



News for Blues

COLLEGE COLLEGIATE SOFTBALL UMPIRES ASSOCIATION

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MESSAGE FROM: Jim Sanderson, CCSUA Chairman

The season is in full swing as balls are being pitched, hit, caught and you are moving and making calls. You probably have some aches, pains and bruises; feel and wear these as badges of honor. You have some new war stories to tell. You also have new tools that you have learned, while sharpening your skills, improving your communication and managing your games. I also hope that you are building mutual respect for your crew.

Preseason and nonconference games are in their final stages, all games are important for rankings and determining post-season play. All games are important to coaches so they can keep their jobs or move up in the coaching ranks. All games are important to players. In today's world it is not only good to participate, but society places so much importance on winning. The media also plays an important role in the game we officiate. The umpire, a perceived necessary evil or scapegoat, is still the steward and guarantor of fair play and sportsmanship. We are an important part of teaching life values to our society's next generation of leaders. I hope that you, like me, feel a sense of humble pride that the "blue" has a key role in shaping American values.

I hope you are arriving at the field well prepared. How often do you visit the "Locker Room" website, take the quizzes and read the newsletters? Do you make the topics and themes from our instructional resources part of your pre and post games? Did you read John Bennett's article in this month's Referee Magazine about angle and distance adjustments at 1B? Well done John. John represents the CCSUA, us, with a positive image that enlightens all that invest the time to further their education. You are expected to be a cutting edge umpire; take ownership of the game and "be the brand."

Thanks for being receptive to this observer as I to help you become a better umpire. I enjoy my role as the umpire's coach.

Jim Sanderson
CCSUA Chairman
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ASSIGNORS MESSAGE

Let's have good pre games for the remaining part of the season. All the teams are grinding and positioning for post season.

Your game management will be tested during this period.

Check the standings in the Conferences we service, and perhaps look at stats on the best hitters and players that steal. There is a stat on "hit by pitch".

Be aware and pro-active with subs that coaches will make when a runner gets on base.

Some of us are "one track- minded" when behind the plate. Keep an eye on your surroundings and pre pitch plan what could happen if the player hits the ball, or even a wild pitch occurs with a runner on base.

Plate umpires - you can look super attentive just by using the holding zone in front of the pitcher.s mound

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

TRAINING STAFF INFORMATION



Locker Room Updates

Here are the new additions to our Locker Room since the last Newsletter:

- Article *Catch or No Catch* in the Rules Corner under the Defense section. Thanks to Steve Boudreaux for sending this play.
- Article *Halted Game* in the Game Management Corner under the Game Administration section

- Article on *Suspension of Play* in the Game Management Corner under the Game Administration section
- **Added cartoons and pictures** – look here:
 - Rules Corner - Batting/Strike zone.
 - Protocols Corner - Professionalism/Excellent Umpire
 - Game Management Corner - Misconduct
 - Mechanics Corner - Mechanics for all umpires
 - Mechanics Corner - Real plays

Additional Rules Information:

The NCAA SUP website has added a new section on their Main page at the very top of the middle column – ERAs (Essential Rules Awareness). The March ERAs have been posted. Be sure you read these important clarifications on:

- Projected substitutions
- Questioning the strike zone and other judgment calls
- Scouting information and electronic equipment use
- Backstop padding

CCSUA Test Results:

We continue to post our monthly tests and overall the results have been good. We were averaging more than 140 people taking the tests each month through the February test. However, there was a significant drop-off to only 82 test-takers for our March test. This is the time of the year, during the middle of the season, for all umpires to be studying the rule book on an almost daily basis. There is no better way to test your knowledge of the rules than to take these monthly tests. If you have not yet taken the March test, please do so by the end of this month.

Our Qualification test was taken by 116 people, putting themselves on the list for consideration for the Community College post-season games. Many of our umpires took the SUP test instead of the CCSUA Qualification test as their way of qualifying for post-season play. And a special tip-of-the-hat to those of you who took both. This shows the assignors and training staff the umpires who are very serious about improving their games and preparing themselves for the next level of their umpire career.

What's New at the SUP?



News and Announcements:

- Notes from the National Coordinator – March 2016

ERAS (Essential Rules Awareness):

- ERAs – March 4, 2016

NCAA Rule Information:

- 2016 and 2017 NCAA Softball Official Rules Interpretations, Clarifications and Situations (as of 3/3/2016) - Arm Sleeve and Smart Watches

NCAA Bats:

- NCAA Approved Softball Bat List – March 14, 2016
- New NCAA Approved Softball Bat List – **Due April 11, 2016**

2016 Clinic Presentations:

- 2016 NCAA Softball Umpire Clinic #1
- 2016 NCAA Softball Umpire Clinic #2
- 2016 NCAA Softball Umpire Clinic #3
- 2016 NCAA Softball Umpire Clinic #4

General Umpiring Information:

- Working the Plate
- Working the Slot

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 mgkblue@aol.com

