



## In This Issue

- Assignor's and Training Staff Information
- Food for Thought
- Focus and Preparation
- Rules Corner
- Mechanics Corner
- Game Management Corner

[Link to Arbiter](#)

## Contact Us

- [CCSUA information](#)
- [Training questions](#)
- [Newsletter suggestions](#)
- [Rules questions](#)

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

It was good seeing everyone at the January Assignor's meetings. Thanks again to those who helped put together the meetings. It was truly a team effort and is greatly appreciated by everyone.

We strive each year to bring the most current and up-to-date information to our umpires. We use the SUP's *In Focus Topics* as a starting point then expand on topics that are pertinent to our area. We use the CCA Mechanics Manual and NCAA Rules books as the go to place for any questions. These books will serve you well on the field if you put the time in to study the material.

The CSUW Central Hub will continue to be updated. Be on the lookout for several changes to the CSUW Central Hub in the next couple of weeks. If you have any suggestions on how the site can improve, email John Bennett and Greg Schmidt with your suggestions for future consideration.

If any issues come up that you may not be sure of, give me a call. We want correct information being disseminated throughout the year.

Have a great season!

*Greg Schmidt*

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

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## MESSAGE FROM: SUP National Coordinator Staff

Hello Everyone,

The qualification test is now open. The closing date is February 13<sup>th</sup> at 11:59 p.m., EST, which is 8:59 p.m., our time. Don't wait until the last minute to take the test. If your computer is down, borrow a friend's or go to a library to get it done. You are allowed to take the test twice, as you will need a passing score of 90% to become eligible for potential post-season assignments.

From time to time during the season a comment will come to the SUP about something "new." Remember "new" things will be on the SUP website or a mass email will go out if it concerns umpires. Do not take someone else's word that a mechanic or rule change has suddenly appeared. Call me for clarification so we are consistent in what we do.

I will be at the Stanislaus tournament this year. This will be an Observation Tournament for the SUP. I look forward to seeing many of you there. Don't hesitate to say "Hi," as I am there to put names with faces. I've met a lot of you at the meetings and am looking forward to seeing you on the field.

Thanks!



*Greg Schmidt*

NCAA Softball Regional Advisor

West/Pacific Region

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## ASSIGNORS and TRAINING STAFF INFORMATION!

### **From the Assignors**

As all real estate brokers know, a fresh coat of paint will make any property look good. Whether your home is a row house in Baltimore, a Paris atelier, or even a Winnebago, a new coat of paint will bring a shine to the interior and put a smile on the faces of both residents and guests.

Put that "fresh coat" of paint" on for the 2015 season. Impress coaches and partners with the new you. Engage the rule book...take the quizzes on the Locker Room. Get educated through the SUP Central Hub's Rule Interpretations, and change the way you talk to coaches about the game. How many of you can go one on one with John Bennett?

If you are working triple headers or small tournaments the Umpire listed first will make contact with the Host and all partners.

For Tournaments review Rule 3.3.4.2.1 The Bat list may be used for multiple games per day. They should have a new bat list the next day. You need to be able to read it and initial.

Review Halted and Interrupted game procedures. At the coaches meeting, discuss rain suspensions, resumptions or termination of play. The Plate umpire will make the final decision, Rule 5.2.2, pg. 49. We never meet to decide – We meet to inform both Coaches of our decision and we leave.

Please pregame suspensions and possible resumptions. Remember before the game starts, don't be a "Nice Guy" and offer any of your meteorologist insights. One of them will hold you to your word – we have Student Safety as our utmost concern.

Please review your appearance in the mirror at home, as this season gets underway...particularly the length of your hair and facial hair growth.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The center of the Arbiter home page has ANNOUNCEMENTS that you need to read about regarding field locations, parking, etc. Check there from time to time before you go to locations for example:

**CHANGE IN FIELDS FOR LA VALLEY COLLEGE/VAN NUYS**.....The field at the campus is under construction for a parking lot. All home games will be played at.....

### **COAST CONFERENCE IN NORTHERN CALIFORNIA:**

When you have an ejection, the umpire who ejected the coach or player shall call the Assignor immediately following the game.

All Inappropriate Bat(s) should be reported to Martin Vandenburg for documentation. Include how many Inappropriate Bat(s) a team had in an email. We are making notes, so we can track the bats to assist in not being used in the next game. Please review Rule 3, pg. 36-39.

Contact the Head Coach Five (5)-days prior to the assignment and copy your partners on that initial email and include the Assignor.

### **CALIFORNIA COMMUNITY COLLEGES – South Coast-Foothill-Orange Empire-Western State Conferences**....

If you EJECT A COACH OR PLAYER: Do NOT fill out an NCAA ejection report to send to Dee A. Send an email with the details to Joanne Venditto & Rich Kollen. These ejection emails are sent to the Athletic Directors directly. Please

don't use pronouns or adjectives – just the facts in bullet points.

If you REMOVE A BAT from a team: Do NOT send an NCAA bat report to Dee A. Send an email with the details to Joanne Venditto/Rich Kollen. These emails are sent to the Athletic Directors directly.

**NCAA NATIONAL TEST**.... If you work Division 1, 2 or 3 you need to score 90% or higher to work in these conferences. The closing date is February 13<sup>th</sup> – 8:59 p.m. Pacific Standard Time.

### **PAC-WEST & CCAA UMPIRES:**

Make sure you pass the NCAA test by the deadline date. CCAA officials that attended the North Assignor's meeting sign the contract that Greg Schmidt has sent to you; scan and email it to Greg, as soon as possible.

### **GSAC CONFERENCE – NAIA MEMBERSHIP**

I determined that more than 10 assignments (not games) is the magic number for NAIA membership. This allows you to have a profit working any NAIA assignments. Some of our members joined, watched the video and took the quiz in which they reported..... “The video is basic....Sportsmanship information...It's about 4:30 minutes long. The quiz has both information from the video and some rules questions, so have your rule book with you”.

### **MONTHLY QUIZZES ON ARBITER/CCSUA LOCKER ROOM...**

The Assignors monitor these quizzes. The officials who take them stay current on their rules and those are the umpires we want to give more assignments. However, it does disturb us to know that many of you don't visit the Dee Abrahamson “clarification” section of the NCAA Central Hub, but prefer to ask others for the answers. We are getting wise to those who don't study the game.

*Joanne, Terry, Jim and Rich*

### **For CCSUA Training Staff**

#### **Illegal pitches**

There seems to be an epidemic of a particular form of illegal pitch at all levels of travel ball and it is starting to appear in the college game. The pitchers are walking onto the pitcher's plate with their hands apart and immediately, without any pause, the hands are brought together.

The rule book is clear. Once the pitcher steps on the plate the hands must be separated (10.2.1.2) and while in this position she must take (or simulate taking) a signal from the catcher (10.2.2). This requires at least a one or two second pause with the hands apart after she has stepped on the plate with both feet.

Enforcing this rule eliminates the possibility of a quick pitch and is also for the safety of the batter, catcher and umpire. A video has been posted on the Locker Room which shows this violation - Rules-Pitching section, then select “Hands together too quickly” clip. Further clarification is available in an article in the Rules Corner (Pitching link).

#### Pre-game partner check

Between your pre-game with your partner and the pre-game meeting with the coaches, there is another pre-game which should be implemented by college umpires. It is the pre-game partner check. The crew should take one last look at each other before leaving the locker room to enter the field.

- Uniform shirt: no rolled up sleeves, no bunching of the uniform shirt above the belt buckle, collars are flat.
- Uniform pants: not bundled up at the bottom, all belt loops have been used.

Equipment – indicator, brush, pen and small notebook

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## FOOD FOR THOUGHT CORNER

"Whether you think you can or you think you can't, you're right."

*Henry Ford*

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## FOCUS AND PREPARTION

SEASON IS HERE! Are you focused and prepared for the first set of games????

Remember the athletes never get older - they stay the same age, are quick, fast, stronger and smarter. We have to stay up with those athletes. Ask yourself, “What have I done to be athletic and not slow down, as I age? How did I prepare mentally to be a top college official and be confident in the games I work?” Self-evaluation may be hard, but if you’re honest with yourself you will become a better official.

*Terry Ching, Assignor*

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## RULES CORNER

Great job everyone for your consistency in responding to the monthly Newsletter quizzes! And welcome returner and first timers, as it’s awesome to receive your emails, as well. Kudos to this month’s umpires: Dennis Allen, Fred Barker, Jess Black, Joe Campanella, Dan Cowan, Tom Duarte, Pete Dufour, Ed Earle, David Florentino, Anthony Garcia, Katrina Gonzalez, Ruben Gonzalez,

Erik Geierman, Deborah Harris, Rick Hausvik, Herb Huitt, , Steve Kayo, Mark Korras, Dan Marksbury, Myrle McLernon, John Miller, Eugene Narimatsu, John Park, Bill Plante, Robert Pratt, John Ratliff, Vincent Rojas, Jason Robinson, Steve Rodriguez, Mario Romero, Jeffery Samuels, Robert Schordy, David Shea, Stacy Sobo, Hal Van Ryswyk, Martin Vandenberg, Ralph Vasquez, Glenn Waggoner, James Walker and Steve Wilson.

Here are the answer to December's questions:

1. The batter-runner unintentionally kicks the ball that had deflected off the catcher who attempted to field a dropped third strike. **Rule 12.19.1.3 (A.R.)**
2. R2 is called out on a pick-off attempt at 2<sup>nd</sup> base and the offensive coach questions your call requesting that you ask for help. **154.3. and 15.9.1 (Expectation #2).**

Since most of you are all tested and quizzed out for with the recent output of both, we have decided to give you a break from this month quiz scenarios. Instead, we would prefer for all to complete the NCAA SUP test and the most recent quiz, as the deadline for the "test" is quickly approaching.

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## MECHANIC CORNER

Did you know that there have been corrections to the 2015 CCA Mechanics Manual posted on the SUP Central Hub?????

For those of you who are not registered with the NCAA SUP please get with someone who is and find out what the corrections are, as these are to be implemented immediately.

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## GAME MANAGEMENT

As the season has begun, each game counts. How will you handle heated game situations with coaches??? Will you be able to know when a coach is frustrated at their team or at the calls that believe are going against them or at you if you are or your partner(s) are struggling or they perceive that you are?

There should always be a discussion in your pre-game regarding coaches' tendencies and game awareness so that you can be mentally prepared to handle these types of situations without letting your personal emotions take over.

Let your partner(s) know your tendencies, as well. A good example of this is if you know that when your emotions get the best of you, your voice raises and you continue to argue, tell your partner(s) in the pre-game that this is when they need to step-in and diffuse the situation and once you see them arrive you will step away.

Now when you partner does arrive be smart enough to walk away and let them handle it. Don't continue to argue, as you have already lost the battle when you let your emotions get the best of you. Walk away and regain your composure quickly, as the game is not over and it needs your full attention. This is why we have informal and formal warnings as tools to help us not become overly emotionally involved.

It is one thing to give a warning to a coach for their unsportsmanlike conduct and it is another thing when you cross the line for the same behavior and think it is okay.....What's wrong with that picture?

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**Knowledge is Power and Experience is the best teacher.**

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