



News for Blues

CALIFORNIA COLLEGIATE SOFTBALL UMPIRES ASSOCIATION

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CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE BY RICH KOLLEN

Your board met on June 25 to discuss plans for next year. More details will be coming soon. The Board is working very hard to keep this the best organization in softball training and assigning of college umpires. We're in the process of negotiating a new contract for assigning umpires to the Mary Nutter Classic. These two tournaments are a couple of the best college tournaments in the country. We would like to continue to provide them with the best umpires anywhere.

For many of you working USA and Premier softball championships this month, remember you're also representing CCSUA. Be professional and do the best job you can on the field.

Rich Kollen
 CCSUA Chairman
 714-658-5793 - cell
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ASSIGNORS MESSAGE

YOUR HEALTH....

Summer is here and many of you are continuing to work softball. Please pay attention to the hot weather and in some areas, humidity. A water bottle is part of your Tool Box – hydrate.

Don't get sloppy with mechanics...that's when injuries occur. In the April issue of REFEREE Magazine there's a great article called "Move to Improve" (page 54).

In a nutshell:

Softball umpires...

Need to be fast on their feet....Why? Discuss with fellow umpires.

Ankle mobility & stability is important....Why? What type of injuries are possible without proper balance?

Your knowledge of proper movement patterns enables your brain to be your key to protecting ligaments, joints.

The plate umpire has limited running distances, but the quick start/stop movements can prove costly with knees or calf strains.

Pay attention to your body responses this summer. Be careful of multiple games all day in hot weather.

Your Assignors,
Joanne, Terry, Jim, Rich, and Bruce

INSIDER PERSPECTIVE BY JIM SANDERSON

Postseason/Championships – WOW, Summer Ahead

The NCAA, NAIA, CCCAA post season was exciting yet at time full of controversy. I hope that you applauded the shining performances of the umpires that represented us. They, like you, have worked hard and were recognized for their abilities. Please continue to be supportive to all the members of our officiating team as you work on goals to improve your game.

I must thank all of you for helping me finally reach an often modified goal of working a NCAA championship. I have had this goal for decades and have honestly had to alter the goal from being on the field to being in a support role as an observer or UIC. The mind is strong, but the body has never been "TV ready." I had the pleasure to be the UIC for the D3 championship tournament in OKC, played on the sacred softball grounds of the USA Softball Hall of Fame Stadium. I quickly learned that working with the committee's multiple concerns and goals has its own challenges and compromises. Your support and example has helped me reach this goal. Thanks

I was part of the staff for Jim Adrian's Great Northwest umpire camp. The correctly descriptive key term here is GREAT. He and his staff did an excellent job of putting on the camp and giving umpires a chance to improve and show their skills. The camp is on the weekend following the D1 WCWS. Make your plans for next year.

SUP news: Donna has retired after seven years as serving as director of the SUP. Sally has also stepped down to concentrate on being an assignment coordinator for multiple conferences. The job of director has been opened and closed for applicants. I hope that the NCAA keeps me on as a Regional Advisor. My fulltime job does not allow me to give the director's job the time and energy that it requires. This scenario reminds of a constant life lesson and challenge that change will always be and how we act and adapt will determine our

future, press on, stay strong and SHINE.

What are you doing this summer to keep your umpire skills sharp? Will you be ready for first pitch/play for fall ball or the 2018 season?

Thanks again for helping me reach my goals and letting me serve you and the game of softball.

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

Jim Sanderson
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TRAINING STAFF INFORMATION



Watching TV Can Be Good For You:

How many of you watched some of the TV games in May – Conference tournaments, Division 1 Regionals, Super Regionals and the Women’s College World Series? There were a lot of interesting plays - mostly good calls, some great calls, and some bad calls. There were excellent rotations (some with U1 taking the play at the plate) and mechanics, and some questionable mechanics. There was a lot of discussion by the media and blogs about obstruction calls. These TV games can serve as excellent instructional tools. If you did not watch any of these TV games, or just some of them, make sure you mark your calendar for next May to watch or record as many games as you can.

Monthly Tests:

For future monthly tests, we will no longer ask you to wait until the end of the month to send emails if you have any questions about the test. But in your email, you must include the exact rules or CCA Manual section you have researched to support your reason for why you think the answer key is wrong. DO NOT use only a definition to support your claim. You must dig deeper into the rule book.

No protest would ever be decided by using a definition from Rule 1. Find the rule that most closely matches the question. For example, on the June test there was a question about a fake

tag. Although a fake tag is considered obstruction, you need to check the rule book specifically for fake tag. There are two easy ways to do this:

1. If you have the electronic pdf version of the rule book, do a search for “fake tag.” The first item highlighted is rule 1.21, but when you continue the search the very next rule cited is 12.15 which is a rule specifically written for fake tags. Sometimes you need to be creative with your search terms. For example, if you search for “fakes a tag” you will find rule 12.12.6.1. This is the rule that clarifies that a fake tag is obstruction, as it uses the phrase “...fakes a tag... or otherwise **impedes** her.”
2. Go to the Rule Book Index and you will find four entries for the rules that cover a fake tag.

Locker Room:

Be watching for a major upgrade to our Locker Room website. John Bennett has been working with the NASO technical staff to re-design the Locker Room to be easier to navigate. We hope to have this done in about 2 months. Some of the improvements will include:

- A new look and feel to the web pages.
- A new browser tab will open when you select most of the information on the website; the page of the Locker Room from which you selected the information will stay open in your browser.
- The different articles will be organized in a more logical order. The constraint of organizing the articles only by the date on which the article is posted to the Locker Room will be removed.
- An administrative upgrade will allow the assigners and training staff to review when each user has accessed the website and for how long
- And more...

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

WHAT'S NEW AT THE SUP?



News and Announcements:

- Follow-Up to Recent National Coordinator Announcement – June 21, 2017
- Notes From National Coordinator – June 2017

Umpire Camp Information

The following softball camps have been listed on the SUP site for 2017. 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
July 7 - 9		Binghamton, NY
July 6 - 9		Elgin, IL
July 14		Meriden, CT
September 9		Southington, CT
September 23 - 24		Phoenix, AZ
October 19 - 22		Conroe, TX

The Observation Clinic in Northern California is scheduled in Santa Clara for some time in October 2017, titled Bay Area Showcase. This Clinic is available to all current and prospective college umpires. The Clinic focuses on 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



