

**WELLINGTON SOFTBALL ASSOCIATION  
CONSTITUTION**

**REVISED AS AT 15 SEPTEMBER 2008**

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# WELLINGTON SOFTBALL ASSOCIATION

<b>LIFE MEMBERS</b>	<b>PRESIDENTS</b>
L. E. Dalley,	B. Wilson
K. Gerrie	G. Bazant
G. J. Dalley	S. Atkinson
J. Langley	H. Marson
H. Atkin	M. Zemba
M.J. Fenton ED.	A.S. Meachen
C.A Ward	W. A. Lindsay
	F. H. Prentice
	N. Messenger
	T. Laws
	N.C. Laws
	N.A. Dalley
	R. Neely
	M.J. Fenton ED.

# WELLINGTON SOFTBALL ASSOCIATION

## MAJOR CHAMPIONSHIP WINNERS

WOMEN - (REGENT GOWNS CUP)		MEN - (TISDALL CUP)	
1940-47	JENKINS GYM	1938-39	FORDS
1957-67	BROADWAY	1940	JENKINS GYM
1948-56	MIRAMAR	1941	BROADWAY
1977	ISLAND BAY	1942-43	NOT CONTESTED
1978-80	BROADWAY	1944-46	BROADWAY
1980-85	ISLAND BAY	1947-49	JENKINS GYM
1986	BROADWAY	1950	MIRAMAR
1986-87	REPCO BROADWAY	1951-53	BROADWAY
1987-88	BROADWAY	1954	JENKINS GYM
1988-89	BROADWAY	1955-59	MIRAMAR
1989-90	BM ROYALS	1960-62	BROADWAY
1990-91	BM ROYALS	1963	MIRAMAR
1991-92	PONEKE KILBIRNIE	1964-67	BROADWAY
1992-93	MIRAMAR	1968-75	MIRAMAR
1993-94	PONEKE KILBIRNIE	1976	ISLAND BAY
1994-95	BM ROYALS	1977-84	MIRAMAR
1995-96	PONEKE KILBIRNIE	1984-86	PONEKE KILBIRNIE
1996-97	PONEKE KILBIRNIE	1986-87	PONEKE KILBIRNIE
1996-97	PONEKE KILBIRNIE	1987-88	PONEKE KILBIRNIE
1997-98	MIRAMAR	1988-89	PONEKE KILBIRNIE
1998-99	PONEKE KILBIRNIE	1989-90	MIRAMAR
1999-00	MIRAMAR	1990-91	MIRAMAR
2000-01	MIRAMAR	1992-93	PONEKE KILBIRNIE
2001-02	PONEKE KILBIRNIE	1993-94	PONEKE KILBIRNIE
2002-03	ROYALS	1994-95	PONEKE KILBIRNIE
2003-04	PONEKE KILBIRNIE	1995-96	PONEKE KILBIRNIE
2004-05	PONEKE KILBIRNIE	1996-97	PONEKE KILBIRNIE
2005-06	MIRAMAR	1997-98	PONEKE KILBIRNIE
2006-07	MIRAMAR	1998-99	PONEKE KILBIRNIE
		1999-00	PONEKE KILBIRNIE
		2000-01	PONEKE KILBIRNIE
		2001-02	MIRAMAR
		2002-03	PONEKE KILBIRNIE
		2003-04	PONEKE KILBIRNIE
		2004-05	MIRAMAR
		2005-06	PORIRUA
		2006-07	MIRAMAR

## **1. TITLE**

The Association shall be called the WELLINGTON SOFTBALL ASSOCIATION Incorporated and its Headquarters shall be in Wellington, where all meetings shall be held.

## **2. OBJECTS**

The object of the Wellington Softball Association shall be to promote the game of softball within the District of Wellington as defined by the New Zealand Softball Association Inc, and to that end to control and regulate the game of softball as played by its officers and members and by players and members of all affiliated clubs.

## **3. ORGANISATION**

- (a) The membership of the Association shall be confined to Life Members elected at any Annual General Meeting, to those officers and members of the Executive Committee duly elected in accordance with these rules, to those members of the Junior Management Committee duly elected in accordance with these rules, to players or their delegates and members of all affiliated Clubs, all Umpires affiliated to the Wellington Softball Umpires Association, and to all Scorers affiliated to the Wellington Softball Statisticians Association. Each Club, on initial affiliation, shall be supplied by the Secretary of the Association with a copy of the Rules and By-Laws of the Association and shall, with all its members, be bound thereby.
- (b) A Patron shall be appointed by the Annual General Meeting and shall not, by virtue of such appointment, be deemed to be a member of the Association.
- (c) The Executive shall be empowered to employ salaried staff as the Executive decides, the staff so employed shall hold office at the pleasure of the Executive and shall not be entitled to a vote at any meetings of the Executive Committee or of the Association.
- (d) If the Executive Committee employs/appoints staff, paid or voluntary, the Executive Committee shall approve a job description for such staff who then and only then be accountable, through the President, to the Executive Committee in terms of such job description.
- (e) Wellington Softball Association is an amateur sports organisation.

## **4. OFFICERS**

- (a) The Officers of the Association shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting and shall consist of a President and a Vice President.
- (b) Each Club may nominate as many persons as there are vacancies and no more.
- (c) The Executive may nominate persons to these offices in the same manner and to the same extent as Clubs.
- (d) No nomination shall be considered unless it is received by the Secretary of the Association at least twenty one days prior to the date of the Annual General Meeting. Such nominations shall be circulated by the Secretary to all Clubs and Life Members at least ten days before the date of the Annual General Meeting.
- (e) In the event of there being more nominations than there are vacancies to be filled, an election shall be held in accordance with the manner described in Rule 15 (b) and each Club shall be entitled to record votes in accordance with Rule 15 (a).
- (f) If no nominations are received by the closing date, or if a vacancy in an Officer position occurs after the closing date and before the end of the Annual General Meeting, nominations may be accepted from the floor of the Annual General Meeting by leave of the meeting.

## **5. HONORARY OFFICERS**

An Honorary Auditor and an Honorary Solicitor shall be appointed by the Annual General Meeting from time to time and shall not, by virtue of such appointment, be deemed to be members of the Association.

## **6. MANAGEMENT**

- (a) The affairs of the Association shall be conducted and governed by an Executive Committee, which shall consist of one representative nominated from the Junior Management Committee and a minimum five (5) members, with at least two (2) members actively involved in club activities to a maximum of eight (8) members elected at the Annual General Meeting.
- (b) The Executive Committee shall elect a Chairman who shall preside at all meetings of the Executive Committee and may also elect a Deputy Chairman who shall preside in the absence of the Chairman. The President of the Association shall have the right to preside at any meeting of the Executive Committee should he so desire.
- (c) The Executive may appoint a Secretary and/or Treasurer and such Assistant Secretaries or Treasurers as it may deem necessary.

- (d) Not more than one (1) member of any one Club shall serve on the Executive Committee at any one time except that if there are not sufficient nominees available to fill the positions on the Executive, the total representation from any one Club may be increased to two (2).
- (e) The promotion of softball among schoolchildren shall be governed by the Junior Management Committee, which shall consist of eight (8) members, six (6) of whom shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting, plus one (1) representative from each sub-committee elected under Rule 21.
- (f) Nominations for the Executive shall be received by the Secretary at least twenty one (21) days prior to the date of the Annual General Meeting. Such nominations shall be circulated by the Secretary to all Clubs and Life Members at least ten (10) days before the date of the Annual General Meeting. If no nominations or there are insufficient nominations to fill the Executive, or if a vacancy in an Executive position occurs after the closing date and before the end of the Annual General Meeting, nominations may be accepted from the floor of the Annual General Meeting by leave of the meeting. Any nomination received in writing will be voted in and accepted.

## **7. LIFE MEMBERS**

An Annual General Meeting shall have the power to elect to life membership any person who has rendered signal service to the sport or to the Association, provided always that such nomination has had the prior approval of the Executive Committee. The election of Life Members shall require three-fifths majority of the voting strength of the Annual General Meeting. Life Members shall be entitled to a vote at Annual General Meetings and also shall be entitled to attend all meetings of the Executive Committee, but shall not be entitled to a vote.

## **8. DISTINGUISHED SERVICE**

An Annual General Meeting shall have the power to recognise services of any person who has rendered signal service to the sport or to the Association, provided always that such nomination has had the prior approval of the Executive Committee. The recognition of the Distinguished Service Award shall require three-fifths majority of the voting strength of the Annual General Meeting.

## **9. POWERS AND DUTIES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

The Executive Committee (hereinafter referred to as the Executive) shall have full power and authority.

- (a) To arrange and control and regulate all local and inter-provincial matches as it may see fit.
- (b) To regulate and control the conduct of all officials and players of affiliated Associations, of affiliated Clubs and visiting teams.

- (c) To impose suspension, forfeiture of points, impose or inflict fines upon any Club, player or members found guilty of breaking any of the rules of the Association, or the conditions governing any competition or for refusing to give effect to any resolution passed by the Executive or any General Meeting of delegates or bringing the game or the Association into disrepute, or breaching the Code of Conduct.
- (d) To determine all questions or disputes as to the construction or meaning of these rules or as regards anything done or omitted to be done by any affiliated Club or member thereof in relation to the game of softball.
- (e) To appoint Selectors for the selection of Representative Teams.
- (f) To determine any protests which may be lodged in connection with any matter. In such cases as may be desirable, to appoint a Protest Sub-Committee, the members of which shall have no connection with the Clubs involved in the protest. All Clubs, players and umpires concerned shall have the right to attend or be represented at the meeting of the Protest Sub-Committee for the purpose of presenting all evidence concerning the subject of the protest. The Protest Sub-Committee shall forward its findings in writing to the Executive within seven days of the protest being referred to it.
- (g) To make valid such By-Laws as may from time to time be considered necessary for the government of the sport or for any matter not specially provided for in these rules, such By-Laws to remain in force only until they are confirmed by the next Annual General Meeting.
- (h) To fill any vacancy with the exception of Presidency and Vice-Presidency which may occur on the Executive. Members so appointed shall have all the rights and privileges of Members elected at an Annual General Meeting.
- (i) To appoint Sub-Committees for any purpose relating to the game and the affairs of the Association and to outline and define the duties and powers of all such Committees.
- (j) To fix the closing dates for Club affiliations, team nominations and any other matters which are necessary for the management of the sport, and to inflict fines for the late receipt of such affiliations and nominations, etc.
- (k) To appoint Managers, Coaches, Chaperones, Captains and any other officials deemed necessary for the management and control of Representative Teams.
- (l) The Executive shall meet at least once monthly during the softball season and as often as is required during the off season. Any member of the Executive who is absent for three consecutive meetings or five meetings over a period without reasonable cause shall forfeit his or her seat. No person who has been voted off the Wellington Softball Association Executive Committee for failing to attend meetings shall be liable for re-election to any office or to the Executive for a further period of twelve months.
- (m) The Chairman of any Executive meeting shall have a casting vote as well as a deliberative vote.

- (n) A Special General Meeting of the Executive shall be called upon the instructions of the Chairman or upon the receipt of a request setting out the objects of such a meeting, signed by the Secretaries of at least three affiliated Clubs.
- (o) Any meeting of the Executive, 60% of those members as defined in Rule 6 (a) shall form a quorum.
- (p) Any point which is not covered by these rules shall be decided by the Executive. Any such decision shall be recorded in the Minute Book of the Association and shall be accepted as the true manner in which the Rules shall apply until otherwise interpreted by a subsequent Special or Annual General Meeting.
- (q) No softball game shall be played except by permission of the Executive.
- (r) No Club, or Association, shall offer any pecuniary inducement for a player to transfer to or continue to play for any Club or Association. No team or player shall be permitted to accept money or other consideration for any game.
- (s) Every Club shall keep a Minute Book showing the date of election of all members together with proper books of income and expenditure, showing the dates of all monies received and paid by the Club. In the event of any Club being indebted to the Association after the first day of February in any year, the Executive shall have the power to call for and inspect its books. In the event of any Club failing to comply with such a demand from the Executive, the members of the Club concerned may be suspended from participation in the activities of the Association for such periods as the Executive may decide.
- (t) The Executive shall be empowered to suspend from further participation in the activities of the Association any player who is reported to be in arrears with financial obligations until such obligations are resolved to the satisfaction of the Club concerned.
- (u) Every Club shall be responsible to the Executive for the conduct of its players and officials and the Executive shall be empowered to call for an explanation of any instance of misconduct. The Executive shall have the power to suspend for such periods or impose penalties as it thinks fit, any Club, team, player, officer or any person who shall be proved guilty of;
  - (i) any breach of this Constitution or any of the Association's By-Laws or Championship Rules, or of the Official Playing Rules.
  - (ii) objectionable or improper behaviour during or in connection with any game under the jurisdiction of the Association.
  - (iii) any such acts which, in the opinion of the Executive, may be deemed to be misconduct.
- (v) The Executive shall have the power to charge an admission fee to any games played under the jurisdiction of the Association and any monies received in this respect shall be the property of the Association unless otherwise decided by the Executive.

- (w) The Executive shall have the power to delegate to the Wellington Softball Umpires' Association the right to appoint umpires to all games held under the jurisdiction of the Association, subject to such appointments being to the satisfaction of the Executive.
- (x) The Executive shall have the power to decline applications for affiliation from any club, player or official.

## **10. SEAL**

The Association shall have a Common Seal which shall be held by the Secretary of the Association and shall not be affixed to any document except pursuant to a resolution of the Executive. The Trustees of the Association appointed from time to time shall be empowered to sign any such document on behalf of the Association provided the prior consent of the Executive shall be given.

## **11. POWER TO BORROW**

Subject to a resolution passed by a General Meeting of the Association convened in accordance with Rule 11 (a) or Rule 12, the Association shall have the power to borrow upon such security and terms and conditions as it deems fit. If the funds of the Association are insufficient to meet any proposed expenditure or loss incurred by the Association in carrying out the objects of the Association, such expenditure or loss shall be borne by all affiliated Clubs in proportion to the number of votes to which each Club shall be entitled provided that the amount so levied shall not exceed the sum of one hundred dollars in respect of each vote.

In the event of the amount of such levy being insufficient for the satisfactory completion of the objects of the Association, the matter shall be referred to a General Meeting of the Association for direction.

## **12. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

- (a) The Annual General Meeting of the Association, of which six weeks notice shall be given to all Clubs and Life Members, shall be held not later than the 15th day of August of each year. Notice of such Meeting shall be advertised in such newspapers as the Executive considers fit. Each Club and Life Member shall be provided with a copy of the Annual Report and Balance Sheet for the preceding year together with a copy of the Agenda Paper for the proposed Annual General Meeting, at least two weeks prior to the date of the Meeting. The purpose of the Meeting shall be as follows;
  - (i) the receipt of the Annual Report and Balance Sheet for the preceding year.
  - (ii) the consideration of Remits.
  - (iii) the election of Officers and Members of the Executive and members of the Junior Management Committee for the ensuing year.

- (iv) consideration of any other business which may be necessary.
- (b) Notice of any remits which Clubs wish to be considered at the Annual General Meeting must be given in writing to the Secretary of the Association at least four weeks before the date of the Meeting, but other business may be considered by the Annual General Meeting without prior notice provided that at least three-fifths of voting strength at the Meeting so agree.
- (c) A quorum for any Annual General Meeting of the Association shall consist of representatives holding half the maximum voting powers of the Association.
- (d) Delegates may be represented at any Annual General Meeting, either in person or by written proxy provided;
  - (i) that no delegate shall represent more than one club.
  - (ii) that all the votes to which a club is entitled may be exercised by any one delegate.
- (e) Any matter as to the interpretation of these rules which may arise at an Annual General Meeting of the Association shall be determined by the Chairman of the Meeting, whose decision shall be final.
- (f) Any club which has not met all financial obligations to the Association by the commencement of the Annual General Meeting, shall not be entitled to vote at that Annual General Meeting.

### **13. SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING**

The Association may hold a Special General Meeting provided that all clubs are given four weeks notice thereof, stating the reason for the meeting. The Secretary of the Association shall convene a Special General Meeting of the Association upon the request of the Executive or upon the receipt of a request setting out the objects of such a meeting, signed by the Secretaries of at least three clubs.

Any Club more than four weeks in arrears of any dues shall not be entitled to vote at any Special General Meeting.

### **14. DELEGATES**

Each affiliated Club may appoint one delegate for each team registered with the Association at the conclusion of the previous season, to any Annual or Special General Meeting of the Association. New Clubs shall on affiliation be represented by one delegate only until the next Annual General Meeting. The names of all delegates must be supplied in writing to the Secretary of the Association at least three (3) days prior to the date of the General Meeting. If, for any unavoidable reason, the delegate cannot attend a meeting, the Club concerned must notify the Secretary of the Association in writing of the appointment of the substitute delegate.

## **15. METHOD OF VOTING**

- (a) At all meetings where delegates from Clubs are entitled to attend, each Club shall have the right to exercise one vote for every two teams, or fraction of two teams as recorded in the Association's register as participating in the competition at the conclusion of the previous season, with a maximum of three votes for any one Club.
- (b) The method of voting at any General Meeting of the Association shall be by a show of hands or by ballot as the Chairman of the Meeting shall decide.
- (c) Officers, Members of the Executive and Life Members shall be entitled to attend and vote at any General Meeting of the Association.
- (d) The President of the Association shall act as Chairman of all General Meetings of the Association. In his absence the Vice-President of the Association shall preside, and in his absence the Chairman of the Executive shall preside.
- (e) When names of the Club delegates are supplied to the Secretary of the Association as provided for in Rule 13, the names of the delegates appointed to exercise the Club's votes must also be supplied.
- (f) All matters submitted to the vote shall be determined on a majority of the votes recorded, except alteration or amendment to the Rules of the Association where the majority decision must be in accordance with Rule 12(b).
- (g) The Chairman of any General Meeting of the Association shall have a casting vote as well as a deliberative vote.

## **16. PERIOD OF OFFICE**

All Officers, Members of the Executive Committee, Members of the Junior Management Committee and Club delegates shall remain in office until their successors are appointed.

## **17. REGISTRATION OF UNIFORMS**

Every Club shall, on affiliation, register the uniform to be worn by its members and following approval by the Executive, such uniform shall not be worn by members of any other Club. Changes to the club uniform or parts thereof must be submitted to the Executive for approval and registration.

## **18. AFFILIATION**

Any Club desiring to affiliate with the Association shall provide the names of its President, Secretary and Treasurer on the prescribed form together with a copy of its Rules and By-Laws and may thereupon be accepted at the discretion of the Executive. Each Club shall provide the Association with a copy of its Annual Report and Balance Sheet by the 30th September each year.

## **19. JOINING AND RESIGNATION FROM THE ASSOCIATION**

- (a) Any organisation wishing to join the Association shall apply for registration and affiliation to the Association not later than the 1st October of the year, pay all registration and affiliation fees and levies as determined by the Executive and provide a deposit equivalent to the annual registration fee as a non refundable deposit.
- (b) Any Club seeking to resign from the Association is to advise the Executive prior to the 1st October, providing details of a statement of accounts and a list of financial and unfinancial players together with a summary of debtors and creditors. The Club must also provide a statement from an Annual or Special General Meeting of the Club winding up the Club with details of the method of disposal of assets. The meeting is to certify that the legal requirements of the Register of Societies and the Constitution of the Club have been met.

## **20. FINANCE**

- (a) The fees payable by Clubs from time to time shall be as follows;
  - (i) an annual affiliation fee of an amount to be decided from time to time by the Executive, shall be payable on application for membership no later than the 1<sup>st</sup> October each year.
  - (ii) Game fees for an amount to be decided from time to time by the Executive shall be payable for games played at dates to be decided by the Executive.
  - (iii) An annual registration fee of an amount to be decided from time to time by the Executive shall be payable in respect of each player entered in the Association's competitions by a date to be determined by the Executive each season. The fees being in proportion to the benefits obtained by the grade of the players being registered.
  - (iv) The Executive shall determine what fees are necessary for the promotion of softball amongst schoolchildren and these charges may be made on such a basis and at such times as may from time to time be determined by the Executive.
  - (v) Levies, fees and special levies imposed by the New Zealand Softball Association shall be charged on the same basis as that which is used by the New Zealand Softball Association for imposing a levy. The Executive may at their discretion decide that the levy be in proportion to the benefits obtained by the grade of the players being registered.
  - (vi) Any Club who is in arrears of annual levies and fees by the close of the Association's books at the 31st May each year, is deemed to be unfinancial and no longer an affiliated member of the Wellington Softball Association Inc. If, however, an individual member of an unfinancial club can satisfactorily prove to the Executive that they were financial with the said club prior to the 31st May, then the Executive may permit the transfer of that person to another existing club upon payment of such fee as the Executive may determine.

(vii) Such other special levies and charges as may be deemed necessary shall be made by the Executive pursuant to resolutions passed at a meeting of the Association, convened in accordance with Rules 11 and 12 of this Constitution.

(viii) Any Club which is more than four weeks (from the date of invoice) in arrears with any account with the Association:-

- will be charged a penalty of interest per annum on the outstanding amount; such interest to be set at the lending rate of the National Bank of New Zealand current on the 1st day of June of that season.
- in addition no team of a club in arrears will be permitted to attend tournaments outside of the area designated by the Wellington Executive.
- and any additional penalties the Executive deemed appropriate.

Any club which is a further four weeks (from the date of invoice), that is eight weeks in arrears with any account with the Association will be withdrawn from the competition until such times as the arrears are paid, and, any additional penalties the Executive deemed appropriate.

(ix) Clause 20 (viii) will not be imposed on any item of an account that is disputed by the Club concerned until after that dispute has been resolved and the account accepted by the Club. Where an account is disputed the Club must notify the Executive, in writing and within three weeks of receipt of the account, of the reasons for the dispute. An amount outstanding on a disputed account should not prevent that Club from exercising its voting rights at any General Meeting held during the period in which the account is in dispute.

If after a period of two months, the Club and the Association cannot come to agreement over the disputed account, the matter should be put to independent arbitration.

(x) The Executive may impose a levy on a club, clubs or member of the Association to recover expenses incurred by the Association

(xi) That all junior fees charged by the New Zealand Softball Association to the Wellington Softball Association be shared equally between all clubs of the Wellington Softball Association Inc.

as authorised by the Annual General Meeting or a Special General Meeting of the Association as convened under Clauses 12 and 13 of this Constitution and Rules.

- (b) All accounts payable by the Association shall be authorised for payment by the Executive and shall be paid by cheque.
- (c) The funds of the Association shall be paid into such certified Banks as may be decided by the Executive.
- (d) The Trustees of the funds of the Association shall be the President, the Vice-President, the Chairman, the Secretary and the Treasurer of the Association.

The Treasurer and one other Trustee shall be required to sign cheques and withdrawal forms.

- (e) The accounts of the Association shall be audited each year by the Honorary Auditor duly appointed at the Annual General Meeting of the Association. The Honorary Auditor shall be empowered from time to time to suggest the forms, books and methods to be followed in the performance of the Treasurer's duties.
- (f) An honorarium of such amount as may be fixed by the Executive from time to time may be granted as deemed necessary subject to approval by resolution of the Executive.
- (g) An annual grant of such amount as may be decided from time to time by the Executive may be made to the Wellington Softball Statisticians' Association and Wellington Softball Umpires' Association, to assist their members in the carrying out of their duties.
- (h) An annual grant of such amount as may be decided by the Executive from time to time may be made for the furtherance of the sport amongst schoolchildren within the boundaries of the Association as recognised by the New Zealand Softball Association.
- (i) The funds of the Association shall be devoted solely to the furtherance of the objects of the Association as set forth in these Rules.
- (j) Any financial account operated, or finance received by any sub-committee, by the Wellington Softball Umpires' Association or Wellington Statisticians' Association shall be administered and controlled in accordance with the Constitutions of their respective Associations, provided they are duly Incorporated and Registered, or in accordance with the Constitution of the Wellington Softball Association Inc.
- (k) No member of the organisation or any person associated with a member shall participate in or materially influence any decision made by the organisation in respect of the payment to or on behalf of that member or associated person of any income, benefit, or advantage whatsoever. Any such income paid shall be reasonable and relative to that which would be paid in an arm's length transaction (being the open market value). The provision and effect of this clause shall not be removed from this document, and shall be included and implied into any document replacing this document.

## **21. POWERS AND DUTIES OF THE JUNIOR MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

- (a) To arrange, control and regulate competitions for all junior schoolchildren registered in accordance with the Rules of the Association. Such games to be played on Saturday mornings unless special circumstances require games at other times. These games to be played in two competition zones, Western Bays and Wellington. The Western Bays area shall be all the area (within the Wellington Softball Association's boundaries), which lies to the north of the Wellington Railway Station. The Wellington area shall be all that area (within the Wellington Softball Association's boundaries) which lies to the south of the

Wellington Railway Station. The Executive Committee shall have the power to determine which Clubs and which areas or suburbs shall be zoned into each zone.

- (b) To form two Sub-Committees, one for each zone, made up of representatives of each Club within each zone. The Sub-Committees to carry out such functions within their zone as the Junior Management Committee determines which are to be recorded in the Minutes of the Junior Management Committee.
- (c) To fill any vacancy which may occur on the Junior Management Committee. Members so appointed shall have the same status as members elected at an Annual General Meeting.
- (d) To appoint a Secretary whose duties shall be to record the Minutes of each meeting held by the Committee and carry out all other secretarial functions associated with the Committee duties. All Minutes to be forwarded to the Secretary of the Association within seven days of the meeting, with copies of all correspondence dealt with. The Minutes or other such information as may be from time to time supplied shall be forwarded to all Clubs by the Secretary of the Association.
- (e) To elect a Chairman from the Junior Management Committee who shall have a casting as well as a deliberative vote at all Junior Management Committee meetings.
- (f) To appoint a representative from the Junior Management Committee to take the seat on the Executive set aside for that purpose.
- (g) To recommend to the Executive the appointment of such officials it deems necessary for the control, selection and coaching of junior representative teams.
- (h) To recommend to the Executive such improvements it deems necessary for the further advancement of softball among schoolchildren.
- (i) The Junior Management Committee shall meet at least monthly or more frequently as required during the softball season.
- (j) To recommend to the Executive closing dates for Club and Team nominations.
- (k) Any funds or monies paid to or received by the Junior Management Committee or either of the two Sub-Committees shall be recorded and paid to the Treasurer of the Association. At the discretion of the Executive either of the Sub-Committees may be given financial authority, to raise funds or levies to meet the expenses of the Junior Schoolchildren's softball in their respective zones. Such authorisation will require the Sub-Committee to pay such funds into certified Banks and for the accounts to be authorised by Trustees appointed by the Executive. The accounts are to be considered to be part of the Wellington Softball Association and be subject to audit in accordance with Clause 20 of this Constitution.

## **22. INDEMNITY CLAUSE**

The Executive Committee and Officers of the Association shall be indemnified by the Association against all losses and expenses incurred in and about the discharge of their duties except such as happen through their own neglect or fault. No member of the Executive shall be responsible for any other member of the Executive, any officer, clerk or servant of the Association or for any loss caused through or by the insufficiency or deficiency of value or of title to any property or security acquired by the Association or through the bankruptcy or tortuous act of any customer or debtor of the Association or by anything done in the execution of their office or duties or in relation thereto and otherwise than their own willful act or neglect.

## **23. SEASON**

The season shall, weather permitting, commence not later than the last Saturday in the month of October each year and conclude not earlier than the last Saturday in March of each year.

## **24. MISCONDUCT**

In all cases of alleged misconduct by any Club, player or official, the Executive shall hold an inquiry within ten days of the date of such incident being brought to its attention. Any such Club, player or official shall have the right to appear before the Executive at such an inquiry in order to present the evidence in the matter.

## **25. SUSPENSION OR EXPULSION**

In the event of any infringement by Clubs, players or officials of any of the Rules, Regulations or By-Laws of the Association, the offending party shall be liable to suspension or expulsion from the Association. The Executive shall be empowered to suspend any Club, player or official under this rule until such time as a Special General Meeting of the Association can be constitutionally convened to consider the action of the Executive. Nothing in this section shall be deemed to prevent the Executive from suspending any Club, player or official for failing to meet financial obligations to the Association or from acting in accordance with the powers conferred upon it under Clause 9 (c) of these Rules.

## **26. REPRESENTATIVE TEAMS**

- (a) The representative colours of the Association shall be black and gold.
- (b) The representative uniform shall be as specified by the Executive.
- (c) The representative teams of the Association shall consist of players registered in accordance with these rules and no person shall be selected who is not an active and financial member of an affiliated Club.

- (d) The representative blazer and monogram shall be as specified by the Executive. Application for permission to purchase a representative blazer monogram shall be made in writing to the Secretary of the Association.

## **27. NEW ZEALAND SOFTBALL ASSOCIATION**

Where the words "New Zealand Softball Association" appear in these Rules, they shall be taken to mean the Association to which the Wellington Softball Association is affiliated.

## **28. ALTERATIONS TO THE RULES OF THE ASSOCIATION**

No alterations or amendment to any part of the Rules of the Association may be made except with the consent of three-fifths of the members present at an Annual General Meeting or a Special General Meeting of the Association. The provisions and effect of this clause shall not be removed from this document and shall be included and implied into any document replacing this document

## **29. WINDING UP OF THE ASSOCIATION**

The Association may be wound up at an Annual General Meeting if the Meeting passes a resolution requiring the Association to be so wound up, and the resolution is confirmed at a subsequent General Meeting called for the purpose and held not earlier than THIRTY days after the date on which the resolution so to be confirmed was passed. Notice of any such meeting shall be sent to the Registrar of Incorporated Societies.

Upon winding up, the surplus assets, after payment of all costs, debts and liabilities shall be disposed of to an organisation with similar interests in accordance with the directions given by the General Meeting which confirms that resolution to wind up. The surplus assets shall not be paid or distributed among members of the association.

If upon the winding up or dissolution of the organisation there remains after the satisfaction of all its debts and liabilities any property whatsoever the same shall not be paid to or distributed among the members of the organisation but shall be given or transferred to some other organisation or body having objects similar to the objects of the first organisation, or to some other charitable organisation or purpose, within New Zealand.

**CHAMPIONSHIP PLAYING RULES  
ADMINISTRATION RULES  
AND BY-LAWS**

**Revised at 12 August 2003**

- 1.** The entire control and management of all competitions shall be vested in the Executive Committee of the Wellington Softball Association Inc. (hereinafter referred to as the Executive).
- 2.** All games shall be played under the Official Rules of Softball as defined from time to time by the New Zealand Softball Association and printed in the Official Rule Book and consolidated Interpretations.
- 3.** Any breach of these rules shall, unless otherwise stated, be dealt with under the disciplinary clauses of the Constitution of this Association.
- 4.** The Executive shall have the power to add, delete or amend any of these Championship Rules, Administration Rules and By-Laws as may be deemed necessary and desirable and such alterations shall be listed in the minutes of the Executive meeting at which such amendments or additions are made and shall be forwarded to all Clubs and interested parties on a separate form to enable the amendments to be made to the copies of these rules which they are holding.
- 5.** (a) Uniforms. All players on a team shall wear uniforms alike in colour, style, trim and be of the registered uniform of their Club as approved by the Executive in accordance with Rule 16 of the Constitution of the Association.  
  
(b) Headwear is optional. Players may choose to wear an approved softball cap or visor, a neatly made headband or wear no headgear.

NB. A club with two approved strips cannot mix the uniforms of a team in a competition game.

- 6.** The competitions shall be open to all clubs qualified in accordance with the rules of this Association.
- 7.** (a) All competitions shall be contested by teams as graded by the Executive and the winners of the various grades shall be decided in the manner determined by the Executive.  
  
(b) The Club Championship will be awarded to the Club with a minimum of three teams earning the highest percentage points on teams entered.
- 8.** (a) Each Club desiring to compete in the competitions shall, on or before the date fixed by the Executive, advise the Secretary of the Association on the prescribed form the number of teams which it wishes to enter into the prescribed grades. The Executive shall have the right to either accept or refuse such applications, either as a whole or in part.  
  
(b) The grading of teams as nominated by Clubs shall be approved by the Executive, providing always that:
  - (i) The number of teams in men's and women's Premier grades shall not exceed ten but this may be reduced to eight by the Executive. Promotion from one grade to another may be by way of a promotion relegation series or by automatic promotion as may be decided by the Executive from time to time.

- (ii) Notwithstanding the provisions of the previous sub-clause, the Executive shall be empowered to fill any vacancy caused through withdrawal, or any other reason, by the promotion of such teams as may be decided by the Executive.
- (iii) Where, in the opinion of the Executive, there are not sufficient entries for any one grade, the Executive shall have the power to place such entries in a grade which shall satisfy the interests of all concerned.
- (iv) Where, in the opinion of the Executive, the number of entries in any one grade is excessive the Executive shall be empowered to divide such grades and sections, or promote or regrade any teams as it may from time to time decide.

- 9.** (a) Every person (player or official) taking part in any competition game must be registered with the Association by the date fixed by the Executive.

No player or official shall be deemed to be registered until his or her name has been included on the prescribed form and deposited with the Secretary of the Association. Provisional registrations may be effected by entering the names of players on the back of a team sheet, and must be signed by players and captain. This must be followed up on the prescribed form as described above.

- (b) In certain circumstances, block registrations for any one team may be approved by the Executive, but such registrations must be the subject of a separate application for each team concerned and shall be subject to any special conditions that the Executive may decide. Any block registration of teams shall apply only for the season in which the application is made. No precedent shall be taken or assumed for any such applications approved or declined by the Executive.
- (c) In the event of any one player being registered by two or more Clubs, the first application for registration received by the Secretary of the Association shall take precedence.
- (d) The failure of a team to be registered or playing an unregistered or unauthorised player will result in the forfeiture of all games and points played to that date and for any additional penalties the Executive may decide.

- 10.** No person shall be eligible to participate in any competition game unless:

- (a) Such a player is a resident of the Wellington District as defined in the Constitution of the New Zealand Softball Association Inc.
- (b) The Executive shall be the sole judge of residential qualifications and shall be empowered to grant dispensation from this rule as it deems necessary and desirable.
- (c) No Club team shall field, or have on the team sheet for any particular game, more than two overseas players.

(d) An overseas player is deemed to be a player not normally resident in New Zealand and is registered with an overseas Softball Federation or Association. A New Zealand citizen registered with an overseas Softball Federation or Association who has not been in residence in New Zealand for a period in excess of three years shall be deemed for the purposes of this rule to be an overseas player. An overseas player domiciled in New Zealand and been a resident in New Zealand for the full preceding twelve months shall be deemed to be a local player for competition under the control of the Wellington Softball Association Inc.

**11.** Any player duly registered in accordance with these rules shall be at liberty to play in the competitions in any team entered by the player's Club in any grade provided always that:

(a) Where the Club has more than one team in any one grade, such teams shall be deemed to be in different Clubs and any player who has been registered to play in one team shall not be permitted to play in any other team in that grade without the prior consent of the Executive.

(b) When a player has played three games in any one grade, that grade shall be deemed to be that player's grading from the time of the player's participation in the third game in that grade and that player shall not be permitted to play in any lower graded team without the prior consent of the Executive, except that a regrade shall not be required between the two top teams in any Club, provided always that a higher graded pitcher does not pitch in a lower graded game and;

(i) in the event of a player being required to play his or her third game in any higher grade on the same day and prior to the time of the game in the grade in which the player has been registered, such player shall be permitted to take part in the later lower grade game and the provisions of the preceding clause shall not apply until after that game.

(ii) consent for a player to play in a game in a lower grade shall lapse if the player shall play in a game in a grade higher than that to which the player has been regraded.

(iii) where a player is required by his or her Club to fill a vacancy caused by the absence of another player in a higher grade participating in an official representative game, such higher grade game shall not affect the status of the lower graded player.

(iv) there shall be a free interchange of players between the top two teams of a club except:

(v) a higher grade pitcher and catcher shall not pitch or catch in a lower grade game;

(vi) there is no restriction on a lower grade player moving between the two top teams;

(vii) a higher grade player can not play in a lower graded team if he/she has played in a higher grade in the playing week;

(viii) the playing week commences on a Monday and ends on a Sunday night;

- (ix) sub clauses 11(a) and (b) still apply.
- (c) Teams playing in a Promotion/Relegation or Championship Playoff series shall comprise players who are registered in the grade concerned and who should not have played more than three games at higher level during the season in which the series is played. Any player on transfer into a club shall not be eligible to play in a Promotion/Relegation or Championship Playoff series within one month (30 days) of the transfer being approved by the Executive and be resident in the greater Wellington area for a period of not less than 21 days prior to a promotion / relegation or championship play-off, semi-final or final game(s) and have played a minimum of 3 games in the Wellington Competition and the player shall not have played more than three games at a higher level during the season within New Zealand.
- (d) For the purposes of this rule, where a grade is divided into sections or parts, such sections or parts shall be deemed to be separate grades and the prior consent of the Executive shall be required before transfers between such sections or parts will be permitted.
- (e) Each player shall be entitled to one regrade per season and no more. (Regrading necessary at the commencement of a season shall not be deemed to be a regrade for the purpose of this sub-clause).
- (f) Any player in breach of this rule will result in the team's points for games played being forfeit and any other penalty that the Executive may so decide.

- 12.** (a) Any player wishing to transfer membership from one Club to another within the Association shall apply to the Secretary of the Association on the prescribed form which must be completed by all parties of both Clubs concerned and deposited with the Secretary of the Association, or with any member of the Executive prior to that player's participation in any competition game for the Club to which he or she wishes to transfer. A transfer fee which shall from time to time be prescribed by the Executive shall be payable for all such transfers.

A Club meeting expenses, providing financial assistance by advancing money as a loan, travel, accommodation, employment or providing equipment, uniforms or any other items of value to the Club, must obtain a signature on a legally constituted contract between the player and the Club if they wish to bond the player to the Club for any period.

The approval to transfer should not be withheld by the Club from which the player wishes to transfer unless the player has not fulfilled his or her financial or other such obligations to that Club.

Only in extreme circumstances will more than one transfer per player per season be permitted. An application must be supported, in writing, by a detailed account of the circumstances. Such account must be furnished by the player requiring the transfer.

- (b) Any player wishing to transfer membership from one Club outside the Association to a Club within the Association shall apply to the Secretary of the Association on the prescribed New Zealand Softball Association form which gives the following information:

- (i) the Association in which the applicant last played;
  - (ii) the Club for which the applicant last played;
  - (iii) the season in which the applicant last played;
  - (iv) the Club for which the applicant intends to play.
- (c) It is the responsibility of the applicant to gain all clearances required on the prescribed form.
- (d) Prior to the receipt of the duly signed transfer application form the applicant may make written application to the Association for a provisional clearance to play. Upon receipt of such application the Executive may grant permission to play for three weeks from the date of consideration. The dates for which permission applies shall be specified by the Executive. In the event of delay in receipt of the duly signed transfer form the applicant may make further application to the Executive for an extension of the time for which he or she is permitted to play. Such application for extension should be made in writing and should be considered by the Executive Committee at the next available meeting.

If the time limit of the provisional clearance has expired the applicant should not play until an application for an extension is considered by the Executive and has been granted.

- (e) A player's transfer to another club shall be effective once the transfer has been approved by the Executive, registered with the Association and participated in one official Wellington Softball Association game for the new club.
- (f) A player who has transferred out of the Wellington Association during a season will not be permitted to transfer back into the Wellington Association in the same season unless that player is returning to his or her original Wellington Club or has fulfilled a twenty-eight day registration period in the other Association before applying to return.
- (g) All applications for transfer must be received by the Secretary, Wellington Softball Association completed by the 1st December, with the exception of:
- (i) a player who has not registered or played for a Club in the current season;
  - (ii) a player transferring from another Association, who may lodge an application at any time.
- (h) Any player in breach of this rule will be deemed to be an unregistered player and all games in which he/she has participated will be declared forfeit with the subsequent loss of points and in extraordinary circumstances, other penalties that the Executive may decide.

**13.** Any player intending to travel overseas to play softball as an individual shall:

- (b) obtain a clearance from his/her Club, and
- (c) obtain a clearance from his/her Association, and
- (d) obtain a clearance from the New Zealand Softball Association who shall in turn advise the player's intended host country accordingly.

The issuing of a clearance will show that the player has fulfilled his/her financial and contractual obligations to his/her Club. Any caveats or arrangements between the parties are to be documented in a legally binding contract and any subsequent disputes will be settled in a legal setting.

- 14.** Any Club which permits an unregistered or unauthorised player or official, any suspended player or official to play in any of their teams in any game under the jurisdiction of this Association, shall forfeit any points gained in such games and any additional penalties that the Executive deems necessary.
- 15.**
- (a) The Captains of all competing teams shall, prior to the commencement of any competition game, hand to the umpire officiating at that game an official Team Sheet which shall correctly list, in the batting order, the names of the players to take the diamond for the commencement of the game. All entries in the Team Sheet must be printed in block capitals and should include both forenames and surnames and all players must be registered with the Association.
  - (b) Players may be substituted during the game in accordance with the Official Rule Book and the name of the players shall be added to the official Team Sheet, stating the innings at which the substitution was made, but the original name listed must not be deleted from it.
  - (c) The fielding positions shall be listed in the column provided on the Team Sheet and it shall be signed by the captain and the person authorised to protest during the game.
  - (d) Club result sheets shall be forwarded to the Secretary of the Association within 48 hours of the time of the game being played. Failure to supply a result sheet may result in a loss of Championship points and the imposition of a penalty fine determined by the Executive at the start of the season.
  - (e) The registration of players on the Team Sheet will be a true record of the players participating and the false recording of a name will be deemed to be in breach of the playing rules and will attract a penalty appropriate to the offense which will at least be a forfeiture of the game and other penalties as the Executive may decide.
- 16.** After notifying the Plate Umpire, any accredited member of the Association shall, at the request of the batting side, be entitled to assist with the coaching of any team in the competitions. Umpires may direct Coaches and Coachers to wear distinctive and conservative apparel whilst so occupying the Coacher's boxes. For the purpose of this rule distinctive and conservative apparel shall be defined by the following minimum standard:
- (a) full team uniform;

- (b) full team uniform with distinctive Club jacket or blazer;
  - (c) sportswear: plain shirt, long trousers (not jeans), half hose, shoes (not jandals);
  - (d) sportswear: plain shirt, dress shorts, three quarter hose, shoes.
- 17.** (a) Every competing team shall wear the registered official uniform of their Club, provide the usual playing equipment in good order and condition and a scorebook and scorer and in the event of a game not being played or completed due to the failure of one or both teams to provide such equipment the Executive shall impose the following penalties as deemed necessary:
- The forfeiture of the championship points for the game by one or both teams and/or the imposition of a fine on one or both offending teams.
- (b) All competition games shall be played using an official softball.
  - (c) All batters and base runners in games at Representative level, in Premier grades and such other grades as determined by the Executive, must wear approved batting helmets. Helmets should be in good condition and umpires shall have the right to remove an unsafe helmet from the game.
- 18.** (a) All competition games shall commence at the advertised time and Premier graded teams not fielding nine registered players or teams below not fielding eight registered players on the playing ground ready for play at the advertised time, shall incur a penalty of one run for every five minutes or part thereof that they are unable to field a team, with a maximum of three penalty runs. Teams in lower grades may start with eight players and add the ninth on arrival or the game may be completed with eight players. In either case there is no penalty.
- (b) Any team which does not field the number of players as provided above, 15 minutes after the advertised time shall be regarded as having lost the game by default and shall be liable for the payment of a fine determined from time to time by the Executive.
  - (c) Any team winning a game by default in the foregoing circumstances shall furnish the umpire, at the team line-up (which shall be called at the advertised time) with a properly completed Team Sheet which the umpire shall appropriately endorse and hand to the Captain of the team winning by default. Such completed card should be forwarded to the Association with Club result sheets.
  - (d) Where neither team has sufficient players under the provisions of Clause (a) of this Rule, the umpire shall take the time for enforcing Clause (a) of this Rule from the time either team has sufficient players to commence the game, provided always that where one team has not sufficient players 16 minutes after the advertised starting time, then that team shall lose by default.
  - (e) Provided that a Club advises the cancellation officer appointed by the Executive by 5pm on the Monday preceding the date on which the games are scheduled to be played, that any one of the Club's teams will not be able to participate in a game drawn for the scheduled day then no penalty will be imposed. If a notification of a default is received later than 5pm on the preceding Monday, the club concerned will be liable for a fine determined by the Executive.

- (f) The Club team named first in any fixture published under the authority of the Wellington Softball Association shall provide bases, home plate and pitching plate for the scheduled game.
- (g) There will be no warm-ups on the diamond prior to any game and the pitcher will be permitted to have only five warm-up pitches prior to the start of a game and three warm-up pitches between each innings. A substitute pitcher will be permitted to have five warm-up pitches prior to his or her commencement in the game and thereafter only three warm-up pitches between innings.
- (h) A time limit will apply to all grades other than Major grades. The time of a game will be one and three-quarter hours (1 hour and 45 minutes). If a game is the first scheduled on a diamond on any particular day, that game will be regarded as starting at the time scheduled on the draw and the time will be taken from that scheduled time. If a game is the second or any subsequent game on the diamond on a particular day, the game will be timed from the actual start time of the game. The umpire will be the sole judge of time. If an innings is started then that innings must be completed and there should be no stopping of the innings and returning to the score at the end of the previous innings. An innings should not be commenced if there is insufficient time to complete the whole innings.

If a game is drawn when the time limit is reached then it must be played out for a result by the introduction of a tie-breaker.

- (i) If, after the completion of seven innings, the score is tied, the following tie-breaker will be played to determine a winning team:

Starting with the top of the eighth innings, and each half inning thereafter the offensive team shall begin its turn at the bat with the player who is scheduled to bat ninth in the respective half inning being placed on second base.

- (j) The Designated Hitter (DH) and/or Designated Player (DP) may be used in all afternoon grades. The DH should be entered in the score book and on the team sheet in the manner prescribed in the official Rule Book of the New Zealand Softball Association. The DH cannot field and the person DH'd cannot bat.
- (k) The winning team must notify the result of the game within 48 hours of the finish of the game by returning the Team Sheet duly certified by the umpire to the Association rooms at Hataitai Park. All Major A results are to be telephoned through to the Association at the completion of the game. The failure to notify results and the returning of the Team Sheet within the specified time will result in the imposition of a fine determined by the Executive at the start of the season and the loss of game points for the infringing club(s).
- (l) In the event an umpire is not appointed to a game, or an umpire fails to appear at a game, both teams will mutually agree on an umpire to control the game, but if they fail to do so, then each team will appoint an umpire to officiate on an innings by innings basis.

**19.** Any team having three or more members included in any representative team, may apply to the Association to have a bye for that day. Such games as the Executive may deem necessary shall be played on the days when Representative games are being played.

- 20.** The winning team shall be responsible for the collection and return of all ground appurtenances to the appointed storage places, the securing of changing rooms and turning off of all lights on the respective grounds. Failure to comply with this rule will render Clubs liable for the imposition of a fine determined by the Executive for each breach of this rule.
- 21.** A Club which has a Premier men's team, or a Premier women's team must fill in that team first from their lower graded teams.
- 22.** Any one Club team, whether morning or afternoon grade, which is defaulted three times during any one season will be regarded as being withdrawn from the competition and that team's status in the grade will be forfeited.
- 23.** Only the person nominated on the official Team Sheet as the Official permitted to protest or as the Team Captain shall have the right to approach Umpires during a game with an appeal in connection with decisions made by the Umpire.
- 24.** Any protest relating to the state of the ground or the condition of the playing equipment shall not be sustained by the Executive unless a protest has been lodged with the Umpire prior to the commencement of the game.
- 25.** (a) Any Club may lodge a protest with the Secretary of the Association in respect of any breach of any laws of the game or any by-laws, rules or standing orders of this Association. Any protest in respect of the aforementioned matters shall be forwarded in writing on the prescribed form, setting out all the relevant details of the alleged breach, to the Secretary of the Association and a duplicate copy of the protest shall be forwarded to all interested parties in the matter. (These to include the Umpire of the game and the opposing team's Club).  
  
(b) Any protest shall be made within 48 hours of the time of the incident and must be accompanied by a fee determined by the Executive which shall be forfeited or refunded as may be decided by the Executive.  
  
(c) All protests must be lodged in accordance with Clause 8 Section (f) of the Constitution of the Association provided always that protests involving the interpretation of the Playing Rules shall be lodged in accordance with the provisions of Rule 11 Section 4 of the Official Rule Book and all protests involving the interpretation of the playing rules shall be dealt with under the provisions of Rule 11 of the Official Rule Book.
- 26.** No smoking shall be allowed on the field of play.
- 27.** No intoxicating liquor shall be permitted on any softball ground, before, during or after any softball game or at any other time while teams and grounds are under the jurisdiction of this Association. Any breach of this rule shall be dealt with under the disciplinary rules of this Association.
- 28.** Personal barracking by both batting and fielding teams will not be permitted and no offensive behaviour or language is to be used. The penalty for such behaviour will be suspension from the game and conditions required under Rule 29 will apply.

Umpires (Officials) may issue a warning to any player or official for misbehaviour or offensive language on or in the vicinity of the playing area, by the display of a yellow or red card. The display of a yellow card twice in a game to a player or official means the automatic issue of a red card. The display of a yellow card four times in a season provides an automatic standing down of two games and appearance before the Executive of the WSA for any additional penalties the Executive may consider necessary. The display of a red card is deemed to be the ordering off of a player or official from the game and the automatic standing down for one (the next) game and the appearance before the Executive of the Association for any additional penalties that may be deemed necessary.

If the Umpire has not immediately available a red or yellow card the issue or display of the card can be given verbally. The Umpires must record the issue or display of any warning on the team card and forward a report in writing to the Association.

- 29.** When in the course of his duties in control of a game under the jurisdiction of the Association, an Umpire (whether a member of the Wellington Softball Umpires' Association or a player umpire) orders from the playing field any player or official affiliated to this Association the following procedure will be adopted.
- (a) The player or official so ordered off shall appear before the Executive of this Association by 6pm on the evening of the next Executive meeting and shall be entitled to show reason why he or she should not be dealt with in accordance with the disciplinary rules of this Association.
  - (b) The Umpire shall ascertain the name of the player or official ordered off and shall forward this to the Secretary of the Association together with a written account of the circumstances under which the ordering off took place. These shall be forwarded to reach the Secretary of the Association within 48 hours of the incident.
  - (c) The Umpire shall attend the next Executive meeting, if considered necessary by the Executive at 6pm in order to clarify any points not made clear in the written account and to furnish such further information as may be required.
  - (d) In the event of the player or official ordered off failing to appear before the Executive as required by Clause (a) of this Rule, the said player or official shall be suspended from participation in any of the activities of the Association until such time as he or she does appear.
  - (e) Special meetings of the Executive shall not be called to hear evidence from the player or official or umpire unless special circumstances prohibit either party from attending a scheduled Executive meeting and if deemed necessary and desirable by the Executive.
- 30.** Any player, official, club or team deemed to be in breach of the Code of Conduct or conduct that is considered detrimental to the game of softball shall be called to appear before the Executive at a date and time specified by the Secretary of the Association to show reason why they, he or she should not be dealt with in accordance with the disciplinary rules of this Association. (Clause 8(u) of the Constitution applies).

In the event of the player, official, club or team failing to appear before the Executive

at the date and time specified the said player, official, club or team shall be suspended from participation in any of the activities of the Association until such time as he, she or they do appear.

Special meetings of the Executive shall not be called to hear evidence from the player, official, club or team unless special circumstances are deemed to make this necessary by the Executive.

- 31.** All games will be controlled by an umpire. An umpire is deemed to be the person designated by the Executive to control the game. An umpire can be an official of the Umpires Association or a player/umpire designated for this purpose. Where a club is directed to provide a player/umpire, the club has the responsibility of ensuring the task is completed and that the person(s) so nominated has the knowledge and ability to control the game either on base or plate. Where a club fails to provide or the nominated player/umpire fails to control the game, the club will be fined or other penalties the Executive may direct.

An official umpire or player umpire has the authority vested in them under the Official Playing Rules to discipline players or officials in a game (including ordering off). Any player or official ordered off must appear before the next meeting of the Executive of the Wellington Softball Association.

Where an umpire fails to appear for a game the two team coaches will agree on a person(s) to umpire the game. If no agreement can be reached each coach will rotate as umpire. A game cannot be abandoned because no umpire is available.

Failure to umpire a game will result in a penalty decided by the Wellington Softball Association.

Where an umpire fails to appear for the game the situation must be reported in writing to the Secretary of the Association within 48 hours.

- 32.** Clubs shall notify the Executive of the Wellington Softball Association by the 1st September of any unfinancial players from within their club from the previous financial season. Failure to notify the Wellington Softball Association shall result in the forfeiture of any further rights by the club and shall be seen to have accepted players of the club having fulfilled their financial obligations to the club.
- 33.** Immediately any player fails in his or her obligations to the Club of which he or she is a duly registered member, the Club concerned must protect its interest, advise the Secretary of the Association that the person concerned is unfinancial and will not be given a clearance to transfer to another Club upon request. The name of the player shall be entered into a book, kept for that purpose by the Secretary of the Association and at the same time shall advise the player's name to the New Zealand Softball Association. The player's name shall not be removed from the book until a written clearance has been forwarded by the Club which originally notified the Association of the player's default.
- 34.** To qualify for the award of the Association Blazer Monogram a player must participate in twenty (20) Premier representative fixtures. Players must apply to the Executive for the award of the Monogram and must support their applications with a statement of the seasons in which they participated.

**35.** Clubs wishing to engage in fixtures which are not scheduled by the Executive, must first obtain permission from the Executive to play in such fixtures. The Clubs involved in fixtures not scheduled by the Executive shall be responsible for all costs incurred. In seeking such permission a Club must provide the following details: Teams playing, venue, dates, names of managers and, in the case of women's teams traveling away from home, the name of chaperones.

**36.** The schoolchildren's competition shall be administered in accordance with Rule 19 of the Association Constitution and Championship Rules and By-Laws. Exceptions to the Championship Rules and By-Laws are provided for in the following sections:

- (a) Registration fees payable in respect of schoolchildren's teams shall be determined by the Wellington Softball Association.
- (b) Schoolchildren's grades shall be established as follows:

BOYS	GIRLS
Open	Open
Under 14 years	Under 12 & 13 years
Under 13 years	Under 10 & 11 years
Under 12 years	
Under 11 years	
Under 10 years	

All schoolchildren shall be graded as per Clause 35 (b) according to their age on the 31st December of the year in which the season commences.

- (c) Pitching distances and base line lengths shall be as follows:

<b>Grade</b>	<b>Pitching Distance</b>	<b>Baseline</b>
Under 10 Boys, Under 11 Girls	10 metres	14 metres
Under 11 & 12 Boys, Under 13 Girls	11 metres	14 metres
Under 13 Boys, Open Girls	12 metres	18 metres
Open Boys	14 metres	18.3 metres

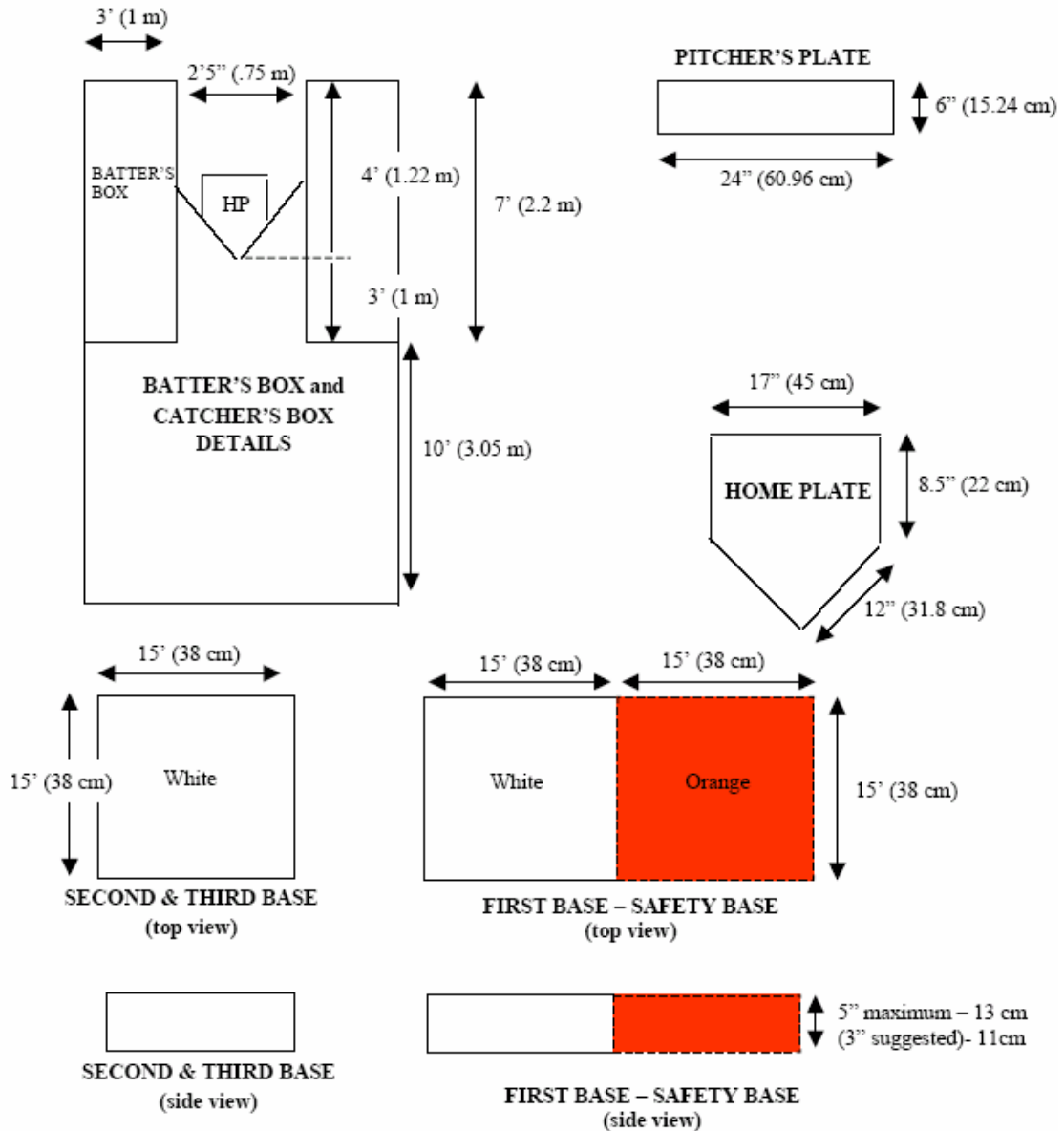
- (d) Open grade boys and girls must use an official softball (12 inches), other grades may use either 10 inch or 12 inch balls.
- (e) Schoolchildren must wear soft footwear (sand shoes or similar).
- (f) Catchers **MUST** wear an adequate mask while they are in the catcher's box. Girls who are catching must wear, in addition, an adequate chest protector while in the catcher's box.
- (g) Schoolchildren who are participating in afternoon grades should be discouraged from taking part in the morning grades.
- (h) Unless result sheets are received by the Secretary of the Association within eight (8) days of the day of a game, all championship points won on that day by the offending Club will be forfeit.

- (i) Permission for schoolchildren's teams to travel and participate in fixtures away from home must be obtained from the Executive as provided for in Championship Rule 34.



# NEW ZEALAND SOFTBALL ASSOCIATION INC.

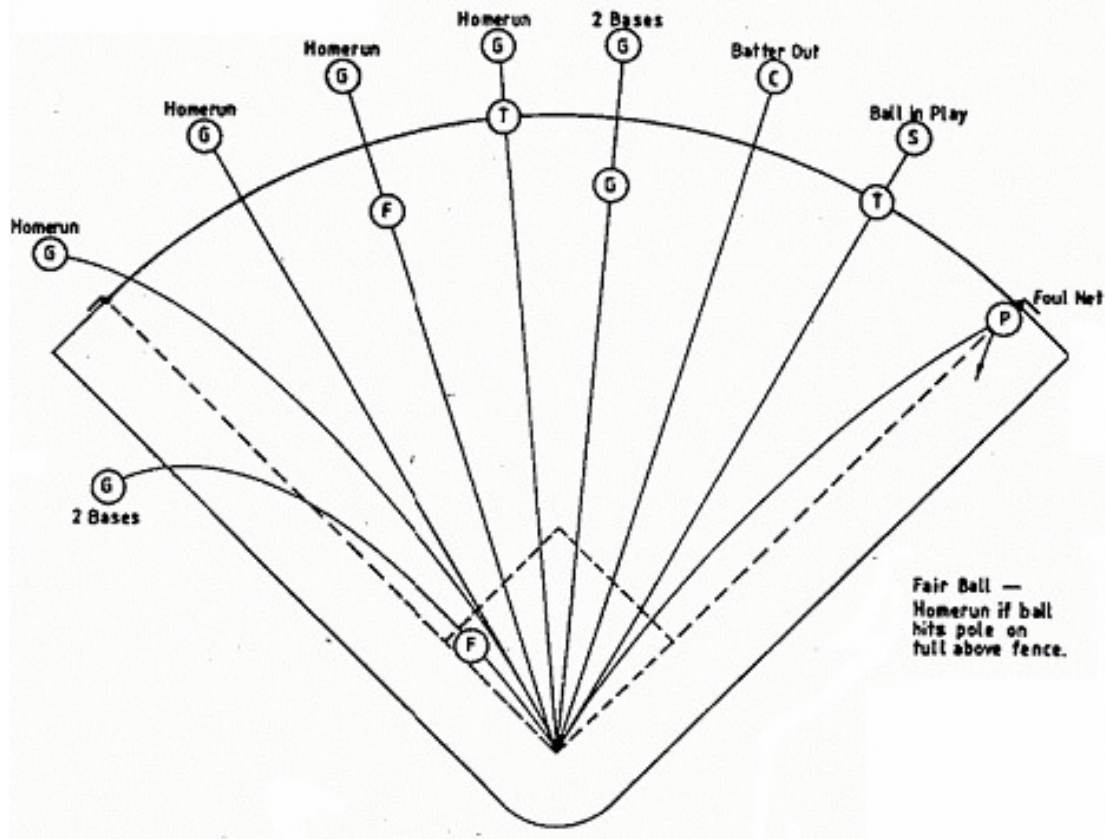
## 31. BASE PLATE AND BATTERS BOX MEASUREMENTS



# NEW ZEALAND SOFTBALL ASSOCIATION INC.

## 32. BALLPARK RULES

- C: Ball legally caught by fielder not touching ground beyond fence.
- F: Ball touches fielder.
- G: Ball touches ground.
- S: Ball securely held by fielder.
- T: Ball touches fence.
- P: Ball touches foul pole.



### **33. CODE OF CONDUCT**

Disciplinary action may be taken against any player, member or team while either playing in the local competition or representatively, from reports or complaints of unacceptable behaviour received by the Wellington Softball Association.

**All players and officials shall take positive steps to maintain the high reputation of the game of Softball.**

**The Code shall apply to persons from the Wellington Softball Association whilst associated with or playing In any Wellington Representative teams or any teams affiliated to the Wellington Softball Association.**

Unacceptable behaviour includes any conduct in breach of the following rules:

- (a) Players must not assault, or attempt an assault or otherwise threaten any player, umpire, official or spectator.
- (b) Players must not abuse or dispute, as distinct from question, an umpire's decision, or react in an obvious provocative or disapproving manner following an umpiring decision.
- (c) Players must not use abusive language.
- (d) Players must not use crude or abusive hand signals.

**Note: Before reporting any player for the above type of behaviour an umpire, acting either on his/her own volition or on a complaint from another player, would be expected to have first cautioned the player and to have advised that player's captain of his/her concern. A player, before reporting any other player, would be expected to have firstly lodged an initial complaint with the umpire.**

- (e) Smoking and drinking alcohol on the field of play is at all times prohibited and this applies to player/umpires whilst they are officiating.
- (f) Players must not engage in public acts of misconduct or unruly public behaviour whilst representing Wellington or their Club.