



News for Blues

CALIFORNIA COLLEGIATE SOFTBALL UMPIRES ASSOCIATION

August 2017

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2017/18 CCSUA REGISTRATION DEADLINE

The deadline to avoid a late fee for your 2017/18 CCSUA Registration is **August 15, 2017**. Any registration form postmarked after August 15, 2017, will result on a late fee of \$40.

The **CCSUA 2017-2018 Registration Form** can be found in Arbiter under Lists and Forms or in our [Locker Room](#) in the Resources tab under CCSUA, then CCSUA Forms. (We cannot include a direct link to the exact web page as this is a downloadable form.))

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE BY RICH KOLLEN

As we finish off the summer I hope all of you were able to spend some time away from your normal grind of every day living to be with friends and family. Many of you worked softball tournaments all over the country. Hopefully those games all went well.

Registration for next year has opened, (deadline is August 15). Clinics and fall ball is getting ready to start. If you had requests of fellow umpires on how to join our organization please refer them to John Bennett with a resume of their umpiring experience.

I am very please to announce that Terry Cling has been appointed coordinator of umpires for the Mountain West Conference and John Bennett has been selected to be a part of the National Training team for NCAA softball. These two appointments strengthen our association's status within the softball umpiring community.

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



ASSIGNORS MESSAGE

Time to update your Arbiter.

Fall Ball contests are going to start coming in, so we will begin assigning at end of August.

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

INSIDER PERSPECTIVE BY JIM SANDERSON

HANGING AROUND WITH THE “BIG DOGS”

Summer is such a good time for softball. Working other levels of games away from college ball allows us opportunities to fine tune our skills and add more tools to our mental ball bags. I enjoy the chance to see many umpires at various levels find ways to improve and shine as they serve softball. These “big dog” umpires serve the game and are not above working and showing their passion for the game at all levels. Their skills are often learned and absorbed by other umpires. I am often reminded and grateful that I get to see the world's best softball umpires work and share their game. They are inspiring and being allowed to be part of their world is humbling. I am jealous of their skills and ability to serve the game at a high, elite level.

I get the privilege to serve as an umpire in chief, or what I often like to describe as the “umpire coach.” These “big dog” umpires have earned confidence and credibility that allows players to play and coaches to coach. Their partners trust that plays will be well covered and rules will be consistently enforced. They all share and emulate a passion for the big picture of the game.

This summer has been full of change. The SUP staff has had and will continue to have major changes. Donna has retired from NCAA softball and Sally has stepped away from the SUP staff to fully concentrate on being a conference assignment coordinator for multiple conferences. They both served the NCAA SUP, umpires and the game at a very high level for many years. To be clear, they were not fired or let go from the NCAA. Craig Hyde from Alabama has been named as the Director the NCAA SUP. I will continue to serve as a Regional Advisor.

There have been new assignment coordinators hired in some conferences that may affect us here in the west (best) coast. The coordinators and the SUP will continue to work together to train and identify quality umpires. We all need to work together to reach our goals as we strive to improve and better serve the game and its participants.

Thanks to the umpires, UICs, coaches, players and fans of the USA Softball's Champion's Cup, and JO Cup that have taught me good life lessons that will help me to better serve the umpires of the CCSUA and the game.

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



Welcome, **Dan Marksbury**, to our CCSUA observation team. Dan has a wealth of experience both on the softball field and observing umpires. He will make a great addition to our staff.

Fall Training Program:

We are preparing for our annual training cycle comprised of the Fall Clinic, Observation Games during Fall Ball, and our 2018 Preseason Camp in January. The **Fall Clinic** is scheduled for September 10, 2017. The veterans who are due for the 3-year cycle have been invited. Also in attendance will be any potential new umpires for the 2018 season, and the umpires who will be in their second year in 2018.

The Assignors are contacting the schools now for their **Fall Ball** game schedules. We will not know the dates of the 2018 **Preseason Camp** until we get information from Glendale College for the dates of their 2018 tournament.

The Assignors have a shortage of umpires in the northern areas. Do you know of any umpires in those areas who may be ready to work college softball? If so, please tell them to send John Bennett an email (bennettjoh@sbcglobal.net).

Mental Training:

This year's NCAA Softball Umpire Clinic included a guest speaker whose presentation on Mental Training was informative and very appropriate to college softball umpires. This type of topic can be interesting to hear, but its message can be forgotten or lost in the shuffle of getting ready for the upcoming season. As a reminder to those who watched the online clinic, or for those who did not – here are some of his key points. An article recently posted on the Locker room has the complete notes from this presentation. It can be found in the Protocols

Corner.

- Top performers not only do the physical training necessary to be a top performer, but also make mental training part of their normal routine.
- A large percent of umpiring is mental; most of the mistakes by an umpire on the field are mental mistakes.
- If mental training can eliminate one or two mental mistakes during a game, is it worth it?

What are the characteristics of elite athletes? What are the four ingredients of mental training? What do “Being in the zone” and “Getting into the flow” mean? To find out, [read the article in the Locker Room.](#)

Locker Room 2.0:

The NASO staff and the CCSUA training staff are working hard to make improvements to our Locker Room. The upgraded website, which we will call Locker Room 2.0 for now, will have the same look/feel as our current website but be easier to navigate and better organized. The beta-testing has recently started and we should have the site ready to go by late September.

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 – June 26, 2017
- Hyde Named NCAA National Coordinator of Softball Umpires

NCAA Bats

- Summary of Changes – July 10, 2017
- NCAA Approved Softball Bat List – July 10, 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
September 9		Southington, CT
September 23 - 24		Phoenix, AZ
October 19 - 22		Conroe, TX

A 3-Umpire System observation clinic in Southern California will be held in Santa Fe Springs on Saturday August 26th. This clinic is full but if you are interested in being on the waiting list, send an email to John Bennett at (bennettjoh@sbcglobal.net).

The Observation Clinic in Northern California is scheduled for sometime in October 2017, titled Bay Area Showcase, in Santa Clara. 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

