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

Happy Holidays to Everyone.

CCSUA Registration fees are due now. If you have not registered by the December 1<sup>st</sup> deadline the fee is now \$160.00 for the Annual Assignors meeting and training. The Annual meeting is January 5<sup>th</sup> at Pasadena City College. For further information:

<http://csuw.arbitersports.com/Front/102522/Site>

I look forward to seeing everyone there.

Greg  
CCSUA Chairman

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## MESSAGE FROM: Dimas Resendez, CCNUA President

Hello College Officials,

California College Umpires North (CCNU) extends a sincere warm greeting and Happy Holidays to you and your family. Enjoy this special time to relax with loved ones.

The 2014 college softball season is much closer with the upcoming Assignor's meeting to be held on Sunday, January 19, 2014, from 10:00 a.m., to 3:00 p.m., and the first games of the Spring season, shortly thereafter.

Just a reminder to send your annual membership dues in a timely manner.

Sincerely,

Dimas Resendez  
President

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## MESSAGE FROM: SUP National Coordinator Staff

Hello Everyone,

Registration for the 2014 season is now open. When you register you will receive the new rule book and CCA mechanics manual. The 2014 NCAA Softball Rules and Mechanics Test will be open on the **TESTING** tab **January 6 - February 14, 2014**, with the test review available beginning on February 15, 2014. Please go to the SUP Central Hub for more information.  
<http://sup.arbitersports.com/Front/104484/Site>

Have a great holiday!



*Greg Schmidt*

NCAA Softball Regional Advisor  
West/Pacific Region  
818-400-9453  
[rrbluegreg@verizon.net](mailto:rrbluegreg@verizon.net)

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## IMPORTANT ASSIGNORS and TRAINING STAFF INFORMATION!

### From Assignors

As announced earlier, there will be an Assignor's meeting for **CCSUA** on Sunday, January 5, 2014. The site will be Pasadena Community College (PCC), building Circadian Lounge (CC) on the second floor (a map of the campus and parking is located on the *CSUW Locker Room* (Central Hub). The **CCSUA** meeting will start at 9:00 a.m., with registration from 7:30 a.m. to 8:30 a.m. The meeting will conclude at about 2:00 p.m. You will have to pay for parking, which will be \$2.00 using the parking machines in the lot.

### WEST COAST CONFERENCE-D1

The West Coast Conference has been established as a managed conference in the NCAA. The participating institutions include Brigham Young University, University of Pacific, Santa Clara, St Mary's, University of San Diego and Loyola Marymount. A travel package has been accepted by BYU only, however, the remaining participants have not accepted for the 2014

season so the game fees of \$135 will be the standard for the Conference (other than BYU).

### PAC-WEST CONFERENCE-D2

Pacific West (Pac-West) Conference has also become a managed D2 conference under one Coordinator. We will be covering California, Utah and Hawaii. There is a travel package in place. The Pac-West has established 3-umpires for Conference games.

### CCAA CONFERENCE- D2

The Conference meetings will be held on two different dates: January 5<sup>th</sup> at Pasadena City College & January 19<sup>th</sup> in Oakland. Further information will be sent to Conference officials.

### SCIAC CONFERENCE-D3

The Conference meeting will be held on January 5<sup>th</sup> at Pasadena City College after the CCSUA meeting. Further information will be sent to Conference officials.

### GSAC CONFERENCE-NAIA

The Conference meeting will be held on January 5<sup>th</sup> at Pasadena City College during the Assignors segment of the CCSUA training meeting.

### SOUTHERN CALIF. COMMUNITY COLLEGE CONFERENCES

The assignments will begin to be published after the Christmas Holiday. Assignors start working on assignments December 18<sup>th</sup> so make sure your Arbiter is up to date.

### COAST CONFERENCE (CC)

Coast Conference JC has renewed its contract for the 2014-2015 seasons. Game fees have increased to \$110 per official. Last season Coast Conference hosted five (5) out of eight (8) Regional Sites in Northern California.

## **From CCSUA Training Staff**

### CCSUA Camp

The CCSUA Pre-season Camp will be held at the Glendale Sports Complex on January 31 and February 1, 2014. Although the 2014 Camp will focus on our 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> year umpires working 2-umpire mechanics, we may have a few games available for 3-umpire training.

Please contact John Bennett (bennettjoh@sbcglobal.net) if you are interested in attending the Camp for one day (\$85) to get 3-umpire training.

### CSUW Locker Room

Have you visited the College Softball Umpires West *Locker Room* recently?

- New articles:
  - Game Management Corner – *Indicator Management*
  - Mechanics Corner- A new play has been added to *Real plays, legitimate deviations*
- The CCSUA Calendar has been updated – see information about our Pre-season Camp
- The Training Calendar has been updated – see the suggested “Monthly Training” section for one way to tackle the task of reading the Rule Book and CCA Manual before the season starts.

### **From CCNUA Training Staff**

The Training Staff for CCNUA has written a great piece on “Over Exertion,” which we have posted in the Game Management section of this Newsletter. Take the time to not only read this information, but pass it along to your colleagues who officiate other sports.

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## FOOD FOR THOUGHT CORNER

There is no “**CHEAP**” way to become successful! Hard and diligent work brings prosperity.

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## FOCUS AND PREPARATION

*Article By Referee Magazine*

### **TOUGH TIMES DON'T LAST**

Life will deal you curve balls regardless of whether you are on the bases or behind the plate. The key to remember: it is just one moment in time. It will pass and there will be other moments.

The best way to deal with tough times is to look at them as educational experiences. They prepare you to handle things differently and more productively the next time they occur.

It's not the tough times that stress people out. It's your **attitude and how you respond**. The famous “positive thinker” author Dr. Robert Schuller is best known for his book *Tough Times Don't Last, Tough People Do*. It's easy not to fail when you never attempt anything. There's not a lot of pressure involved either. But even in “failing,” you never fail, according to Schuller. You learn and get better for it. Times of pressure, stress and failure temper you and make you strong.

Assignor Joanne Venditto posted an article regarding how Jim Joyce dealt with fans after making the obstruction call in this year's Pro-Baseball World Series. Copy and paste the following link to read this article, [---

CCSUA Newsletter](http://hardballtalk.nbcsports.com/2013/10/30/under-</a></p></div><div data-bbox=)

pressure-for-world-series-umpires-failure-is-seized-upon-success-is-ignored/

A quote from the Jim Joyce article states, “As geology tells us, if you don’t have pressure, you don’t have diamonds.”

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## RULES CORNER

As noted in our November issue, we will expand on the major change in the Rounding or Returning rule.

In our new 2014-2015 Rules book “Rounding or Returning” has been separated into two different rules - 9.5.2.6 (Rounding) and 9.5.2.7 (Returning). The Effect states “...subsequent violation of the same rule...”. This means that in order for a one-base award to occur the same defender must violate the same rule at least twice.

Example #1: Player number 2 obstructs BR **rounding** first base. This is her first offense; therefore, a warning is issued for rounding obstruction. #2 then obstructs R1 from **returning** to the base on a pick-off attempt. Because the **returning** obstruction is **NOW** a separate rule and this is her first offense for violating this rule, #2 receives a separate warning for a returning obstruction. If either a Rounding or Returning obstruction violation occur after #2 has been issued the above warnings, a one-base award is given to that runner.

Example #2: Player number 5 obstructs a runner from returning to her base in the 2<sup>nd</sup> inning. This is her first offense; therefore, a warning is issued. In the 4<sup>th</sup> inning #5 obstructs another runner from returning to her base. Since this is the second time #5 has obstructed a runner from **returning** to her base, a one-base award is issued to that runner. Later in the game #5 obstructs a BR from rounding first base. Since this is her first offense for **rounding** obstruction she is given a warning only. No one-base award is issued because of her previous violations of the **returning obstruction** due to the fact that they are **NOW** two separate rules.

### REMEMBER: Warnings must be written down.

Please take the time to familiarize yourself with pages 5-13 of the new Rules book. In these important pages are included: Points of Emphasis, Softball Rules Committee Report, Major Rule changes, Editorial Changes. and Common Practices Updates. Coaches will no doubt question you about them throughout the season.

If you have any further questions regarding these two rules or any other rules, please contact John Bennett or Dee Abrahamsom.

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## COMMUNICATION SKILLS

### BODY LANGUAGE/DRESS ATTIRE

#### What is yours saying?

When you enter a field to meet the coaches what does your body language portray? If you arrive in a ripped concert T-shirt, old faded shorts and flip flops, your body language conveys that you are not interested in their game, but only in the check you will receive at the end of the day. Not good!!!!

Your dress attire goes hand-and-hand with your body language and will spill over into the game you are scheduled to officiate. Each close call you make may be challenged as the coaches already have a pre-conceived mind-set on what type of official you are. The coach will not respect or have confidence in your judgment no matter how well you may look in your uniform or use the proper mechanics once the game has started.

“Everything you do communicates something.” Make sure your body language shows an air of professionalism, confidence and respect through wearing the proper dress attire upon your arrival at a field no matter what college level you are officiating.

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## GAME MANAGEMENT

*Written By Dismas Resendez*

### Over-Exertion

Over-Exertion is Defined as “too much or too great physical or mental effort.” How much is too much? A majority of college officials have many opportunities to umpire or referee multiple sports during the school term at different levels of college, high school and/or recreational leagues. Collegiate games generally begin in late January and end with the post-season in May.

The college assignors will fill your available dates with an assignment to your skill level and availability for days and weeks on end. There are many occasions to work every day of the week, if you so desire, and a lot of officials schedule multiple games in different sports or softball levels along with their collegiate softball assignments, but is this really good **Game Management**?

As the games add up, your body begins to tire and drag with less energy and stamina. Your mental state also begins to tire upon working so many consecutive dates. Working too many games during the season will take its toll physically and mentally on the body, which will eventually effect the way you manage games.

The expectation of college officials is to be in the best physical and mental condition to work their assigned softball contests. How can you truly do this if you overload your schedule, especially, when many of us work full-time jobs, leave work early, drive an hour or two to

arrive at the game site approximately 60- minutes before the start time; work the assigned game for the next 90-minutes to two (2) hours and then drive home, only to repeat the same process for the next several days and weeks. What is the solution to avoid “Burn-Out” through “Over-Exertion?”

One of the main keys to avoid this dilemma is to plan accordingly and accept assignments that give you the best opportunity to stay sharp, mentally and physically. Block certain dates during these months to rest and resist the urge to accept additional games. Commit one weekend a month to stay home with your family and re-charge yourself.

Remember that a well-rested mind and body is in your best interest when you step on the softball diamond for the upcoming 2014 season. We, as college officials, need to be at the top of our game both physically and mentally for each and every contest. Be sharp and be ready!

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## PHOTO CORNER



Photos by Denny

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**To you and your family have a Blessed, Wonderful Christmas and a safe New Year!**