



News for Blues

CALIFORNIA COLLEGIATE SOFTBALL UMPIRES ASSOCIATION

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CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE BY RICH KOLLEN

As we approach the holiday season and the start of the 2017 collegiate softball year, let's reflect on how lucky we are to live in a country with all the freedoms we have to pursue a sport we love, long after our playing days are over. We can all be part of the game of softball again as an umpire. All the friendlies, long tournament days, clinics, time away from friends and family, reading the "Locker Room" information, taking the tests, and umpiring softball at the college level serve to remind us all that we are very lucky to have this opportunity. I'd like to wish you and your family a wonderful holiday, and best of luck in the coming season.

Rich Kollen
CCSUA Chairman
714-658-5793 - cell
dayofgame@me.com



ASSIGNORS MESSAGE

The NCAA Annual Region Meeting will be held on January 7th at the Concourse Hotel (Hyatt property) near LAX. If you are an NCAA registered umpire in 2016, your name is on the list to attend for free. Donna Vavrinec, National Coordinator, and Vicki Van Kleeck, National Rules Editor, will conduct the meeting.

If you are a Division 1 official working Conference Series assignments, you need to attend the NCAA Region Meeting and your Conference Meetings. If you are a Division 2 official working Conference games, you are required to attend the Conference Meetings.

The Big West, West Coast, Mountain West, WAC, Pac-West & CCAA Conference Meetings will be held on Saturday, January 7th after the NCAA Meeting. The times will be staggered and will depend on the ending time of the NCAA Region Meeting. (more information to

follow on meeting times)

Our CCSUA annual college training meetings will be held on January 8th at Cerritos College (south) and January 14 at the Japanese Gardens (north). We will cover the rule clarifications given to us at the NCAA Regional Meeting, in addition to the Division 3, NAIA, and Community College policies. The focus will be on game management.

Look for further information.....

Your Assignors,
Joanne, Terry, Jim, Rich, Dale

INSIDER PERSPECTIVE BY JIM SANDERSON

The Gift

Now that the fall training and practice season has come to an end we look forward to the Christmas holidays and a time for reflection, a time for giving and getting. It is a holiday season to celebrate in the company of family and friends. I wish that you have a wonder holiday season celebrating the gifts that we all enjoy, gifts that help use feel alive and fulfilled. We all need to acknowledge the invitation to participate in college softball is a gift. This gift fulfills a role that requires discernment, the ability to judge right from wrong or in our case, ball or strike, fair or foul, out or safe. We are also blessed with a gift to manage the chaos that sometimes leads to crisis and conflict and still provide the softball game a gift of fairness that is based in the rules as we use approved mechanics.

Yes, you have been given and earned this gift of college softball. A gift received is better shared. The more we share our gifts the more they enrich our lives and the stronger we become. Sharing the umpiring tools we carry in our ball bag of experience is a gift to those we help. We all become better as we share our gifts. Yes, it is better to give than receive and the satisfaction will come back to us. This is how we build a crew, a team of umpires working towards common goals.

Thanks for allowing me to give away insight and share the tools that I have learnt in serving the college softball game. I hope that we all can reflect and learn how to improve our gifts. Is your gift wrapped in fancy paper with a silk bow, placed in a gift bag or is in a plain paper bag? The gift inside is more important than the container, but like softball, a great play deserves a matching great call with appropriate emphasis, so does a great gift require a matching container. Does your gift container respect and honor the gift within?

Again, have a wonderful Christmas holiday season and get ready for a good softball season. See all of you at the training clinics.

Your fan in the stands, there to celebrate good umpiring.

Jim Sanderson
SUP Regional Advisor
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tinyjimsanderson@gmail.com

TRAINING STAFF INFORMATION



Your “off-season training” should soon be transforming into your pre-season training. Time to get serious about getting to the gym two or three times a week; time to start stretching and simulating your on-field movements; time to check your uniform and order what you need as there are usually discounted prices now.

Time to start (or, hopefully continue) reading the rule book and preparing yourself for the upcoming Qualification test in January. Visit the Locker Room and read the article “Tips for Studying the Rule Book.” If you do not know exactly where this article is, do a search on the Locker Room (home page, magnifying glass on the top-right).

The Locker Room:

What’s new in the Locker Room?

- Rules corner, Defense-obstruction. Added guidelines to *Fielder blocking runner’s view of release of the pitch*
- Rules corner, Batter-runner and Runners. Added *Tie Goes to the Runner* article
- Rule corner, Mechanics, Plate Mechanics. Added *Biases When Calling Balls and Strikes*
- Game Management corner, Game Administration. *Administering option plays*
- Protocols corner – added reference to new sub-sections in CCA manual - *Code of Conduct for Sports Officials and Social Media*
- General Mechanics – Going for Help has been updated now that this important information has returned in the 2017 Manual.

John Bennett
CCSUA Chairperson of Education and Training
Chairperson, NFCA Rules and Officials Committee

WHAT'S NEW AT THE SUP?



News and Announcements:

- Notes from the National Coordinator - November 2016
- Welcome to the 2017 Season
- 12/5/16 email: *NCAA Softball Pre-Season Reminders for 2017 Season*

NCAA Bats:

- New NCAA Bat List expected December 12, 2016

Important Dates for 2017 Season

Please mark your calendar with the dates below that are relevant to you:

	Date Opened	Date Closed
NCAA Registration	December 1	May 31
NCAA Softball Umpire Clinic – Los Angeles	January 7	
Big West/WCC/CCAA/PacWest Meeting	January 7	
Annual Meeting – Southern California	January 8	
NCAA Softball Umpire Clinic – Indianapolis	January 14	
Annual Meeting – Northern California	January 14	
Conference Meeting - Utah	January 14	
NCAA Officiating Exam	January 17	February 17
Annual Meeting - Arizona	January 21	
Conference Meeting - Hawaii	January 23	
CCSUA Pre-Season Camp	January 27 and 28	
NCAA Softball Umpire Clinic – Philadelphia	January 28	
CCSUA Qualification Test, for members that do not complete the	TBA	TBA

NCAA Officiating Exam		
NCAA Online Clinic – For eligibility all Division II and III umpires who do not attend the Regional Clinic, will need to view the posted clinic	TBA	

Annual Meeting Information

Annual/Conference Meetings:

Registration – Approximately an hour before meeting start time.
 You need to contact the appropriate person below, **no later than December 15, 2016**, to confirm which meeting location you will be attendance.
 Lunch will be provided.
 Snacks and beverages will be available during the meeting.
 Dress is Business Casual.

Southern California – January 8, 2017:

Cerritos College
 11110 Alondra Blvd, Norwalk, CA 90650
 Meeting Start Time – 9am
 Parking information will be provided at a later date.
 You must contact Dave Long at dave_long1@verizon.net in order to attend this meeting.

Northern California – January 14, 2017:

Hayward Japanese Garden
 22373 N 3rd St, Castro Valley, CA 94546
 Meeting Start Time – 8:15am
 You must contact Oscar Segura at segurao@yahoo.com in order to attend this meeting.

Utah – January 14, 2017

Syracuse High School
 1503 South 2000 West, Syracuse, UT 84075
 Meeting Start Time – 9am
 You must contact Brett Higgins at golfumpire@gmail.com in order to attend this meeting.

Arizona – January 21, 2017

South Mountain Community College
 7050 S 24th St, Phoenix, AZ 85042

Meeting Start Time – 10am

You must contact Dale Wilson at [520-275-1074](tel:520-275-1074) in order to attend this meeting.

Hawaii – January 23, 2017

Aiea High School

98-1276 Ulune St, Aiea, HI 96701

Meeting Start Time – 6:30pm – 8:30pm

You must contact John Park at johnparkhi@yahoo.com or Warren Okinaka, at warrenoki@hotmail.com in order to attend this meeting.

We Need Your Help

This is a general request for articles to be included in future newsletters. Let us know what is on your mind. The only requirement for an article is to keep it under 200 words.

Please send photos of our umpires working for inclusion in future newsletters.

Any articles and photos should be sent to mghorras@gmail.com

The text "Happy Holidays" is written in a large, stylized, red-outlined font with a marbled, wavy texture. The letters are bold and have a slight 3D effect. The word "Happy" is on the top line and "Holidays" is on the bottom line, both centered.

