



News for Blues

CALIFORNIA COLLEGIATE SOFTBALL UMPIRES ASSOCIATION

September 2016

CCSUA Volume 4, Number 9

In This Issue

- Chairman's Message by Rich Kollen
- Assignors Message
- Insider Perspective by Jim Sanderson
- Training Staff Information
- What's New at the SUP?
- 2016 Clinics
- We Need Your Help

Contact Us

CCSUA
Information

Training
questions

Newsletter
Suggestions and
Articles and
articles

Rules questions

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE BY RICH KOLLEN

As we approach the end of summer, I hope everyone has spent time with your families and friends. I know many of you worked a lot of ASA and Premier type softball tournaments and I commend you for using those games to get yourself ready for college softball umpiring in January. No longer is college softball umpiring a six-month a year job. To stay at the top of your game, you must continue to work and train by attending clinics and camps.

The CCSUA's year-round training program is intended to make everyone better, no matter your ultimate goal. Take advantage of the content in the Locker Room and ensure that you are completing the tests every month of the year. We will be selecting new umpires for the association this fall. I hope you will welcome them into our association. Each person has worked hard to become a college softball umpire.

We have asked Roger Denny to help us develop a program where we can identify Southern California's community college fall games that you can use to improve your skills. I know many of the community colleges call local high school umpires, so this will be a cultural change, but we're working towards getting you on the field to work those fall games.

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



ASSIGNORS MESSAGE

Fall Ball is around the corner. It's important that you update your Arbiter and mark yourself READY if you are interested in working. Do this by going to your Profile tab. On the left side you will see a box next to "Ready." Click on the box to make yourself ready.

The 2017 NCAA Region Meeting will be held in southern California on January 7th. The location is still to be determined. Vicki VanKleeck is the new NCAA Coordinator as of 2016, so it's an opportunity to meet her and listen to her rule clarifications. Information for our CCSUA/Assignors annual meetings in northern and southern California will be posted soon.

The NCAA SUP will start registration for the 2017 season in December. Not everyone needs to register, as all the information on the SUP site is turned into a quiz, information article or lesson on our CCSUA Locker Room.

Community College Umpires:

California Community Colleges have their own organization, and do not participate in the National Community College post season. You do not have to join the NCAA. Umpires qualify to work post season by completing CCSUA monthly quizzes, certify by passing the CCSUA qualification exam or the NCAA National Exam, and demonstrate performance on the field.

NAIA (GSAC/CALPAC) Umpires:

If you are working a GSAC or CALPAC contest in 2017, AND you feel you may have an opportunity to be selected for a Regional post-season contest in May, you would have to register with the NCAA. But before you register with the NCAA, you need to see what the requirements for the NAIA registration would be. We will find out the information in November and let you know.

Division 3 Umpires:

If you are working a Division 3 contest in 2017, AND you feel you may have an opportunity to be selected for a Regional post-season contest in May, you would have to register with the NCAA.

Division 1 and 2 Umpires:

If you have a conference contract and schedule, you are required to attend one of 3 Region meetings and register with the NCAA.

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

INSIDER PERSPECTIVE BY JIM SANDERSON

Back to School, Get Ready

The college softball season really never stops; it just has different phases, - summer, fall, recruiting, non-conference (tournaments), conference and post-season championship play. Umpires, like coaches and players, have very little time to rest. The few weeks of rest off the field allow us to reflect and put into perspective our

performance and allow us to reevaluate our preparation. We can set goals for the upcoming season and prepare for the fall training. Many umpires choose to attend camps that can help add focus to their game. The assignment coordinators are busy making assignments and reviewing reports from coaches, observers and crew chiefs.

I like to ask umpires and crews a very soul searching question at the end of a postgame. What could you or the crew have done differently today to better serve the game of softball? This question could help use prepare for the season. What do I need to do this season to better serve the game of softball? How can I be a better crew member? Am I the official that other umpires want to have on their crew as we go into the battle of managing a game? Am I an umpire that has confidence, credibility and who can be trusted? I hope that these questions will help you set your goals for the season. Please share your goals and allow others to help you reach them.

Have you been thrown under the proverbial bus or have you thrown another umpire under those ever rolling wheels? Please put this popular expression in the proper context. Being “under the bus” is hurtful, but it can be an opportunity to learn and take responsibility. “Under the bus” is similar to a speed bump in life that makes us slow down, heal and then do the difficult job of forgiving as we allow for repair. Take the high road of forgiveness rather than revenge. This is the path to rebuilding trust and mutual respect.

Our job with other umpires is often based on trust. We trust that our partners will use the correct mechanics and allow us to do our job without worrying that a base, play or situation out of our area is uncovered. Communication helps keep us focused and allows us to cover plays knowing what our partners are doing. Better communication will keep us happily and safely inside the bus.

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

Jim Sanderson
[SUP Regional Advisor](#)
909-556-7202 cell
tinyjimsanderson@gmail.com

TRAINING STAFF INFORMATION



Fall Ball...Non-championship Segment:

It does not matter what you call it but this time of year has arrived – softball games played in a bit more relaxed atmosphere than the regular season. Perhaps “relaxed” for the teams, but definitely not a time for umpires to relax. Seize this opportunity to work on your game.

The Locker Room monthly test in August concentrated on the rules for this “Nonchampionship Segment” of the college season. That is its official title and all umpires need to review the special rules for this Segment – see page 15 of the Rule Book. The September test will also concentrate on the Nonchampionship segment rules. Make yourself familiar with the rules and keep safety as a top priority.

Locker Room:

New items have been added to our Locker Room in August:

- Videos added:
 - *Batting Rules:Pitches* category - Strike zone and Check swings
 - *Batter-Runner Rules* category – Batter-runner steps back
- Articles added to the Rules Corner:
 - *Defense–Obstruction* post under the *Fielder Obstruction* article
 - *BATTING* post - *Did the pitch hit the bat or the batter's hands?*
- Articles added to the Mechanics Corner:
 - In the *PLATE MECHANICS* post – *The myths of calling balls and strikes*
 - Mechanics Corner opening page - *The Lost Mechanics*

This last one is an important addition. What are “Lost Mechanics? You should find this article interesting and informative. Four lost mechanics have already been posted. Can you think of any others? If so, follow the instructions in the article to have them added.

Note: you may have to scroll down to see some of the lost mechanic articles – look for the “(Lost Mechanic)” in the heading of the article.

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

WHAT'S NEW AT THE SUP?



News and Announcements:

2016 Clinics

The following softball camps have been listed on the SUP site for 2016. Additional camps are likely to be added and you should review the available camps on a regular basis. The listed camps can be found in the General Umpiring Information section of the NCAA Softball Umpiring Home Plate.

Date	Location
September 16 - 17	Lynchburg, VA
September 16 - 17	Martin, TN
September 23 - 25	Phoenix, AZ
September 30 – October 2	Terre Haute, IN
October 7 - 9	Greensboro, NC
October 8 - 9	Elgin, IL
October 14 - 16	Overland Park, KS
October 20 - 23	Conroe, TX
October 27 – 30	Conroe, TX
December 15 - 18	Tallahassee, FL

The Observation Clinic in Northern California is scheduled for September 23 - 25, 2016, titled Bay Area Showcase, in San Jose. This Clinic is available to all current and prospective college umpires. The Clinic focuses two umpire mechanics. Contact Oscar Segura (segurao@yahoo.com) with your availability, lodging and game fees provided.

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 mgkorras@gmail.com

