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

Hope everyone had a great **Thanksgiving!**

The annual Assignors meetings with CCSUA are:

- January 11, 2015 at Pasadena Community College
 - January 18, 2015 at Hayward Area Senior Center 22325 N 3rd St, Castro Valley, CA
- More information will be sent as it becomes available.

Please **update your Availability in the Arbiter**. This is a critical time for the Assignors and they need current information.

REMINDER: CCSUA Registration fees were due **DECEMBER 1st**. If postmarked after this date the cost is \$160.00.

Merry Christmas to all!

Greg Schmidt

CCSUA Chairman
NCAA Softball Regional Advisor
West/Pacific Region
818-400-9453
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MESSAGE FROM: SUP National Coordinator Staff

Hello Everyone,

Registration for the 2015 season opens December 1st.

The registration fees for the 2014-2015 softball season are based on the divisions in which you are assigned. The fees are:

Division I umpire: \$125.00

Division II and III umpires: \$110.00

You will receive the current 2014-2015 Rules and Interpretation Book and the CCA Manual, along with access to the Central Hub website. Information on the website will include weekly and/or monthly updates, rule interpretations, training videos, quizzes and information vital to the success of becoming a well-informed NCAA umpire.

Post Season Qualification testing opens January 5 and closes February 13, 2015.



Greg Schmidt

NCAA Softball Regional Advisor

West/Pacific Region

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IMPORTANT ASSIGNORS and TRAINING STAFF INFORMATION!

From the Assignors

We are in the process of assigning and need additional information from each umpire. **For further instructions, please visit the CSUW Locker Room.** [Look in the center section for the most recent post: "Assignors Announcement – Important."](#)

Please take a look at your picture in the Arbiter. Is this the way you would like to be "presented" when coaches download game report forms and your picture comes up? We suggest you take a picture without a hat, and make it look comfortable, yet professional. Suits are not necessary, but if you work Division 1, then at least use a tie. Smartphones take good pictures, so have someone take a series of photos for you and pick out one you can save to your computer and download to the Arbiter.

[Put your best "face" forward.](#)

From CCSUA Training Staff

The Fall Ball training program in Southern California recently concluded successfully. We identified three umpires who did well on the field, were open to the suggestions given to them by their observers, and may be ready to work college softball games. [Our fall program continues to grow and provide opportunities for college umpires to develop their game skills.](#)

New “Protocols Corner” on the Locker Room. A new member of the team has joined the Locker Room. We have added, on the right panel, a **new section: “Protocols Corner.”** It will join our Mechanics Corner, Game Management Corner and Rules Corner as part of the lineup. It is located on the right panel near the bottom. **Check out the three new articles recently posted to this new section.**

Uniforms and equipment are important parts of a college softball umpire’s professionalism. These items need an annual check-up to assure they are in top condition. **For a checklist on how to conduct your annual check-up, go to our Locker Room and select the article in the new Protocols Corner.**

The **Associate status** for umpires who want to have access to all the training available on the CSUW Locker room is off to a good start. Please welcome these new umpires as CSUW Associates:

- Mike Fooks, Joel Hessing, Brian Koon, Robert Pratt, George Whitmer

Tell your non-college umpire friends about this opportunity to get quality training year-round. Direct them to csuw.arbitersports.com and have them take a quick look at what is available. They will not have access to most of the items until they sign up as an Associate, but it will give them a good idea of what is on the site.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT CORNER

If you can’t fly, then run.

If you can’t run, then walk.

If you can’t walk then crawl.

But whatever you do you have to keep moving forward.

Dr. Martin Luther King

FOCUS AND PREPARTION

Now that Turkey day is over and we are inching closer to the season here is a tip on how to prepare for the duration and remain on top of your game throughout the journey: **BALANCE YOUR SCHEDULE....**

As assignors are beginning to schedule games, just a reminder: don’t bite off more than you can chew! Below are some inserts from an article titled, “The Pitfalls of Working Too Many Games,” which was published in the February issue of Referee Magazine that explains what happens when we overload ourselves with too many games in a season:

You will hear officials say that the best way to get better is to see more plays. Many officials translate that statement into “I need to work as many games as humanly

possible.” But there becomes a point when it turns into too many games.

The biggest pitfall of working too many games is that it starts to affect your life. You start to spend less time at home. Your family gets to see less of you and your life is no longer balanced.

It is usually best to balance things out. Don't work a game *every day* just for the sake of having a game. Think back to the previous season - was there a point in the year where things got too stressful mentally or physically? It is very likely that occurs at some point. Think about when that time is the greatest. Taking a few days off or even an entire week in the middle of the season might be a good way to reset. It helps tremendously and *will cause you to remain focused for the remainder of the season, instead, of dragging to get to the end of the season.*

As you prepare to update your availability think about the above-mentioned insert and **take some time out for yourself and family**. That precious “time-out” will enable you to stay on top of your game throughout the season.

RULES CORNER

Much **KUDOS** goes to the following umpires and another outstanding month of responses:

Joe Campanella, Mark Craver, Dan Cowan, Tom Duarte, Pete Dufour, Anthony Garcia, Erik Geierman, Katrina Gonzalez, Ruben Gonzalez, Herb Huit, Mark Korras, Dan Marksbury, John Miller, Eugene Narimatsu, Don Postle, Robert Plancich, John Ratliff, Jason Robinson, Mario Romero, Jed Sasaki, David Shea, Hal Van Ryswyk, Martin Vandenberg, Ralph Vasquez, Glenn Waggoner, James Walker and Steve Wilson

So here are the answers:

1. The Flex enters the game in the clean-up spot in the batting order for the DP at the start of the game dropping the number of active players in the game from 10 to nine. Two innings later, the coach wants to return to 10 players by entering a substitute into the clean-up spot in the batting order but coach does not want the substitute to go into the lineup as the Flex. Must the coach re-enter the starting DP into the clean-up spot and then put the substitute in for her?

No, the DP does not have to be re-entered in order for the coach to put in a substitute. Rule 8.2.5.2.3 allows a player from the bench to enter as the DP while the FLEX or her substitute returns to the 10th position which allows the original DP to retain her re-entry right.

2. With a base runner on first base, the batter bunts the ball in front of home plate. The catcher fields the ball and is just about to throw when the plate umpire knocks the ball out of the catcher's hand while pointing to indicate the ball was fair. Is this umpire interference?

We included this question as a challenge to see if umpires were checking the

interpretations. As we know there is a discrepancy, we have contacted Dee for her final answer and will list her response in a future newsletter.

So far now the rule book takes precedence if a coach wants to protest, as both John Bennett and I agree that this is not umpire interference when the umpire impedes the catcher, who is fielding a batted ball to make a play (Note under 9.7.1.3). In Rule 9.7.1.3 it is very clear that umpire interference with a catcher refers to an attempt to throw out a base runner on a pickoff or steal attempt.

This month's scenarios:

1. With base runners on first and second bases and one out, a ground ball is hit to the second baseman. She fields the ball and attempts to tag the base runner forced to advance to second base. The base runner retreats toward first base and successfully avoids the tag but the umpire incorrectly calls the base runner out for backing up. The second baseman continues the play by throwing out the batter-runner; inning over. **How do you rectify the mistake to "get the call right?"**
2. The right fielder moves to shallow left field, the left fielder moves to deep left field and right field is left vacant. **Does this change need to be reported?**

What's your call and enforcement penalty for these scenarios? Send me an email at kellie.sturgis@att.net with your answer and Rule section cited.

GAME MANAGEMENT CORNER

Are You a **DECISION MAKER** or a **REACTOR**?

*Referee Magazine-Justin Marien
March 2014*

"Officials must be decision-makers versus reactors. Officials are trained to make decisions based on plays and not just be reactors to the action. Rely and lean on your experiences and training to execute proper judgment on plays. Rules knowledge and familiarity to having seen a play or situation before helps to make good quality decisions.

Decision-making involves more than just the plays in the game. Many game management situations involve decision-making. Players and coaches howling from a dugout present issues for umpiring crews. A decision-maker deals with the issue before it becomes an actual problem. A reactor lets the chattering continue, does nothing about it and before long has seen the issue build to an unmanageable level.

Use your training and experience to make adequate decisions about the events that occur in your games." Ask yourself honestly, what type of umpire are you at this point in your career? If the answer is a "Reactor" think and do things differently as you enter the spring season not only for yourself, but for the betterment of your crew!

**Knowledge is Power and Experience is the best teacher.
Merry Christmas to you and your families!**



