



Merle Short (Vic) Team Manager # 4

Merle (Shorty) Short was the Team Manager of the Australian Open Women's Softball team from 1960 until 1978.

In 1962, Short along with Esther Deason and Marjorie Dwyer travel to Stratford, Connecticut where they lobbied and convinced the Amateur Softball Association (ASA) of USA that Australia could host the first true World Championship in Melbourne in 1965. The ASA reluctantly agreed knowing the many trials and tribulations the group would face.



On their return, they rallied a large band of volunteers, successfully sourced sponsorship, organised various committees and with the support of the Albert Park Trust a special purpose stadium was built for the event. The rest is history and the 1965 Women's World Championship was a great success.

During this very busy planning period, Shorty continued her secretarial duties, was a Delegate to the ISF Conferences as well as being the Australia Team Manager.

As a Team Manager, Shorty ruled with an iron fist. In the early days she was managing a group of highly spirited young ladies. Shorty managed to keep the girls in check. It's not known whether Shorty turned a blind eye to some of the girls' pranks or whether they were just good at not getting caught.

AWARDS

1966	Softball Australia Life Member
1985	Softball Australia Hall of Fame
1987	ISF Hall of Fame

TOURNAMENTS

1960	South Africa v Australia Test Series, Melbourne
1962	New Zealand v Australia Test Series, New Zealand
1965	I Women's Softball World Championship, Melbourne
1967	South Africa v Australia Test Series, South Africa
1970	II Women's Softball World Championship, Osaka, Japan
1972	New Zealand v Australia Test Series, New Zealand
1974	III Women's Softball World Championship, Connecticut, USA
1975	New Zealand v Australia Test Series, New Zealand
1978	IV Women's Softball World Championship, San Salvador, El Salvador