



Kiaora Everyone

Since we are all hyped up about the start of softball season I thought I would take this opportunity to summarise some of the things our association has been working on over the last few months

Change has been and is still lingering in the air within our Association

Hopefully you may have noticed a few positive changes over the past 10 months in the way that Southland Softball organises and conducts itself

Since starting in my role, the board and I have found the collective need to organise ourselves in a more professional way and to communicate with our membership and stakeholders more frequently

You may wonder why?

In a nutshell, and importantly if we wish to achieve our strategic vision, mission and core values, all listed below, we needed to up the ante in the way we approach the development of the organisation as a whole, facilities', people/player development and the game itself.

Our Mission

To be a Leading Sport in our Region

Our Vision

The opportunity to deliver positive softball experiences for Southlanders.

Our Core Values

- Integrity, quality reliability and efficiency to be at the forefront of our Association
- To have a family inclusive environment
- To develop all those valuable to our game
- To promote and encourage fair play, enjoyment and inclusion of all

Additionally we needed to put some procedures, policies and descriptions in place so

1. That everyone is reading off the same page
2. That no or minimal misunderstandings occur, and also most importantly
3. For knowledge and information sharing
By this I mean that any future board, committee, volunteers or employees can know the scope they are to work within, and what their roles are – so that they can pick up where their predecessors left off and not reinvent the same wheel again and again and again, as has I have had to do this past year
Too often in sporting organisations, the knowledge is held with one or two key people and once they leave, the knowledge also leaves with them. This is something we want to proactively manage and is important for the ongoing management and future of our organisation



What have we achieved in the last 10 months?

Listed below a few projects we have bought in this year

PLANNING

Strategic Plan 2013 – 2016

Outlining our long term plans for the next 3 years. This was done in consultation with the membership.

This can be found in poster size in our clubrooms

Business Plan

Outlining how we will achieve the objectives set out in the Strategic Plan.

Available on the website and from the Convener

Role descriptions around employees, key volunteers, and sub committees

For all paid positions, Groundsman, Linesmen, Bar Staff, Umpires, Kiwi Sox Officials Mentors, development staff and new committees, including the Bar, Development, Draws, Grounds and Facilities and Representative Committees

Xero Accounting Package

We have purchased a new online accounting package. This is allowing us to make better financial decisions, and will lower the cost of our accounting fees in the long term and enable us to make more informed financial decisions

POLICIES

Code of Conducts

To make sure we all mind our “Q’s” and “P’s” while participating on our diamonds in any form, representing Southland Softball Association at representative level or while watching or volunteering for the Association

These can be found on our website

http://www.sportsouth.co.nz/southlandsoftball_co_nz/rules

Host Responsibility Policy

An updated version. This can be found on our website

http://www.sportsouth.co.nz/southlandsoftball_co_nz/rules

COMMUNICATIONS

A communications plan

We needed to streamline where questions, queries or complaints were directed to and the communications document can be found on our website

http://www.sportsouth.co.nz/southlandsoftball_co_nz/rules

Advisory Boards

The Junior and Senior Advisory Boards were not convened as they should have been last year. I remain committed to having these meetings the first Monday of every month. Dates are available on our event calendar. The two we have had to date have been productive and useful

Competition information pack

Which hopefully your coaches have all read. Next year we plan on getting this out early next year



Event Calendar	Added to our website during the off season, this is being updated daily. Please check for 'goings on' including representative trainings, fundraising and trial dates, meetings, competition and tournament dates and special nights in our clubrooms
Facebook Page	Our facebook page was developed as another way to get our messages out to our stakeholders. This week alone we have reached 1708 people! And our likes continue to increase by 4% weekly as well. Facebook is becoming the single most efficient way to get our messages such as cancellations and updates out quickly. Please encourage everyone involved in our game, parents, sponsors, extended family members to like us and to monitor our page
Forms/process update	Our transfer, registrations forms, and the re-grade process have all been updated. All of these can be found on our website http://www.sportsouth.co.nz/southlandsoftball_co_nz/rules
20 Questions	Created to increase our knowledge of our game and driving the need for people to understand that we have to keep learning and that rules and umpiring are a necessary part of our playing our game
Surveys	Both a general survey to the membership and a survey for representative players (2012 / 13 season)
Volunteer Induction Pack	Created for key volunteers, and sub committees
Representative Manager Packs	Created to help our Representative Managers understand their role

INITIATIVES

Junior Officials Program	Started with funding thanks to Sport Southland and the KiwiSport Fund to spark an interest in umpiring and scoring and is a part of a long term plan to increase the number of our officials
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Where to from here?

We are an ambitious association and rightly so. Our SNZ first point of contact is thrilled with our progress, our attitude and our proactive stance to develop ourselves across all facets of our association.

If you would like to see what we aim to achieve in the next couple of years, please contact me, your friendly convenor, and ask for a copy of the "Public Business Plan".



Southland Softball Association

INCORPORATED

Newsletter



A business plan sounds like a scary concept but it is like business plan like a road map. It shows us

- Our destination (where we eventually would like to be long term)
- The directions how to get from point a, our starting point, to our final destination (the objectives or actions we want / need to achieve to reach our long term goals)
- and finally shows us how we will physically get to our destination (which resources we will need i.e. money, people power, etc)

Thank-you for taking the time to read this ☺