



Esther Deason MBE (Vic) *
Australian Softball Federation President
1967 - 1982

Esther Deason devoted most of her life to loyal service to the game of softball throughout Australia and was considered the leading lady of international softball.

In 1962 the Australian Softball Federation sent a delegation to the Amateur Softball Association (ASA) World Series being held in Stratford Connecticut, USA. The ASA tournament consisted of 17 American teams, one from Japan and one from Canada.

The delegation included Esther Deason, Marj Dwyer and Merle (Shorty) Short.



The delegation was empowered to have discussions with ASA officials about hosting the first ever true World Championship in Melbourne, Australia in February of 1965.

ASA officials, reluctantly, agreed. They thought the project was overly ambitious and unlikely to succeed. On their return to Australia, Esther, Marj and Shorty quickly put together a large band of volunteers and sold numerous sponsorship packages. Led by Esther, the volunteers worked tirelessly for the next two and a half years.

The first Women's World Championship in 1965 was considered a resounding success!

Esther will be respectfully remembered for her deep passion for the sport.

AWARDS

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| 1966 | ASF Life Member |
| 1981 | ISF Hall of Fame and Vice President of the Oceania region (Administrator) |
| 1987 | ASF Hall of Fame |

*deceased