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Policy overview:	This policy outlines the Distinguished Service Award criteria.

Distinguished Services Award

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Distinguished Service Award

1. Objectives

To provide acknowledgement of exceptional and distinguished service that advances the interest of Softball Umpiring. This exceptional service shall involve collectively or separately any facet of Umpiring be it field officiating, coaching and/or administration. This exceptional service can be at Local Association, Regional, National, and/or International level.

2. Award Certificate

Each recipient of the award shall receive from Softball New Zealand a certificate or memento of an approved design, size, colour and bearing suitable wording.

3. Qualifications for Award

- a) At no time shall the awards in existence exceed 20 living recipients in number.
- b) Without limiting the power to make awards in exceptional circumstances that stand clear of their own accord, it is considered the qualification for award generally should be:
 - i) At least 15 years of unbroken service or, a total of 20 years of broken service in field officiating, coaching and/or administration at Local Association, Regional, National, and/or international level.
 - ii) And that, in all circumstances, there must exist some reason or facet of the services given that warrants distinction over and above the awards already available at club and provincial level.
- c) Each nomination must be accompanied by detailed and written documentation of the reasons for nomination. Nominations are to be received from Associations at least one month in advance of the annual meeting of the National Umpire Staff.
- d) Nominations will be reviewed by the National Umpiring Staff and recommendations forwarded to Softball New Zealand for approval by the Board. Successful nominees shall be announced at the AGM of Softball New Zealand or at some other appropriate occasion. Awards will be presented at a suitable time arranged by the recipient's Regional Director of Umpiring.
- e) Softball New Zealand shall keep a register of those receiving this award ([Link](#))