



## National Umpiring Program Memo

Date 04/06/2023

**To all Softball Australia WBSC Certified Umpires and International Development Squad.**

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**Subject: WBSC International Umpire Selection Update**

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The WBSC has announced that it will follow the International Olympic Committee recommendations on governance regarding sport integrity, bribery, match fixing etc. and this will affect how the WBSC appoints officials to World Cups in the areas of Technical Committees, Technical Directors, Statisticians, Tournament Umpire Directors and Umpires to ensure the sport has impartial officials.

This change impacts the current selection process ([Softball Australia International Umpire Selection Process and Development Pathway](#)) for Australian umpires wishing to attend WBSC World Cups and Qualifiers.

The following points provide a summary of policies and associated changes as we know, at this point:

- The selection for World Cups, Continental Cups or Qualifiers is the responsibility of the WBSC and selection input from Federations is not required.
- WBSC requires already certified/licenced WBSC umpires to sit and pass the WBSC rules assessment in the period of each new rule book, pass the published WBSC fitness test, submit a positive report on the umpire's on-field performance, and include an acknowledgement of a positive relationship with the federation (Softball Australia), endorsed by the federation's representative and/or National Umpire In Chief (NUIC).
- The Softball Australia (SA) NUIC-WBSC will maintain a list of Australian WBSC accredited and current (2022-2025) recertified WBSC qualified umpires.
- The SA NUIC – WBSC will update the WBSC with information on current and re-accredited WBSC umpires.
- The SA NUIC-WBSC will keep the reports from umpires attending certification clinics or World Cup and International events.





- The WBSC will keep reports and overall performance scores from certification clinics and WBSC International World Cups and Qualifiers.
- The WBSC *may* request a list of names from the Federation through the Softball Australia Representative or the NUIC-WBSC for upcoming tournaments. If so, the NUIC-WBSC will supply these to WBSC with a brief statement of their currency, on diamond evaluations, reports and their personal development. This will include their standing within the Softball Umpiring Program.
- SA will continue to work with, and request, the WBSC to recognise umpires that are in the pathway and show the ability and tenacity to be appointed to World Cups.
- The WBSC reserves the right to select any umpire from the list of certified umpires for any World Cup or Qualifier.
- The WBSC will advise the successful umpire directly, with Softball Australia being advised after the appointment.
- This appointment announcement is embargoed by all parties and cannot be communicated to anyone until the first pitch of the tournament in question under the WBSC sport integrity processes.

Note that at this point in time, following the retirement of the outgoing WBSC Director of Umpires, a new person has not been officially appointed or announced.

We will update the SA published policy once the new WBSC Director of umpires is known and we finalise our overall selection policy in line with WBSC's.

We recognise that this is a significant change to the previous selection process, and we will continue to work with the WBSC to promote the quality and integrity of Australian Umpires.

On behalf of the Softball Australia and National Umpiring Program.

Leigh Evans

**National Umpire in Chief – Technical**  
**NUIC – WBSC**  
**Softball Australia**

DIVERSITY COMMUNITY FUN EXCELLENCE ENGAGEMENT TEAMWORK



**Australian Government**  
**Australian Sports Commission**