



# News for Blues

CALIFORNIA COLLEGIATE SOFTBALL UMPIRES ASSOCIATION

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## CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to John Bennett and Kelie Sturgis on their appointment to the NCAA Softball Umpire Program Staff. Further congratulations to Jim Sanderson on his continued role as a Regional Advisor on the NCAA Softball Umpire Program Staff.

## 2017/18 CCSUA REGISTRATION IS DUE

For those members that have not yet had a chance to register for the 2017/18 season - the deadline to avoid a late fee for your 2017/18 CCSUA Registration has passed. All future registrations have a late fee of \$40.

The Registration Form can be found in Arbiter under Lists and Forms - <https://www1.arbitersports.com/Assigner/FormsView.aspx>

## CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE BY RICH KOLLEN

Sports officiating in all college sports has now become a year-round commitment. Summer tournaments are over, and school is starting. Colleges play a fall schedule, so Community College, NAIA, and all levels of NCAA softball will need umpires. Games in the fall are very important, as it gives you an opportunity to meet coaches, work with newer umpires, and work on your mechanics as you improve your skills on the field.

As noted in the Congratulations section above, Kelie Sturgis has taken a Regional Advisor position with the NCAA Softball staff. Big congratulations to her. We know she will do a fine job in that new position. Kelie has resigned as the CCSUA Financial Officer. Kelie was an important part of the CCSUA and kept incredible records. Every T was crossed, and I dotted. John Bennett is joining the NCAA softball staff as the Training and Video Coordinator.

Additionally, I am happy to announce that Dick Jolly has accepted the position of Financial Officer for CCSUA. He has worked closely with our assignors with Arbiter data entry for the past 10 years. I'm confident that he will do an excellent job for the CCSUA.

Rich Kollen  
CCSUA Chairman  
714-658-5793 - cell  
[dayofgame@me.com](mailto:dayofgame@me.com)



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## ASSIGNORS MESSAGE

WELCOME TO THE 2017/18 SEASON....

Yes, it starts now.....September is here and as a college official now is the time to stretch, get the book out and start reading. What is your plan to work on your game?

It doesn't matter which level you work, work on something each game this fall. Focus and master it to make it a habit.

If you are interested in umpiring fall ball contests, update your Arbiter. If you do not want contests, then block your dates on the CCSUA Arbiter group. Joanne, Terry and Bruce will be assigning fall contests.

Division 1 assignments will be completed in the next couple of weeks. Then we move to all others for the spring. Update your calendar for 2018 season in each of your Arbiter groups.

Your Assignors,  
Joanne, Terry, Bruce and Jim

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## INSIDER PERSPECTIVE BY JIM SANDERSON

### **Wow, Change can be GOOD**

The summer season is coming to a close and with the many changes in the SUP, CCSUA and conferences that affect umpires in the western states we are reminded that our dynamic world will continue to present us with change and new challenges. Like the world we live in, we must make the best in the changing world of college softball umpiring. The game and the student-athletes demand that we meet all new challenges.

You have seen that there are rule changes that will affect the game and how efficiently and fairly we umpire the game. Getting a good grasp on the new rules with study and training will be of paramount importance this year. We need to have open discussions with our leaders and trainers. We need to seek out the wisdom of the experts, those that are in the know. Our foundational question should be how do I use the new rule to umpire and serve the game?

The new rules will challenge our learnt behaviors of the past. Some of the new rules may seem confusing and they may require a different way of using mechanics so we can see and call what needs to be called. Open your mind to these changes as they provide you an additional opportunity to Shine. The goal is still to get the call right. The icing on the cake would be to look good, confident and credible while getting the call right.

It was good to see umpires take advantage of our CCSUA mini-camp with the SCIFL, Men's Masters Fast Pitch. Thanks goes out to Pete Davis, UIC for SCIFL and John Bennett for putting the mini-camp together. This hopefully will become a regular part of our training. The CCSUA continues to look for cost effective training opportunities for our umpires. Twelve umpires worked the 3-umpire system and were given feedback to improve their game by five observers. I was blessed and enriched to be one of the observers.

It was also good to see that some of our CCSUA members are signed up for the NCAA Umpire Institute in OKC. We need to tap in to the knowledge that they will bring back. John Bennett and I will be presenting to the umpire participants. I want to shine and not have a missed opportunity. May the umpire gods be with me?

I hope that you look forward to our Fall training, CCSUA annual meetings and the NCAA regional clinic.

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

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## TRAINING STAFF INFORMATION



### Fall Ball Rules

There are exceptions and additions to the NCAA Softball Rule Book, which may be used during the Non-Championships Segment (Fall Ball). Before you work any Fall Ball games, be sure to read the article on our Locker Room, which explains these exceptions and additions. It is in the Resources section, Rules Corner. You will also find these rules on page 15 of the 2016-2017 NCAA Softball Rule Book. These rules are in effect for all college games played in the off-season, from Community College to Division 1.

- What do I do if an International team, or a team not associated with a Community College or NCAA school is involved? This information is also included in the above-mentioned article.
- Am I working a game, a scrimmage or a practice? What is the difference? What rules apply for each of these events? Read the article on our Locker Room, which explains the differences. It can be found in the Resources section by selecting the Game Management option.

### More Mental Training

Many of you are staying in shape physically by working summer season ball games. But do not forget to take a break and get away from the game for a “vacation.” Here’s an idea – work on the mental aspects of umpiring at the college level. Last month we posted an article titled “Mental Training.” We have posted another article in August titled “Nine Mental Skills for Successful Umpires.” Both these articles can be found on our Locker Room – Resources section, Protocols Corner.

We have had a good response to the *News from the Training Staff* article in the **August News & Notes** section. Thank you to all who submitted pictures. We will publish one picture each month in the order we receive them. Please submit only pictures which have CCSUA umpires in the picture. **See the first one at the end of this Newsletter.**

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

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## WHAT’S NEW AT THE SUP?



### News and Announcements:

- 2018 Softball Umpire Clinics Registration
- Bennett, Sturgis Join NCAA Softball Umpire Program Staff

### NCAA Rules Information

- 2018 and 2019 Major Rule Changes for Softball

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## 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

The Observation Clinic in Northern California is scheduled for October 20 – 22, 2017. The clinic will be held at the Twin Creeks Sports Complex in Sunnyvale. This Clinic is available to all current and prospective college umpires. Jim Sanderson, along with PAC12 observers and crew chief, will be observers at the clinic. The Clinic focuses on the college two-umpire system. Contact Oscar Segura ([segurao@yahoo.com](mailto:segurao@yahoo.com)) with your availability.

This clinic is **free**. This is the only clinic that provides an evaluation of your umpiring, pay you game fees, provides you lodging, lunch and dinner.

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## 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](mailto:mgkorras@gmail.com)

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## CCSUA Umpires enjoying their other pursuits



And you thought he slings b\*!\$#!t only in the locker room and on the field.