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Memo

To: Softball NSW Affiliates**From: Daniel Rushworth Chief Executive Officer****Date: Tuesday, 30 June 2020****Subject: Partnership Announcement: A Strong NSW & Strong ACT is strong for Softball**

Softball NSW (SNSW) and Softball ACT (SACT) have formed a 2 year participation and developmental partnership, which will assist in building pathways and increasing opportunities that were previously unattainable.

The key principle of the partnership, is the allowance of the Canberra Pride, the developmental arm of SACT pathways, to participate in Softball NSW State Championships from 2020 in all categories with the exception of the Open's divisions.

As part of the agreement, the Canberra Pride team is unable to be the entire ACT State Team that would otherwise be participating at the National Championships. The Canberra Pride Teams will include a combination of Tier 1 and development athletes from within the SACT framework to increase exposure and therefore, benefit from the high level of competition that the SNSW can offer. Further to this, SACT (Canberra Pride) athletes are unable to be selected for SNSW State Teams.

"Softball NSW currently offers extensive pathway opportunities to athletes, officials and Associations across the State, and with this new partnership, we firmly believe this increases not only the exposure and development for Softball ACT members and athletes but also our own Associations and their athletes" SNSW CEO Daniel Rushworth advised.

Rushworth added "The strength, depth and opportunity of Softball in NSW is the envy of many organisations across the nation. As the leading State it is our responsibility to maintain that strength but also grow the game, and providing this opportunity to SACT through the Canberra Pride teams, provides that along with significant wide ranging benefits".

"Softball ACT and Softball NSW have shared a tremendous history of rivalry and teamwork, and this has been strengthened in recent years as both organisations confront long-term membership losses in the sport. It is integral that like-minded organisations work together and engage in positive, robust conversation for the good of the sport." SACT CEO Ben Kirk said.

Kirk added "By entering the NSW State Championships, ACT-based athletes are provided with an opportunity to experience high level tournament play against some of the best athletes in the country. The benefits to their development, not to mention coaches and officials, is impossible to gain in any other environment"

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For more information on this announcement please contact;

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- Softball ACT CEO Ben Kirk ceo@act.softball.org.au