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

Hello to All,

Now that the holidays are behind us the season is here!

I would like to thank John Bennett for all his dedicated work this pre-season not only on a local level but nationally as well. John is a true asset to our organization and an advocate for umpires everywhere.

Remember the more your practice the luckier you get. So work on your game, get into the Manual and Rules book and be the luckiest umpire of the year. The post-season will be upon us before you know it: set your goals and work to achieve them through your dedicated effort. Should something come up during the season give us a call we are here to help.

Greg
CCSUA Chairman

MESSAGE FROM: Dimas Resendez, CCNUA President

2014 College Softball Season Kickoff

Hello College Officials,

California College Umpires (CCU) North held our annual Assignors and Training session on January 19th in Castro Valley, CA. Assignors Joanne Venditto and Terry Ching coordinated the assignor conference meetings. Gary Kinard and Dimas Resendez facilitated the morning training session and Tanya Garig, (CCU-North Educational Director) conducted the group training session, along with Ed Cooper, James Bertuzzi, and Calvin Walker.

Greg Schmidt, NCAA SUP Regional Advisor presented the 2014 expectations.

The 2014 college season is beginning in earnest and all of the officials are now prepared and ready to do their very best for the season. Have fun and enjoy each game!

Sincerely,

Dimas Resendez
California College Umpires-North, President

MESSAGE FROM: SUP National Coordinator Staff

Hello Everyone,

Remember to register and take the SUP online test before the February 14th deadline. Passing the test with a score of 90% is a requirement for NCAA and Community College post-season play consideration.

Please visit the SUP website <http://sup.arbitersports.com/front/104484/Site> often as your up-to-date resource for the latest umpire news/updates and current bat list.

Have a great season.



Greg Schmidt

NCAA Softball Regional Advisor
West/Pacific Region
818-400-9453
rrbluegreg@verizon.net

IMPORTANT ASSIGNORS and TRAINING STAFF INFORMATION!

From the Assignors

The 2014 season is upon us. We appreciate all the preparation and hard work you've

done in getting ready for the upcoming collegiate schedule. Now is the time to show that expertise on the field! Use your people skills, hustle, smile, and have fun. Play ball!

EMAIL TO COACHES PRIOR TO GAME

The season started last week. You should be getting reminder email notices from the Arbiter 3 days prior to your upcoming assignments. Make sure you have contacted the coaches and your partner at least 5 days prior to your game(s). You can find a sample emails on the Locker Room and in Lists/Forms.

GAME REPORTS

Game reports are important – the plate umpire shall do a game report within 24 hours after the contest. **You must add specific information to the standard Game Report form** found on Arbiter. This information can be found by going to Lists/Forms, clicking on *Game Reports PU*, and following the instructions. Now open your schedule in Arbiter - it shows only future games so if you cannot see your game, click on *Show All* on the left panel under “Display”. Click on the highlighted “R” in the Notes column for your game. Do not submit the Game Report until you have added the information mentioned above.

ARBITER – LOCKER ROOM/CENTRAL HUB

Lots of good information has been placed up there since our annual meetings have been held.

ARBITER – PICTURE OF EACH OFFICIAL

It is a requirement that you have your picture in Arbiter – one which is similar to what you might put in a resume’ (professional – no hats or t-shirts). It is easy to do this. Go to Profile, click on Picture (top left), browse to the picture on your computer and upload it.

NCAA TEST

The test is available. Don’t wait until the last minute to take it. To qualify for any level of post-season, officials must pass the test with a 90%.

INFORMATION FROM THE ANNUAL MEETINGS

The Power Point presentations are on the Arbiter. There is information on payments, travel, policies, procedures, contact with colleges and PARKING at some locations. Some of you need to bring W-9’s to certain colleges– some of you have to fill out forms which can be found on the Arbiter LISTS/FORMS tab section prior to your contest for certain colleges.

CCAA CONFERENCE-D2

The CS Stanislaus Tournament on the first weekend in April is being assigned. Terry & Joanne thank all of you who requested to work this tournament. Due to the volume of request, many were left out this year, as there are a limited availability slots to be assigned.

From CCSUA and CCNUA Training Staff

There are not that many rule changes this year, so let's discuss the few that are meaningful – that is, might actually happen on the field (no rule references are cited – please find them in the book and read them).

1. Two types of ejections – behavioral and administrative
2. Two types of warnings – Informal and Formal
3. Time-frame for filing an Incident Report is **24-hours**
4. New single category for bats – “Inappropriate” which includes all illegal, altered and non-approved bats
5. New Term – Offense Player
6. Four types of obstruction, which required a warning and then a base award on the next violation by the same player for the same exact type of obstruction.
7. Restricts location for teammates' celebration of runs scoring during a dead ball, i.e. on Home Runs, etc.
8. Pitcher must wipe off substances, including dirt, which will transfer to the ball

Quick comment on the two getting the most discussion so far:

- #6: the second violation must be for the same exact rule. This was changed from last year.
- #7: this new rule is very similar to an existing rule – touching a runner before she touches the plate. If the team violates either of these two rules –first violation is a warning. On the second violation of **either** rule, somebody is going to be called out.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT CORNER

You don't get what you wish for you get what you work for!

FOCUS AND PREPARATION

By Bob Joswick (*Referee Magazine*)

Concentration

Below is an insert from an article named “Cruise Control” *The Keys to Making Good Judgments*:

Concentration is the ability to focus attention on a single event. A lapse in concentration allows outside thoughts to interrupt the mind’s evaluation process and hinders the ability to make a ruling. Simply put, if distracted, the mind can miss data it needs to make correct decisions.

Develop a rhythm. Establish a routine you perform at specific times of the game. It will help prevent lapses in concentration no matter the game score or intensity.

At the start of a play, be in position to see positions and movement in your coverage area. Run through whatever pre-play checklist your game demands. Focus your mind on your area for the upcoming play. Developing a routine makes it easier to move mentally from one aspect of the game to the next.

As the article notes, “Develop a rhythm and have a Pre-Pitch checklist” for the entirety of your game, which will eliminate those lapses in concentration that all of us have endured one time or another in our career.

RULES CORNER

In last month’s newsletter we noted a scenario directly from Dee Abrahamson’s 2014-2015 NCAA Softball Rule Interpretations document. Congratulations to the first five-people, who submitted the correct answer, which was: Interference, dead ball, BR is awarded first-base and all other base runners are returned to the last base touched at the time of the interference, Rule 12.19.2.1.4 (A.R.12.19.2.1.4³ in Dee’s document):

Mario Romero, Steve Wilson, Rick Hausvik, Scott Matthews and Pete Dufour!

This month’s trivia question is, what do these three rules have in common:

- Returning a Pitched Ball to the Pitcher
- Substance on the Ball/Items on Pitcher
- A fielder shall not position herself in the batter’s line of vision or act in a manner to distract the batter

The first 15 umpires that send me the correct “common ruling” will have their names noted in next month’s newsletter.

Late breaking news!! We have received additional information regarding rule 9.5.2.9 (fielder blocking a runner's view). Please see the revised document posted in our Locker Room for "Fielder blocking runner's view" (under Rules Corner).

MECHANICS

As a college official, you have five-options to use for a Plate stance. The only criteria is that whichever stance you prefer, you must be able to see the outside corner of the plate with a clear view of the entire zone.

If you feel you are or have been struggling with your strike zone or have been told that you are inconsistent by an observer, you may want to try a new stance that will help you call a more accurate and consistent strike zone that is emphasized for NCAA.

You will find the variety of Plate stances and a definition of each one in section 6.2 of the CCA Manual on pages 36 and 37.

GAME MANAGEMENT

Over the last few newsletters we have addressed many topics and perspectives of Game Management skills with “Silence is Golden,” “Prevent Partner Problems,” “Over-Exertion” and “How to handle intentionally get hit by a Pitch.” As we begin the season take a moment to review these topics, as one or two of these situations will arise within the next few months.

If you are new to college, please review the “Line-Up Card Management Power-Point,” dated, 02/20/13, on the SUP Central Hub, as there are major differences in reporting and recording changes, as well as, substitutions, conferences and now the new term-Offense Player (OP)-when a team uses the DP/Flex in their line-up.

Also on the SUP Central Hub is a presentation of DP/Flex Chalk Talk under “Dee’s Corner.” If you have difficulty with understanding this rule, please take a moment to review this presentation.

Just a quick note: All offensive and **defensive** changes must be reported by the coaches, recorded on your line-up card and announced to the opposing coach, official scorer and public-address announcer (if applicable) for any substitute to be considered officially in the game, Rule 8.5.1.8.

This is one of those major differences that all college officials must know.

Thanks to Melvin Clark for contributing to this newsletter!