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Link to Arbiter

http://sup.arbitersports.com/Groups/104484/Library/files/NCAA_Approved_Softball_Bat_List.pdf

Contact Us

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MESSAGE FROM: Greg Schmidt, CCSUA Chairman, SUP Regional Advisor

Hello Everyone,

Joanne and I just got back from the Conference Coordinators meeting in Orlando. There was a lot of positive feedback from our meetings. Keep up the good work!

Please note the following information:

Registration for the SUP 2013 season will open on December 1, 2012. Umpires from all levels are invited to register by clicking on the **REGISTRATION** Tab and are encouraged to take advantage of all that is offered on the NCAA Softball central hub.

Those who register will receive access to the high-powered content successful umpires have come to expect and rely on, including the annual NCAA online Preseason Rules Test, web-based video delivery, rule interpretations, and current educational material from the NCAA.

Registrants will receive a Welcome Packet that includes the 2012-13 NCAA Softball Rule Book and a copy of the new 2013 CCA Softball Umpires Manual. Once the Welcome Packet has been processed for shipment, officials will receive an email from *TrackingUpdates@fedex.com* that contains the tracking number.

The NCAA Preseason Rules Test will be open on the **TESTING** Tab January 7 - February 15, 2013, with the test review available beginning on February 16, 2013. Also in January, the 2013 Online Clinic will be available on the **ONLINE CLINIC** Tab.

We believe your membership in Home Plate will provide a significant and positive effect for your collegiate experience. We sincerely thank you for taking part.

I look forward to seeing you at the January 6th CCSUA clinic at Glendale Community College. Emily will be speaking on a new topic, "The differences between NCAA and ASA Mechanics." I have seen this presentation and you will find it informative and fun as only Emily can present. Also included, will be a video presented by Steve Arnold, WCWS and longtime PAC-12 Conference official. John Bennett and Joanne will be sending out more details so check your email often.

We all need to be more “techno savvy” and now is the time to become more familiar with the Arbiter and all of its advantages.

Everyone have a great holiday!

FOCUS AND PREPARTION

GET IN-SHAPE

It's December and Spring season is just around the corner. Most officials have some type of continuous exercise program year-round to not only reap the health benefits, but to also prepare them to officiate at a physical level that is required to be sustained throughout the season.

If you have stopped your exercise program or need to start one, here are a few tips that will help you get in-shape and be prepared physically for the upcoming season:

1. Stretch for 20-minutes five times a week.
 - Buy a DVD that focuses on stretching exercises.
2. Get back to the gym if you have not been there.
 - Work-out at least four times a week for one hour each time:
 - At least 30-minutes of Cardio not including 10-minute warm-up and 10-minute cool down periods, which should include some type of stretching exercises, especially when cooling down.
 - Muscle tone exercises: machines or free weights for at least 15-20 minutes working the following body parts separately on a four-day rotation: Chest: Legs: Triceps and Biceps: Back and Shoulders.
 - Incorporate abdominal work at least three times a week for 5 to 10 minutes.
3. If you have to work-out at home, incorporate the following exercises:
 - Walk or Run for 30 minutes
 - Abdominal work for 5 to 10 minutes
 - Stretching for at least 10 minutes

One good exercise that is overlooked is Knee bends against the wall. You can do this anywhere: home, gym, hotel or during your pre-game. Knee bends will strengthen your back, quads (thighs), hamstrings and your core. Knee bends should be performed as follow:

- Back against wall
- Feet about shoulder width, feet about 9-12 inches from wall
- Slide down until knees are bent 90 degrees, hold for 10 seconds
- Do 5 repetitions to start; build it to 10 repetitions by adding a rep each day

Exercising is just one way to prepare you physically, but along with exercising comes good eating habits. Good eating habits do not scream, “I need to diet!” Instead, good eating habits means **limiting** the bad/junk foods and replacing them with a better healthier selection of

foods, **all year long**. You can exercise rigidly; and yet, feel and move sluggishly if you do not feed your body the proper nutrients.

IMPORTANT ASSOCIATION DATES REMINDER!!

ANNUAL ASSIGNOR MEETINGS

Please take note of the following date for our Annual Assignor Meetings:

JANUARY 6 - ANNUAL ASSIGNORS MEETING Location: Glendale Community College (Hall of Fame Room). Time to be determined.

JANUARY 6 - CCAA & PAC-WEST Conference Meetings Location: Glendale Community College (Hall of Fame Room). Time to be determined.

FEBRUARY 1-2 CCSUA PRE-SEASON UMPIRE CAMP

First and second year umpires will attend both days. This Camp is also an excellent opportunity for all CCSUA umpires to warm-up in preparation for the upcoming season.

Contact John Bennett if you have any questions about the Camp. (Feb 3 is Super Bowl Sunday)

CAMP (KUDOS)

The last College Camp was held in Irvine, California from 11/16/12 to 11/18/12. We would like to take a moment and say **KUDOS** to several of our umpires who attended this camp for the betterment of their officiating career. The following is a list of attendees, by no special order:

- | | | | |
|--------------------|--------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| 1. Bill Kinsella | 2. Bill Plante | 3. Bruce Helsing | 4. Dan Duclos |
| 5. David Hand | 6. Dennis Barsotti | 7. Hal Van Ryswyk | 8. Herb Huit |
| 9. Steve Rodriguez | 10. Ralph Vasquez | 11. Rick Cowen | 12. Rick Hausvik |
| 13. Jose Barraza | 14. Louie Barraza | 15. Tom Duarte | |

To all camp attendees from our CCSUA Unit throughout the year of 2012, well done!

FOOD FOR THOUGHT CORNER

IMPRESSIONS

The way umpires speak, act and dress when presenting themselves to coaches before their game is the **FIRST** impression coaches will take notice of and possibly make a pre-determination of how their game will be officiated for that day, as well as in the future.

Since we only get **One** chance to make a **First Impression**, let our conversation; demeanor and dress attire prior and during our game show the coaches that we are committed to officiating their game with the utmost respect and professionalism it deserves no matter what level of competition.

REALITY vs. PERCEPTION

Not EVERYONE is there to help you.

“One of the reasons some newer officials don’t rise through the ranks at all (or move up as quickly as they could or should) is because their path is blocked by veterans. In some cases, those more experienced officials are still in their prime and have earned those plum assignments. But in other cases, they are simply protecting their own schedules, afraid that if assigners, coordinators and coaches get a look at the up-and-comers, the newer officials will get the assignments they used to get.

Most veterans aren’t as blatant in their unwillingness to help, but will manage to retard the growth of newer officials by holding back information and techniques they have come to learn through experience over the years.

Officials with whom you work games may also be less than scrupulous. Sad to say, there are people who will throw you under the proverbial bus if something goes awry in a game. More than one official has caught excessive heat from a coach because a partner or crewmate said something inflammatory. An example would be a partner who tells a coach, “You’re right to be upset. My partner blew that call.”

The above-mentioned statement is the fourth principle from the Referee Magazine article regarding REALITY vs. PERCEPTION. The concept that arises from this statement is JEALOUSY and SELF-CENTERNESS, which there should be no place for either when it comes to working together as a crew. And yet, the sad reality is it does exist amongst some veteran officials in all sports.

Let’s help each other become better officials on-and-off the field no matter what sport or level we are officiating. Remember, we only have each other before, during and after a game and if we are perceived by our assigners, coaches, players and/or fans as being divided from pre-game to post-game then we all fail, as we are **FIRST** judged as a crew and not individually.

RULES CORNER

The answer to last month's rule question regarding the exceptions to "Bases missed or left too soon on a caught fly ball must be retouched before advancing" can be found on page 157 Rule 12.29.2.

This month rule's trivia question is: The batter may not release the bat in such a manner that it _____?

- There are three sub-sections noted for this rule and one of them has a Delayed Dead Ball Effect?
- What section of the book would you find this rule and which sub-section is a Delayed Dead Ball Effect?

The answer will be noted in our January Newsletter.

Rule 12.19

All Rules under section 12.19 relate to **Interference**. The definition is as follows:

Interference is an act that **denies a defensive player a reasonable opportunity to make a play (FIELD/THROW) anywhere on the playing field. The act may be intentional or unintentional, and the ball must have been playable. Interference may be caused by individual offensive players (BATTER, ON-DECK BATTER, BATTER-RUNNER, BASE RUNNER) Coaches, Umpires, non-game Personnel, or spectators, by the offensive team as a whole or by loose equipment that belongs to them.**

In other words, INTERFERENCE is ALWAYS caused by the OFFENSE, IF THE BALL IS PLAYABLE.

Sub-sections rules of 12.19.7 list all situations where interference **does not apply** and there is one sub-section that is commonly overlooked, which addresses "**Incidental Contact:**"

Rule 12.19.7.8

When a fielder is standing watching the ball roll near the foul line and the batter-runner or base runner makes INCIDENTAL CONTACT, the fielder is NOT PROTECTED, as she is NOT FIELDING THE BALL.

If this situation occurs in your game be confident in explaining the rule to the coach stating, "by rule coach, your fielder is not protected, as she was not fielding the ball, but only watching it roll."

Philosophy 101: Use the verbiage in the rule book when you have to explain your ruling on the field and explain it with confidence and professionalism in your voice and body language.

MECHANICS

Line-up Card Management

“Plate umpires must have a system for managing the line-up card. A system should be efficient and one that prevents making mistakes. Once an umpire chooses a system the umpire must be able to re-construct what occurred in the game when the need arises.”

The above quote can be found on page 38 of our 2012 CCA Manual, section 4.2, and should be read in its entirety to enhance good line-up management. One procedure that should be followed on a consistent basis at all-levels of umpiring is noted as follows on page 39 under this same section:

When accepting changes during the game, take the line-up card out and ask the coach to remain while changes are recorded. Confirm the names and numbers of the players who are entering and leaving the game or changing defensive positions. Do this by repeating the names and numbers back to the coach. If possible, have the coach point to them on the line-up card. Take one change at a time and follow this procedure with each one. Finally, check that the player(s) who entered the game is wearing the same number as the one recorded.

Following the above outline procedure will ensure that, short of a coach not reporting a change, there will be no problems with the line-up management.

Yes! This may take a little more time, but wouldn't you rather get everything correct at the time the changes are reported, instead of having to delay the game for a protest; causing avoidable and unnecessary conversations in returning to that coach and asking for the information over; or better yet, making a ruling on a unreported sub, illegal player or batting out of order that was solely caused by your lack of inattentiveness in properly recording the changes when they were first reported.

GAME MANAGEMENT

Does your Pre-Pitch Preparation include “Gamesmanship” as well as game situation?

The following scenario occurred in a game:

In the top of the 5th inning with 1-out, R3 tries to score on a slow rolling hit to the pitcher. The pitcher fields the ball and makes an errant throw to home, which draws the catcher up the line toward R3, who is running upright into home plate. The timing of the catcher receiving the throw as she is moving towards R3 results in an unavoidable “crash” right before home plate. The runner was called out, as the catcher maintained possession of the ball after the tag and crash, and landed on the ground. The catcher regains her composure and the game continues.

No warning was issued to R3, as her contact could not have been avoided.

With two outs in the top of the 7th inning and the visiting team is behind by 5 runs, R3 who crashed into the catcher is now the Batter.

Question: Do you recognize this, and if so, does your Pre-Pitch Preparation include your reaction to the possibility of retaliation on the Batter, if the home team believed that the earlier crash by the now Batter was done intentionally?

What would you do if one of the following situations occurred when the Batter begins her turn:

1. The pitcher throws a brush back pitch?
2. The pitcher hits the batter below the waist?
3. The pitcher hits the batter in the head?
4. The batter is hit and charges the pitcher or the catcher?
5. The catcher moves the target for the pitcher to indicate the batter is to be hit?

Here are some **Pre-Pitch Preparation** thoughts on how to handle the above situations:

1. If the pitcher throws a brush back pitch-issue a warning.
2. If the batter is hit below the waist-award the batter 1st base and issue a warning to the pitcher or if in your judgment the situation warrants drastic action to diffuse a potentially volatile situation you may eject the pitcher and catcher without warning (**Effect: Rule 10.14**).
3. If the batter is struck in the head-award the batter 1st base and eject the pitcher and/or the catcher, if in your judgment it was intentional.
4. If the batter is hit and begins charging the pitcher or the catcher get in between her to stop her advances and escort her to first base at least 1/3 of the way until the situation is diffused. Once the batter is on 1st base, handle all the administrative duties necessary in issuing warnings or ejections to the pitcher, catcher and/or head coach.
5. If you observe the catcher moving the target to intentionally hit the batter:
 - a) And the batter is hit: Eject the pitcher and catcher (and possibly the head coach if the coach is the one calling the pitches and in your judgment you feel that he/she was also responsible for the action).

OR

- b) And the batter is **Not** hit: a team warning or immediate ejection is appropriate, according to your judgment.

Whatever action you choose be prepared in advance to handle the situation immediately and effectively. **Pre-Pitch Preparation** is a key component in having good Game Management skills.

PHOTO CORNER



Thanks to Greg Schmidt, Mark Craver and John Bennett for contributing to this month's newsletter!

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to All!

Knowledge is Power and Experience is the best teacher.