

2013 Annual Report

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Softball NSW Umpires Association

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OUR PARTNERS

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





NSW U15 State Championships crew

OUR PEOPLE

NSWUA Executive Committee

Director of Umpiring	Scott Rindfleish
Deputy Director of Umpiring	Andrew Rindfleish
Secretary	Vicki Lansley
Treasurer	Jay Gibson
Executive Member	Kyira Cox
Executive Member	Leanne Gearside
Executive Member	Amanda Houison
Executive Member	Ron Houison
Executive Member	Jesse Smith

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

* deceased

Leadership Group

Andrew Rindfleish
 Scott Rindfleish
 Amanda Houison
 Ron Houison
 Darrell Shephard
 Howard Watt

Umpire Development Sub-Committee

Ron Houison Chairman
 Leanne Gearside
 Amanda Houison
 Vicki Lansley
 Andrew Rindfleish
 Scott Rindfleish

Public Relations Sub-Committee

Jesse Smith Chairman
 Kyira Cox
 Vicki Lansley
 Scott Rindfleish
 Amy Wadwell



NSW U17 Boy's State Championship Grand Final Crew



State League - Men's Grand Final Crew



SNSW Umpires Objectives

Key Result
Area 1

**Admin and
Management**

Key Result
Area 2

**Service to
Softball**

Key Result
Area 3

**Recruitment
of Umpires**

Key Result
Area 4

**Development
of Umpires**

Key Result
Area 5

**Retention
of Umpires**

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."

- Formation of the SNSWUA Leadership Group.
- Continued good governance practices and strategic planning.

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 Youth Cup.
- Facilitated the National Rules Exam.

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 provides support to local Associations. The Toolkit has been adopted by Softball Australia and will form the backbone of a national standard to attract umpires in every state.

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.
- Umpire Academy continues to be a hugely successful program. In 2013 the Academy was aimed at the intermediate level.
- Examination process provides a huge learning opportunity for umpires. Our skilled examiners have supported over 20 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."

- Driving retention through a sense of belonging. The SNSWUA increased the range of Off Diamond Merchandise available. We now 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.



Friendship Series

THE BLUEPRINT

I am proud to present the 2013 Softball NSW Umpires Association (SNSWUA) Annual Report.

You can't help but be amazed by the stories and achievements as you turn the pages. I have always said that it is our people that make the difference, and this report really highlights that fact in black and white – it is an outstanding reflection of what the NSW umpiring family has achieved and we should all be incredibly proud.

One of the real successes of 2013 has been the number of umpires achieving higher levels of accreditation. A total of 55 umpires have progressed through the umpiring pathway – a fantastic result from a large and ever-growing pool of talented and engaged umpires.

Progression through the umpiring pathway wouldn't be possible without a focus on umpire development. Umpire development has been one of the cornerstones of our program over a number of years, so much so, in the past two years we have seen a 300% increase in clinic participation. My thanks are extended to the senior umpires who generously give their time to pay forward and help the new and progressing umpires.

Every weekend there are people at the grassroots of our sport who give freely of their time to provide a service to our game. Our local UICs and Coordinators are the driving force behind the recruitment and development of umpires at the local level. I extend my thanks to you for the important role that you play and the energy you bring to that role.

The NSW umpiring program plays a significant role in the successful staging of Softball NSW events including State Championships, Winter League and State League, and special events including school sport. The time, commitment and passion of the umpires who support these events is greatly appreciated.

Our senior umpires have once again achieved excellent results on the national and international stage – results that demonstrate the overall strength of the NSW umpiring program. This year, we had 13 umpires selected to represent NSW at National Championships, and we had the highest international representation in a calendar year in our history with four umpires travelling overseas to represent Australia at international events.

I am excited to report that four NSW umpires - Kyira Cox, Leanne Gearside, Jay Gibson and Jesse Smith - have been selected to attend the ISF Umpire Certification Clinic in New Zealand in February 2014. The NSW umpiring family is proud of their achievement and we will continue to support them as they build towards the clinic next year.

Along-serving and highly respected member of the NSW umpiring family, Andrew Rindfleish, was honoured as an inductee into the Softball Australia Hall of Fame. This achievement is thoroughly deserved and on behalf of all umpires, past and present, I congratulate Andrew.

Communication has been a behind-the-scenes focus for a number of years, a focus that is in response to societal trends and is constantly evolving. Social media is one channel that we have seen grow in the last 12 months and I am pleased to announce that the SNSWUA Facebook page achieved a milestone in November – 500 page likes.

The elected members of the SNSWUA are committed to the goals that we are striving to achieve. They have driven a number of positive changes throughout the year and I personally appreciate all their hard work and thank you on behalf of the NSW umpiring community.

To our partners: Peps Auto Spares – Narellan, Adam Dean and Whatley Trophies - your partnership helps bring our programs to life. Without your support many of the programs and initiatives that we offer to our umpiring family and our members would not be possible. On behalf of all NSW umpires, thank you for your outstanding contribution.

To the NSW umpiring family: thank you for your service to our sport, your contribution to the development of our state program and the promotion of umpiring and softball in general.

As I look ahead to 2014, I am excited by what we can achieve as a group and I have absolute confidence we can support every umpire in their quest to achieve success.

Scott Rindfleish
Director of Umpiring



Krissi Travers

STATS PACK

2013 Higher Accreditations

Level Four

Andrew Compton, James Townsend, Krissi Travers.

Level Two

Georgia Hill, Glenn Hangan, Jen Womsley, Kylie Diaz, Meg South, Tom Ryan, Wayne Wickens.

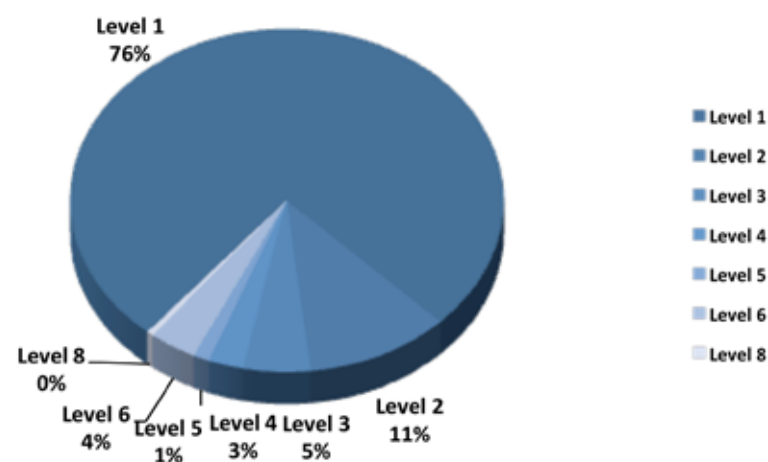
Level One

Abbie Vernon-Smith	Joshua Wilde
Aiden Kelly	Kenneth Casey
Amelia Dorey	Kimberley Calvert
Andrew Martin	Kirsty Brownen
Brayden Milford	Kristy Field
Bree Brooker	Lauren Herbert
Brianna Trim	Leigh Halpin
Brittany Aldred	Letitia Van der Heide
Caitlin Bailey	Luke Hughes
Cassie Scheffers	Mac Reith-Snare
Cassandra Plunkett	Margaret Partin
Claudia Hayward	Molly Herbert
Corey Robinson-Smith	Murray Bailey
Emily Crutcher	Nathan Robertson-Osborne
Emma Feighan	Ray Crosby
Flora Van der Heide	Rhonda Schultz
Gabby Chan	Rhyan McNair
Harrison Pudner	Robyn Bailey
Helen Nies	Simon Carter
Jade Hemaridis	Siobhan Nealon
Jarred Wennekes	Tamara Dudfield
Jahymi Dowel	Therese McMahon
Jeff Osborne	

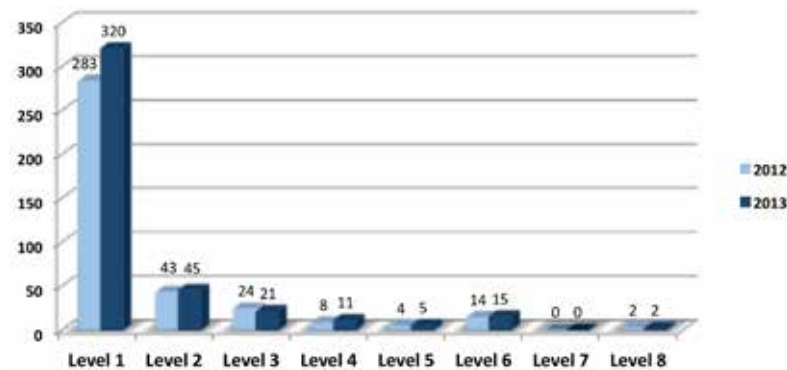
Exam Results

92	Krissi Travers	90	James English
91	Andrew Compton	90	Greg Baker
91	Jesse Smith	90	Adrian Rampoldi
91	Ron Houison	89	Susan Allison
90	Kyira Cox	89	Vicki Lansley

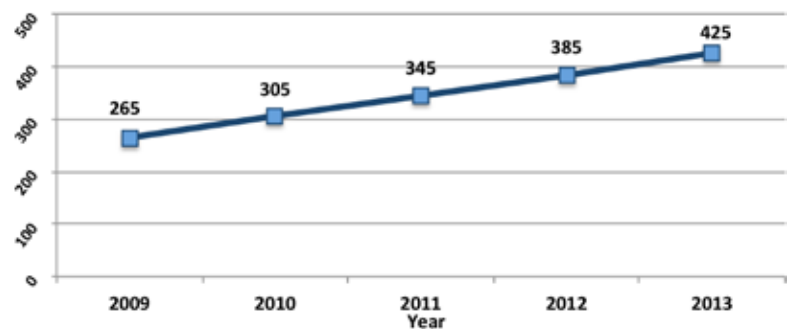
Active Umpires by Level: 2013



Active Umpires by Level: 2013 versus 2012



Active Umpires: 5 year trend





Four new Level Two umpires awarded at SNSW U15 State Championships

2013 HIGHLIGHTS

2013 has been a year full of highlights for the Softball NSW Umpires Association both on and off the diamond. At all levels of the sport, both in NSW, Australia and internationally, NSW umpires have led the way providing a wonderful service to the sport, continually wearing their uniform with pride and setting the benchmark for which others strive to attain.

Softball Australia Hall of Fame

Andrew Rindfleish

Softball NSW Hall of Fame

Dawn Young

Association Acknowledgment

Vicki Lansley – Life Member,
Cumberland Nepean Softball Association

Accreditations

55 umpires increased their level of accreditation.
100% of successful candidates in 2013 were SNSW Umpire Academy graduates.

Umpire Development

SNSWUA has been recognised by Softball Australia as providing the highest standard of umpire development clinics in the country. A record number of umpires, 20, attended the Intermediate Clinic. The Umpire Development Sub-Committee has dedicated many hours to improving the standard and consistency across documentation and presentation methods. There has also been a focus on succession planning, with a number of new presenters, trainers and coaches exposed to the rigours of the programs. A new initiative, Candidate Folder, was well received at the U15 State Championships.

Membership

2013 saw a growth in the number of umpires becoming members of the SNSWUA - 62 in total.

Softball NSW State Championships

The State Championships provide umpires from across NSW with the opportunity to officiate games at various venues across the state and in age groups ranging from U11 to Over 35.

State League

2013 saw the highest number of umpires providing a service to the State League competition – 29.

International Appointments

2013 was a stellar year for NSW umpires on the international stage, with four umpires receiving overseas appointments: Open Men's World Championship, U19 Women's World Championship, Canada Cup and Tasman Exchange. On top of these appointments, four umpires were selected to attend the ISF Certification Clinic in 2014. These appointments are recognition of the SNSWUA's focus on umpire development, even at the most senior levels.

The Future

Umpire clinics were run for players as part of the School Sport Australia 12 Years and Under Championship. Outstanding performances have been seen by many young, up-and-coming umpires who are progressing through the pathway; immersing themselves in all of the events and competitions on offer including Association, Regional, State Championships and School Sport.



*2014 ISF Certification Clinic participants
L-R: Jay Gibson, Kyira Cox, Leanne Gearside, Jesse Smith*



NSW Umpire Academy

UMPIRE ACADEMY - 3 YEARS ON AND GOING STRONG

For three years the Softball NSW Umpire Academy has been a training ground for prospective level two candidates to hone their skills and increase their knowledge. This year was no different.

Eight enthusiastic participants embarked on the Academy journey with eyes and minds wide open, a factor that facilitator, Ron Houison, said contributed to the success of the program.

"I've enjoyed watching the growth of all participants. Thinking back to where they started and where they've ended up, I can honestly say that there has been a fairly dramatic increase in their capabilities," Houison said.

"You could see their confidence growing each week as they tried new techniques and implemented the feedback they were given.

"We were also fortunate that the ratio of trainers to participants was very high. We had eight participants working with seven trainers, so the amount and level of individual attention that we could provide, I believe, benefitted the participants and their Academy experience."

Cumberland Nepean umpire, Wayne Wickens was one of this year's participants who went on to successfully achieve his Level Two accreditation at the Softball NSW U15 State Championships.

"The Academy is a really good learning experience. I've definitely learnt a lot more about what goes into umpiring softball than what I previously knew," Wickens said.

"The level of communication and interaction between the umpires on the diamond was something new. As a level one umpire, this hadn't really been a focus of my training, but the Academy taught its importance."

This year's Academy featured a mix of umpires with different experience levels and ages – a fact that Wickens believes was valuable.

"We had a group of people who all had different experiences within softball; people who coach at different levels, play at different levels and people who have been umpiring for a long time and a short time. We got a good mix of questions based on that level of experience and experience in the game," Wickens said.

Three years' young, the Academy strives to continually stay at the forefront of umpire development, introducing more technology and formalising its training processes to aid the facilitators.

"We have a consistent approach to what we do; consistent terminology, demonstrations and feedback. We're working together and maintaining that level of consistency to ensure that we're all on the same page," Houison said.

While the Academy is focused on developing the next crop of umpires, succession planning in the training ranks has also been a focus. Houison believes that "succession planning is paramount" to the future development and success of the Academy, with this year's new trainers bringing with them fresh ideas and perspectives.



Umpire Academy in action



Basic Clinic

UMPIRE DEVELOPMENT

Umpire development has been a cornerstone of the NSW umpiring program for many years. Charged with the responsibility to drive innovation and creativity in the development space, the Umpire Development Sub-Committee continues to set the benchmark across the country for its training programs.

Robust Planning

A desire to formalise structures and provide consistency saw the Umpire Development Sub-Committee embrace a robust planning process across its training programs, in particular the Softball NSW Umpire Academy. The formalisation of training processes ensured facilitators, new and existing, had a consistent approach to activities in relation to terminology, presentation and content. The importance of working together, being on the same page and maintaining a high level of consistency when delivering key messages and techniques not only assists in the development of new trainers, but also promotes a positive learning environment for participants.

Succession Planning

Succession planning is paramount to the growth and future sustainability of the SNSWUA, particularly in the area of training and development. Engaging new trainers and presenters has been a focus in 2013, and that has brought along numerous opportunities for senior umpires to broaden their skillset and take the lead in different training situations.

The SNSW Umpire Academy has proved to be a valuable training ground for the development of umpire coaches, with the involvement of new Level Four umpires Andrew Compton, James Townsend and Krissi Travers. Similarly, the clinics have seen Amanda Houison and Kyira Cox take the lead at the Intermediate and Basic Clinics, respectively. James English has also continued his involvement, progressing through to becoming a Trainer for numerous programs.

New coaches and trainers bring with them fresh ideas and perspectives – something that can only benefit the program and participants in the long run.

Capital Investments

The SNSWUA encourages umpires to invest in their future in relation to training and development opportunities. Taking a leaf out of its own book, the SNSWUA has made a number of capital investments that will aid umpire development for years to come. The purchase of three Zooka pitching machines, two digital cameras and one video camera will ensure that the umpire development program continues to provide the best possible learning environment for all participants and stay at the forefront through the use of innovative and technologically advanced training methods.

New Initiatives

Feedback and self-evaluation are critical tools for the development of umpires. The introduction of Candidate Folders during Level Two examinations conducted at the Softball NSW U15 State Championships were an innovative way for umpires to document their feedback and access additional resources – a method that contributed to the success of the candidates and their ongoing development.

Success of Core Programs

The SNSW Umpire Academy, Basic and Intermediate Clinics and Rules Sessions continue to provide a plethora of opportunities for umpires to access quality training. In 2013, the SNSW Umpire Academy enjoyed a 100% success rate in umpires achieving higher levels of accreditation – a fantastic result for a program that is three years young. The clinics have also enjoyed continued success, with a 300% increase in participation over the last two years.

The impact and value of the development programs offered by the SNSWUA cannot be underestimated. It is the expertise and dedication of the Umpire Development Sub-Committee, presenters at the various clinics and SNSW Umpire Academy, as well as those that conduct development initiatives in their own Associations that enable the SNSWUA to stay at the forefront of umpire development.



Kyira Cox

STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS - A RECAP

2013 has been an exciting year for the crew in blue, officiating around the grounds at the Softball NSW (SNSW) State Championships.

First cab off the rank was the SNSW U11 State Championships hosted by Penrith City Softball Association in early April. 42 umpires joined in the fun as the future stars of the game kept their parents on the edge of their seats, and the umpires on their toes.

For the second year in a row, rain played havoc at the SNSW U19 Women's State Championship at Blacktown International Sportspark (BISP). With mud caked on the bottom of their shoes and the heavens opening, day two of the championship was abandoned. Every effort was made to reschedule the playoffs, however the rain continued to fall.

The ground crew worked overtime on the diamonds to ensure that they were playable for the SNSW Over 35 State Championships. 32 umpires wheeled their kitbags into BISP for the June long weekend event. But this wasn't your typical weekend of softball with UIC Kyira Cox introducing 'Masters Mind Games' – fun activities including guessing competitions and quizzes to keep the crew engaged during the long, cold days when they weren't on the diamond. The weekend culminated in the presentation of an Australian umpiring cap (number 131) to Lisa Pockran (nee Freeman).

Next on the calendar was the SNSW U19 Men's State Championship. June must have been cursed though, because once again the rain started to fall at BISP just when the competition on the diamond was starting to heat up. The umpires and players couldn't take a trick with Sunday's games abandoned.

With fingers crossed and rain dance shoes nowhere in sight, the SNSW U17 State Championships went off without a hitch at Southern Districts in July. One of the umpires making his debut at the championship was newly-accredited Level Two, Tom Ryan (Hornsby) who was also one of the youngest on the crew at just 14 – a wonderful achievement. This was the championship where the masked crusaders, or maybe they were the three musketeers, made an appearance...

Back to BISP in August and the SNSW Open Women's State Championship awaited our blues. This was a special weekend for three umpires with James Townsend (North Shore), Andrew Compton and Krissi Travers (Cumberland Nepean) awarded their Level Four accreditation.

There was no rest for the crew in blue, with the SNSW Open Men's State Championship hot on their heels. One of the most experienced crews took to the diamond, and right in the thick of the action was Wagga Wagga's Dylan Murdoch who made the trip to learn from some of the state's best.

What do you get when you see a field of diamonds full of teams at Macarthur in early September? The SNSW U13 State Championships, that's what! Spring was definitely in the air as 22 teams took to the diamonds alongside our dedicated crew of blues.

The final stop on the State Championship journey for 2013 was the Lee Ruddy Softball Complex – the home of Softball Campbelltown. The weather was starting to look ominous, but held off long enough for two cracking grand finals. In 2010 we had the "Orange Eight", 2011 was the "Sea Breeze Six", 2012 was the "Lismore Ten", and in 2013 it was the "Fantastic Four" as four umpires - Jen Womsley, Wayne Wickens, Georgia Hill (Cumberland Nepean) and Kylie Diaz (Manly Warringah - successfully negotiated the weekend to be presented with their Level Two accreditation.

2013 had it all: masked crusaders, lots of black shoe polish, the odd practical joke or two and lots and lots of rain (and sunshine too)!

One thing is for certain though, every year we are encouraged by the dedication and support shown by the NSW umpiring family to service the SNSW State Championships. At every venue you visit, you can hear the sound of laughter coming from the umpires' room – fun and camaraderie are what makes these weekends truly memorable.

We raise our mask to all who have pulled on the blues in 2013 and say thank you. We look forward to doing it all again in 2014!



Tony Moncaster

STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS

The Softball NSW State Championships are important fixtures on the calendar that contribute to the growth, development and promotion of the sport. The umpires play a significant role in the successful staging of a State Championship. The time, commitment and passion of the umpires throughout the 2013 State Championships season is greatly appreciated.

SNSW U11 State Championships

UIC: Kyira Cox
Deputy UIC: James English, Vic Guillaumier

Crew:

Alex Oberg	Craig Myers	Joe Kellermeier
Alex O'Daly	Craig Oberg	Josh King
Alf Chapman	Daniel O'Daly	Katrina Bulmer
Andrew Carter	Darren O'Neil	Lachlan Page
Andrew Cooper	David Brown	Leanne Gearsides
Blake Jackson	Dermot O'Daly	Linda Sheridan
Brianne Watt	Gai Cohen	Mac Reith-Snare
Brooke Whitfield	Georgia Hill	Mark Carter
Carol Heiler	Guil Beath	Melissa Wallace
Cheryl Irlam	Holly Hough	Narelle McIntosh
Chris Houison	Jarred Wennekes	Nathan Corrigan
Chris Maybin	Jennifer Womsley	Robert McIntosh
Cody Hunt	Jessica Rooke	Rodney Bailey
Corey Robertson-Smith	Jim Long	Tom Ryan
		Wayne Wickens

SNSW U13 State Championships

UIC: George Norrish
Deputy UIC: Scott Rindfleisch, Paul Bourke, Robert McIntosh

Crew:

Aiden Kelly	Darren O'Neil	Mac Reith-Snare
Al Cooper	Gai Cohen	Mark Byrne
Alex Oberg	Geoff Fox	Markye Gyzen
Alf Chapman	Georgia Hill	Murray Bailey
Andrew Martin	Harrison Pudner	Paul Bourke
Blake Jackson	Hayden Dudfield	Phil Wardley
Breanne Watt	Jake Robertson	Rebekah Edwards
Carol Heiler	Jennifer Womsley	Riley Deahm
Cassie Plunkett	Jessica Rooke	Rod Bailey
Chris Houison	Joe Kellermeier	Ryan King
Christine Maybin	Josh King	Shane McIntosh
Cody Hunt	Josh Wilde	Terri McMahon
Craig Myers	Katrina Bulmer	Tom Ryan
Craig Oberg	Lachlan Page	Tony Moncaster
Daniel O'Daly	Lyn Moncaster	Wayne Wickens

Grand Final - Female

Plate: Craig Myers
First Base: Tom Ryan
Third Base: Darren O'Neil
Card: Wayne Wickens

Grand Final - Male

Plate: Jessica Rooke
First Base: Katrina Bulmer
Third Base: Joe Kellermeier
Card: Andrew Cooper

Grand Final - Female

Plate: Joe Kellermeier
First Base: Phil Wardley
Third Base: Craig Oberg

Cup Grand Final - Female

Plate: Shane McIntosh
First Base: Georgia Hill
Third Base: Mac Reith-Snare

Grand Final - Male

Plate: Tom Ryan
First Base: Maryke Gyzen
Third Base: Wayne Wickens



George Norrish

STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS

SNSW U15 State Championships

UIC: Leanne Gearside
Deputy UIC: Andrew Rindfleish, Scott Rindfleish
Examiners: Darrell Shephard, Ron Houison, Vic Guillaumier, Robert McIntosh

Crew:

Al Cooper	Jackson Towns	Meg South
Alex Oberg	James Scott	Narelle McIntosh
Brianne Watt	James Townsend	Nicholas Guendoul
Bruce McCahon	Jean Morel	Pat Flynn
Cheryl Irlam	Jennifer Womsley	Paul Bourke
Chris Houison	Jim Long	Phil Wardley
Chris Ioannou	Joe Kellermeier	Rhett Eldred
Chris Maybin	Josh King	Robert McIntosh
Cody Hunt	Kylie Diaz	Robyn Bailey
Craig Myers	Lachlan Page	Rod Bailey
Craig Oberg	Lindy White	Shane McIntosh
Darren O'Neil	Lyn Moncaster	Tom Ryan
Dermot O'Daly	Mark Byrne	Tony Moncaster
Gai Cohen	Maryke Gyzen	Vic Guillaumier
Georgia Hill	Mat Guillaumier	Wayne Wickens

Grand Final - Male

Plate: Tony Moncaster
First Base: Dermot O'Daly (retired hurt)
 Rob McIntosh
Third Base: Craig Myers

Grand Final - Female

Plate: Shane McIntosh
First Base: Joe Kellermeier
Third Base: Brianne Watt

Cup Grand Final - Female

Plate: Tom Ryan
First Base: Narelle McIntosh
Third Base: Lindy White

SNSW U17 State Championships

UIC: Vicki Lansley
Deputy UIC: Andrew Rindfleish, Darrell Shephard
Examiners: Howard Watt, Jay Gibson, Jesse Smith

Crew:

Alan Brown	Howard Watt	Paul Bourke
Alex Oberg	James Townsend	Phil Wardley
Alf Chapman	Jay Gibson	Rhett Eldred
Andrew Compton	Jess Rooke	Robert McIntosh
Brian Higinbotham	Jesse Smith	Rod Bailey
Bruce McCahon	Jim Long	Shane McIntosh
Chris Houison	Joe Kellermeier	Steve Smith
Craig Myers	Krissi Travers	Tom Ryan
Craig Oberg	Kyira Cox	Tony Beard
Darren O'Neil	Lindy White	Tony Moncaster
George Norrish	Lyn Moncaster	Wayne McGrath
Georgia Hill	Markye Gyzen	Wayne Wickens
Glenn Hangan	Narelle McIntosh	

Grand Final - Female

Plate: Robert McIntosh
First Base: James Townsend
Third Base: Krissi Travers

Grand Final - Male

Plate: George Norrish
First Base: Paul Bourke
Third Base: Andrew Compton

SNSW U19 Women's State Championship

UIC: Andrew Rindfleish
Deputy UIC: Scott Rindfleish, Kyira Cox, Leanne Gearside

Crew:

Adrian Rampoldi	George Norrish	Robert McIntosh
Amanda Houison	James Townsend	Ron Houison
Andrew Compton	Joe Kellermeier	Tony Moncaster
Chris Ioannou	Krissi Travers	Vic Guillaumier
Colin Tutt	Melissa Wallace	Vicki Lansley
Dylan Murdoch		

Grand Final - washed out



Scott Rindfleish

STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS

SNSW U19 Men's State Championship

UIC: Andrew Rindfleish
Deputy UIC: Ron Houison, Howard Watt

Crew:

Adrian Rampoldi	Jay Gibson	Paul Bourke
Colin Tutt	Jesse Smith	Robert McIntosh
George Norrish	Kyira Cox	Vic Guillaumier
James English	Leanne Gearside	Vicki Lansley
James Townsend		

Grand Final - washed out

SNSW Open Women's State Championship

UIC: Bruce McCahon
Deputy UIC: Andrew Rindfleish, Darrell Shephard
Examiners: Amanda Houison, Ron Houison, Vicki Lansley, Jesse Smith

Crew:

Adrian Rampoldi	James English	Krissi Travers
Andrew Compton	James Townsend	Leanne Gearside
Andy Birks	Jay Gibson	Robert McIntosh
George Norrish		

Grand Final

Plate: Amanda Houison
First Base: Leanne Gearside
Second Base: Jay Gibson
Third Base: Jesse Smith

SNSW Open Men's State Championship

UIC: Andrew Rindfleish, Scott Rindfleish
Deputy UIC: Amanda Houison, Ron Houison

Crew:

Adrian Rampoldi	James English	Leanne Gearside
Alan Brown	James Townsend	Robert McIntosh
Andrew Compton	Jay Gibson	Vic Guillaumier
Dylan Murdoch	Jesse Smith	Vicki Lansley
George Norrish	Krissi Travers	

Grand Final

Plate: Ron Houison
First Base: Leanne Gearside
Second Base: George Norrish
Third Base: Vicki Lansley

SNSW Over 35's State Championship

UIC: Kyira Cox
Deputy UIC: Vicki Lansley, Adrian Rampoldi

Crew:

Alan Brown	Georgia Hill	Maria Cimino
Alex Oberg	Jake Cassel	Maryke Gyzen
Allan Cooper	James Townsend	Narelle McIntosh
Andrew Carter	Jennifer Womsley	Rod Bailey
Brianne Watt	Joe Kellermeier	Shane McIntosh
Carol Hieler	Josh King	Simon Carter
Chantal Markham	Katrina Bulmer	Steve Smith
Chris Houison	Keith Smith	Susie Miller
Cody Hunt	Kety Archer	Thomas Sutomo
Craig Oberg	Libby Schofield	Tom Ryan
David Brown	Lindy White	Tony Moncaster
Gabby Plain	Lyn Moncaster	

Grand Final - Female

Plate: James Townsend
First Base: Steve Smith
Third Base: Katrina Bulmer

Grand Final - Male

Plate: Shane McIntosh
First Base: Tom Ryan
Third Base: Tony Moncaster



James English

WINTER LEAGUE & STATE LEAGUE

Winter League

Softball NSW launched the Winter League competition in April, culminating in a Finals Series at Blacktown International Sportspark in May.

The two month competition showcases many of the sport's up-and-coming female players along with more experienced players in a traditionally club-based competition.

Winter League provides an excellent training ground for umpires to hone their skills, practice their rotations and work with umpires they may not necessarily have the opportunity to on a regular basis. The provision of feedback from senior umpires, under the direction of Leanne Gearside, is another example of how the SNSWUA is providing many opportunities for umpires to access quality training and development.

To the many umpires who provided a service to the 2013 Winter League competition, we thank you for your dedication and efforts.

Congratulations to the Grand Final crews:

Grand Final

P – Andy Birks

1B – Chris Ioannou

3B – Andrew Compton

Grand Final – Plate

P – Andrew Compton

1B – Darren O'Neil

3B – Craig Oberg

State League

The 2013 State League competition, the premier club competition in NSW, is a key preparation event for NSW umpires in the lead-up to the 2014 Australian Championships.

Featuring many of the state's best male and female players, including some from interstate, this competition provided all members of the crew, not just those heading off to Nationals, with the opportunity to hone their skills.

The competition was fierce with tight pitching duals, diving catches, towering homeruns and mounting pressure on every play, and in the box seat were the Pep's Auto Spares – Narellan umpiring crew.

During the 2013 season, a record breaking 29 umpires donned the green shirt umpiring a total of 93 games across the men's and women's competitions, providing a great service to not only the competition, but the sport.

Congratulations to the Grand Final crews:

Grand Final – Female

P – Leanne Gearside

1B – Andrew Rindfleish

2B – Rob McIntosh

3B – Andrew Compton

Grand Final – Men

P – Amanda Houison

1B – Scott Rindfleish

2B – James Townsend

3B – Vicki Lansley



Amanda Houison

INTERNATIONAL & NATIONAL EVENTS

NSW umpires were well represented on the international and national stage in 2013. Congratulations to the following umpires on their appointments:

International Events

ISF Open Men's World Championship – New Zealand
Scott Rindfleish

ISF Junior Women's World Championship – Canada
Amanda Houison

Canadian Open International Fastpitch Competition – Canada
Ron Houison

Trans-Tasman Umpire Exchange Program
New Zealand Open Women's Club Championship
Kyira Cox

ISF Development Squad – selected to attend 2014 ISF Umpire Certification Clinic
Kyira Cox, Leanne Gearside, Jay Gibson, Jesse Smith

National Events

Open Men

Andrew Rindfleish	Jesse Smith
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Open Women - Gilley's Shield

Kyira Cox	Finals
Leanne Gearside	Round 3 and Finals
Jay Gibson	Round 2
Amanda Houison	Round 3
George Norrish	Round 1 and Round 3
Andrew Rindfleish	Round 1
Howard Watt	Round 1 and Finals

U19 Men

Ron Houison	Jesse Smith
Scott Rindfleish	

U19 Women

James English	Amanda Houison
Jay Gibson	Vicki Lansley

Under 17 Boys

Kyira Cox	Ron Houison
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Under 17 Girls

James English	Vicki Lansley
Leanne Gearside	George Norrish
Amanda Houison	





Andrew Rindfleish

RINDFLEISH INDUCTED INTO SAL HALL OF FAME

In life, there are moments that have the power to move you and bring a smile to your face – this is one of those moments.

Dedicating much of his life to the game of softball, in particular umpiring, Andrew Rindfleish was this year honoured as one of 11 inductees into the Softball Australia Hall of Fame.

Andrew received the news from Softball Australia President, Dennis Cullen, via phone at the conclusion of the Annual General Meeting in November.

“I was very surprised and honoured [when I found out]. To be honest I was quite taken aback by it all,” Andrew explained.

“We don’t set out to do what we do in a volunteer capacity with these types of awards or recognition in mind. But it is a statement of achievement by my peers and by those who manage the sport - an achievement that I am incredibly proud of.

“It’s an honour to be named to join the six umpires who are already in the Hall of Fame – I’m in great company. It’s great to be seen as one of the elite in our sport.”

With over 50 Australian Championships to his name and four World Championship appointments, Andy is one of the most respected umpires in NSW and Australia - one of the country’s best.

Renowned for his sportsmanship and integrity, Andy was humbled by the well wishes and messages of congratulations that were flooding in from all over the world.

“I pride myself on being unselfish in terms of passing on what I’ve learned, my experiences and philosophy to those that care to listen. To see these people do well is a huge reward for me and to have them reciprocate that by congratulating me means the world,” he said.

As one of the true gentlemen of the sport who gives freely of his time on and off the diamond for the development of the umpiring program, we stand as one and raise our mask to you.

Andrew Rindfleish – Hall of Fame citation, as provided by Softball Australia.

Andrew has umpired internationally from 1988 – 2010. His first international tournament was in 1998 (Open Women’s Bicentennial Challenge) and his last international tournament was in 2010 (Japan v Australia Test Series). Andrew was appointed as an umpire at two ISF Junior World Championships (1991, 2001) and two Open Men’s World Championships (1996, 2000).

Andrew has contributed to the development of the sport through his work on the National Umpiring Committee including the position of National Umpiring Chief from 2004-2009. Andrew was a member of the National Umpire Staff from the mid 1990s.

SOFTBALL NSW HALL OF FAME: DAWN YOUNG

At the 2013 Softball NSW State Teams Dinner, SNSWUA Life Member Dawn Young was inducted into the Softball NSW Hall of Fame.

Dawn was the first NSW umpire to umpire at a World Championship (Japan, 1970). She umpired at National Championships from 1966-76 and was Deputy UIC at the 1966 National Championships held in Brisbane. Dawn also officiated on the 1972 and 1973 tours of New Zealand.

She is the first umpire to be inducted into the Softball NSW Hall of Fame.

Congratulations Dawn.



Andrew Rindfleish and Dawn Young

2013 ANNUAL AWARD WINNERS



Andrew Rindfleish Umpire of the Year

Scott Rindfleish - Macarthur

As the NSW Director of Umpiring since 2010, Scott has been the driving force behind significant and positive strategic and cultural change for the NSW Umpiring Program.

A five-time winner of the award, Scott was appointed to his third World Championship in March – the Open Men's World Championship in New Zealand, and the Australia versus Japan Test Series in Canberra.

Scott is an active contributor at all levels of the sport including; member of five State Championship umpire management crews, mentor to more than six senior umpires across NSW and a facilitator at umpire development initiatives. He was also appointed as an Assessor at the U19 Men's National Championship and is part of the SAL Working Group – Rules Exam Review and assists with writing training documents for the national program.



Individual Award for Umpire Development

Ron Houison - Penrith City

Ron is chairperson of the Umpire Development Sub-Committee, a role that has seen him drive training initiatives across NSW.

A presenter at the Basic and Intermediate Clinics, Ron was also involved in the development and improvement of Softball Australia's training and presenter manuals.

A mentor for many developing umpires, including three successful Level Four candidates, Ron is also actively involved with his local Association – Penrith City – as well as providing support to a number of other Associations with their training initiatives.



CNSA success L-R: Level Four - Andrew Compton and Krissi Travers; Level Two - Georgia Hill, Jen Womsley and Wayne Wickens



Director's Award for Services to Umpiring

Leanne Gearside - Hawkesbury

In 2013, Leanne was the Umpire-in-Chief for Winter League, Softball Australia Friendship Series, school events, U15 State Championships and U19 Women's State Championship.

Her unwavering commitment to the development of umpires saw her conduct clinics in regional NSW in Orange and Port Macquarie, as well as initiating umpire sessions for players as part of the School Sport Australia Championships.

A valued member of the SNSWUA Executive, Leanne is renowned for her ability to inspire young umpires and nurture their development across a number of events ranging from school sport through to State Championships.



Encouragement Award

Tom Ryan - Hornsby

Tom Ryan demonstrates a maturity and commitment to umpiring beyond his 14 years. His attitude towards learning and feedback is highly regarded, as is his commitment to go above and beyond by supporting the program through his other hobby – photography.

His enthusiasm for umpiring is infectious, demonstrated by his willingness to step outside his comfort zone and umpire at State League, school events and numerous State Championships.

Achieving his Level Two accreditation this year, Tom was also appointed as an umpire for the Australian School Sport Championships.

Affiliate Award for Umpire Development

Cumberland Nepean Softball Association

This is the third consecutive year that Cumberland Nepean Softball Association has won this award.

Umpire development has been a key focus for the program, with regular (weekly) training and rules sessions conducted to ensure that participants are continuously supported. On top of this, the Friday night development program for Blues in Training has provided further opportunities for umpires to ply their trade and enhance their skills.

The introduction of social media as a way to communicate with umpires has reaped rewards, resulting in an engaged and active online community.

Cumberland Nepean prides itself on its development initiatives and rewards program; the success of their program shown with a number of umpires progressing through to higher levels of accreditation.



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