

NATIONAL FACILITIES PLAN

SOFTBALL NEW ZEALAND 2018



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1.0 INTRODUCTION

The overall vision for softball in New Zealand is set out in the Growing Softball 2014-2018 document¹. Softball NZ's strategy is focused on growing the sport of softball, based around four strategic goal areas:

1. Grow and develop participation.
2. Growing our business.
3. Connecting softball nationally.
4. Create championship athletes and coaches on the international stage.

The overall objective of Goal 3 is to provide leadership and guidance to the membership, and build excellence through people affiliates, facilities and partners. Of particular relevance to this plan is an initiative 'to develop and implement a national facilities strategy'.

Development of a National Facilities Plan is aligned with the need to ensure facilities are available to accommodate anticipated continued growth of Softball in established areas², and for new facilities to be provided in some areas where there is evidence that the sport is being re-introduced after a period of non-activity e.g. within the Northland area.

Softball NZ surveyed its member associations, and the information was analysed, to inform this plan³. Access to fit-for-purpose facilities significantly impacts on the growth of softball, as does pressure from other sports-field users which reduces availability of facilities.

The main challenges that directly impact on growth of the sport of Softball in New Zealand is the declining membership, and the quality of leadership, administrative and coaching capacity and capability. This impacts on softball's ability to respond to opportunities created through population changes.

Ongoing investment in marketing, promotion and development of softball, including programmes in schools, is required to stimulate growth. Generating growth in target population areas - young people, girls, migrant community - creates a significant opportunity for growth.

The Plan establishes, on an evidential basis, utilisation of current facilities and gaps in service provision. This informs decisions about what facilities are needed, where the priority areas are located, and how might facilities be improved or provided.

The Plan has a 10 year timeframe. Associations have a responsibility to report annually to Softball NZ on membership and participation numbers, and could also report at this same time on facility status

¹ Softball NZ: Growing Softball 2014-2018

² National Facilities Plan, Clause 9 showing need to plan for growth in Auckland, Canterbury and Waikato

³ Softball NZ National Facilities Questionnaire, 2017

relative to membership trends, and any changes that have resulted. This process will provide current and relevant information that will enable Softball NZ to support associations and clubs to influence local decision making and include projects in territorial authority Sport Facility Plans.

The National Softball Facilities Plan:

1. Identifies all of the facilities that are currently provided.
2. Identifies ways in which use of current facilities can be maximised.
3. Identifies what facilities are required to meet future needs (gaps in provision).
4. Identifies priorities for softball facility development within each association area.
5. Identifies the link between softball facility gaps and local and regional facility plans

The National Facilities Plan was developed following considerable consultation with the affiliated provincial associations, and an analysis of all available information. This work occurred through August 2016 to August 2017 using the following methodology:

1. Analysis of national and Association membership levels between 2011/2017
2. Analysis of facility data collated from all affiliated Associations
3. Analysis of gaps in provision of softball facilities
4. Analysis and alignment with regional and/or local facility planning
5. Analysis of demographic data including growth predictions to 2038
6. Analysis and alignment with the Sport NZ Group Strategic Plan, 2015-2020
7. Analysis and alignment with the Sport NZ Community Strategy 2015-2020
8. Analysis and alignment with the NZ Sporting Facilities Framework
9. Consultation with Sport NZ.

Considerable emphasis has been placed on aligning Softball NZ's National Facilities Plan with the strategies of the World Baseball and Softball Confederation (WBSC), and with the strategies developed by Sport NZ to guide national and regional bodies, based on evidential research.

2.0 STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT

2.1 International Softball

The WBSC has established a Development Commission with a key focus on developing baseball and softball at all levels. The focus is on supporting, developing and if needed offering high quality programmes to the National Federations, particularly to those with the greatest needs. The goal is to increase global assistance to athletes, reinforce the National Federations structure and management capacities, and support coach development⁴.

The WBSC Venue Guide sets the standard for facilities for Olympic, World Championships, Regional and Multi-sport Competitions⁵. The venue guide specifies the standard required for the playing field,

⁴ www.wbcs.org/Softball-Development

⁵ www.wbcs.org/Technical-Manual-&-Venue-Guide

stadium and outfield seating, practice fields, floodlights, scoreboards and administrative, media and athlete support facilities.

New Zealand has a history of successful hosting world championship events. In 1976 the World Men's Softball Championship was held in Hutt Valley, in 1986 Auckland hosted the World Women's Softball Championship, in 2004 Canterbury hosted the World Men's Championship and in 2013 North Harbour hosted the World Men's Softball Championship.

The WBSC has awarded hosting rights for the 2021 Men's World Softball Championship to Softball NZ. The event will once again be held at Rosedale Park, Albany in Auckland. The WBSC has also provided opportunities for countries to bid for forthcoming world youth and major championships, and it is expected that bids will be received from within New Zealand for these events.

The New Zealand Black Sox team is ranked No. 1 and the New Zealand White Sox team is ranked 5th in the WBSC rankings. The New Zealand White Sox will be competing to participate in the 2020 Summer Olympic Games. Women's softball was an Olympic Sport from 1996-2008 and will feature, along with men's baseball, at the 2020 Summer Olympics.

New Zealand is very important to development opportunities globally, as it is one of the few National Federations that has the capacity and capability to host international events at facilities that meet the high standards established by the WBSC. This plan identifies facility requirements that will ensure New Zealand remains an important part of the National Federation membership of the WBSC.

2.2 Sport New Zealand

Sport NZ's long term strategy responds to challenges faced by sport in four key areas - young people; strengthening the local delivery of sport; ensuring traditional sports pathways remain strong (especially in low participation communities); and continuing to drive high performance outcomes⁶.

Softball is fully aligned within each of these key areas. Although softball caters for people from aged 4 - 60 (or older), the predominant active participant is aged 6-45; There is a strong focus on growing female participation in softball (aligned with re-entry into the Summer Olympic Games); there are diverse population groups with an interest in playing softball - Maori, Pacific, Asian; and Softball NZ participates successfully at world championship events.

The Community Sport Strategy focuses on the future of community sport in a rapidly changing environment⁷. Some of the changes signalled create opportunities for softball to grow its participation base. Softball is a global game, and the increasing ethnic diversity opens up more markets for softball in New Zealand, in particular from immigrant communities such as South Africa, China, Japan, Philippines, and the Pacific nations as well as from our own Maori population.

Changes in the consumption of sport (declining team and organised sport) creates opportunities for modified forms of the game to be offered e.g. T Ball, slow pitch and masters competitions. Softball is

⁶ Sport NZ Group Strategic Plan, 2015-2020

⁷ Community Sport Strategy 2015-2020, Sport NZ

a popular sport with Maori and Pacific communities, and there are opportunities within some regional areas to create growth e.g. Northland, East Coast of the North Island.

A focus on young people and sport aligns with the work being done throughout New Zealand to engage with Regional Sports Trusts to deliver kiwi-sport programmes in schools. The focus on population groupings with low or declining participation, aligns with softball's focus on Asian, Maori, young women and lower socio-economic communities.

The NZ Sporting Facilities Framework was developed in response to an identified need for better decision-making about sporting facilities⁸. The framework provides a 'way of thinking about the provision and management of sport and recreation facilities that will benefit everyone involved in the sector'. This is based on a belief that if there are more of the sporting facilities New Zealand needs, then more New Zealanders will be enabled and encouraged to take part in sport.

The Framework identifies a number of challenges that means that New Zealand does not always have the sporting facilities that it needs. The sport of Softball can relate to some, if not all, of these challenges.

- “ Gaps and Duplications: Decisions are made in isolation and as a result there are too many of one kind of facility and not enough of another.
- “ Facilities not Fit for Purpose: Changing code requirements, community standards or user expectations.
- “ Facilities we Cannot Afford: Money available to build but not able to meet ongoing operational and maintenance costs.
- “ Facilities due for Replacement: High operational and maintenance costs, and major reinvestment required to renew the facility.

This plan is predicated on the six-step Sporting Facilities Framework, in so-far-as it is able. While the plan identifies current and future gaps in provision, it does not identify specific sites, clubs or local geographical areas where the priorities lie. This level of detail needs to be developed at a local level in conjunction with local authorities, and in partnership with Regional Sports Trusts and other sporting codes.

The principles contained within the Sporting Facilities Framework are fully embraced. These are based around the central theme of facilities meeting an identified need and being fit-for-purpose. There is a strong emphasis in the plan on partnering and collaboration to ensure accessibility, sustainability, integration and future proofing.

2.3 Regional and Local Sport Facility Plans

Increasingly, sport facility plans are being developed to ensure more effective and efficient decision making around what sports facilities should be provided, where they should be provided, and the

⁸ The NZ Sporting Facilities Framework, Sport NZ

priority for investment. Local authorities are working in partnership with regional sports trusts where there is a cross-over of local authority boundaries.

Following is the status of facility plans for local authorities in New Zealand as it relates to Softball (note that a number of the sport facility plans focus on allocation, utilisation and maximising use of playing fields which may benefit softball).

Plan	Status of Plan
Northland Region Sports Facilities Plan, 2015	There are no specific priorities for softball identified in the plan. The Kaikohe Sport Facility Plan identifies the need to re-establish softball diamonds at Lindvart Park, Kaikohe. The Otaika Sports Park (Whangarei) Feasibility Study identifies an opportunity for development of softball diamonds at the park to meet future demand.
Auckland Sport Sector: Facility Priorities Plan 2017	Priorities for softball are identified in the plan, aligned with the Auckland Softball Facilities Plan, 2017. The schedule of facility priorities attached to the Plan will be updated annually. The Auckland Softball Facilities Plan will be updated in January 2018.
Waikato Regional Sport Facility Plan, 2017	The current plan does not include any softball facility projects, but a review of the plan is under way - Waikato Softball will take the opportunity to see whether the scope of the plan can be widened to include upgrading diamond sport facilities.
BOP Spaces and Places Strategy, 2017	There are no priorities for softball identified in the plan. There is a process for considering new projects for inclusion in future plans.
Hawkes Bay Regional Sport Facilities Plan, 2015	The plan identifies a need to review facility requirements for HB Softball at Akina Park, Napier, based on the considerable growth being experienced at the time the plan was developed.
Manawatu-Whanganui Regional Sport Facility Plan, 2017	Manawatu Softball Association facilities are documented in the plan, but they did not engage with the planning process. PNCC is undergoing long-term parks and reserves development, including Colquhoun Park, Palmerston North, where softball is based.
Taranaki Regional Sport Facility Strategy, 2017	The plan is under development - an opportunity to reflect Softball's needs. No junior softball currently being played in the Taranaki area.
Wellington Regional Sport & Recreation Plan, 2017	The plan is under development - an opportunity to reflect Softball's needs
Whanganui Sport & Recreation Strategy - Facilities, 2016	Wanganui Softball Association has not been involved with the planning process, and there is an opportunity to ensure inclusion in an updated plan.
Nelson-Tasman Places & Spaces Plan	No references can be found for a Nelson-Tasman Places & Spaces (sport facilities) plan.
Christchurch Places & Spaces Plan, 2017	The plan is under development and Canterbury Softball are fully engaged in discussions. Included in the plan is a proposed upgrade of Mizuno Ballpark with 2 x outfield/infield turf diamonds with floodlighting with 1,400 lux levels.
South Canterbury Sport Facility Plan, 2017	This plan is under development, and a representative from Aorangi Softball has attended a meeting convened by Sport Canterbury. There are no plans for new softball facilities or upgrading existing facilities.
Southland Places and Spaces Plan	There is no strategy in place but Sport NZ are discussing this possibility with the Invercargill City Council. There is a Surrey Park Development Plan and softball is advocating for provide softball facilities to meet growth projections.

Otago Regional Facility Plan, 2017	Sport	The plan is under development - an opportunity to reflect Softball's needs. No junior softball currently played in North Otago.
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Priority softball facility needs must be clearly articulated and included in regional and local sport facility plans. Local associations need to invest time and energy in making submissions to local authority annual and long-term planning processes. Submissions must clearly articulate current provision, provide membership and participation statistics demonstrating growth, and identify gaps in provision to meet sport needs.

3.0 CONTEXT

3.1 National Activity Trends

Every few years Sport New Zealand commissions research into New Zealand's participation in physical activity and sport. Some key findings from the most recent report (2014) are⁹:

- " 29% of adults are sport and recreation volunteers
- " 66% of adults are interested in trying a new sport or doing more of an existing sport
- " Men and younger adults are the most active. Women, older adults and Asian populations participate the least
- " Sports Club membership has decreased. Only 22% of adults play sport in Club competitions
- " Team sports are more popular with young adults, Maori and Pacific populations
- " The most common way people pay to participate is pay-to-play as it offers flexibility
- " Lack of time is the number one reason why people don't participate in sport
- " Cost is a large influencer on people's sporting decisions
- " Over half of the population participate in sport for social reasons.

Softball NZ and its Associations must address these trends when considering facilities and competitions. The large number of adults interested in trying a new sport is an interesting statistic as it is essentially a population of potential softballers. Consideration needs to be given to how to recruit these adults in a form that considers their preferences – low cost, social, flexible and time conducive.

3.2 International Softball Structure

Softball New Zealand is a member of the WBSC, which was established in 2013 by the merger of the International Softball Federation and the International Baseball Federation. Headquartered in Lausanne, Switzerland, the International Olympic Committee granted recognition to the WBSC as the sole competent global authority for both the sports of baseball and softball on 8th September 2013¹⁰. The WBSC has 193 National Federation Members in 133 countries and territories across Asia, Africa, Americas, Europe and Oceania. The WBSC oversees all international competitions, and holds the exclusive rights of all competitions, tournaments and world championships featuring national teams.

⁹ Sport NZ, National Activity Trends, 2014

¹⁰ www.wbsc.org/history

3.3 National Softball Structure

There are twenty-three provincial associations who are members of Softball NZ. The provincial associations play an important role in developing players, coaches, umpires and administrators. They are responsible for providing and maintaining quality facilities in partnership with territorial authorities.

Local associations organise local and regional competitions, and Softball NZ develops a programme of national tournaments which are delivered by associations in partnership with Softball NZ. The national competitions provide a pathway to success for those athletes who aspire to represent their association or New Zealand in the sport of softball.

Softball NZ organises national competitions for Under 15 years, Under 17 years, Under 19 years, Under 23 years, Open Grade National Fastpitch Championship and National Club Championship. Softball NZ also organises annual national secondary school tournaments in two divisions. Each of the competitions is organised separately with male and female sections provided.

Locally softball is predominantly organised around junior and senior competitions. Junior competitions includes Small Sox (0-4 years), Tee Sox (5-8 years), Kiwi-Sox (Primary and Intermediate School), Rookie Sox (9-12 years, and Emerging Sox (13-18 years). Senior competitions include slow pitch (generally played socially) and fast-pitch versions of the game including Evergreens and Masters.

In the majority of cases, softball is organised on a disbursed basis within local authority areas. This means that teams travel and play across a city or district area to play softball, with perhaps only 1 or 2 diamonds provided at each venue, and sometimes no clubroom facility at which they can gather.

Two key issues arise from a disbursed facility network, Lack of storage for the backstops, bases, home plate and, where they are provided, outfield fences is problematic. The varying quality of the grounds, which impacts on the quality of the participant experience is also problematic. Local softball associations need to work directly with their local authority to address these issues.

Central Otago, Nelson, North Harbour, Tairāwhiti and Western Bay of Plenty have centralised facilities, with all teams playing at a single venue. Playing at a single venue provides advantages in terms of organisation, the number of volunteers needed, provision of storage, the quality of the fields, and generating a sense of community for softball.

Softball NZ has identified a number of initiatives that are designed to generate growth within the sport, and provide pathways for talented players, which may impact on facility requirements. These are summarised in Clauses 3.4, 3.5 and 4.2.

3.4 Softball - A Family Sport

A recent national softball participation survey collated key insights through key areas: membership, ex-membership and non-participants¹¹. The fundamental objective of the exercise was to ultimately ensure the sport is more sustainable across all life stages, genders and competitions.

¹¹ Softball NZ Member Survey, June 2017

The survey identified catalysts and motivations for people playing softball and the access points/channels through which they entered. In addition, common areas of exit were identified, as well as areas that had an impact on the ability to retain softball membership. A number of key insights were identified:

1. 47% of softballers indicated they entered the game due to family connections
2. 30% of softballers indicated they exited the game due to family commitments
3. 72% of softball participants enter the game under the age of 12 years
4. 31% of non-softballers indicated they would play softball if more social formats were available

The survey has created an opportunity for Softball NZ and associations to place more emphasis on ensuring products are family focused, given the impact that this has on participation and retention of membership. The survey results indicate that this is an area that needs increased investment, as a point of difference with other codes.

3.5 Masters Softball Plan

Masters Softball is a global game that offers New Zealand clubs and associations an opportunity to offer another diamond sport product to the local community. Masters competitions are often tournament based and accommodate men and women over three age divisions +35, +45 and 55+. By providing competitions through these life stages the game can retain its existing membership, attract new membership and develop opportunities to expand the game.

4.0 CURRENT POSITION

4.1 Registered Players

In 2016-2017 the total number of players registered with Softball NZ in all forms of the game was 6,270 senior players (based on 15 players per team) and 17,995 junior players (based on 15 players per team).

The number of registered senior and junior teams has decreased in the period from 2011 to 2017. The overall decrease is consistent with national sport trends (Auckland junior figures were not been recorded accurately in 2012-2013 and 2015-16 so create a distortion which cannot be fixed).

While Auckland, Canterbury, Counties Manukau, Manawatu, North Harbour and Tairāwhiti have substantially increased junior softball participation, disappointingly North Otago, West Coast and Taranaki are no longer playing junior softball. Reportedly this is not through lack of interest from the young people, but rather lack of leadership, capacity and capability at an administrative level.

Note that no records are kept by Softball NZ of the breakdown of the active population participation (generally considered to be aged 6 - 19 for juniors and 19-45 for seniors). This information may be gathered in future to more specifically identify the sport needs.

The following table shows Softball NZ's playing strength numbers (teams) for the last six seasons for registered open grade teams (seniors and juniors).

Associations	2011/2012		2012/2013		2013/2014		2014/2015		2015/2016		2016/2017	
	Senior	Junior										
Aorangi	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	37
Auckland	82	279	82	548	78	210	78	547	77	705	78	158
Canterbury	71	181	71	176	76	175	79	214	77	230	80	212
Central Otago	0	32	0	32	0	29	0	32	0	28	0	23
Counties Manukau	28	67	28	55	23	59	25	73	30	77	35	77
Hawkes Bay	23	152	21	150	21	115	21	131	17	113	16	106
Horowhenua	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	22
Hutt Valley	42	65	48	91	38	95	41	69	42	73	42	81
Manawatu	5	36	2	38	0	61	0	45	2	45	4	63
Marlborough	3	21	3	17	4	18	4	22	3	19	2	16
Nelson	14	42	12	31	14	33	14	29	14	29	15	17
North Harbour	34	56	28	59	30	52	26	56	24	54	28	65
Otago	14	116	11	104	12	99	14	92	18	75	14	57
Tairāwhiti	10	30	4	40	6	37	6	42	5	44	5	45
Southland	17	39	18	32	18	36	17	45	20	40	22	44
Waikato	16	58	14	55	14	54	7	45	10	19	11	53
Wanganui	4	34	5	48	2	44	0	44	0	48	0	45
Wellington	72	117	76	103	70	103	68	105	66	93	61	48
Western BOP	8	14	8	10	8	12	5	18	8	19	5	12
Total open grade teams	443	1339	431	1589	414	1232	405	1609	413	1711	418	1173

Aorangi Softball Association has recently affiliated to Softball NZ with 47 junior teams, and Bay of Islands has joined for the 2017-2018 season with 35 junior teams (not reflected in the above figures). Softball ceased in the Far North some 18 years ago, but a group of passionate volunteers have worked tirelessly over 3 years, delivering programmes within schools. Softball NZ has identified that there are opportunities for similar junior softball developments in Whangarei and New Plymouth.

4.2 Social Softball Participants

There has been growth in the number of social players playing softball. This trend is consistent with the trend identified by Sport NZ for less competitive forms of sport in which participants enjoy participating without the pressure of competing.

Social Teams	2011/2012	2012/2013	2013/2014	2014/2015	2015/2016	2016/2017
Aorangi	0	0	0	0	0	10
Auckland*	0	0	0	0	0	0

Canterbury	19	14	19	22	28	21
Central Otago	3	3	1	5	5	5
Counties Manukau	10	10	17	15	18	0
Hawkes Bay	0	0	0	0	0	0
Social Teams	2011/2012	2012/2013	2013/2014	2014/2015	2015/2016	2016/2017
Horowhenua	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hutt Valley	0	0	0	0	0	0
Manawatu	1	6	6	11	12	14
Marlborough	0	4	0	0	0	0
Nelson	0	0	0	0	0	4
North Harbour	22	20	22	19	26	26
Otago	8	10	6	6	0	0
Tairāwhiti	0	4	6	5	5	2
Southland	0	0	0	0	0	0
Waikato	0	0	0	9	0	9
Wanganui	4	4	4	2	7	8
Wellington	0	0	0	20	14	14
Western BOP	6	6	8	6	8	6
Total social teams	73	89	89	120	123	117

*Note that Auckland had reported social team numbers from 2011-2015, but these were not teams registered with Auckland Softball. For this reason they have been removed from the table. Auckland has indicated they intend to develop social grades which will be recorded in future.

Sport New Zealand's activity trends show that social sport is very popular and people want sport that doesn't consume a lot of time and is inexpensive. Social softball enables participants to start when they are very young and to continue to play well into their 60's and 70's.

Softball NZ has developed and is implementing a Slo-Pitch Plan. There are currently social competitions (Slo-pitch) operating in at least 9 of 20 softball associations, with further penetration signalled or anticipated. Providing social competitions where people can play with friends, there is a reduced time commitment and less focus on winning and more focus on fun and enjoyment, will meet changing consumer needs.

Slo-Pitch has the potential to widen softball's target audience and attract greater membership for clubs and associations. It is a fast growing recreational sport played on a worldwide basis, with international, national and local competitions for age group and adult players.

A benefit of social softball and Slo-Pitch Softball is that it doesn't need a fenced, skin diamond to play on, and it can be played on week nights, so doesn't require additional facilities to be provided.

Any large, grassed, flat area may be suitable therefore there is no need to consider facilities provision for social sport as a priority. Line markings are required, although alternatively the side lines and

outfield can be marked out with cones. If Slo-Pitch becomes significantly more popular in the future this may need to be factored into consideration when undertaking future facility plans.

There is a significant opportunity for growth in social softball in New Zealand. The recent World Masters Games, hosted in Auckland, attracted 138 teams (1,794 athletes) from 8 countries. Softball NZ has signalled that it intends to leverage off this event, which will create new opportunities for growth and put increased demand on existing facilities but will be unlikely to create demand for new facilities.

5.0 SOFTBALL FACILITIES

5.1 Facility Hierarchy

The following general facility hierarchy definitions have been used within this plan¹².

Olympic: A facility with the ability to host Olympic level competitions, and meet the strict criteria established by the IOC (there is an Olympic standard venue in Sydney, Australia).

International: A facility with the ability to host international competitions/events (i.e. between nations).

National: A facility with the ability to host national and regional representative tournaments and to serve as a national high performance training hub for softball.

Association/Local: A facility with the ability to host local and association competitions as well as inter-association competitions (but not national tournaments).

5.2 Current Facility Provision

Softball NZ does not provide any facilities for softball, so its role is one of advocacy and support for associations so that the facility needs of the sport can be met. The focus of this plan is on identifying what facilities are currently provided; where additional facilities are needed; identifying whether the facilities provided are fit-for-purpose; and providing guidelines for how Softball NZ and associations can influence future planning¹³.

5.2.1 International Softball Facilities

In New Zealand there is one senior international softball facility based in Auckland, which Softball NZ believes is sufficient to meet the needs of the sport for the foreseeable future, given the significant investment that is needed for an event that is likely to come to New Zealand only once every 8-10 years.

The advantages of an Auckland location, over other venues within New Zealand for a senior international event, are its accessibility to international travellers, the range of accommodation available to meet the needs of athletes and officials, access to training, sports science and

¹² Appendix 3 includes the matrix criteria for international, national, association and local facilities

¹³ Section 6 contains an inventory of Association facilities

accommodation facilities at the Millennium Institute, access to Sky TV's ground crew, and access to a large population base that is willing to pay to watch quality international softball.

Softball facilities that can cater for international junior events are also essential to maintaining New Zealand position within the WBSC family, and to providing opportunities to take international softball to the country. Canterbury Softball's plans to upgrade their facilities will enable them to bid to host international junior events and international test match series, as well as being an important South Island location for national tournaments.

5.2.2 National Softball Facilities

In New Zealand there are 14 national softball facilities¹⁴. Softball NZ is able to host national championship events in Auckland, Canterbury, Hawke's Bay, Hutt Valley, Manawatu, Nelson, Otago, Tairāwhiti, Southland, Waikato, Wanganui, Wellington and Western BOP (and junior national tournaments at Ray Small Park, Counties Manukau).

Junior international events may be hosted at all associations that have national standard facilities e.g. Auckland, Hutt Valley and Canterbury. These associations may also host test matches played between two international countries.

5.2.3 Association and Local Softball Facilities

Softball Associations do not own their own grounds. They are solely reliant on local authorities to provide fields for play. Local authorities are increasingly under financial pressure and either do not have spare land, or do not have the resources to develop and maintain additional sports park facilities.

This report acknowledges the need to maximise use of existing facilities, as doing so is more cost effective than building new assets. Maximising use of facilities may include the following to facilitate more softball being played more often on existing facilities:

1. Upgrade diamonds with artificial playing surfaces.
2. Provide artificial batting boxes, pitching plates and bases.
3. Provide floodlights to enable games to be spread over more nights, and make diamonds available for training.
4. Create diamond sport arenas with shared spaces for softball and baseball.
5. Explore opportunities to use tertiary, secondary and primary school fields for softball delivery.
6. Hire cricket nets for training (particularly during winter months) or use commercial, batting cage facilities where these exist.

Facilities for softball includes the fields on which softball is played, floodlights that enable teams to train to play softball, and enable night games to be played to increase the range and quality of competitions played, and the clubrooms/changing rooms that are provided to service softball.

¹⁴ Matrix Criteria for international, national, association and local facilities is included in Appendix 3

Skin or artificial fields are ideally suited for senior softball, and should be the quality standard set within each association that is fielding senior teams¹⁵. All senior national softball tournaments are played at venues that provide skin or artificial diamonds. Associations that do not have skin or artificial diamonds are disadvantaged if they cannot train on the surface on which they will play when entering national competitions.

There is no record of whether or not dugouts or spectator seating are provided at each park as these are desirable but not essential. Except for international events, there is no requirement to provide spectator seating, although it is desirable to be provided at all parks for the comfort of spectators, particular for national tournaments.

5.3 Shared Facilities

Throughout New Zealand, softball shares facilities with winter and other summer sports. They share grounds, they share floodlights (infrequently provided for softball), and they share clubrooms. Of the associations surveyed, only three do not share any of their facilities with other organisations.

Most commonly, softball shares fields with winter sports, primarily rugby union, football and rugby league. This can be beneficial as competition for the grounds during summer months is not limited by having to share with other summer sports. Associations do encounter issues during the March/April and September-October months where the sports cross-over (common to all sports).

Three associations share grounds with summer sports, which becomes an issue as space for tournaments has to be booked well in advance, and weekend competition space is limited. Sharing space with a winter sport is preferable, as there a clearer seasonal separation during competition times.

A number of clubs (with support from their respective softball associations) are looking to develop and move into multi-sport complexes, where a number of sports operate out of the same clubroom facility and share both grounds and clubrooms. The survey of softball associations showed that 70% of the associations that have clubrooms share them with another sport code.

5.4 Diamond Sports

There is an assumption that baseball and softball can easily share ground space. A junior game of baseball can be played on a senior softball diamond, but a standard senior softball diamond cannot be used for a senior baseball game. This is because the fields are a different size (baseball bases are 9.14 metres further apart), and baseball pitchers pitch off an elevated mound that is further away than a softball pitcher's ground-level mound.

There is an increasing need for diamond sports to find ways of sharing facilities, as demand for parks and reserves increases, with more sports being introduced into New Zealand and changes in sports participation created through changing needs driven by social and immigration patterns.

¹⁵ Skin diamonds may have a lime or similar infield, whereas artificial refers to composite plastic grass products

One way of sharing baseball fields is the use of artificial pitching mounds which can be used and replaced. Another important way of sharing fields is for Softball to be played on Saturdays, and Baseball to be played on Sundays (or vice-versa).

Issues do arise with wear and tear on the field occurring at different places because the baseball bases are further apart than softball diamonds (even when junior baseball is played on softball diamonds). Additional ground maintenance is needed to maintain the grounds throughout a summer season to accommodate the differences in sport needs.

Further discussions are needed (between baseball and softball and with local councils) to see how the needs of both sports can be accommodated, as increasingly local authorities put pressure on both sports bodies to find a way of sharing fields and facilities.

5.5 Future Facility Needs

In Auckland and Christchurch new parks are being developed in areas of significant population growth. Softball needs to ensure that Auckland, Counties Manukau and Canterbury associations are proactive and integral to the planning of facilities on those parks e.g. in the south and north of the Auckland and in the new residential developments in Christchurch.

In the Northland region softball is showing a resurgence, so there is a need to ensure that softball's needs are reflected in the Northland Region Sports Facility Plan (Softball NZ will likely need to take a lead in Northland). Other areas may also benefit from a resurgence in softball, and a facility shortage may be identified at that point (again Softball NZ will likely need to take a lead in this space). Linking to local sports facility plans is a way in which softball's needs can be reflected.

Softball NZ has determined that the optimal number of teams per diamond should be five. This is based on the Auckland Softball Facility Plan which established a ratio of 1 diamond per 5 teams for club facilities (Auckland Softball does not own any facilities - all softball is played at club facilities).

On the basis of a ratio of 1:5 teams the greatest need for additional diamonds is at Hawkes Bay, while there is currently a potential over-supply in areas of low demand¹⁶.

There are a number of variables that impact on diamond provision. Having floodlights enables a distribution of competition games across several nights (e.g. North Harbour Softball). Having fewer senior teams' impacts on diamond provision, as junior teams play on smaller diamonds.

While junior teams play on junior diamonds, they also play on senior diamonds. Growth of junior softball (where most growth is occurring) will likely be able to be accommodated without the need for additional diamonds to be provided.

The number of female teams impacts on diamond provision, as the outfield for women's games is shorter than the men's distance, enabling games to be played on the corners where there are two or four softball diamonds on a single piece of land. The inventory that follows contains details of all facilities provided at each of the parks on which softball is played throughout New Zealand. This includes, where appropriate, floodlights, clubrooms, and surface types. Also indicated is where facilities (fields and/or clubrooms) are shared with other sports.

¹⁶ Appendix 1 provides the current ratio of diamonds per team for all associations

6.0 INVENTORY OF CURRENT SOFTBALL FACILITIES

The following table illustrates all of Softball NZ's affiliated Associations and the state of current facilities based on the facilities matrix (appendences A).

Association	Venue	Skin or artificial diamonds	Grass diamonds	Social or junior diamonds	Floodlights	Clubroom	Fit-for-Purpose	Level
Aorangi	Morrison Park, Timaru		8		1	Leased	Grounds poorly maintained; Clubroom needs upgrading; would like an enclosed skin diamond	Association
Auckland	Fowlds Park		4	2	No	Shared	Poor quality fields, plans for 1 Astroturf diamond, training lights	Association
	War Memorial Park	1	6		No	Shared	Diamonds fit for purpose	Association
	Harold Moody Res.		2		2	Shared	High quality diamonds	Association
	Duck Park		1		1	No	Diamonds fit for purpose	Association
	Meadowlands Res.	2	4		No	Shared	Diamonds fit for purpose	National
	Simson Reserve	1	1	1	No	Shared	Diamonds fit for purpose	Association
	Phyllis St Reserve		2	1	1	Shared	Facility upgrades planned; floodlights are poor	Association
	Warren Freer Park	1		1	1	Owned	Diamonds fit for purpose	Association
	Thompson Park		2		1	Shared	Need a new home	Association
	The Domain, Mangere	1	1		Yes	Shared	Very poor quality fields	Local
	Sturges Park, Otahuhu	1	1		No	Shared	Shortage of diamonds	Association
	White Park		2		No	Shared	Diamonds fit for purpose	Association
	Kohoura Park	1	1		No	Shared	Diamonds fit for purpose	Association
	Rongamai Park	1	1		1	Shared	Good quality diamonds and space for 8 new grass diamonds	Association

	Starling Park	1	2		Yes	Owned	Good quality diamonds, diamond 3 needs maintenance	Association
	Brains Park	1	1		1	Shared	Good quality diamonds	Association

Association	Venue	Skin or artificial diamonds	Grass diamonds	Social or junior diamonds	Floodlights	Clubroom	Fit-for-Purpose	Level
Canterbury	Mizuno Ballpark (Cuthbert's Green)	2	14		No	Leased	Major upgrade needed: Artificial surface for 2 diamonds, repair floodlights, establish indoor batting cages (earthquake)	National
	Hagley Park			31	No	No	Average quality diamonds	Local
	Papanui Domain	1	2		No	No	Good quality lime surface, fenced diamond	Association
	Rawhiti Domain		1	4	No	No	Diamonds fit for purpose	Association
	Halswell Domain		2	4	No	No	Diamonds fit for purpose	Association
	Middleton Park		2		No	No	Diamonds fit for purpose	Association
	Spreydon Domain		2		No	No	Diamonds fit for purpose	Association
	Crosbie Park		2		No	No	Diamonds fit for purpose	Association
	Warren Park		2		No	No	Diamonds fit for purpose	Association
	Rolleston Domain		2		No	No	Proposed new development	Association
	Kaiapoi Park		2		No	No	Proposed artificial surface	Association
	Linfield Park		2		No	No	Diamonds fit for purpose	Association
	Burnham Army Camp	1	2		No	No	Good quality lime surface	Association
	Molyneux Park		4		No	Hired	Diamonds fit for purpose	Association

Central Otago CMSA	Prince Edward Park	2	2		No	Shared	Diamonds and clubroom not fit for purpose.	Association
	Colin Lawrie Fields	1	3		No	Shared	Diamonds fit for purpose. Need floodlights, need artificial infield/batters' box	Association
	Mountfort Park	2	4		No	No	Diamonds fit for purpose. Need outfield fencing, backstops, pitching mats, floodlighting	Association
	Ray Small Park		4		No	No	Fields not fit for purpose, need artificial batters' box	Association

Association	Venue	Skin or artificial diamonds	Grass diamonds	Social or junior diamonds	Floodlights	Clubroom	Fit-for-Purpose	Level
Hawkes Bay	Akina Park	2	3		1	Owned	Good quality diamonds. Clubroom needs upgrading. Artificial batters' box, bases and pitching mount needed on grass diamonds.	National
Hutt Valley	Tareha Reserve	1			No	No	Good quality diamonds	Association
	Fraser Park	4	2	16	Yes	Leased	Fraser Park Sportsville - new building, new diamond 3, pitching blocks on skin diamonds	National
	South Park	1	2		No	No	Diamonds fit for purpose	Association
	Maidstone Park	1	2			No	Diamonds fit for purpose	Association
	Wise Park	1	1			No	Diamonds fit for purpose	Association
	Naenae Park		2			No	Diamonds fit for purpose	Association
	Delaney Park		2			No	Diamonds fit for purpose	Association

Manawatu	Colqhoun Park, PN	2	5		No	Shared	Good quality facilities. Need lights for training/fencing.. Planning a clubroom upgrade.	National
Marlborough	Lansdowne Park	1	1	3	No	No	Good quality diamonds. 10 year development plan to provide clubroom with office, kitchen, changing rooms, toilets, storage	Association
Nelson	Saxton Field Ballpark	4			No	Leased	Quality softball facilities; relay outfields, level infields, provide storage.	National
North Harbour	Rosedale Park	2	8	8	2	Jointly owned	Quality softball facilities Plans for batting cages	International

Association	Venue	Skin or artificial diamonds	Grass diamonds	Social or junior diamonds	Floodlights	Clubroom	Fit-for-Purpose	Level
Otago	Ellis Park	1	5		No	Leased	Diamonds fit for purpose except Diamond 1 needs upgrade for all weather use and one grass diamond in less than ideal condition	National
Tairāwhiti	Waikirikiri Park	1	5		No	No	Diamonds fit for purpose. Working with Papawhariki Trust to develop a sports & community hub. Need a 2nd skin/ fenced diamond and level ground to provide more grass diamonds.	National

Southland	Surrey Park	1	7	7	No	Owned	Diamonds fit for purpose. Surrey Park Development Plan proposes a new multisport clubroom facility.	National
	Gore Showgrounds	1			No	No	Diamonds fit for purpose	Association
	Wallacetown		1	5	No	No	Diamonds fit for purpose	Local
Waikato	Port	1	1	4	No	No	Diamonds fit for purpose	Local
	Resthills Park	2	6	4	No	Jointly owned	Loss of diamonds to other sports leading to a shortage of 2 fields. Need 2 fully fenced grass diamonds, storage, turf batters' box for 4 diamonds.	National
Wanganui	Tom Voyle Park		2		No	No	Diamonds fit for purpose	Association
	Wanganui Softball Ballpark	3			No	Shared	Surface upgrade needed for all weather diamonds; new fencing Diamond 1 and back of Diamond 2; drainage both diamonds; clubroom needs upgrading.	National

Association	Venue	Skin or artificial diamonds	Grass diamonds	Social or junior diamonds	Floodlights	Clubroom	Fit-for-Purpose	Level
Wanganui	Springvale Park			10+		No	No	Diamonds fit for purpose
	Gonville Domain			5		No	No	Diamonds fit for purpose
Wellington	Hataitai Park	2	1	3	No	Yes	Diamonds fit for purpose	National
	Polo	1	1	3	No	No	Diamonds fit for purpose	Association
	Alex Moore Park	1	1	4	No	No	Diamonds fit for purpose	Association
	Redwood Park	1	2		No	No	Diamonds fit for purpose	Association
	Porirua Park	1	1	1	No	No	Diamonds fit for purpose	Association
	Ngatitooa Park,	1	1	4	No	No	Diamonds fit for purpose	Association
	Te Atiawa Park	2	1	3	No	No	Diamonds fit for purpose	National
	Martin Luckie Park			1	No	No	Diamonds fit for purpose	Local
	Wakefield Park		1	3	No	No	Diamonds in moderate condition	Association
	Raroa Park		1		No	No	Diamonds in moderate condition	Association
	Newlands Park		3		No	No	Diamonds in moderate condition	Association
	Helston Park			6	No	No	Diamonds in moderate condition	Local
	Onepoto Park		1		No	No	Diamonds in moderate condition	Association
	Waihora Park			1	No	No	Diamonds in moderate condition	Local
Western BOP	Carlton Reserve	2	2	4	No	No	Diamonds not fit for purpose - poor drainage. An offer from Council to move to Bethlehem being considered.	National
		60	178	131				

7.0 CHALLENGES FACING SOFTBALL

Softball is faced with a number of challenges that impact on delivery and growth of the sport, sustainability of the facility network, and planning for future facility provision.

Declining membership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Softball has experienced a steady decline in the number of registered players, in particular at senior level. This has the impact of reducing the demand for facilities and facility improvements. Population growth in the southern and northern parts of Auckland could potentially increase membership, with the corresponding need for increased or higher quality facilities. The rebuild of Christchurch will likely have a similar impact.
Increasing opportunities to grow social and other forms of softball	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An opportunity not supported by sufficient resources and marketing expertise to adequately reach this market.
Local authority support for sport	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There are increasing demands on local authorities to balance the needs of sport with other demands. This may in future lead to a reduction in service quality, increased charges for using Council facilities, or reallocation of softball grounds to other sports, which may have an impact on membership and participation.
Leadership, administrative and coaching capability and capacity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The majority of associations do not employ staff and are reliant on volunteers - capability of volunteers is variable. There is limited investment in growing the game through school programmes, skills clinics and other initiatives.
Funder policy changes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Class 4 Gaming requirement to reinvest money in the community from which the \$\$ are drawn has impacted on the amount of funds available for softball, with some positive and some negative impacts.
Legislative Challenges	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Legislative changes have had a significant impact on sport. The Reserves Act 1977 has not kept pace with a changing sporting environment, redefining 'commercial activity' and inhibiting sustainability of sports facilities.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Liquor licensing changes and lowering of the breath alcohol level have had a dramatic impact on sports club revenue.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Changes to health and safety requirements have added additional compliance and liability requirements.
Impacts of population change	<p>Increased ethnic diversity with many immigrants coming from countries with a softball playing tradition and the need to find ways of connecting with these people.</p>

The level of these impacts on sustaining and growing the sport varies, as does the impact on future facility requirements. It will be different in different areas and needs a localised response.

8.0 SUSTAINABILITY OF THE FACILITY NETWORK

It is important that the facility network is sustained at international, national, association and local levels. It is necessary to prioritise strategic investment to:

- “ Targets resources to areas of the sport or location where there is the most need
- “ Target associations that have the greatest potential to grow the game of softball
- “ Target local authorities to ensure priority projects are included in local or regional sport facility plans.

8.1 International Facilities

It is very important for softball in New Zealand that there is a stadium capable of hosting world championship and international events every 8-10 years. Hosting key strategic events creates increased opportunities for international competition for our own Black Sox and White Sox teams, and it increases the profile and standing of the sport in the minds of the media and public, and within the international softball community.

The required infrastructure is in place in Rosedale Park, Albany. This includes scoreboards, floodlights, changing facilities, administrative facilities, and space for food and beverage services. The park is able to accommodate temporary seating to increase capacity as required.

The additional of batting cages at Rosedale Park, Albany would support a national training centre for Black Sox and White Sox teams, and there are plans to extend the permanent seating to include Diamond 2.

There is a long-term risk that operation of the stadium, diamonds and floodlighting at Rosedale Park, Albany might become unsustainable. North Harbour Softball is addressing that risk, with a plan in place for a number of initiatives that will assist. North Harbour Softball has suggested that Auckland Council take ownership of the floodlights, and be responsible for maintaining them, and this will be discussed over the next twelve months.

Auckland Softball, Counties Manukau Softball and North Harbour Softball are engaged in discussions on the possibility of a regional structure for softball in the greater Auckland area. Sustainability of the facility network, efficient and effective operations, and growth of the sport, are key drivers of these discussions.

Canterbury Softball is planning an upgrade of Mizuno Stadium to international standard. The stadium is expected to be able to accommodate senior international events including future WBSC World Cups. Although the planning process is underway no definitive times lines are in place. That aside, successful proposals could see work commence in September with a completion date of January, 2019.

8.2 National Facilities

There are sufficient national standard facilities (also capable of hosting junior world championship events) to meet the needs of Softball NZ. Sustaining the network to the current standards, given the challenges the sport is facing, will continue to be a challenge. Links to regional and local sport facility plans, are important and essential to long-term network sustainability.

Artificial turfs.	<p>There are 60 skin or artificial softball diamonds in New Zealand. An artificial playing surface eliminates mud, minimises maintenance and limits the number of games cancelled due to inclement weather. There are also 16 junior fields which are full artificial turf.</p> <p>Local authorities are increasingly installing sand-based fields to increase field utilisation for winter sports. Sand-based fields are particularly unsuitable for softball infields (although ideal in the outfield). The sand surface is soft and deep holes quickly form around the batters' box, pitchers plate and bases. The holes are dangerous for batters, fielders and base-runners. In response local authorities are installing artificial turf batter's box and in some cases, bases and pitching mats.</p>
Maintenance	<p>There is variable quality of the outfielders - with uneven and potentially dangerous surfaces. There is variable condition and height of backstops and fences - potentially dangerous and there is the negative impact of stray balls on neighbours.</p> <p>There is a need for associations to work with their local Council to address these issues to ensure that softball is played on a surface that is fit for purpose and safe to play on.</p> <p>There is a high cost of maintaining diamonds, clubrooms and floodlights, and some softball associations have full responsibility for this cost. This is putting pressure on volunteers and the facilities as they age.</p> <p>No analysis has been done on the cost of providing artificial surfaces for softball v the cost of maintaining grass diamonds.</p>
Floodlights	<p>Only 14 diamonds across New Zealand have working floodlights for training and/or competition.</p> <p>The traffic situation in our major cities means some teams are not able to start training until 6pm which limits training times in the early and latter parts of the season.</p> <p>Although installing and maintaining floodlights is costly, greater utilisation could be made of existing facilities, and new opportunities could be provided for social softball, if floodlights were available.</p>
Sharing Clubrooms	<p>Ageing clubroom facilities have a higher cost of maintenance and there is usually insufficient money set aside for renewals. 21 clubrooms are provided on a shared basis to support their sustainable operations.</p>

Mobile Fencing	<p>Mobile or portable fencing provides an ideal opportunity to create fit for purpose diamonds for varying ages, genders and tournaments with minimal setup time. Mobile fencing is volunteer friendly in that the ability to mobilise a home run fence in a short period of time is more conducive than the construction and deconstruction of fences at the start and end of a season. In addition mobile fencing can be used for alternative means such as crowd control, temporary security barriers and zoning off identified areas.</p> <p>Although there are a number of significant advantages in using mobile fencing they do not come without their challenges. Given the quantity and size of mobile fencing storage is likely to be an issue for most Clubs and Associations. Cost is the other major barrier with top of the line mobile fencing estimated at \$80k. Obviously there are alternatives options and this is an area Softball NZ plans to research further.</p>
Storage of Equipment and Fences	<p>Storage is at capacity at every sports park - backstops, bases, home plates, fencing are at risk. Development of new multi-sport facilities can assist in providing equipment storage. Each association needs to work with the local authority to address this need.</p>

8.3 Association and Local Facilities

A number of facility improvements have been identified for softball facilities that enhance the quality of the experience for participants, reduce injury risks, and in the long-term reduce costs for local authorities.

9.0 SUMMARY OF FUTURE FACILITY NEEDS

The following table takes in account population changes over time, the number of teams per 1,000 of population now and predicted in the future, the number of diamonds now as a ratio of teams and whether additional diamonds are needed to meet expected population and membership growth, and other known needs relating to the quality of facilities required. The priority will be determined, alongside other sport needs, within each local authority area, and expressed through sport facility plans.

Association	No. players ¹⁷	Participation per 1,000 2013 census	Predicted players based on 2038 census ¹⁸	No. of diamonds	Ratio teams per diamond	Additional diamonds to meet growth	Future Facility Needs
Aorangi	444	107	375	8	5.9	Low	Enclosed skin diamond; well-maintained diamonds; clubroom upgraded to meet current needs.
Auckland (ASA, CMS & NHS)	5,715	261	8,544	83	5.3	High	The Auckland Softball Facility Plan identifies facility upgrades to meet current needs. Planning for new fields to meet future demand is essential. CMSA is in a targeted population area with a high priority need to provide a new home for softball, or to upgrade their existing facilities. NHS has sufficient fields to allow for growth to occur.
BOI	420	144	450			Low	Bay of Islands has not indicated at this stage any need for additional diamonds.

¹⁸

¹⁷ Senior teams x 15 and junior teams x 15 players (excludes social players who may play mid-week or Sundays)

Calculated by taking the number per thousand in 2013 and applying this to the predicted population in 2038

Association	No. players ¹⁸	Participation per 1,000 2013 census	Predicted players based on 2038 census ²⁰	No. of diamonds	Ratio teams per diamond	Additional diamonds to meet growth	Future Facility Needs
Canterbury	3,744	150	4,972	78	7	High	A full upgrade of Mizuno Ball park is needed with 2 full outfield/infield turf diamonds. Two turf projects are underway at Foster Park (Selwyn) and Kaiapoi East (Waimakariri). A new diamond facility in South Canterbury may be required to meet future demand.
Central Otago	276	67	352	4	7	Low	There are sufficient diamonds to meet a low growth target.
Hawkes Bay	1,512	104	1,648	6	20.3	Low	High ratio of teams per diamonds. Diamonds need upgrading with artificial batters' box, bases and pitching mound on grass diamonds. Clubroom needs upgrading.
Hutt Valley	1,212	119	1,306	34	3.6	Low	Fraser Park Sportville development will meet long term needs.
Manawatu	816	35	994	7	11.6	Low	Upgrade the clubroom and provide lights for training/playing.

¹⁸ Senior teams x 15 and junior teams x 12 players (excludes social players who may play mid-week or Sundays)

Calculated by taking the number per thousand in 2013 and applying this to the predicted population in 2038

Marlborough	222	201	236	5	3.6	Low	There are sufficient diamonds to meet a low growth target. A new multi-sport clubroom is planned.
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Association	No. players ¹⁹	Participation per 1,000 2013 census	Predicted players based on 2038 census ²²	No. of diamonds	Ratio teams per diamond	Additional diamonds to meet growth	Future Facility Needs
Nelson	429	114	504	4	9	Low	There are sufficient quality diamonds to meet a low growth target.
Otago	894	213	1,092	6	11.8	Low	There are sufficient diamonds to meet a low growth target. Upgrade Diamond 1 for all weather use, and one grass diamond.
Tairāwhiti	615	76	661	6	8.6	Low	There are sufficient diamonds to meet a low growth target. Converting one grass diamond to an artificial field would meet future needs.
Waikato	711	94	1,034	14	5.2	High	WSA is short of 2 diamonds to meet the growth target and is focussed on getting softball recognised in the Waikato Regional Sport Facilities Plan.
Wanganui	540	375	567	18	2.5	Low	There are sufficient diamonds to meet a low growth target, but diamonds and clubroom need upgrading.

¹⁹ Senior teams x 15 and junior teams x 12 players (excludes social players who may play mid-week or Sundays)

Calculated by taking the number per thousand in 2013 and applying this to the predicted population in 2038

Wellington	1,491	132	1,853	52	3.9	Low	There are sufficient diamonds to meet a medium growth target. Upgrading one diamond to an artificial turf will meet future needs.
Western BOP	219	208	274	8	2.9	Low	There are sufficient diamonds to meet a low growth target, but poor drainage. An offer of a new ground in Bethlehem is being considered.

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-week or Sundays)

Calculated by taking the number per thousand in 2013 and applying this to the predicted population in 2038

In summary, based on an evidence based assessment, the highest need for additional facilities is in the greater Auckland area (including Counties Manukau and potentially North Harbour), Canterbury and Waikato.

Whether the potential for participant growth is realised cannot be accurately predicted, and relies on a number of factors. Most important is the amount of investment that is available for game development. Softball is competing in a fearlessly competitive space, against all other sports. Its competitive advantages are its appeal to targeted population groups i.e. Maori, Pacific, immigrants and women in particular.

Based on feedback from associations, the greatest need for higher quality diamond and/or clubroom facilities (in addition to Auckland, Counties Manukau, Canterbury and Waikato) is in Aorangi, Hawkes Bay, Manawatu, Marlborough, Otago, Tairāwhiti, Southland, Wanganui, Wellington and Western Bay of Plenty.

Planning for some of these projects has already commenced, while others are being identified for the first time in this plan. All of these projects need to be identified in the relevant local or regional sport facility plan in order to receive consideration from the local authority.

10.0 PROPOSED SOLUTIONS & APPROACHES

The following section provides a selection of approaches to assist Softball NZ and the Associations with addressing the key issues and opportunities outlined in the previous sections, in order to sustain and grow the facility network and meet the established criteria²⁰

This section does not include opportunities to grow the game, which are more appropriately addressed in the Whole of Sport Plan, the Slo-Pitch Softball Plan and the Masters Softball Plan. It is expected that Slo-Pitch and Masters Softball will not create a need for additional facilities, but rather maximise use of existing facilities.

This section does not include plans for increasing capability of leaders, administrators and volunteers. This needs to be addressed by Softball NZ through development of a Workforce Strategy in consultation with local sports trust.

The main requirements are for maximising use of existing facilities, planning for new facilities in areas of projected significant population growth, and maintaining or upgrading existing facilities to meet current and ongoing needs.

Opportunity	Proposed Approach	Description	Who	When
Include plans for softball facilities in local and regional sport facility plans	Ensure softball's facility needs are reflected in all sport facility plans	Associations to identify current status of facilities, gaps in provision, links to their local or regional sport facility plan. Softball NZ to lead in Northland and other new growth areas.	Associations, Softball NZ	2018+

²⁰ Criteria Matrix Appendix 3

Opportunity	Proposed Approach	Description	Who	When
Respond to population growth where facilities are not currently available	Advocate for additional new sports fields in areas of significant population growth or where softball is played by a targeted population group and is growing in popularity (increased demand).	Update the Auckland Regional Softball Facility Plan to include National Facilities Plan findings Work with relevant local authorities and sports trust to include future facility planning in sport facility plans in Auckland, Canterbury and Waikato Work with Sport Northland to include space for softball facilities within the Northland area.	Consultants, Local Associations, Local Authorities and Sports Trusts	2017+
Maximise use of existing facilities	On a case-by-case basis develop strategies to make better use of existing facilities and as required provide more fields	Work with individual associations who are struggling with limitations of space Work with baseball as required to explore opportunities for shared use of fields	Associations, Softball NZ, Sports Trusts, baseball	2018+
	Assess the viability of developing artificial batters boxes and diamonds to improve the quality of diamonds to allow more intensive use.	Artificial turf will enable a maximised level of utilisation with higher initial cost but reduced cost of maintenance over time.	Local Clubs, Associations, Councils and Softball NZ	2018+
	Investigate the potential development of artificial diamonds in areas of need.	Identify specific needs for inclusion in sport facility plans for upgrading of diamonds to artificial infields (and possibly outfields).	Associations, Councils and Softball NZ	2018+
	Advocate for provision of floodlights for training and playing.	Identify specific needs for inclusion in sport facility plans to enable increased access to existing facilities.	Associations, Councils	2018+
Access to storage	Maximise the use of existing storage and research of alternative means.	Form partnerships to utilise existing storage to accommodate fencing and equipment. Apply to charitable trusts to secure funding for shipping containers as a storage solution.	Clubs and Associations.	2017+

Opportunity	Proposed Approach	Description	Who	When
Access to mobile fencing	Investigate existing and alternative means of mobile fencing options.	Portable mobile fencing will allow Clubs and Associations the ability to build fit for purpose diamonds meeting the needs of age groups and genders. Apply to charitable trusts to secure funding.	Clubs and Associations and funders	2018 +
National Facility Plan Updates	Associations to report annually on facility renewals and needs	A question to be included in the annual survey to Associations asking for information on team numbers. Information to be used to support Associations to advocate for facility upgrades and renewals based on evidential need. Update the National Facilities Plan in 2028	Softball NZ	2018+

11.0 NATIONAL PERFORMANCE HUBS

Softball NZ has proposed development of three National Performance Hubs - Northern, Central and Southern, which will impact on future facility needs. This initiative is designed to support talented young softballers to reach their potential, with the overarching aim of national teams succeeding on the international stage.

The criteria for a National Performance Hub is accessibility to the following facilities (not all facilities will be on site but should be within 10-15 minutes driving distance):

1. All weather softball diamonds
2. Accommodation
3. Batting Cages
4. Indoor sports complex
5. Cooking facilities
6. Support services i.e. physiotherapists, nutrition, drug experts, athlete life advice
7. Locally based performance coaches

There are no facilities, associated with softball, that currently meet the criteria for a National Performance Hub. As this initiative is at an early planning stage, there is no provision in this plan for

upgrading facilities to meet the criteria. This will be included in a future National Facilities Plan. The facilities that most closely meet the criteria are as follows:

Northern	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Prince Edward Park, Pukekohe - two skin diamonds (summer only)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Pulman Lodge, Papakura - accommodation
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Bruce Pulman Park, Papakura - indoor sports complex
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Action Indoor Sports
Central	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Fraser Park, Sportsville - two skin diamonds (summer only)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Silverstream Retreat - accommodation
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Hutt Indoor Sports Centre
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Trentham Sports Centre
Southern	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Mizuno Ball Park - two skin diamonds (all year access)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● QE2 Park - Accommodation
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Action Indoor Sports, Waltham
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Pioneer Recreation and Sport Centre

Appendix 1: Diamonds per team

Based solely on the ratio of diamonds per team, relative demand for additional fields, based on current supply, can be estimated as follows (additional criteria is considered when looking at future needs):

Association	Skin or artificial diamonds	Grass diamonds	Social or junior diamonds	Floodlights	Teams (2016-17)	Ratio of teams per diamond	Highest Level facility	Relative demand for additional fields
Aorangi		8			47	5.9	Association	Low
Auckland	11	31	5	8	236	5	National	Low
Canterbury	4	35	39	1	313	7	National	Low
Central Otago		4			28	7	Association	Low
Counties Manukau	5	13			112	6.2	Junior National	Low
Hawkes Bay	3	3			122	20.3	National	High
Hutt Valley	7	11	16		123	3.6	National	Low
Manawatu	2	5			81	11.6	National	Medium
Marlborough	1	1	3		18	3.6	Association	Low
Nelson	4				36	9	National	Low
North Harbour	2	16		2	119	7.4	International	Low
Otago	1	5			71	11.8	National	Medium
Tairāwhiti	1	5			52	8.6	National	Low
Southland	3	9	16		66	4.4	National	Low
Waikato	2	8	4		73	5.2	National	Low
Wanganui	3	15			45	2.5	National	Low
Wellington	9	14	29		204	3.9	National	Low
Western BOP	2	2	4		23	2.9	National	Low
	60	185	116		1,769	4.9		

Appendix 2: Population Trends

Population growth is a potential predictor of growth of a sport. However it is very simplistic as changes in demographics (e.g. Auckland's increasingly culturally diverse population, and an ageing population) impact on sport participation trends.

Based on market share the following predictions of future demand for softball facilities has been generated (which align with Section 9). Other predictors may have greater relevance e.g. membership trends, the amount of investment in game development.

Association	District or Regional population 2013 ²¹	2018	2023	2023	2033	2038	Number of softball teams 2016-2017	Potential growth/ decline in softball participation based on population changes
Aorangi (Timaru)	45,400	47,400	48,500	49,400	50,000	40,100	47	Slow growth
Auckland (includes ASA, CMSA & NHSA catchments)	1.493m	1.670m	1.860m	1.990m	2.112m	2.223m	467	Strong growth potential in CMSA catchment
Bay of Islands	60,600	62,900	64,100	64,900	65,200	64,900	47	Slow growth
Canterbury	562,900	623,200	664,200	694,300	721,700	745,800	313	Strong growth and rising membership
Central Otago	17,895	18,500	20,500	21,400	22,200	22,900	31	Low Growth
Hawkes Bay	158,000	164,100	167,400	169,900	171,200	171,400	122	Medium growth
Hutt Valley	142,500	148,400	151,700	153,900	155,200	155,400		Low growth
Manawatu	28,500	80,700	31,900	32,900	33,800	34,400	81	Low growth
Marlborough	44,700	46,000	46,900	47,400	46,600	47,500	18	Low growth
Nelson	48,700	51,800	53,700	55,300	56,500	57,400	36	Low growth
Otago	208,800	225,800	236,000	242,700	248,300	252,700	71	Medium growth
Tairāwhiti (Gisborne)	47,000	48,500	49,400	50,000	50,300	50,200	52	Low growth
Waikato	66,500	75,200	81,700	87,200	92,400	97,200	73	Growth potential
Wanganui	42,153	240,500	244,600	247,500	248,900	248,800	45	Medium growth

²¹ Statistics NZ, Census Data, 2013

Wellington	197,500	212,800	222,600	230,500	238,000	244,600	204	Adequate provision to cater for growth
Western BOP	45,500	49,500	51,800	53,800	55,500	56,900	23	Medium growth

Appendix 3: Matrix Criteria

INTERNATIONAL National criteria, able to host international tournaments.	NATIONAL Association criteria, able to host national age-grade tournaments, NFC & National Clubs.	ASSOCIATION Local criteria, able to host weekly senior softball competitions. Potential to host South/North island U15 tournaments & Div 2 Secondary Schools.	LOCAL Able to host junior/social softball games & training sessions.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ~ At least 2 skin infield playing diamonds. ~ At least 2 practice diamonds; same infield composition as main diamond/s. ~ Minimum four light towers if night games played (650 lux infield, 450 lux outfield). ~ Enclosed dugouts each field below ground level; entrance to playing field (at least 9m x 1.2m). ~ Electronic scoreboard with reader board and video board: left or right field behind outfield fence.. ~ 2 bullpens, each with two pitching rubbers and home plates. ~ 2 batting cages preferably covered top. ~ 2 foul poles at least 4.57m high and yellow in colour. ~ Backstop fencing made from netting 7.62m - 9.14m from home plate. ~ Side boundary fences 1.2-2m high. ~ Outfield fence 1.2-2m high. ~ Minimum 76.2m to outfield fence (males) and 67.06m (females). ~ 3.05-3.65m dirt-warning track for side and outfield fence. ~ Tarp to cover the infield surface in the event of rain. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ~ At least three diamonds. ~ Warm up area adjacent to main diamond/s. ~ Light towers on main diamond preferable (necessary if night games are played, 650 lux infield, 450 lux outfield). ~ Two dugouts/player seating on each field with entrance to the playing field. ~ Detailed scoreboard preferable for main diamond. Basic scoreboard preferable for other diamonds. ~ Backstop fencing made from netting 7.62m - 9.14m from home plate. ~ Minimum 76.2m outfield for males and 67.06m for females. ~ Two fully fenced diamonds preferable (side and outfield fences 1.2m - 2m high). ~ If a skinned and fully fenced diamond, a dirt warning track is required around the side and outfield fencing. ~ Pitching blocks and pitching mats for each diamond. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ~ At least two diamonds. ~ Warm up area adjacent to main diamond/s. ~ Light towers with adequate illumination if night games played. ~ Two dugouts/player seating on each field with entrance to the playing field. ~ Basic scoreboard preferable. ~ Backstop fencing 7.62m - 9.14m from home plate. ~ Minimum 76.2m outfield (males) and 67.06m (females). ~ Pitching blocks and pitching mats for each diamond. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ~ At least one diamond. ~ Warm up area adjacent to main diamond/s. ~ Light towers with adequate illumination if night games played. ~ Two dugouts/player seating on each field. ~ Backstop fencing. ~ Minimum 76.2m outfield (males) and 67.06m (females).

VENUE & FACILITIES

<p>INTERNATIONAL National criteria, able to host international tournaments.</p>	<p>NATIONAL Association criteria, able to host national age-grade tournaments, NFC & National Clubs.</p>	<p>ASSOCIATION Local criteria, able to host weekly senior softball competitions. Potential to host South/North island U15 tournaments & Div 2 Secondary Schools.</p>	<p>LOCAL Able to host junior/social softball games & training sessions.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> “ Stadium seating for at least 5000 spectators (preferably some covered). “ Adequate infield seating for VIP’s, media and athletes. “ At least 2 dressing rooms with rest room/shower facilities for 20 people. “ Coach’s dressing room with shower and dressing facilities; umpire’s dressing room “ Indoor area for Umpire-In-Chief large enough for six people. “ A training room per team to hold equipment to treat injured players with phones, water and electricity. “ On-site storage facility at least 40 feet x 70 feet for maintenance equipment. “ 6 feet high perimeter fence completely around the stadium to enclose the venue and prevent outside visibility into field of play. “ Drug testing area with private facilities. “ Rest room facilities for spectators. “ Glass enclosed press box overlapping playing field. “ Workrooms in Main Stadium behind home plate. “ Media workroom to handle at least 150 working media with computer capabilities, fax, phone and CCTV. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> “ Designated spectator areas (preferably some covered seating). “ At least two dressing rooms. “ Umpires’ area and dressing room. “ Rest rooms and showers for athletes “ Rest rooms for spectators. “ Facilities for the media with power outlets. “ Scorers’ and statistician’s room. “ Technical/Administration office “ Information board with results, fixtures, statistics and teams with shirt numbers. “ Shaded areas for players and officials. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> “ Designated spectator areas (preferably some covered seating). “ At least two dressing rooms/areas. “ Adequate rest rooms and amenities for athletes and spectators. “ Shaded areas for players and officials. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> “ Adequate rest rooms and amenities for athletes and spectators.

<p>“ Large interview room for 150 people in theatre style seating with head tables.</p> <p>“ IF Lounge and Olympic Family Lounge.</p> <p>“ Technical Delegates room. Private and secured, and hold up to 10 people comfortably. Must have computer, phone and CCTV capabilities.</p> <p>“ WBSC-SD President and Secretary General Offices approximately 12 feet x 12 feet with CCTV, telephone and computer capabilities.</p> <p>“ WBSC-SD Secretariat workroom within large enough to house 6 staff. Must have partition separations, fax, copy machine, computers and phones.</p>			
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Appendix 4: New Zealand Diamond Specifications

New Zealand Softball Field Specifications and Management



January 2018



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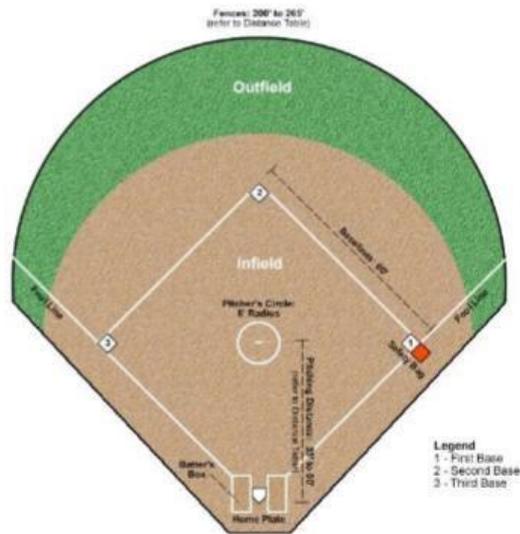
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1. Introduction

Note

Council should always endeavor to achieve the specifications and management plan detailed in this document. They facilitate participation along with player and spectator safety.

- 1.1 This specification sets out the marking and maintenance requirements for softball diamonds on parks in Auckland City. Softball is a small-ball sport that requires a smooth and level-playing surface.
- 1.2 The scope of field preparation includes the following:
 - a. Preparation of the field for the playing of various grades of softball
 - b. Renovation and maintenance of skin diamonds
 - c. Maintenance of artificial diamonds
 - d. Maintenance of outfields
- 1.3 The two main areas of a softball field are:
 - a. The Infield (also called the Diamond): the area of the field that is usually dirt covered (may be grass). It is commonly curved extending out past 1st, 2nd, and 3rd base.
 - b. The Outfield: the grassed area that extends from the infield to the outfield fence (if installed). It encompasses the entire width of the field.



January 2018

Page 1

Softball Field Measurements

2.1 Measurement Tables

The following tables show the official measurements for all softball fields.

Division	Bases	Pitching	Outfield Fence
Fastpitch Men	18.29m	14.02m	76.20m
Fastpitch Women	18.29m	13.11m	67.06m
Slowpitch All Grades	19.81m	14.00m	83.82m

Table 2.1 – Adult Softball Field Measurements

Age Group	Bases	Pitching	Outfield Fence
Girls U/19	18.29m	12.19m	67.06m
Boys U/19	18.29m	14m	76.20m
Girls U/17	18.29m	12.19m	67.06m
Boys U/17	18.29m	14m	76.20m
Girls U/15	18.29m	11.28m	67.06m
Boys U/15	18.29m	12.19m	76.20m
Girls U/13	18.29m	11m	67.06m
Boys U/13	18.29m	11.89m	76.20m

Table 2.2 – Youth Softball Field Measurements

Age Group	Bases	Pitching
T-Ball U/6 & U7	8m	n/a
T-Ball U/8	10m	n/a
T-Ball U/10	14m	n/a
Softball U/10 & U/11	14m	11m
Softball 12 & Under	11m	10m
Softball Girls U/14	18.29	11.00m
Softball Boys U/14	18.29	12.00m

Table 2.3 – T-Ball and School Diamond Recommendations



Mt Albert Ramblers Artificial Infield – Warren Freer Park, St Lukes

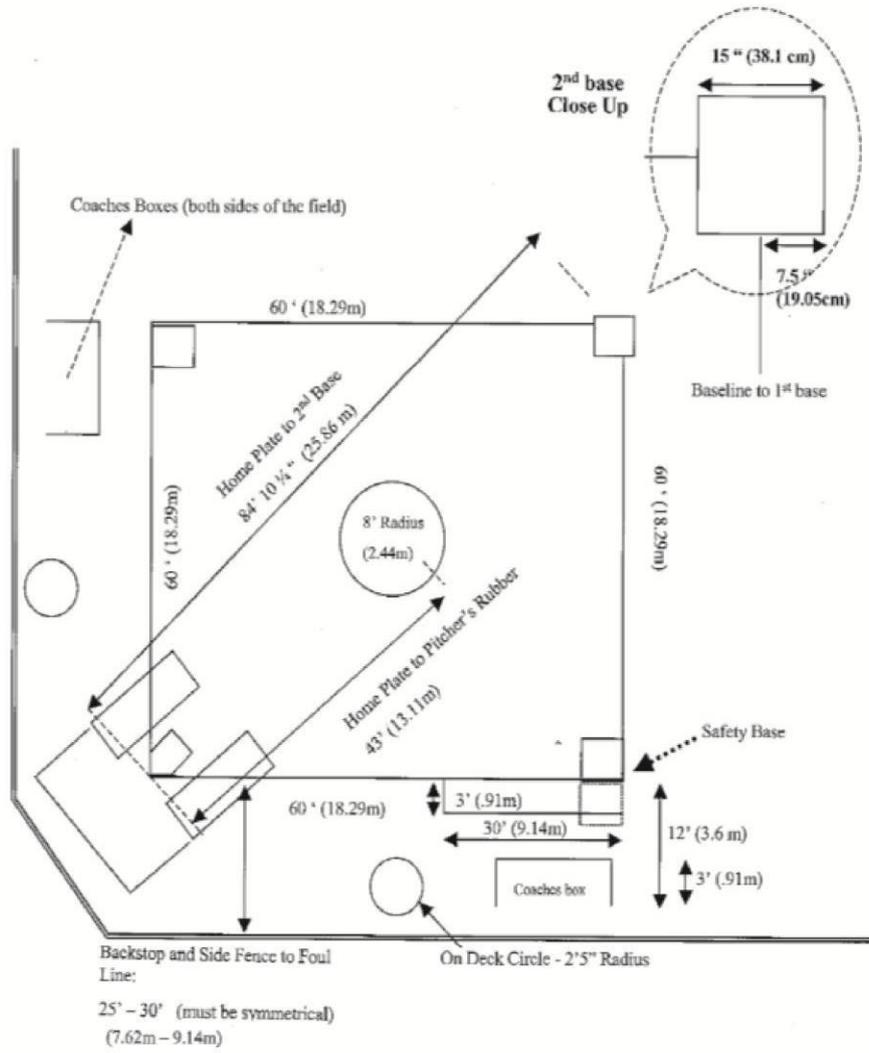


Figure 2.2 – Infield Dimensions Plan 2

2.3 Infield and Outfield Dimensions

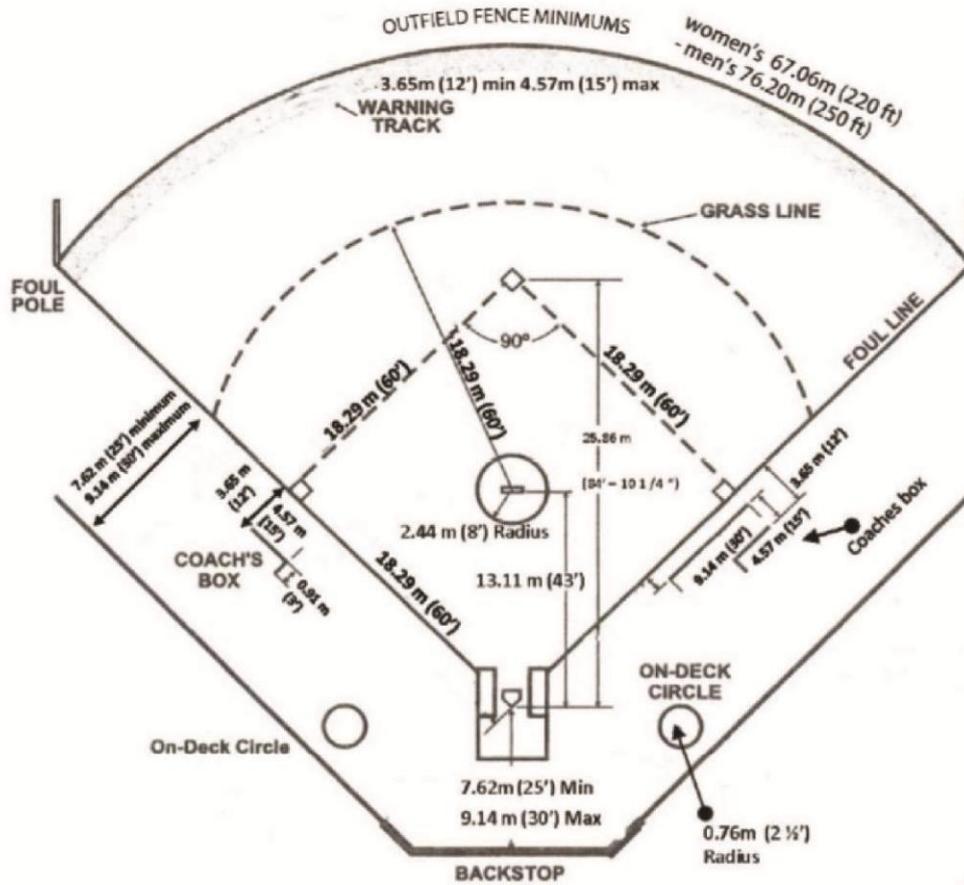


Figure 2.3 – Infield and Outfield Dimensions

2.4 Home Plate to 2nd Base Measurement

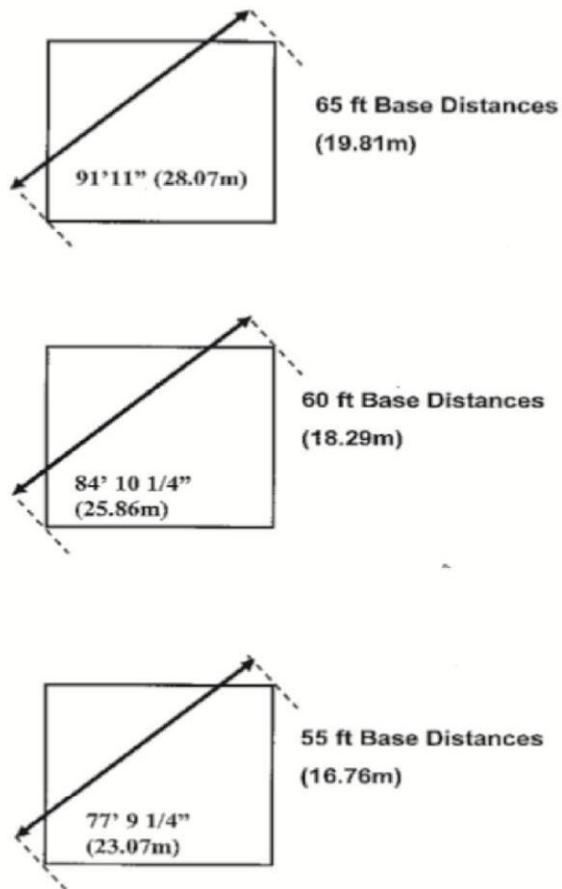


Figure 2.4 – Home Plate to 2nd Base Measurement

2.5 Base and Home Plate Dimensions

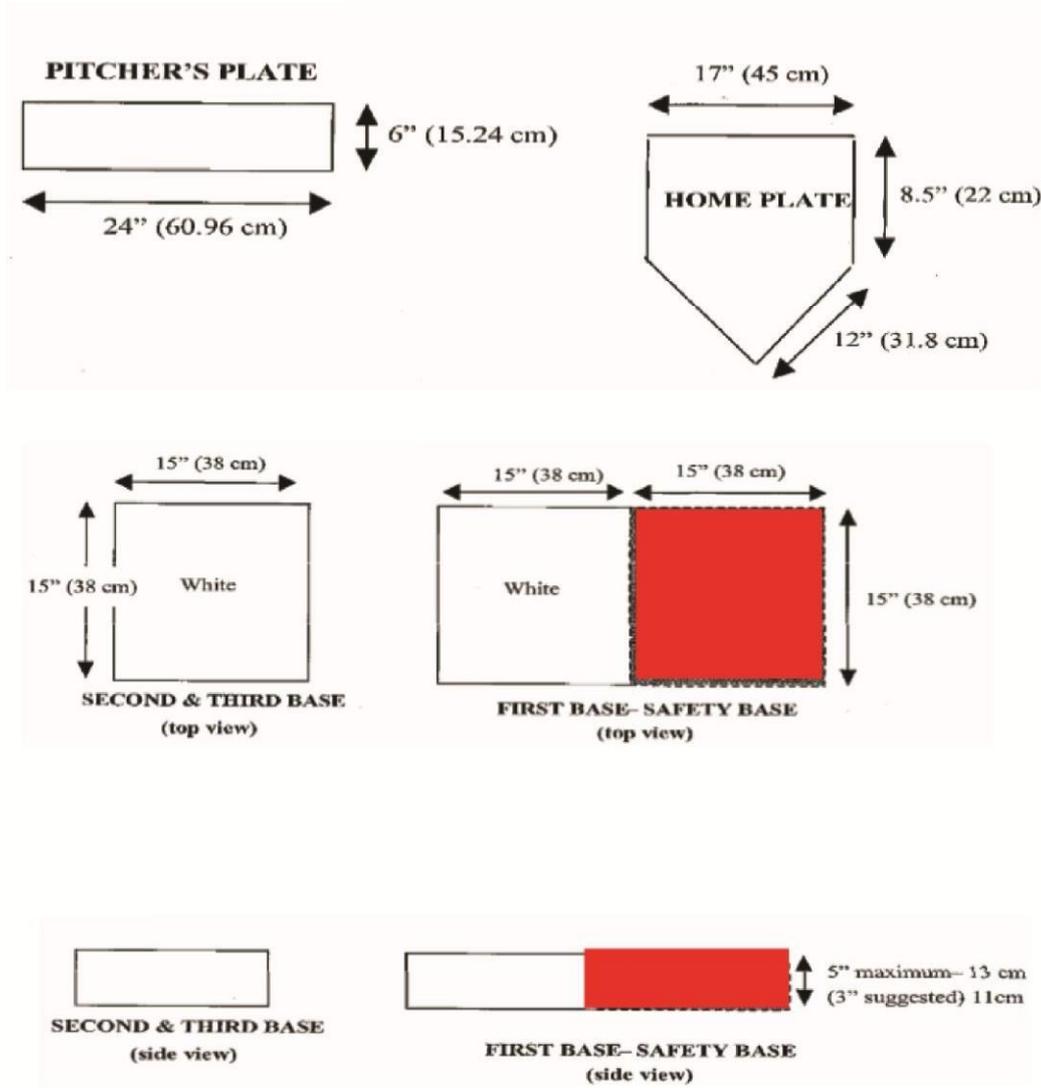


Figure 2.5 – Base and Home Plate Dimensions

2.6 Batter's Boxes and Catcher's Box - Information and Dimensions

- a. The Batter's Boxes are large rectangles that are placed on either side of home plate. This is where the batter stands to hit the ball.
- b. The Catcher's Box is the area where the catcher positions himself or herself.
- c. The following diagram (not to scale) shows the measurements for placing the batter's boxes and catcher's box in relation to home plate.

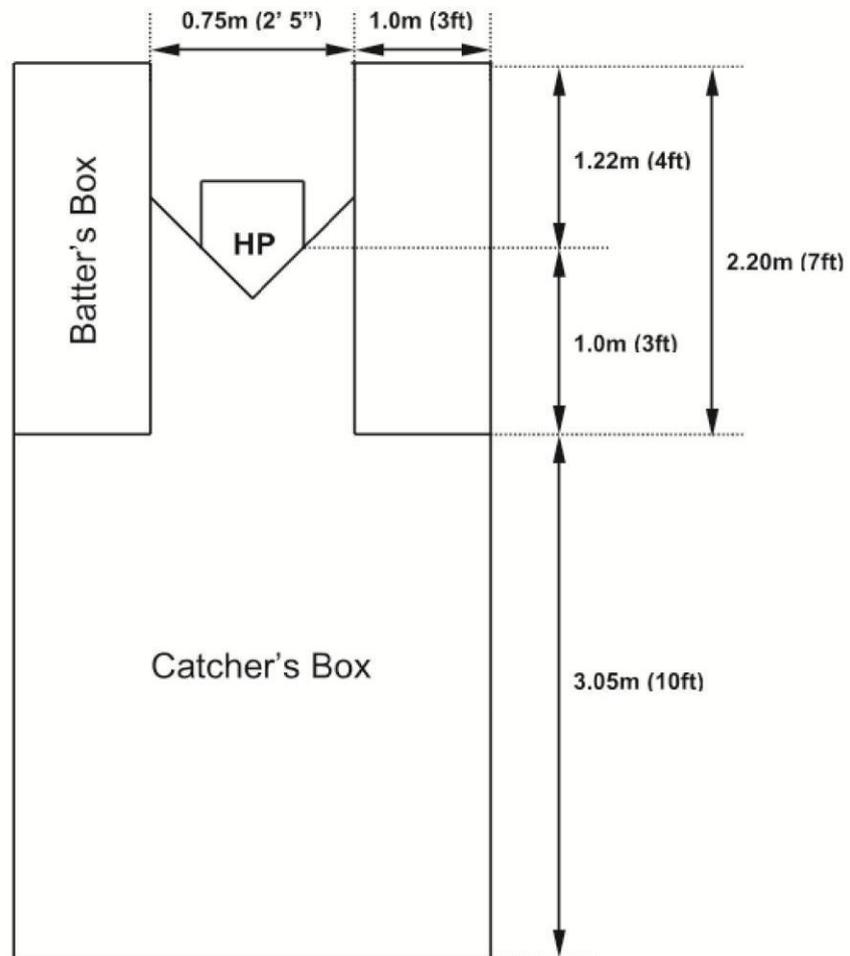


Figure 2.6 – Batter's Boxes and Catcher's Box Dimensions

2.7 Backstop Dimensions

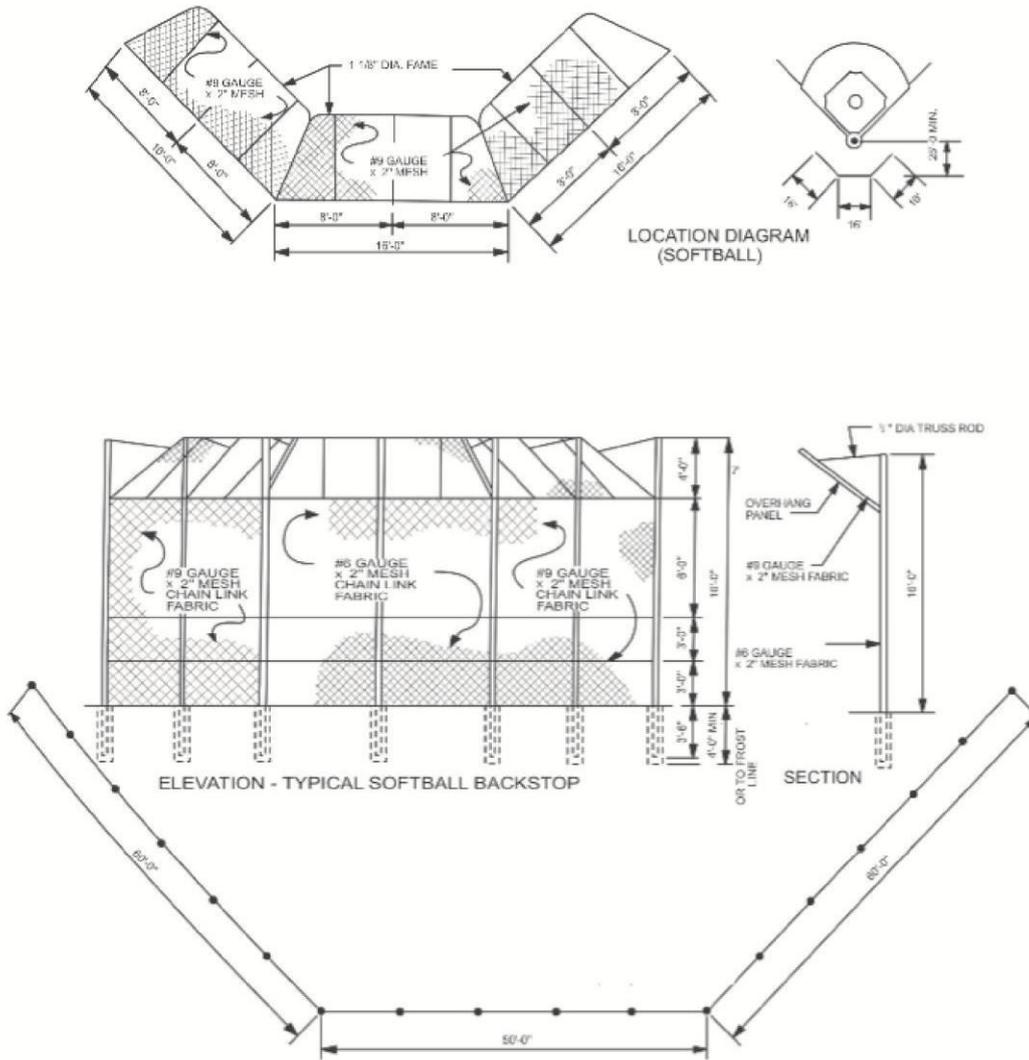


Figure 2.7 – Backstop Dimensions

2.8 Backstop Information

Note

Council should always endeavor to achieve the backstop design as shown at Figures 2.1, 2.2, 2.3 and 2.7

- The backstop is a structure (usually fencing or netting of a small weave type) that is placed behind the home plate. Backstops have typically been made out of metal poles with wire netting affixed.
- The guide shown at Figures 2.1, 2.2 and 2.3 states that the backstop should be 7.62m – 9.41m from both home plate and the foul lines. It is preferred that the height of the backstop fencing be at least 7m.
- For the safety of spectators and buildings being hit by foul balls, an overhang is recommended. Typically the overhang cantilevers 9.5m towards the field and reaches an apex height of 11m.
- An acceptable alternative as used at Meadowlands Reserve, Howick, is shown below. These measurements can be used as a guideline and do not apply to any current by-law or Softball New Zealand ruling.

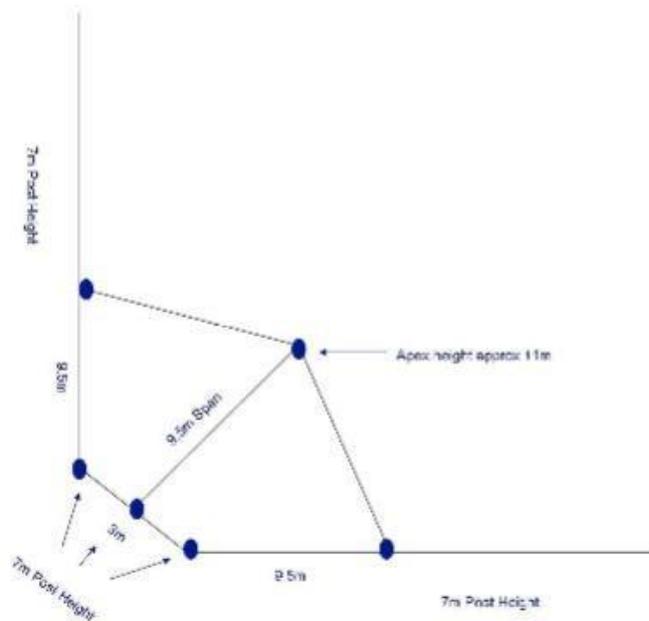


Figure 2.8 – Meadowlands Reserve, Howick, Softball Backstop

2. Skin Diamond Basics

3.1 Preparing a Diamond for the Infield Material

Once all the grass has been cleared from the infield area an arc must be cut where the infield meets the outfield grass (refer Figure 2.3 for dimensions). Infield material will need to be laid over the infield dirt.

3.2 Infield Material Recommendations

Most infield materials will be a combination of Sand-Clay-Silt. If this mix is used it will make a difference in the playing quality of the field and improve player safety. Below is a table detailing the different qualities of materials used when combined to make up the infield surface.

Note

*In Auckland, **Muriwai Sandstone** appears to be an effective skin diamond material and is currently used at Meadowlands Reserve, War Memorial Park and also White Park.*

Soil Separate	Recommended Percent Range	Comments
Sand	50% - 75%	Higher than recommended amounts = increased soil mobility = increased maintenance. Avoid sands with surfaces that are severely angular or rounded as well as highly spherical. For lower maintenance fields, use a soil with 65 – 75% sand content. High maintenance infields can use a tighter soil for better traction by decreasing the sand content to between 55% and 65%.
Silt	15% - 35%	Stay with lower end of recommended values to avoid dusty infields. High levels of silt (>30%) will increase the slickness of an infield skin surface when it is wet.
Clay	15% - 35%	Infield soils with clay contents higher than 25% may require the addition of soil amendments for proper soil consistency.

Table 5.1 – Combinations of Infield Material

3.3 Infield Camber for Drainage

- a. After laying the infield mixture it will need to be rolled in order to flatten it out. A slight crown (high point) just behind the pitcher's rubber is recommended to allow the water to run off the infield toward the foul lines and the outfield. This "crown" will be very slight and will only be a few degrees – but will prevent rainwater from pooling up on the field and creating a field of unusable mud.
- b. To form the "crown" the infield should be graded to have a minimum of 0.5% slope with the maximum allowable of 1%. Anything less than 0.5% will not allow the water to drain and anything greater than 1% will effect how the balls roll on the infield.
- c. When dragging the field, always start at the pitching's mound and moving in large outward circles.

3. Outfield Fence

- 4.1 Outfield fence distances are shown at Tables 2.1 and 2.2 and Figure 2.3. It is more efficient to fence at the farthest outfield distance (76.20m) to alleviate switching fence distances frequently. Rosedale Park, the preferred international venue for softball, has the outfield fences set at 76.20 .
- 4.2 The fence should be made of durable material such as chain link. It should be high enough to prevent an outfielder from falling over the fence when catching a ball while running at full speed.
- 4.3 The recommended heights are:
 - a. 1.40m for temporary fencing
 - b. 1.40m for permanent baseline fencing
 - c. 1.80m for permanent outfield fencing.

4. Dugouts

- 5.1 Dugouts are where teams to sit while they are batting. Extra players and the coaches sit there while on defense.
- 5.2 Dugout design ranges from a simple bench for players to sit on, to a permanent covered shelter that is sunk into the ground. Dugouts, if covered, can protect players from the sun and the rain. They are located off the field of play.
- 5.3 Figure 2.1 shows the typical positioning of a dugout relative to the diamond.

5. Performance Testing

- 6.1 Performance testing equipment may be used to determine the quality of diamonds.
- 6.2 Testing as set out for the various categories of softball fields may be carried out at the discretion of Council. Whenever performance characteristics are measured, records shall be kept establishing a database of individual infield and outfield performance. If necessary, the performance standards specified will be altered in accordance with characteristics of individual diamonds and outfields. Consultation must occur with the local softball association if any variance of specifications is considered.
- 6.3 It is accepted that at times adverse weather or other conditions may make it impossible to achieve the specified performance by the New Zealand Sports Turf Institute (NZSTI).

6. Categories Of Softball Fields

- 7.1 The following table defines softball field categories

Category	Softball Grades
1	Premier and Premier Reserve
2	Remaining Open Grade and Youth
3	Artificial

Table 7.1 – Diamond Categories

7. Game Performance Standards

Performance standards expected for Category 1, 2, and 3 softball fields are outlined below. Refer Table 7.1 for softball field categories.

8.1 Category 1 and 2

a. Skin Infield

Skin diamonds are to be cone shaped, well drained to the outside with no pooling permitted. Refer Para 3.3 for camber information.

b. Outfield Levelling

The outfield shall be of level and smooth to allow trueness of ball roll as assessed by Council. Levels should ensure the safety of players.

c. Grass Height – Infield and Outfield

- (i) Infield: shall be mown to 20mm cutting height with clippings removed.
- (ii) Outfield: mown no earlier than the day preceding play to between 20mm and 30mm. No excess grass cuttings (e.g. clumps of clippings deposited on the surface) to be present.

d. Markings

- (i) The infield and outfield shall be marked in accordance with Figures 2.2, 2.3 and 2.6.
- (ii) Markings shall be 50mm to 80mm in width. They shall be clear and discernible.
- (iii) The foul ball lines shall be marked out according to Figure 2.3. Lines shall be no less than 50mm and no greater than 80mm.

e. Lip Maintenance

The outfield and infield juncture is to be trimmed from time to time to ensure there is no grass encroachment onto the infield.

8.2 Category 3

a. Outfield Levelling

The outfield shall be of level and smooth to allow trueness of ball roll as assessed by Council. Levels should ensure the safety of players.

b. Infield Cleaning

Infields shall be kept in a clean condition free of dirt, weeds and grass. They shall be water blasted at the beginning of each season.

c. Marking Diamonds

- (i) The infield and outfield shall be marked in accordance with Figures 2.2, 2.3 and 2.6.
- (ii) Diamonds are to be marked with white paint. Markings shall be 50mm to 80mm in width. They shall be clear and discernible.

d. Diamond Edges

- (i) Grass growth at the edges is to be controlled to prevent encroachment of grass onto or under the diamond surround.
- (ii) Soil shall be applied to the surrounds as necessary to ensure the diamond and outfield is flush.

e. Damage

Damage should be reported within 24 hours and repairs carried out before the next scheduled fixture, if practicable.

f. Outfields

To be mown no earlier than the day preceding play to between 20mm and 30mm. No excess grass cuttings (e.g. clumps of clippings deposited on the surface) to be present.

8. General Turf Control Practice

Note

To be carried out by Council and/or clubs where appropriate. Clear and detailed instructions need to be agreed upon as to who is responsible for this maintenance

9.1 Weed Control

- a. Where appropriate the Contractor may apply herbicides to control any visibly apparent weeds (broadleaf, grass weeds) to the skin diamonds, not less than 4 weeks prior to major renovation or as specified by the product label/product manufacturer.
- b. During the playing season skin diamonds shall be kept free of weeds and summer grasses through appropriate weed control methods as required e.g. herbicides and hand weeding.

- c. Herbicide selection and use is to be as governed by the Weed Management Policy for *Council*. Only *Roundup*, *Escort* and *Versatill* are permitted herbicides. Strict requirements for publication of Public Notices and use of on-site signage apply to all herbicide usage. Herbicide applicators must hold a current *Growsafe* certificate.

9.2 Maintenance of Kikuyu Outfields

- a. Special care is needed to ensure that Kikuyu outfields meet the outfield speeds.
- b. To combat the tendency of Kikuyu to build up a thick thatch carpet, it is necessary to carry out a program of aggressive mowing with a flail mower or similar. It may be necessary to catch clippings at times, and versioning several times a season will also be required.

9.3 Aerating the Field

- a. Aerating is the most important turf maintenance practice. It helps loosen up the compacted soil caused by all the foot traffic and allows the air and water to move freely within the roots of the grass.
- b. The core-aerator machine is used to pull plugs, or "cores", out of the ground to alleviate soil compaction allowing water, fertilizer, and oxygen to more easily move down to the roots. This is common practice for all types of grass sporting fields.

9.4 Topdressing the Field

This means to spread a light material, usually sand, over your grass to fill in the low spots and to help smooth out and even out the playing surfaces.

9.5 Over-seeding the Field

Over-seeding involves placing a second seed blend into the grass surface. It is recommended every time the ground has been aerated and top-dressed. This helps strengthen the grass.

9.6 Fertilising the Grass

- a. The turf needs to have nutrients of nitrogen, phosphorous, and potassium in order to grow strong enough to handle the pressures that come with being a sport field turf.
- b. A complete balanced fertilizer can be applied at least once per year to the field and then supplemented by several additional applications of nitrogen during the growing seasons (if possible).

9.7 Watering the Grass

- a. The grass in the outfield should be irrigated heavily at least one day per week. This forces the roots to seek water down in the soil, resulting in a stronger and deeper root system.

- b. Ideally it is recommended to water the turf immediately following a game or tournament in order to help the grass recover and strengthen quicker.
- c. Under severe drought conditions the turf will lose 1cm (1/4 to 1/3 inches) of water per day. When grass starts to show wilt due to heat and lack of water the areas should be soaked to a depth of 15.24-25.4cm (6-10 inches). Deep water encourages deep root growth.
- d. Be careful as too much watering can cause the grass to be waterlogged and spongy. Frequent aerating will help keep the soil open and encourage the water to be absorbed down into the root system.

9.8 Mowing the Grass

- a. Mowing patterns should be alternated every time the grass is cut. This promotes a strong and level turf surface by forcing the grass to grow upward rather than falling in horizontal pattern.
- b. The mowing of the outfield grass should be done often enough so that the grass does not grow more than 30mm above the desired length. A longer cut may be used on fields that are not being used regularly.
- c. There are usually four mowing patterns to use on softball fields:
 - (i) Up and down parallel to the right field foul line
 - (ii) Up and down parallel to the left field foul line
 - (iii) From second base to centre field, back and forth
 - (iv) From foul pole to foul pole, back and forth

9.9 Irrigation of Infield

- a. Watering the dirt is crucial to keeping it in great playing condition, and to keep it from drying out and blowing away. The water needs to be sprinkled so that no mud or puddles form. A sprinkler can be used to water the infield dirt if it rotates around the field.
- b. Figure 9.1 shows the typical layout for a softball field irrigation or sprinkler system. Most of the sprinkler heads will be placed in the outfield to water the grass, but there will be at least one head placed in the infield (usually just behind the pitching rubber) to allow a hose to be attached and the infield dirt watered. This watering of the infield dirt prevents it from drying out and then blowing off your field every time the wind blows.
- c. When the sprinkler heads are placed in the ground, ensure that they lie below the surface to increase safety and reduce the trip hazard to players.

9. Contractor Obligations

- 10.1 The overall brief is to prepare softball fields to the appropriate performance standards at Paragraph 8.
- 10.2 The contractor will be required to carry out the work described below to keep the field in a suitable condition for softball competition:
 - a. Spring and Autumn renovationsPatching
 - b. Winter careIrrigation
 - c. MowingMarking
 - d. FertilisingAppropriate disease/pest control
 - e. Rolling.....Game day preparation
- 10.3 The Contractor shall carry out the work by utilising recognised turf culture practices that are acceptable to all stakeholders.
- 10.4 The Contractor will supervise the work using staff with approved Turf Culture qualifications and/or experience in softball diamond and outfield management.
- 10.5 Innovative practices are acceptable provided game performance standards are met.
- 10.6 The Contractor will programme the renovation of the diamonds and outfields in order to achieve a level surface that is suitable for playing softball of all grades during the playing season.
- 10.7 Renovation programme information:
 - a. to occur during the periods 31 March to 15 May (Autumn) and 31 August to the first weekend in October (Spring). The spring programme is aimed at addressing any limitations not covered during autumn. Weather conditions may delay work during these periods.
 - b. The Contractor will ensure work proceeds when weather permits, to ensure Softball grounds are playable by the 1st weekend in October.

Appendix 5: Floodlighting Specifications²²



MY PROJECT
 Name: Rosedale Park Softball Fields
 Location: Auckland,



From Hometown to Professional

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ENGINEERED DESIGN
 By: C Hoy
 File # / Date: 152213F1 17-Jul-12

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Pole / Fixture Summary

Pole ID	Pole Height	Fixture Qty	Lamp Type	Switching
A1	24.38	2	1500W MZ	C
A2	24.38	5	1500W MZ	A
		2	1500W MZ	C
		5	1500W MZ	A
		5	1500W MZ	B
A4	24.38	5	1500W MZ	B
B1	24.38	11	1500W MZ	A
		2	1500W MZ	C
B3	24.38	11	1500W MZ	B
C1	24.38	9	1500W MZ	A
		2	1500W MZ	C
C2	24.38	9	1500W MZ	A
		2	1500W MZ	C
C3	24.38	9	1500W MZ	B
C4	24.38	9	1500W MZ	B
D1	24.38	11	1500W MZ	A
		2	1500W MZ	C
10		112		B

Calculation Grid Summary

Grid Name	Calculation Metric	Type	Light Level			Uniformity		Groups	Fixture Qty
			Ave	Min	Max	Min/Max	Min/Ave		
Softball-1 (North) High Level (Infield)	Horizontal Illuminance	Constant	1104	868	1291	0.67	0.79	A,C	62
Softball-1 (North) High Level (Outfield)	Horizontal Illuminance	Constant	851	482	1156	0.42	0.57	A,C	62
Softball-1 (North) (Infield)	Horizontal Illuminance	Constant	871	718	1006	0.71	0.82	A	50
Softball-1 (North) (Outfield)	Horizontal Illuminance	Constant	663	401	926	0.43	0.60	A	50
Softball-2 (South) (Infield)	Horizontal Illuminance	Constant	856	718	1031	0.70	0.84	B	50
Softball-2 (South) (Outfield)	Horizontal Illuminance	Constant	653	433	857	0.51	0.66	B	50
Spks Along Jack Hinton Drive	True Max Vert Illuminance	Constant	7.75	4.74	10.8	0.44	0.61	A,B,C	112

PROJECT SUMMARY

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Group / Switching Summary

Group Name	Description	Fixture Qty
A	Softball- 1 (North)	50
B	Softball- 2 (South)	50
C	Softball- 1 (North) High Level	12



MY PROJECT

Name: Rosedale Park Softball Fields
 Location: Auckland,

ENGINEERED DESIGN

By: C Hoy
 File # / Date: 152213F1 17-Jul-12

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PROJECT SUMMARY



MY PROJECT
 Name: Rosedale Park Softball Fields
 Location: Auckland,

GRID SUMMARY
 Name: Softball-1 (North)
 Size: 76m/76m/76m - basepath 18m
 Spacing: 6.0m x 6.0m
 Height: 0.0m above grade

CONSTANT ILLUMINATION SUMMARY

HORIZONTAL LUX	
	Outfield
Guaranteed Average:	850
Scan Average:	870.54
Maximum:	1005.70
Minimum:	717.76
Min / Avg:	0.82
Min / Max:	0.71
UG (adjacent pts):	1.24
CV:	0.09
No. of Points:	35
LUMINAIRE INFORMATION	
Luminaire Type:	Green Generation
Rated Lamp Life:	5,000 hours
Avg Lumens / Lamp:	134,000
Avg Lamp Tilt Factor:	0.992
No. of Luminaires:	50
Avg KW:	78.2 (85.0 max)

Guaranteed Performance: The Guaranteed Average CONSTANT ILLUMINATION described above is guaranteed for the rated life of the lamp.

Field Measurements: Illumination measured in accordance with IESNA LM-5-04 and CIBSE LG4. Individual values may vary. See the Warranty document for details.

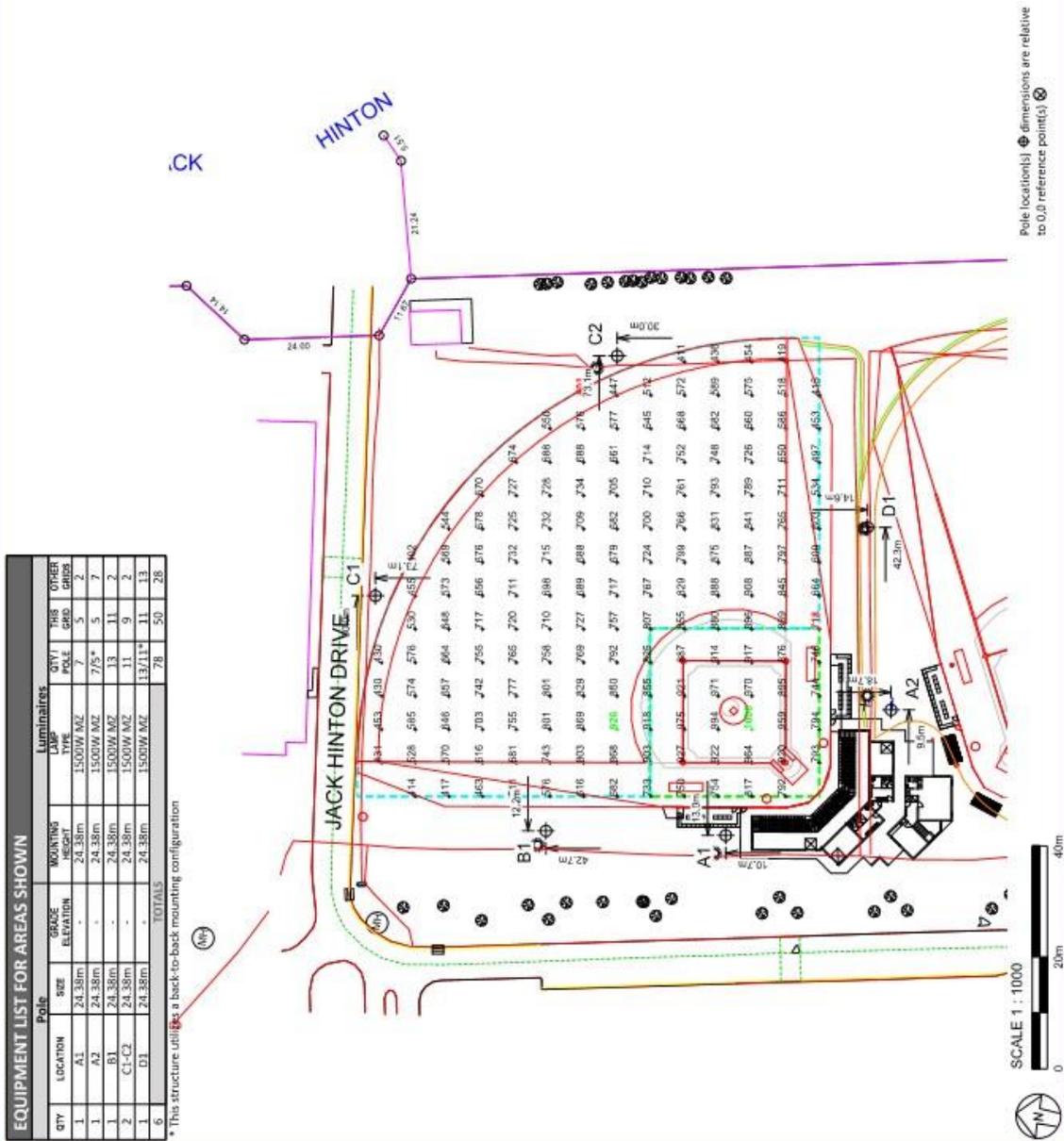
Electrical System Requirements: Refer to Amperage Draw Chart and/or the "Musco Control System Summary" for electrical sizing.

Installation Requirements: Results assume +/- 3% nominal voltage at line side of the ballast and structures located within 3 feet (1m) of design locations.

ENGINEERED DESIGN
 By: C Hoy
 File # / Date: 152213F1
 17-Jul-12

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ILLUMINATION SUMMARY



EQUIPMENT LIST FOR AREAS SHOWN

QTY	LOCATION	SIZE	GRADE ELEVATION	Luminaires		QTY1	THIS GRID	OTHER GRID
				LAMP TYPE	HEIGHT			
1	A1	24.38m	-	1500W NZ	7	5	2	
1	A2	24.38m	-	1500W NZ	7/5*	5	7	
1	B1	24.38m	-	1500W NZ	13	11	2	
2	C1-C2	24.38m	-	1500W NZ	11	9	2	
1	D1	24.38m	-	1500W NZ	13/11*	11	13	
6						78	50	28

* This structure utilizes a back-to-back mounting configuration.

Pole location(s) ⊕ dimensions are relative to 0.0 reference point(s) ⊗



MY PROJECT
 Name: Rosedale Park Softball Fields
 Location: Auckland.

GRID SUMMARY
 Name: Sortball-1 (North) High Level
 Size: 76m/76m/76m - basepath 18m
 Spacing: 6.0m x 6.0m
 Height: 0.0m above grade

CONSTANT ILLUMINATION SUMMARY

	Infield	Outfield
Guaranteed Average:	1100	850
Scan Average:	1104.11	851.28
Maximum:	1291.30	1155.57
Minimum:	867.87	482.00
Min / Avg:	0.79	0.57
Min / Max:	0.67	0.42
UG (adjacent pts):	1.26	1.45
CV:	0.12	0.22
No. of Points:	35	126

LUMINAIRE INFORMATION

Luminaire Type: Green Generation
 Rated Lamp Life: 5,000 hours
 Avg Lumens / Lamp: 134,000
 Avg Lamp Tilt Factor: 0.993
 No. of luminaires: 62
 Avg KW: 96.97 [105.4 max]

Guaranteed Performance: The Guaranteed Average CONSTANT ILLUMINATION described above is guaranteed for the rated life of the lamp.

Field Measurements: Illumination measured in accordance with IESNA LM-5-04 and CIBSE LGA. Individual values may vary. See the Warranty document for details.

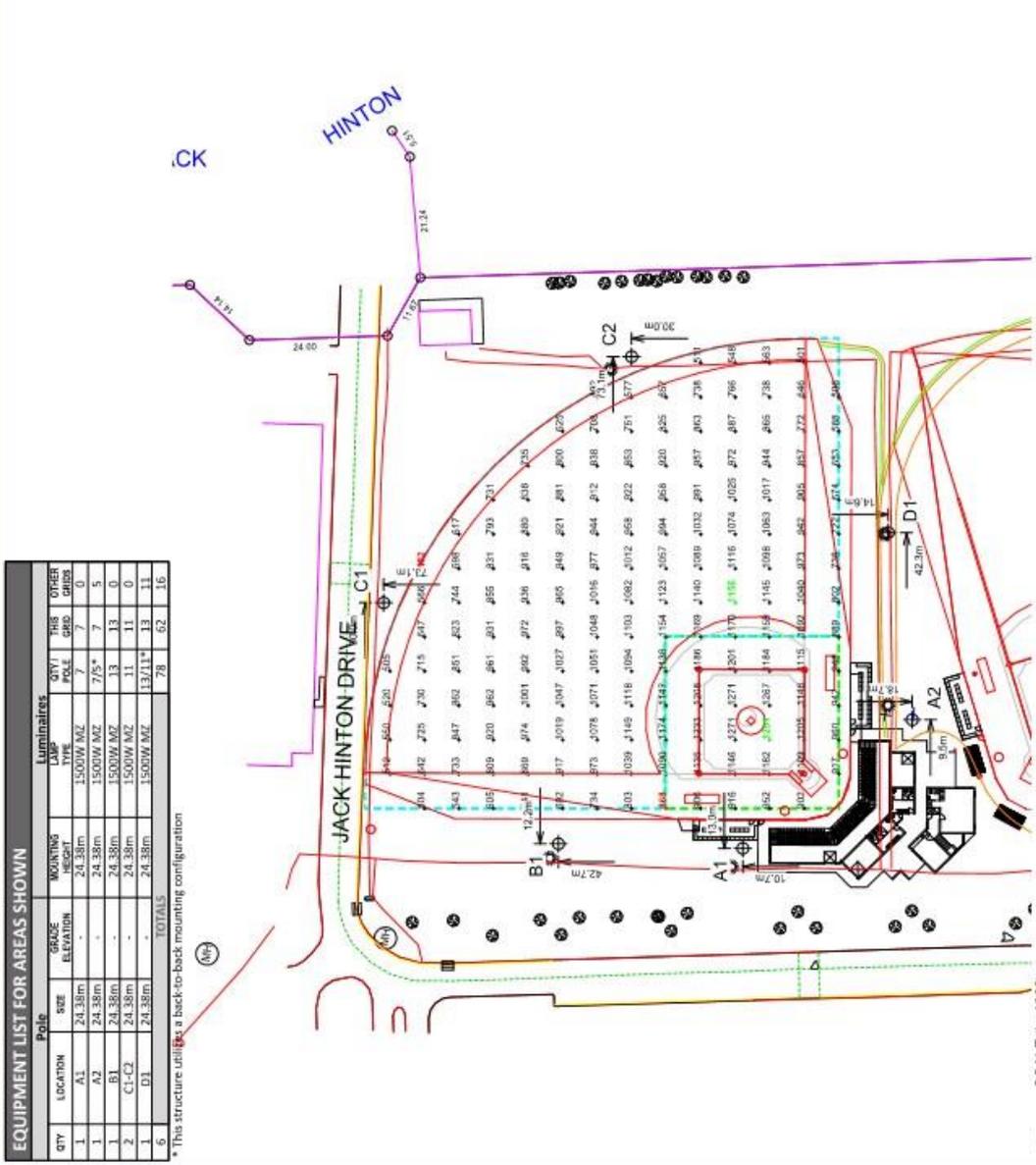
Electrical System Requirements: Refer to Amperage Draw Chart and/or the "Musco Control System Summary" for electrical sizing.

Installation Requirements: Results assume +/- 3% nominal voltage at line side of the ballast and structures located within 3 feet (1m) of design locations.

ENGINEERED DESIGN
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ILLUMINATION SUMMARY



EQUIPMENT LIST FOR AREAS SHOWN

QTY	LOCATION	SIZE	GRADE ELEVATION	MOUNTING HEIGHT	Luminaires		
					LAMP	QTY / POLE	HIS / OTHER
1	A1	24.38m	-	24.38m	1500W MZ	0	0
1	A2	24.38m	-	24.38m	1500W MZ	7/5*	7
1	B1	24.38m	-	24.38m	1500W MZ	13	0
2	C1-C2	24.38m	-	24.38m	1500W MZ	11	11
1	D1	24.38m	-	24.38m	1500W MZ	13/11*	13
6			TOTALS			78	82

* This structure utilizes a back-to-back mounting configuration

Pole location(s) ⊕ dimensions are relative to 0.0 reference point(s) ⊗





MY PROJECT
 Name: Rosedale Park Softball Fields
 Location: Auckland,

GRID SUMMARY
 Name: Sortball-2 (South)
 Size: 76m/76m/76m - basepath 18m
 Spacing: 6.0m x 6.0m
 Height: 0.0m above grade

CONSTANT ILLUMINATION SUMMARY

	Infield	Outfield
Guaranteed Average:	850	650
Scan Average:	856.08	652.62
Maximum:	1030.73	856.72
Minimum:	718.31	432.90
Min / Avg:	0.84	0.66
Min / Max:	0.70	0.51
UG (adjacent pts):	1.26	1.42
CV:	0.10	0.15
No. of Points:	35	126

LUMINAIRE INFORMATION

Luminaire Type: Green Generation
 Rated Lamp Life: 5,000 hours
 Avg Lumens / Lamp: 134,000
 Avg Lamp Tilt Factor: 0.988
 No. of luminaires: 50
 Avg KW: 78.2 (85.0 max)

Guaranteed Performance: The Guaranteed Average CONSTANT ILLUMINATION described above is guaranteed for the rated life of the lamp.

Field Measurements: Illumination measured in accordance with IESNA LM-5-04 and CIBSE LGA. Individual values may vary. See the Warranty document for details.

Electrical System Requirements: Refer to Amperage Draw Chart and/or the "Musco Control System Summary" for electrical sizing.

Installation Requirements: Results assume +/- 3% nominal voltage at line side of the ballast and structures located within 3 feet (1m) of design locations.

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ILLUMINATION SUMMARY

EQUIPMENT LIST FOR AREAS SHOWN

QTY	LOCATION	SIZE	GRADE ELEVATION	Luminaires		QTY/ LAMP	THIS AREAS	OTHER AREAS
				MP	MP			
1	A2	24.38m	-	1500W MZ	1500W MZ	7/5*	5	0
1	A4	24.38m	-	1500W MZ	1500W MZ	5	1	0
1	B3	24.38m	-	1500W MZ	1500W MZ	11	11	0
2	C3-C4	24.38m	-	1500W MZ	1500W MZ	9	9	0
1	D1	24.38m	-	1500W MZ	1500W MZ	13/11*	11	13
6	TOTALS					70	50	20



Pole location(s) ⊕ dimensions are relative to 0.0 reference point(s) ⊗





MY PROJECT
 Name: Rosedale Park Softball Fields
 Location: Aukland,

GRID SUMMARY
 Name: Split- Along Jack Hinton Drive
 Spacing: 10.0m
 Height: 1.5m above grade

CONSTANT ILLUMINATION SUMMARY
 MAX VERTICAL LUX
 Entire Grid
 Scan Average: 7.7498
 Maximum: 10.7920
 Minimum: 4.7382
 No. of Points: 12
 Luminaire Type: Green Generation
 Rated Lamp Life: 5,000 hours
 Avg Lumens / Lamp: 134,000
 Avg Lamp Tilt Factor: 0.991
 No. of Luminaires: 112
 Avg KW: 175.17 (190.4 max)

Guaranteed Performance: The CONSTANT ILLUMINATION described above is guaranteed for the rated life of the lamp.

Field Measurements: Illumination measured in accordance with IESNA LM-5-04 and CIBSE LG4. Individual values may vary. See the Warranty document for details.

Electrical System Requirements: Refer to Amperage Draw Chart and/or the "Musco Control System Summary" for electrical sizing.

Installation Requirements: Results assume +/- 3% nominal voltage at line side of the ballast and structures located within 3 feet (1m) of design locations.

ENGINEERED DESIGN
 By: C Hoy
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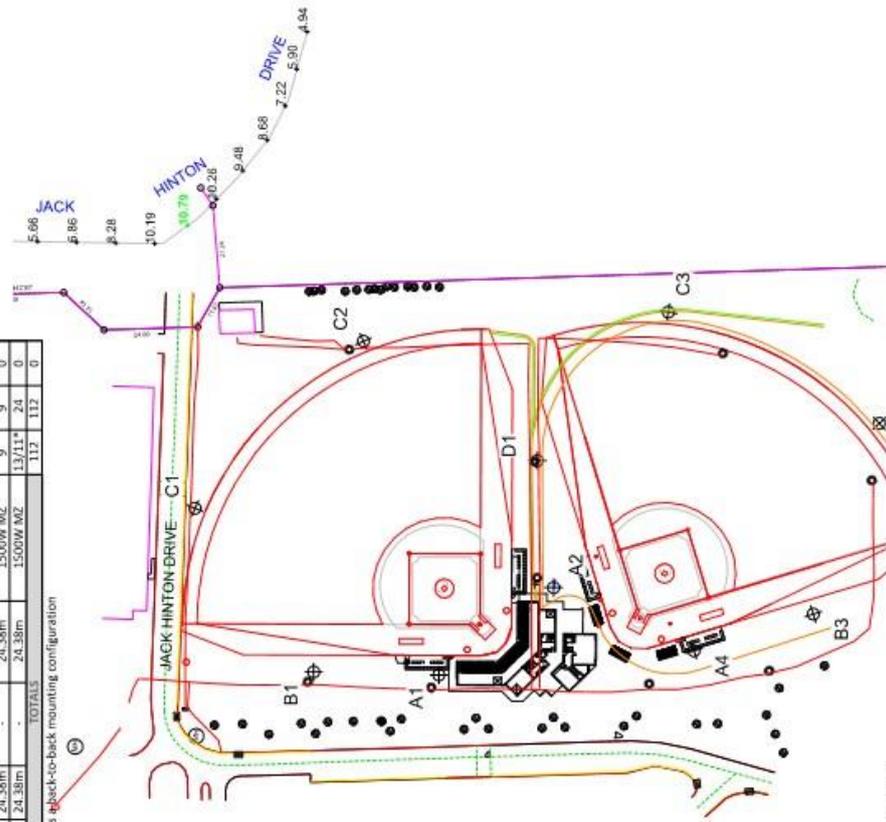
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ILLUMINATION SUMMARY

EQUIPMENT LIST FOR AREAS SHOWN

QTY	LOCATION	Pole	SIZE	GRADE ELEVATION	MOUNTING	Luminaires		
						LAMP	QTY/ POLE	HIS OTHER
1	A1	24.38m	-	24.38m	1500W MZ	7/5*	12	0
1	A2	24.38m	-	24.38m	1500W MZ	5	5	0
1	A4	24.38m	-	24.38m	1500W MZ	13	13	0
1	B1	24.38m	-	24.38m	1500W MZ	0	11	0
2	B3, C1-C7	24.38m	-	24.38m	1500W MZ	13/11*	9	0
1	C3-C4	24.38m	-	24.38m	1500W MZ	13/11*	24	0
1	D1	24.38m	-	24.38m	1500W MZ	11/2	112	0
10	TOTALS							

* This structure utilizes back-to-back mounting configuration



Pole location(s) ⊕ dimensions are relative to 0.0 reference point(s) ⊗

Appendix 6: Case Study - Rosedale Park, Albany

The international diamonds at Rosedale Park were officially opened in 1987, and floodlights were added in 1995. After being awarded hosting rights for the 2013 ISF World Men's Softball Championships, NHSA raised \$2 million to build a 500 seat stadium and install new international standard floodlights and a scoreboard. Auckland Council invested around \$800,000 in moving the diamonds to create space for the stadium, upgrading the diamonds, building a retaining wall and viewing banks.



Rosedale Park	Features
Main Diamonds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> “ Two main playing diamonds with skin infields “ Four light towers for night games “ For TV (and live streaming) purposes Field 1 is an average of 1,100 lux on the infield and 850 lux on the outfield. Diamond 2 average of 850 Lux in infield and 650 lux on the outfield. “ Two enclosed dugouts on each field (below ground level), with one entrance to the playing field from the dugout, and another entrance from the field to the area outside the dugout “ Electronic scoreboard with reader board and video board (located left of centre behind the outfield fence to allow a TV camera to be centre field. A scoreboard on Diamond 2 that displays team names and a running score. “ Two bullpens, each with two pitching rubbers and home plates (inside the 1st and 3rd baselines) “ Two foul poles 4.57 metres high and yellow in colour “ Fully covered stadium with spectator seating capacity for 500 (with temporary seating catering for up to 4,500) “ Perspex screen set into the catchers screen to allow for video and TV cameras.

Stadium Infrastructure- Main Diamond	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ” Change rooms with toilets and showers ” Umpire's facilities with toilets and showers ” Board/Conference ” Kitchen amenities ” Competition Manager's room ” Kiosk ” Reserved area for wheelchairs ” Disability access ” Separate disability amenities
Training Equipment & Diamonds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ” At least four practice diamonds provided - may be grass diamonds but need to be fenced, and have a backstop, pitching block and bases provided



Appendix 7: Case Study . Blacktown, Sydney

Overview

Since the Softball Centre's establishment in 2000 as a playing venue for the Sydney 2000 Olympic Games, it has continued to be regarded as one of the best Softball venues in the world. The Centre has hosted a variety of first class events including World Fastball Softball Championships, International Softball Challenge and the Men's and Women's National Fastpitch Championships.

The Australian Institute of Sport Softball team train at the venue and is also home of the Western Sydney Academy of Sports Softball Program and the NSW Softball's Rising Stars development squads.



Blacktown International Sports Park is a multi-sports venue located in Rooty Hill, a suburb in Sydney, Australia.

Type of Facility	Features
Main Diamond (Diamond 1)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> “ Fully covered stadium with spectator seating capacity for 1100 “ Electronic scoreboard, and separate commentators & media box “ Home & visitor dugouts and double home and visitor bullpens
Stadium Infrastructure- Main Diamond	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> “ Four change rooms that can be configured into two larger rooms. All change rooms have toilets, showers and wash facilities “ Multiple umpire's facilities with toilets, showers, change room and meeting area “ Board/Conference room fully air conditioned with separate kitchen amenities “ Competition Manager's room “ Kiosk “ First aid/Drug Testing Room
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> “ Reserved area for wheelchairs “ Disability access “ Separate disability amenities “ Lift to all levels
Diamonds 2, 3 and 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> “ Home and visitor dugouts and double home and visitor bullpens

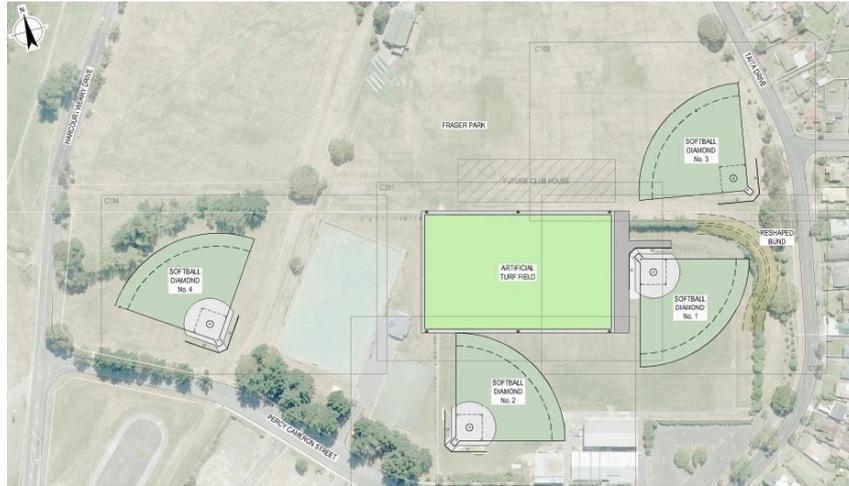
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ” Home and visitor team shelters with power and lights
Training Equipment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ” 3 x Batting Cages ” T batting screens ” 1st Base screens ” Softball pitching screens ” Jugs pitching machines ” Radar Guns linked to scoreboard on main diamond
Other	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ” All diamonds are fully fenced with 8ft home run fence ” All four diamonds are floodlit to Australian standards for international competition and/or training ” The main and two secondary diamonds are sand profile and are playable in most weather conditions due to an international standard sporting field sub surface drainage system ” Diamonds 1, 2 and 3 have full automatic irrigation systems ” All diamonds have grassed outfields and skinned infields ” Sheltered scorers facilities ” All diamonds measure 68.58m

Appendix 8: Case Study - Hutt Valley Softball

The Hutt Valley Sportsville Project was launched in September 2009 to create a number of sports 'villages' or communities, making it easier for sports clubs to attract new members, offer new programmes and control operational costs by pooling resources.

Fraser Park is one of three Sportsville hubs in Lower Hutt, and comprises eight founding clubs and associations incorporating the sports of softball, rugby, squash, football, cricket and hockey.

Stage 1 was completed in 2015 at a cost of \$3 million. Diamond 1 was upgraded to include an artificial infield and new floodlights. The existing Diamond 3 was upgraded, Diamond 4 was upgraded to a lime infield, and temporary grass diamonds completed the works.



Work on Stage 2 has commenced at a cost of \$15 million. This includes construction of a multipurpose recreational hub including six squash courts, indoor training space, administration offices, meeting facilities, eight changing rooms, a cafe and viewing decks.



Appendix 9: Case Study - Nelson Softball

Nelson Softball is a national championship venue, but capable of also hosting junior international championship events. The diamonds are maintained in impeccable condition to ensure ideal playing surfaces for weekly competition and tournament events.

The facility is located at Saxton Field in Nelson and is they claim "the best diamond facilities in New Zealand". The comprises four skin diamonds in very good condition. Permanent outfield fencing has been installed on diamonds 1 and 2, and diamonds 3 and 4 are fully back-netted.



Nelson Softball share the pavilion with Nelson Hockey. The stadium boasts two large viewing areas and decks, one of which looks over Diamond 1 and 2 for great viewing. The stadium includes a kitchen, canteen, bar, four changing rooms, toilets, showers, and a separate meeting room for umpires.