



Men's Player of the Year: Rhys Casley

Rhys Casley debuted for the Black Sox in 2002 and has maintained form throughout his career. At the 2009 World Softball Championships Rhys was in the top three batters at the tournament, and in 2010 Rhys was appointed as Black Sox Captain.

Rhys made a miraculous come-back from a serious injury and surgery to join the Black Sox at the 2013 World Softball Championships playing most of the tournament as a designated player. This Captain Courageous's match winning 3-run homer secured the Black Sox their sixth world title.

Men's Pitcher of the Year: Jeremy Manly

Jeremy also battled back from injury and surgery, pitched the entire final for six strikeouts and just three hits. He was subsequently named as the Most Valuable Pitcher, winning the Kevin Herlihy Memorial Trophy.

Men's Emerging Player of the Year: Nik Hayes

Nick Hayes emerged as a future star at the 2013 World Softball Championships where he made his debut. While the highlight of the event for Hayes was his contribution to the win over Australia, Hayes contributed to the total team effort, being named as relief pitcher for the final if needed.

Female Player of the Year: Te Reo Powhiri Matautia

Te Reo Powhiri Matautia has performed exceptionally well at international level. At the 2011 Junior World Championships in South Africa she was in the top five batters of the tournament with an average of .538 and repeated this outstanding performance at the 2012 Women's World Softball Championships in Whitehorse by finishing in the top 10 batters of the tournament with an average of .500. She was equally adept on defence with some fantastic diving catches made in the outfield. Te Reo Powhiri currently plays for the Tallahassee Community College in Florida.

Female Pitcher of the Year: Petra Kriklanova

Petra Kriklanova is of Czech Republic heritage but has spent many seasons playing domestically in NZ. Her past season with the Waitakere Bears saw her become the winning pitcher at the Open Women's Club Nationals where she earned the top pitcher award. Petra was equally dynamic on the mound for Hutt Valley at the SNZ National Fastpitch Championships where they finished in 3rd place.

Female Emerging Player of the Year: Taylor-Paige Stewart

Taylor-Paige Stewart first debuted for New Zealand at the 2011 Junior World Series in South Africa. She continued with outstanding form at the 2012 Women's World Series in Whitehorse where she earned a place in the starting line up in the outfield or on the mound. She was 2nd in the batting averages for the White Sox team, but it was her strong performance on the mound against eventual bronze winners Australia that realizes the potential she brings to the women's national programme.

Taylor-Paige plays for the University of Wisconsin in the strong NCAA Division 1 league. She captained the Junior White Sox team at Junior World Championships this year in Brampton, Ontario

Umpire of the Year: Mark Porteous

The 2012-2013 season was a standout season for Mark. Appointed by the ISF to officiate at the Junior Men's World Championship, Parana, Argentina last October he went on to officiated 15 games, four on plate and worked the Grand Final as the first base umpire. His evaluation from this tournament was of a very high standard.

Mark officiated at the National Fastpitch Championship where he was one of the six man, all ISF Certified umpiring team on the final and at the Men's Open where he worked the Grand Final as the second base umpire.

Mark has brought his business experience to umpiring and is an active umpire administrator, serving as President of the North Harbour Umpires Association since 2008. He also oversaw the umpire allocations for the pre-Men's World Championship games and as the host President coordinated the umpiring facilities at Rosedale Park throughout the Championship.

Scorer of the Year: Marie Byrne

Marie Byrne made an outstanding contribution to preparations for the World Softball Championship, working tirelessly to ensure the i-score programme had graphics that created a sense of the venue and New Zealand.

I-score proved highly popular, with people around the world tracking games play by play. The most unique viewers in any one game was the final between the Black Sox and Venezuela when 2,541 individuals were viewing the game live.

Marie's specialist skills are highly valued and for this contribution Marie was uniquely skilled and qualified.

Administrator of the Year: Ray Tibbits

Ray Tibbits also contributed to the success of the World Softball Championships. By Ray's choosing, he filled an important back-room role, displaying his outstanding administration skills to ensure the finances remained on track, and risks were identified and mitigated before they had a chance to become problems. Ray also continues to play an important role with Softball NZ, providing advice on financial issues as they arise.

Personality of the Year: Brad Rona

Brad Rona has featured in four world championships and played an important role in winning the 2013 World Championships. While his power hitting helped steer the Black Sox to their sixth world championship title, his personality on and off the diamond have also featured.

It was big Brad who knocked over the catcher to score the winning run against the Australians to advance New Zealand into the final at the World Championship and send the crowd into overdrive.

Coach of the Year: Eddie Kohlase

Eddie Kohlase joined the Black Sox in 1983 and played in three world championships, winning the 1984 world championship and placing second in 1988 and 1992. But this award is to recognize Eddie's outstanding contribution as coach of the World Champion Black Sox in 2013. Eddie, along with his Assistant Coach, Dave Workman and Pitching Coach, Chubb Tangaroa trod a long and arduous road throughout the campaign and this award recognizes Eddie's contribution as an outstanding coach.

Volunteer of the Year: Fay Freeman

Fay volunteered to chair Softball 2013 Limited which was formed to provide a professional governance structure to provide a world class event. Softball 2013 Limited delivered an event that had wide public and media appeal and profiled softball in New Zealand and internationally. The legacy that remains is an international quality stadium and a surplus of funds to reinvest in hosting and promoting international events in New Zealand.

Softball of the Year (from all winners): Eddie Kohlase

Eddie has provided a life-time of service to softball in New Zealand. This trophy, which is the ultimate award at the 2013 Softball NZ Conference, recognizes and honours that contribution.