyssa Mighell
1 Level 6 umpire	Craig Oberg	Riley Deahm	Amy Postill
4 ISF umpires	Tom Ryan	Jacinta Derrick	Lauren Postill
	Lindy White	Maddison Doran	Tina Potter
ISF Accreditation		Breanna Evans	Moesha Potter
Kyira Cox	Level 2	Kim Green	Rochelle Rees
Leanne Gearside	Rod Bailey	Lachlan Iredale	Zachary Roberts
Jay Gibson	Andrew Cooper	Grant Kelly	Kyle Tesoreiro
Jesse Smith	Aiden Kelly	Georgia Kiel	Brooke Thomson
	Josh King	Melinda Kryger	Timothy Walker
Level 6	Lachlan Page	Emily McDonald	David Young
James English	Mac Reith-Snare		
	Josh Wilde		

2014 RULES EXAMINATION

Top 15 Umpires

Anthony Beard	95
Leanne Gearside	93
Vicki Lansley	91
Mark Carter	91
Anthony Moncaster	88
James English	85
Andrew Compton	85
Andrew Birks	84
Carol Heiler	84
Bruce McCahon	83
Jay Gibson	83
Kristina Travers	83
Wayne McGrath	83
Alan Brown	82
George Norrish	81



82 umpires sat the exam, a 3% increase from last year

* A full review and analysis of the SNSW Active Umpire statistics is scheduled for early 2015



STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS

MANAGEMENT CREWS

U11 State Championship

UIC: George Norrish

Dep UIC: Kyira Cox, Leanne Gearside, James English

U13 State Championship

UIC: James English

Dep UIC: Andrew Rindfleish, Scott Rindfleish,
Robert McIntosh, Paul Bourke

U15 State Championship

UIC: Darrell Shephard

Dep UIC: James English, Leanne Gearside
Examiners: Andrew Rindfleish, Vicki Lansley

U17 State Championship

UIC: Darrell Shephard

Dep UIC: Andrew Rindfleish, Amanda Houison,
Ron Houison

U19 Men's State Championship

UIC: Vicki Lansley

Dep UIC: Andrew Rindfleish

U19 Women's State Championship

UIC: Andrew Rindfleish

Dep UIC: Scott Rindfleish, Vicki Lansley

Examiners: Darrell Shephard, Leanne Gearside

Open Men's State Championship

UIC: Scott Rindfleish

Dep UIC: Andrew Rindfleish, Vicki Lansley

Open Women's State Championship

UIC: Scott Rindfleish

Dep UIC: Andrew Rindfleish, Vicki Lansley

O35 State Championship

UIC: James English

Dep UIC: Scott Rindfleish, Kyira Cox





STATE CHAMPIONSHIP GRAND FINAL APPOINTMENTS

U11 Boys

P: Jennifer Womsley
 1B: Tom Ryan
 3B: Rod Bailey
 Card: Phil Wardley

U13 Boys

P: Craig Oberg
 1B: Georgia Hill
 3B: Andrew Cooper

U15 Boys

P: Tom Ryan
 1B: Jessica Rooke
 3B: Joe Kellermeier

U17 Boys

P: James English
 1B: Bruce McCahon
 2B: Robert McIntosh
 3B: George Norrish

U19 Men

P: Jesse Smith
 1B: Kyira Cox
 2B: James English
 3B: Bruce McCahon

Open Men

P: Ron Houison
 1B: Kyira Cox
 2B: Leanne Gearside
 3B: Amanda Houison

O35 Women

P: Andy Birks
 1B: Joe Kellermeier
 3B: Jessica Rooke

U11 Girls

P: Mac Reith-Snare
 1B: Aiden Kelly
 3B: Joe Kellermeier
 Card: Alex Oberg

U13 Girls

P: Phil Wardley
 1B: Mac Reith-Snare
 3B: Joshua Wilde

U15 Girls

P: Craig Oberg
 1B: Rhett Eldred
 3B: Bree Watt

U17 Girls

P: Leanne Gearside
 1B: Kyira Cox
 2B: Andrew Compton
 3B: James Townsend

U19 Women

P: Robert McIntosh
 1B: George Norrish
 3B: Paul Bourke
 LF: Andrew Compton
 RF: Kristina Travers

Open Women

P: Scott Rindfleish
 1B: Leanne Gearside
 2B: Robert McIntosh
 3B: James English

O35 Men

Washed Out

(Top) 2014 U15 State Championships
 Umpire Crew: Some umpires wearing the new SNSWUA merchandise



UMPIRE ACADEMY

2014 marks the fourth year of the SNSW Umpire Academy. Since its inception, the Umpire Academy has continued to build on very strong foundations to evolve and enhance umpire development opportunities for candidate hopefuls and eager to learn umpires alike.

The foundation principle of the Umpire Academy is to provide a medium-long term delivery of training to umpires who are committed to consolidate and build on the SNSWUA Clinics. By delivering up to 6 sessions over a 9-12 week period – woven in with real game scenarios, umpires can learn, practice, check progress, receive feedback, re-learn and practice again. This looping learning process is based on strong training design principles and the results are showing we are on the right track.

Each session is based on progress from previous sessions with consideration for the level of progress and understanding demonstrated by the umpires. The umpires also have a strong ability to influence the agenda by having free and open discussions with the Trainers about the topics or elements of the games that are causing challenge. This collaborative approach proved to be incredibly valuable and the SNSWUA's ability to be flexible with the agenda and training activities helped make the program a success and specifically relevant to the group.

This year in November we saw the end of the 2014 SNSWUA Basic Umpire Academy. This year's Academy was disrupted at times due to inclement weather, but this never tempered the enthusiasm of the 12 participants.

Scott Rindfleish, Lead Facilitator of the Umpire Academy, spoke positively of the work ethic of both participants and trainers.

"This year's Academy was one of the best I've been part of and that's in no small way thanks to the fantastic commitment of the umpire participants and my co-trainers. We have worked hard to be dynamic and flexible, embracing a new 'practical' focus spending 100% of our time on the diamond. Well done to you all and I especially appreciate the teamwork and the genuine care for each other that was shown for Association colleagues and for umpires from other areas of NSW."

"Together, we all grew as umpires and helped each other to perform better on the diamond. As students of the game, we are all challenged to step out of our comfort zones and learn new things and that's exactly what this Academy achieved for those involved."

"I congratulate each of the umpires who gave up their time to be involved, and commend the work and commitment of the trainers who were constant supporters of these umpires," Rindfleish concluded.

The SNSWUA is committed to the continued success of the Umpire Academy and we have strong plans in place to ensure that we can support all umpires to prepare and achieve higher accreditation and personal success. We look forward to 2015 and wish all umpires success at the assessment venues.

PHOTO:

Back Row: Craig Sexton, Jean Morel, Hayden Dudfield, Josh Wilde, Andrew Cooper, Harrison Pudner, Robert McIntosh (Trainer)

Front Row: Vicki Lansley(Trainer), Maddison Doran, Zac Roberts, Jennie McKenny, Amanda Houison (Trainer).

Absent Umpires: Tim Walker, Madeleine Manny, Duncan Lapsley.

Absent Trainers: Scott Rindfleish, Kristina Travers, Andrew Compton, Leanne Gearside, Ron Houison.



UMPIRE DEVELOPMENT

For many years the Softball NSW Umpires Association has set the benchmark for umpire development and has had a proud history of introducing innovative approaches and new tactics to our already sound and proactive development programs. With our core focus to improve on diamond skill, this year we specifically focused on reviewing the strategies that will achieve the best results across all levels of umpiring from the introductory umpiring clinics right through to the senior umpire development needs.

During this year the Umpire Development Sub Committee was recalibrated into two distinct teams, a Strategy Team and an Implementation Team. The concept of umpire development was reviewed by the Strategy Team against standards for best practice education and corporate training models.

Our new approach to Umpire Development was piloted at the Basic Clinic and continued in its philosophy and application at the Basic Academy. Major enhancements included a flexible agenda driven by the participating umpires, allowing the umpires to help determine the duration, speed and review topics of the training sessions. Additionally by adjusting the time spend ratio to allow maximum time on the diamond rather than in the classroom led to enhanced learning and practical application and consolidation. The 2014 Basic Academy was completed 100% on diamond; just like during a game.

We are committed to this new philosophy of training and we appreciate the positive feedback from the participating

umpires. As we look to 2015 and beyond, we will continue to enhance our documentation and training drills to maximize learning and fun on the diamond during our clinics and Umpire Academy.

Our ability to learn and grow is based deeply on our ability and willingness to be open; and to all the umpires who attended our sessions, thank you for embracing change and for making the commitment to better yourself. The impact of your approach is at times difficult to measure, and success can be measured by even little improvements and increasing consistency in calls. Keep it up and always be learning.

In 2014, 73 Umpires participated across our five major formalised Umpire Development programs, thank you all for investing in your umpiring skills and knowledge; your progress was very evident and we hope to see you at our session in 2015.

Looking ahead, we have some new initiatives and new audio/visual equipment that will greatly enhance the umpire experience and learning opportunities – 2015 will be a great year.

Special thanks to all the Presenters and Trainers across our Clinics, Academy and Rules Sessions, your energy and contribution is greatly appreciated. Your continued focus to give time and help other umpires is outstanding. Our ability to better support the sport of softball at all levels is a direct reflection of our training programs and the ability to inspire umpires to learn and grow.

Intermediate Clinic

13 participants

Trainers: Andrew Rindfleish, Scott Rindfleish, Amanda Houison, Ron Houison, James English, Vicki Lansley

Intermediate Academy

11 participants

Trainers: Andrew Rindfleish, Scott Rindfleish, Amanda Houison, Ron Houison, Leanne Gearside, Vicki Lansley, Robert McIntosh, Andrew Compton, Kristina Travers

Rules Sessions (x6)

21 participants

Trainers: Scott Rindfleish, Amanda Houison, Ron Houison

Basic Clinic

16 participants

Trainers: Scott Rindfleish, Leanne Gearside, Vicki Lansley, Robert McIntosh, Kristina Travers

Basic Academy

12 participants

Trainers: Scott Rindfleish, Amanda Houison, Ron Houison, Vicki Lansley, Robert McIntosh, Andrew Compton, Kristina Travers



SCHOOLS EVENTS

The School Sports Programs across NSW and Australia are crucial breeding grounds for talented softball players and umpires. There have been a long list of umpires who have had the opportunity to officiate great quality games and for the selected few, umpired have had the opportunity to represent NSW with the NSW schools teams.

The SNSW Umpires Association through the appointment of Leanne Gearside has had a long and successful partnership with the School Sports Associations across all the schools organisations for both primary and secondary and the Australian University games.

The schools softball calendar is full and varied right throughout the year and we acknowledge the many umpires who raise their hand to support school sport for the support and development of softball. The umpires play a strong role in allowing games to be well managed and competitive. Congratulations to all umpires who have been successful at the Zone, State and National events.

The coordination and management of the umpires is an important role and the SNSWUA would like to acknowledge Leanne Gearside, George Norrish and Geoff Fox for your ongoing and outstanding contribution throughout 2014.



We are proud to acknowledge the NSW student umpires.

Australian School Sports - Girl's Nationals – BISP, May 2014

Aiden Kelly
Mac Reith-Snare
Tom Ryan
Josh King
Bree Watt

National PSSA – Toowoomba, November 2014

George Keil

State CHS - Girl's – Tamworth, February 2014

Tom Ryan
Mac Reith-Snare
Aiden Kelly
Cassie Plunkett

State CHS - Boy's – Hawkesbury, August 2014

Riley Deahm

State PSSA - Girl's – Manly, August 2014

Tom Ryan
Joshua Wilde
Georgia Keil
Tamara Dunfield
James Cashin

State PSSA - Boy's – Lismore, September 2014

George Keil
Zachary Roberts

WINTER LEAGUE

STATE LEAGUE

SNSW once again played host to the 2014 Winter League, contested by women's club teams from all over NSW. Teams well supported the competition and provided a team umpire to staff the games. It was great to see additional umpire come forward to capitalise on the Winter League completion for the great opportunity it is to practice and hone skills, especially in preparation to take the next step in accreditation.

Congratulations to the Grand Final Crew
Plate: Andrew Compton
1st Base: Chris Ioannou
3rd Base: Kristina Travers.

Special thanks to Leanne Gearside who once again led the umpiring crew as the Winter League UIC.

Meanwhile at the same time as the Winter League, NSW's top junior men's teams took part in a men's competition hosted by Georges River. Following a similar structure to Winter League, the men's competition provided the opportunity for umpires to work great quality games. Featuring former, current and hopeful Australian players, the competition was richly support by a dynamic and committed team of umpires week in and week out.

Congratulations to the Grand Final Crew
Plate: Paul Bourke,
1st Base: James English,
3rd Base: Wayne McGrath

Thank you to GRSA and competition UIC James English for leading the umpires from on and off the diamond.

The State League season brought NSW's greatest players and our up and coming stars to Blacktown International Sportspark for a hotly contested 10 week competition. Our umpires once again suited up in style for 280 umpire appointments over 107 games for the men's and women's competitions.

The opportunity to work tough games that are contested with a deep history of club rivalry and passionate spirit is a special thing. 2014 State League did not disappoint and whilst all umpires are focused on providing service to the game, the umpires also truly benefited for their own personal development, embracing the challenge to work with new crew mates, preparing for the next level of accreditation and of course preparation for the 2015 National Championship Season.

Congratulations and thank you to our twenty-seven umpires who worked games this year and special thanks to Andrew Rindfleish who once again led the umpires as the State League UIC.

"It's a large undertaking for the SNSWUA to service the State League competition but we've always been committed to this elite competition – and will remain so into the future. I'd like to acknowledge the contribution of all the blues who ran games this year, but particularly highlight the efforts of Robert McIntosh, who umpired 22 games, Andrew Compton (18 games), Tom Ryan (17 games), Leanne Gearside and James Townsend (16 each) Andrew Rindfleish said.

A noticeable absence was Jim Long who has historically topped the charts with the most number of games each season. Sadly Jim sustained an injury that prevented him from joining the 2014 crew. We look forward to seeing Jim in 2015.

Here is the 2014 State League Umpire Roster

Andrew Rindfleish
Scott Rindfleish
Kyira Cox
Leanne Gearside
Amanda Houison
Ron Houison
Bruce McCahon

Darrell Shephard
James English
Robert McIntosh
Paul Bourke
Andrew Compton
Vic Guillaumier
James Townsend

Chris Ioannou
Tony Moncaster
Joe Myers
Craig Oberg
Tom Ryan
Katrina Bulmer
Kristina Travers

Brian Higinbotham
Chris Houison
Alex Oberg
Joe Kellermier
Jess Rooke
Duncan Lapsley

Congratulations to the following umpires who were appointed to the State League Grand Finals:



Female State League Final –
Northern Storm (2) def. Panthers (0) in 9 innings
Plate: Leanne Gearside
First: Andrew Compton
Third: Kristina Travers



Male State League Final –
Dolphins (5) def. Thurabredz (1)
Plate: Ron Houison
First: Amanda Houison
Third: Rob McIntosh



NATIONAL AND ISF EVENTS



Congratulations to the following 12 umpires who represented NSW at 2013-2014 National Championships:

**John Reid Shield
Open Men - Mirrabooka, WA**

Andrew Rindfleish
Scott Rindfleish

**Gilley's Shield & Esther Deason Shield
Open Women & U17 Girl's - Blacktown NSW**

Amanda Houison, Assessor
Leanne Gearside
Vicki Lansley
Darrell Shephard
Jesse Smith

**Elinor McKenzie & Nox Bailey Shield
U19 Men & U19 Women - Hawker, ACT**

Kyira Cox
Jay Gibson
James English, Successful L5 Candidate

**Arthur Allsopp Shield
U17 Boy's - Hawker, ACT**

Ron Houison, Assessor
Robert McIntosh, Successful L5 Candidate

A big congratulations to NSW's newest ISF certified umpires. This success extends NSW international umpire roster and puts four more NSW umpires in the hot seat for international selection.

Congratulations to:

**Kyira Cox
Leanne Gearside
Jay Gibson
Jesse Smith**

Our four NSW umpires travelled to New Zealand for the ISF Certification Clinic and NZ Club National Championships as part of the ISF Umpire Development Squad in February 2014.

Working along fellow Australian and New Zealand umpiring colleagues, our awesome foursome returned home with great big smiles and the prize that might just lead onto a World Championship appointment.

On behalf of the entire SNSWUA Community, congratulations!

RINDFLEISH INDUCTED INTO HALL OF FAME



After more than 35 years promoting the sport, and equally as long serving it as an umpire, Andrew Rindfleish's distinguished contribution was recognised by the softball community at the SNSW State Teams Dinner.

The Level 8 ISF umpiring stalwart was officially inducted into the Softball Australia Hall of Fame at the Softball NSW State Team's Dinner at Rooty Hill RSL Club.

Presenting Rindfleish with his award was the International Softball Federation's Vice-President, and fellow SAL Life Member, Darryl Clout.

A modest Rindfleish was both surprised and humbled to join softball's class of elite.

"It's a great but unexpected honour that not just recognises my efforts but the efforts of so many others, particularly my family."

"I first became involved in softball back in 1976 because my wife, Sue, was coaching a school team. I started as a scorer and then progressed to umpiring and 38 years later, as they say, the rest is history."

"I've been fortunate enough to share this ride with Sue and, from the 1980s, my two sons, Adam and Scott. For us, it's a family sport; it always has been and always will be."

From humble origins at Sutherland Shire Softball Association in Sydney's south-east, it didn't take Rindfleish long to progress through the umpiring ranks.

"I remember umpiring my first state championship at International Peace Park in 1978 and six years later I was at Waverley in Melbourne umpiring my first National Championship."

"Looking back, I guess some real highlights for me would have to be achieving my ISF Accreditation following our umpires tour of The US and Canada in 1991 and then umpiring my four World Championships."

"I was fortunate to call two Open Men's World Championships in the USA and South Africa, respectively, as well as a Junior Men's and Women's here in Australia."

"In more recent times it's been a privilege to watch my son, Scott, umpire at the international level. Watching him umpire the 2013 ISF Men's World Championship in Auckland, NZ, was just as much a highlight of my career as it was of his," he said.

Rindfleish's contribution to the sport has not only been played out on the diamond but just as importantly off the diamond. As a former NSW Umpire-in-Chief, Softball NSW Board Member, Softball Australia National Staff Member, National Umpire-in-Chief and Softball Australia Representation at two ISF Congresses, Rindfleish has been a mentor and advocate for umpires across NSW, Australia and the Oceania Region.

"With the support of my family, I've been able to give of my time to help make meaningful and lasting administrative changes to our sport and umpiring program in a bid to make it more viable and well-known into the future," Rindfleish said.

"It's also been a pleasure helping so many umpires develop their skills over the years. Umpire development is a real passion of mine and I've met some great friends over the years as I've helped them to mature on the diamond."

Former NSW State Director of Umpiring and Life Member of Softball NSW, Darrell Shephard, who led the state umpiring program for 18 years, praised Rindfleish's work on and off the diamond.

"I've known Andy for many, many years and consider him a real asset and contributor to our sport," Shephard said.

"His umpiring CV is probably unmatched by any other NSW umpire and he is a very worthy Hall of Fame inductee. Andy's past Life Memberships and Service Awards are testament to his extensive contribution over the years."

"He has umpired countless international test series, well over fifty National Championships here in Australia, the majority at the Open Men's level, as well as innumerable State Championships, in a career that has spanned over 35 years, so he is to be congratulated for this latest recognition," Shephard concluded.

Fellow New South Welshmen Barry Blanchard and Harvey Milson (Pictured) were also recognised on Wednesday night. Blanchard was inducted into the Softball Australia Hall of Fame whilst Milson was Awarded Life Membership.

2014 ANNUAL AWARD WINNERS

Andrew Rindfleish Umpire of the Year Kyira Cox (Sutherland Shire)

The Umpire of the Year is awarded to the softball umpire from NSW who has excelled in umpiring at the national and international level of our sport. The award is based on achievements in officiating games at these levels, as well as their contribution to the umpiring program within NSW and Australia.

The 2014 NSW Umpire of the Year is Kyira Cox.

Kyira is an extremely talented, determined and dedicated softball official. 2014 was a year filled with great on-diamond performances, higher accreditation and excellent appointments.

Kyira's international umpiring dream is now well within reach, having achieved International Softball Federation Certification in February with ISF umpire number 1296. Kyira excelled in New Zealand at the ISF Certification Clinic and at the New Zealand Women's Club Classic, recognised by her appointment to the Plate of the Grand Final.

Domestically Kyira achieved success at National Championships being appointed to the Elinor McKenzie & Nox Bailey Shield (combined U19 Women's & Men's) in ACT.

Giving back to the sport is one of Kyira's greatest contributions, and she did so at multiple levels this year. As a National Umpiring Committee – Staff Member with the portfolio of Communications and Membership Engagement, Kyira has helped improve national communications, playing a significant role with the production of SAL's Blues News Online.

In NSW, Kyira had an awesome State Championship year! Kyira was appointed to six NSW State Championships in 2014, either as an on-diamond umpire or as part of the management crew. When on diamond, skill was rewarded with three grand final appointments: 1st base for the Open Men's, U19 Men's and the U17 Girl's State Championships. Off diamond Kyira was a Deputy UIC for the Over 35's State Championships, Under 11 State Championships and the Blacktown Junior International Challenge.

Kyira has certainly come along way since winning the Encouragement Award in 2006, and we are sure to celebrate many more successes as Kyira's career continues to thrive nationally and internationally.



Director's Award for Services to Umpiring Jesse Smith (Far North Coast)

The Director's Award for Services to Umpiring is presented to an umpire who displays outstanding commitment and service to umpiring in NSW.

The 2014 Director's Award for Services to Umpiring goes to Jesse Smith.

A valued member of the SNSWUA Executive, Jesse is renowned for his intelligent approach to our strategy and has made an outstanding contribution to the Public Relations and Communications strategy for the SNSW Umpires' Association. As the Chairman of the SNSWUA Public Relations Sub-Committee, Jesse has successfully delivered wonderful results with our website and social media management.

Jesse has managed our Website and Facebook page since 2009, and we have enjoyed the celebrations of hitting new heights with social media in 2014. We are excited to see our Facebook Page likes growing and growing. This time in 2012 we had 334. In 2013, 524 and now more than 675 page likes. In 2014 our top ten Facebook posts reached a total of approximately 15,000 people. These results are tremendous and made possible due to Jesse's constant commitment to excellence in delivering our strategy.

On Diamond, Jesse has also had an impressive year. Jesse's international umpiring career is now well underway, having achieved International Softball Federation Certification in February this year with ISF umpire number 1306 at the New Zealand National Fastpitch Championship. Jesse has also received his first appointment to Papua New Guinea for the Pacific Games in 2015.

Domestically, Jesse was appointed to umpire at National Championship for the Gilley's Shield & Esther Deason Shield (Open Women & U17 Girls) in Sydney and was appointed the Plate umpire for the Preliminary Final and 1st base of the U17 Girls Grand Final.

At State Championships, Jesse was appointed to the U19 Men's State Championship and his performance was of extremely high calibre, recognised by his appointment to the Plate of the Grand Final.

As a sports administrator Jesse sets a very high standard and is a valuable member of our softball community. He is a man who is trusted and can be counted on. Jesse is an extremely deserving winner of this award.



2014 ANNUAL AWARD WINNERS

2014 Encouragement Award Mac Reith-Snare (Orange District)

The Encouragement Award is presented to a current Level Two or Three umpire who demonstrates the potential to progress to higher accreditation levels, has a willingness to learn and is an active participant in their local association and SNSW.

The 2014 Encouragement Award is presented to Mac Reith-Snare.

From the first moment you see Mac, it is clear he loves softball umpiring and his skill and ability backs up his enthusiasm. As a young umpire, Mac approaches his work with a professional confidence and a hard working desire to be the best he can be. Always open to learning opportunities, Mac is a pleasure to work with and shows he has the makings to be a great softball umpire.

Mac has achieved wonderful appointments in 2014. At State Championships, Mac achieved Level 2 Accreditation in his hometown, Orange, at the SNSW Under 15's in November. Prior to this, Mac was appointed the Plate of the U11's Girl's and 1st Base Umpire in the U13 State Championship Grand Final.

Keen to travel to Sydney, Mac attended the Blacktown Junior International Challenge in March and his performance was recognised with an appointment to the All Stars game to close the weekend.

Mac has been an excellent contributor to school softball events this year, working games at the Australian School Sports Girl's Nationals in May in Sydney, and at the State CHS Girl's Championship in February in Tamworth.

Mac has found another way to contribute to our sport, as Joint Umpire In Chief of Orange District Softball Association. For a young man to give his time to support our sport and others is one thing, but Mac has done this to an incredibly high standard throughout 2014 and is to be congratulated for all that he has achieved in this role.

Recognition of the fantastic work done by Joint UIC's Mac Reith-Snare and Aiden Kelly, with the support of an enthusiastic committee and committed umpires, Orange District Softball Association has been awarded the SNSWUA Affiliate Award for Umpire Development.

Mac is an umpire to watch in the future. We celebrate his successes in 2014 and wish him well for a fantastic career.



2014 Individual Award for Umpire Development Philip Wardley (Macarthur)

The Individual Award for Umpiring Development is presented to an umpire who displays a commitment and passion for the development of umpires in NSW.

The 2014 Individual Award for Umpire Development is presented to Philip Wardley.

Phil is an incredibly valuable member of the Softball NSW Umpiring community who delivers excellence in his role as Umpire in Chief of Softball Macarthur. Phil brings an outstanding attitude to all he does within our sport, which, in turn, has a positive effect on his development plan for Softball Macarthur.

Throughout 2014 Phil has introduced new initiatives, and delivered umpire development programs locally, which have increased engagement levels, developed skills in the umpires and broadened opportunities for umpires of all ages and levels to get involved and take their umpiring careers to the next level.

Phil was a participant at the 2014 Intermediate Clinic and is greatly committed to his own development, which he is effectively translating to education programs he is delivering at Macarthur. Phil has successfully written manuals and guides for Macarthur umpires, making it easy and accessible for people to join the umpiring family.

Phil also has a great ethos and approach to make umpiring simple and fun. It is Phil's engaging style that is achieving great results to build a strong association program at Macarthur.

Connecting with people is key to success and Phil has successfully recruited new umpires throughout 2014. With the frequent and effective use of social media and newsletters, the program is building to be very strong at Macarthur. By introducing a new range of merchandise for the umpires, Phil has also created a new sense of pride toward umpiring and the association.

The frameworks Phil has introduced will greatly influence growth for the umpires and, as a result, Macarthur umpires are proactively attending the SNSWUA Clinics and Academy in preparation for higher accreditation.



2014 ANNUAL AWARD WINNERS

2014 Affiliate Award for Umpire Development Orange District Softball Association

The Affiliate Award for Umpire Development recognises the SNSW Affiliate that facilitates initiatives to drive umpire development and achieve results in the recruitment and retention of umpires.

The 2014 winner of the Affiliate Award for Umpire Development is Orange District Softball Association.

This is the second time Orange District has won this award, having previously been recognised for outstanding work in 2006.

2014 was a highly successful year for the association and joint UIC's Mac Reith-Snare and Aiden Kelly should be very proud of their ongoing commitment and leadership of the association program. Well supported by an enthusiastic committee and committed umpires, Orange District Softball Association has reached new heights and has a solid platform for continued growth.

Umpire development is a key focus area for the association and in 2014 Orange successfully evolved a development program initially implemented in 2013. Each Saturday morning on diamond training is conducted prior to games, and is continued during the games, working with the umpires to help improve skills and performance.



As a result of much dedication to umpire development, in 2014, ODSA accredited three new Level 1 umpires - Chelsea Davis, Georgia Kiel and Emily McDonald, and UIC's Aiden Kelly and Mac Reith-Snare achieved Level 2 accreditation at the U15 State Championships hosted by the association in November.

A special mention must be made for softball stalwart Geoff Fox who continues to work very hard each week and plays a strong support role for the Orange umpire program.

Congratulations on your success and good luck in driving continued umpire development.



Mac Reith-Snare and Aiden Kelly
Orange District Softball Association UIC's
Successful Level 2 Candidates at U15 State Championships
November 2014



Georgia Kiel
New Level 1 ODSA Umpire selected to umpire at the
National PSSA - Toowoomba, November 2014

LIFE MEMBER OF SNSWUA

Scott Rindfleish



Life Membership of the Softball NSW Umpires' Association (SNSWUA) is an honour bestowed upon those who have demonstrated a lifetime commitment to the umpiring program, both on and off the diamond. It is an acclamation of outstanding service to umpiring that has only been granted to 14 umpires since the Softball NSW Umpires' Association was founded in 1965. Rindfleish joins his father, Andrew, on the distinguished list of Life Members and together they constitute the first father and son duo to be recognised alongside each other.

Scott Rindfleish's admission as a Life Member of the SNSWUA reflects his active and continued involvement with the Softball NSW Umpires' Association Executive Committee for over 13 years, firstly as the SNSWUA Information Co-ordinator in 2002, then from 2003 – 2009 as the SNSWUA Training Co-ordinator, before succeeding Darrell Shephard in 2010 as State Director of Umpiring. Scott has held the position of State Director of Umpiring since 2010.

As Director of Umpiring, Scott was instrumental in the creation and implementing the SNSWUA 'Our House' philosophy; the strategic plan that identifies the association's objectives and focus areas. The five key areas have been systematically developed with strong programs and initiatives over time and have enjoyed immense success under his leadership. These initiatives have shaped the way the current umpires perform, learn, communicate and help attract other umpires to our sport. The ongoing positive growth in numbers along side state, national and international success is a direct result of the initiatives currently in place in NSW.

Scott has served Softball NSW and the NSW Umpire Program as an Umpire, Umpire In Chief, Deputy UIC and Examiner at many Championships and Events. Scott is a former member of the Softball Australia National Umpiring Committee and UIC of the Sutherland Shire Softball Association before assuming the Director role for SNSWUA.

For many years Scott has been a driving force in actively promoting the development and education of umpires within NSW as well as facilitating advanced umpire clinics for Softball Australia and the International Softball Federation. He is an active mentor to many umpires in NSW and is passionate about supporting and developing umpires at all levels including other ISF Umpires.

Scott has also enhanced the umpire development philosophies, structures, documentation and content over these years, resulting in the SNSWUA umpire development program being held in high regard by other states and Softball Australia.

In addition to administrative successes in NSW, Scott has enjoyed rewarding success on diamond. As a level 8 umpire, Scott has been appointed to three ISF World Championships including the 2013 ISF Open Men's World Championships in New Zealand, 2010 ISF Open Women's World Championship in Venezuela with his first appointment being at the 2008 ISF U19 Men's World Championship in Canada. Making his international debut in 2003 at the Australian U19 Men's Test Series against Japan in Sydney, Scott has since gone on to umpire at numerous international events in 7 different countries including Australia, Canada, Micronesia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, USA and Venezuela.

Scott is a winner of the Softball Australia Umpire of the Year Award, five-time winner of the Softball NSW Umpire of the Year Award and three-time winner of the Softball NSW Director's Award.

Scott's profile, recently published on the SNSW Umpires website, is a testament to his dedication and passion to promote umpiring within NSW, as well as on the national and international scene.



2

0

1

4



www.nswumpires.softball.org.au
www.facebook.com/softballnswumpires