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## MESSAGE FROM: Greg Schmidt, CCSUA Chairman, SUP Regional Advisor

Hello,

Well the season is off and running. I would like to thank everyone for their hard work so far this year, as you came ready to work on the first weekend of conference games. Your hard work is a credit to the preparation you do on your game in fall ball and pre-season, which REALLY shows!

Thanks for your effort

Greg

CCSUA Chairman

## MESSAGE FROM: Dimas Resendez, CCNUA President

### 2014 College Softball Season Kickoff

Hello College Officials,

CCU North members are in the midst of the 2014 collegiate season and the vast majority of our officials adhere to the NCAA SUP standards with a few exceptions. As a reminder each Crew Chief has the responsibility to complete game reports in a timely manner. The assignors review these reports on a daily basis to ensure you've fulfilled your responsibilities not only to your crew, but also to the institutions.

Please visit the CSUW website on a regular basis, as it contains important information and training tools, such as: monthly quizzes, articles from your fellow umpires in the monthly newsletters, rules interpretations and updated mechanics.

The wet weather is here and games will be cancelled, postponed, and possibly re-scheduled at a moment's notice. Please keep your availability up to date and contact your assignor for the rainouts.

Sincerely,

Dimas Resendez

California College Umpires-North, President

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## MESSAGE FROM: SUP National Coordinator Staff

Hello Everyone,

I have a couple of reminders:

- Let the ball take you to the position for your call and then move to your next responsibility when appropriate.
- Chasing is improving: keep up the good focus and pre-pitch preparation that allows for good decision making.

Have continued success into April.



*Greg Schmidt*

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## IMPORTANT ASSIGNORS and TRAINING STAFF INFORMATION!

### From the Assignors

#### GENERAL REMINDERS....

- Read Rule 6.10.3- Runner(s) leaving bases
- Ugly pitches! Did the batter swing? Be proactive sometimes and ask your partner if the batter “offered” before the catcher asks you to “go for help.”
- Many teams are experiencing flaking issues with their Easton FP12MK bat. If you inspect one of these bats and the top coat/paint appears to have flaked off, but the bat is otherwise intact, you may leave the bat in NCAA play. However, if the flaking occurs over the model number or the ASA 2004 certification mark making either illegible, the bat is disqualified, immediately. If there is damage to the structure of the bat in addition to the flaking, the bat is disqualified

immediately, as well.

- Softball is on TV....our coaches are watching the Pac-12 Networks and are bringing up rule questions on the Home Run rule.....a couple of coaches are wondering why it's not being enforced in the GSAC or community colleges by the umpires? Shame on you if you let the players go into fair territory or stand on home plate to greet the batter-runner.

**WEST COAST CONFERENCE** - The Conference Series games will be starting, so please go over the points of emphasis for the season, cover your halted game situations, Illegal pitches, consistent strike zones, check team tendencies and stats.

**PAC-WEST CONFERENCE** - Retool your point of emphasis for the season, we are moving into the heart of the season and need to adhere to our standards of officiating. As we prepare for assignments, take time to discuss team tendencies.

### **CCAA D2 CONFERENCE**

Congratulations to these umpires who have been selected to work the CCAA Championship Tournament in Stockton the weekend of May 2-3-4.... Hal Van Ryswyk....Kevin Norcross....Jose Barraza....Robert Plancich

Game fees will be paid next week for the first half of the CCAA Conference season. It does not include mileage. That will be paid within 3 weeks after the end of the season through Ref-Pay.

CS DOMINGUEZ HILLS - When you send an email to the coach about your arrival and your contact information, do NOT ask about parking. The SID sends that information to umpires. In fact, you could eliminate the coach at this institution and contact the SID with that standard email.

### **GSAC CONFERENCE**

CAL STATE SAN MARCOS requires paperwork that you sign and bring to the contests. You must turn this in to receive pay. The forms are on the Arbiter under LISTS then click on FORMS.

### **COAST CONFERENCE – NORTHERN CALIFORNIA**

Community College play is entering the last month and teams are jockeying for position for playoffs. Take time during your pre-game to discuss team tendencies.

### **SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA COMMUNITY COLLEGES**

FULLERTON CC – They have an Easton bat that they keep putting back in games after being pulled on Feb 19. Watch for that bat and let Joanne know if they try it again ----Easton FP11ST10

SANTA ANA COLLEGE- They have converted to Ref Pay and no longer require a W-9 form. You will sign a standard voucher form.

Parking Permits are strictly enforced in the lot next to the field and citations are being issued. The “Sports Coordinator / OSA” is issuing the umpires permits upon your arrival to the field. Suggestion: have one umpire retrieve the permits and immediately return, while the other umpire stays at your vehicles to make sure no citations are issued. Once you have placed the

parking permits in your window, you can both return to the field and meet with the coaches.

### **From CCSUA and CCNUA Training Staff**

There is a good article recently posted to our Locker Room on Professionalism, written by Anthony Garcia. Please read it, as it has a lot of excellent tips on how to raise your game. We encourage our CCSUA members to contribute to our Locker Room. If you have any ideas for future posts, or want to write one yourself, please contact John Bennett.

Our CSUW Locker Room has been updated with the latest information. Make sure you spend some time, at least once per week, using this instructional web-site for information, instruction and links to other appropriate sites.

It is a requirement for our college umpires to read the Rule Book and CCA Manual on a regular basis throughout the season. Have you been doing this? The umpires who keep moving their careers to higher levels do this. And they do not just "read" these important and vital softball "reference books." They absorb them by:

- Reading carefully and slowly, digesting the words and thinking about the intent of the words.
- Going to the Interpretations document on the SUP Central Hub after reading a section of the rule book, to see what A.R.'s have been posted for that rule section.
- Using a highlighter (or two or three) while reading these books, so they can go back to those rules and sections for review, looking only at the highlighted sections.

On our CSUW Locker Room you will find tips on how to effectively highlight and make notes in your Rules and CCA Manual.

Let's work on this together – after all, we are a team. Make this part of your pregame: “Let's take out our rule book and CCA Manual and pick out some things to discuss.” Now check your partner's books. Do they look brand new, as if they have never been opened? Or do they look well-read, with tabs, notes, highlights, etc.?

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## **FOOD FOR THOUGHT CORNER**

When you think you've worked the “Perfect Game,” then it's time for you to retire!

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## **FOCUS AND PREPARATION**

*By Ed Cooper*

### **Success and Confidence**

“Few observers or assignors can go into the mind of an umpire and determine if that umpire has confidence in what they can do.” Confidence comes from success.

In order to be successful you should focus on the traits that have made you a good umpire at the conference or level you have been working and bring those same attributes to the higher level you've been chosen to work. Remember, after being chosen to work for a higher level conference the hard work isn't over, it has just begun.

Nothing looks worse than an umpire that feigns confidence in order to fit in or look "cool". Don't be the umpire that works way too hard to make it look like they are not working way too hard. You should be working hard, but on the basics: Hustle, Judgment, Strike Zone, Demeanor etc...

Focus on being a really good umpire; do a good job and the confidence will come. Umpires are often given opportunities based on their ability. However, umpires must have success at the higher level in order to gain confidence. When an umpire is successful then gains confidence ...now you have something.

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## RULES CORNER

In last month's newsletter we asked what are the two Obstruction Rules that call for an "Immediate Dead Ball?" The answers are:

- 9.5.1- Catcher's Obstruction (last paragraph of the Effects)
- 9.5.2.12- On a pitch that has not reached home plate, a fielder shall not prevent the batter from having a reasonable opportunity to contact the pitch.

Several people mention Rule 10.7.2, which is also true, as it expands on the definition of a pitch that has not reached home plate in the above-mentioned rules by noting the following, **"If the batter would have a reasonable opportunity to hit the pitch, but the defensive player retrieves it, obstruction is ruled."**

Congratulations to the following umpires, who submitted the correct answer:

**Bill Plante, Anthony Garcia, Mario Romero, Katrina Gonzalez, Ruben Gonzalez, Don Postle, David Florentino, Dan Cowan and Jess Black.**

On March 24<sup>th</sup> our NCAA Secretary Rules-Editor, Dee Abrahamson, published two updated documents on the SUP Central Hub: Corrections to NCAA 2014 and 2015 Rules Interpretations (Rules Book) and 2014 Rules Interpretation. All new information noted in these documents are highlighted in "green." If you did not register with the SUP this year, please ask one of your fellow umpires to send you the documents, as they can be saved in PDF. The updated information is valuable.

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## MECHANICS

On the SUP Central Hub our National Coordinator, Donna Vavrinec, post monthly "notes" to all umpires. Here is one reminder she mentioned in her April 2014 Notes regarding mechanics:

**On the field:** Partner communication is extremely important. Umpire to umpire signals and verbal communication are two methods to convey information between umpires.

If you are unsure of the proper umpire to umpire signals, they can be found in our CCA Manual on pages 343 to 347. Talk about them in your pre-game so that there is no misunderstanding in your communication with each other.

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## GAME MANAGEMENT

Also, in Donna's April 2014 Notes, she addresses three major issues that have been re-occurring throughout the season regarding "Game Management," which are as follows:

**Sportsmanship:** It is an **In Focus Topic** this year. It is important that we have a clear understanding of good sportsmanship. If a coach or any game personnel exhibits poor sportsmanship it is your responsibility to address the issue. If the behavior warrants a warning then it is your responsibility to make sure the crew is aware that a warning had been issued and the reason for the warning. If there is an ejection, then follow the protocol in the manual. It clearly states each umpires responsibility.

**Line-up cards:** Good line-up card management begins at the pre-game conference with the coaches, crew and should continue until the last out of the game. When a change occurs in the line-up inform each coach and confirm that they have the change. This will alleviate any possible line-up change protests. Take your time.

Before you accept any line-up card change(s) **look** to make sure that the pitcher has the ball in the pitcher's circle and then **call time** to accept the change(s).

**Preventable and common sense situations that arise in the game:** When possible be proactive in preventing violations. If the coach is about to take their **second** charged defensive conference in an inning, make sure they know they already used one. This could prevent an administrative ejection.

As we are aware that not all of our umpires are registered with the SUP, we wanted to make sure that everyone received this vital information that will help all of us finish our season strong.

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Thanks to Ed Cooper for contributing to this newsletter!

