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[Link to Arbiter](#)  
NCAA Approved  
Bat List

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

Hello Everyone and HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Looking forward to seeing YA'LL on the 6<sup>th</sup> at Glendale College. Please remember to go to the Arbiter under forms to download the following:

Glendale College Parking Permit/Map	12/17/2012
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Without the permit you may be cited. Go to [Announcements](#) on the CCSUA Arbiter site for details on the meeting.

We have an exciting agenda with Emily Alexander presenting “Mechanics differences between ASA and NCAA.” Also, her second session will feature, “The Best of Emily,” which I know will be very informative and entertaining, as only Emily can.

John Bennett, PAC-12 umpire and CCSUA Training Coordinator will present “College Softball Hot Topics.” John has some good game footage for his presentation.

Steve Arnold, WCWS and PAC-12 umpire will present “Game Situations,” which will show difficult situations and how crews handled it on the field. Remember, we have no need to focus on who the umpires are-what’s important is that we do not repeat “history” and handle the situation differently, which enables us to learn from history.

Joanne, Rich and Jim will go over a preview of the upcoming season. This will be very informative and an opportunity to interact with our assignors.

I will have the SUP update with Post Season information. We will also cover some mechanics changes that will not be in this year’s manual but will be on the SUP Central Hub and in the 2014 manual. Please don’t wait until the last minute to take the test. The qualifying score has changed this year to 90%, which brings College Softball in line with all the other NCAA sports. Additional information about registration and test dates is noted in the **Important**

**Associates Dates Reminder** section of this newsletter.

Lunch and drinks will be provided at the meeting. You will receive your lunch and t-shirt after you sign-in. You can eat **QUIETLY** during the meeting, which will enable us to keep things moving and finish on time.

I am once again looking forward to meeting all of our new people and saying “Hi” to our veterans.

Sincerely,

Greg Schmidt  
CCSUA Chairman  
NCAA Regional Advisor  
West/Pacific Region

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## FOCUS AND PREPARTION

### **IT'S TIME!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!**

For the last four months we have shared some topics on how to **Focus and Prepare** for the upcoming season. We are less than one month away from the season beginning at some levels of College and the question is **ARE YOU READY??**

Let's review some main topics to finalize those last moments of being Focused and Prepared to have a great season:

1. Continue to study the Rules and Mechanic books, and focus on the new concepts and philosophies detailed in this year's 2013 CCA Manual. Know and use the verbiage in the Rule book when discussing a call with a coach.
  - If you are not going to register on the NCAA SUP Central Hub, you can purchase the Mechanic book separately through the following link:  
<https://www.pubservice.com/RISStore/ProductDetails.aspx?ID=80007&WG=315>.
  - If you are a Veteran you will continue to use the rule book that was issued to you last year, as this is year two of the NCAA 2-year rule book. All new umpires will receive a 2012-2013 rule book.
2. Make sure your uniforms fit and your equipment is in good condition. If you need to purchase new uniforms or equipment **NOW** is the time to do so before season begins.
3. Accept your games and write them down in your calendar book. Give yourself additional time to be able to arrive at your games at least one-hour prior to start time.

4. Be physically **FIT!!** Exercise, eat right and get rest! Do not over extend yourself with accepting more games than you can handle due to work and personal obligations.
5. Professionalism!
  - Dress appropriately to all games. Preferred acceptable attire is Polo Shirt and slacks, or track Suit bottoms or wind pants. No baseball hats, casual gym or heavy sweat suits attire, and no College Logo affiliation on any attire.
  - If you are the Plate or Crew Chief Umpire, contact your partner(s) and coaching/event staff by email several days prior to your game.
  - Conduct yourself appropriately before, during and after your games.
  - Have a good **PRE-GAME AND POST-GAME** with your partner(s).

Lastly, **HAVE FUN!!!!!!**;) Enjoy each game and maintain your **Focus and Preparation** throughout the season!

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## IMPORTANT ASSOCIATION DATES REMINDER!!

### **JANUARY 6<sup>TH</sup> ASSOCIATION MEETING NOTES:**

At our meeting on Sunday there will be company(s) present so that you may purchase NEW uniform attire and equipment.

As noted on the Arbiter, we will have an interactive session where you will be called at random to explain to a coach why you called interference, obstruction, illegal pitch, running lane interference or why you called “no catch” on a ball that is dropped after the fielder takes five(5)-steps, hits the fence and drops it. The correct answer(s) will be the exact rule book verbiage (Hint: Coach, I called obstruction on your shortstop because the fielder...).

**Highlight the verbiage in your rule book in preparation for this session.**

### **FEBRUARY 1-2 CCSUA PRE-SEASON UMPIRE CAMP:**

All attendees will receive information by email from John Bennett at least one-week prior to Friday, 02/01/13. If you have any questions prior to receiving your email contact John.

### **SOFTBALL UMPIRING PROGRAM (SUP) INFORMATION:**

Registration on the NCAA SUP Central Hub has already begun. Once you have registered, you will receive a welcome packet that includes the 2012-2013 Rule book, as well as the 2013 CCA Manual, which are included in your \$100.00 registration fee.

The NCAA Preseason Rules test will open on the **TESTING** Tab January 7 through February 15, 2013. The test will close **at 11:59pm EST** on February 15, 2013. Also in January, the 2013 Online Clinic will be available on the **ONLINE CLINIC** Tab. This year umpires who wish to be considered for postseason selection must pass the NCAA Preseason Rules test with a score of 90% or better and view the Online Clinic in its entirety.

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## FOOD FOR THOUGHT CORNER

Very worthy of mentioning is that no matter what position you have been assigned to work each game you should **ALWAYS** bring your **entire Equipment bag**. Things happen during the course of a week and/or day, physically and mentally which may not allow your partner(s) to work the Plate. You should be prepared to **STEP-IN**, if needed, to fill that position at **Anytime**.

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## REALITY vs. PERCEPTION

**You're not as GOOD as you think you are, and you're not as BAD as some people say you are.**

“You need to have confidence in your abilities when you're on the field, but **ARROGANCE** and over-confidence can hurt your career. Maybe you've worked a few title games or rivalry matches. So what? Without the drive to **IMPROVE** at whatever level you've achieved, you're in trouble. Without the understanding that you have something to learn, you'll be that partner that no one wants to work with.

You can always get better by being open to feedback, watching video, attending association meetings and going to **CAMPS**. Camps are available at all levels for a reason. Your current ability is never as good as it gets.

Individuals from the stands and sidelines will help to keep you humble. But don't get too high or low based on what players, coaches and fans say about you-bad or good. Their comments are biased. Celebrate your achievements in officiating, and understand that you're going to make mistakes. When you do, keep your head up, learn from them and move on.

The above-mentioned statement is the fifth principle from the Referee Magazine article regarding REALITY vs. PERCEPTION, which stresses **Confidence**, but **not Arrogance**, as well as, there is always **room for improvement**.

With a higher-level of officiating comes a higher-level of responsibilities and expectations. Just because you may have received accolades from your assigners during the season or post-season does not mean that you have arrived. Always stride to become a better official for the game, your partner(s) and yourself no matter what level you officiate.

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## RULES CORNER

The answer to last month's rule question regarding the three sub-sections for "The batter may not release the bat in such a manner that it \_\_\_\_\_," as well as, which sub-section effect is noted as a Delayed Dead Ball can be found on pages 119 and 120, Rule 11.22.5.

This month rule's trivia question is: A Pitcher is considered to be in the game when \_\_\_\_\_?

- What are the conditions for a substitute pitcher to be considered officially in the game?

The answer will be noted in our February Newsletter.

### **RULE 6.5.6 Warm-up Pitches from the Circle**

Rule 6.5.6 states, "At the start of the game and between half innings and during pitching changes, warm-ups shall be limited to:

- 6.5.6.1 Pitching from the pitcher's circle to home plate for no more than five continuous pitches or four pitches and one throw to first base or any combination that is limited to five throws from the pitcher in a continuous manner."

According to the above-noted rule and Dee Abrahamson's interpretation of this rule, the following three scenarios are **NOT** legal:

1. A pitcher during her warm-up throws pitches the ball from halfway between the circle and 2nd base.
2. A pitcher during her warm-up throws starts from just behind the circle, but actually releases the ball from inside the circle
3. A pitcher during her warm-up throws starts in front of the circle.

The above rule states that the pitcher must pitch from the pitcher's circle and rule 12.21.1 (last line) states, "The pitcher is considered to be in the pitcher's circle when both her feet are within the circle or on the lines. Therefore, if either of her feet is outside the circle during her warm-up throws use the ***Effect that follows rule 6.5.6.4***, which states:

**The umpire shall warn the violator and her coach for the first offense in the game. For a second offense in the same game, a ball is awarded to the batter. For a third offense in the same game, the Head Coach is Ejected.....**

The above-mentioned violation has been inconsistently addressed in the past at all levels of college softball. Administering this **Effect** allows us to use Preventative Umpiring before any other action takes place that may create a disturbance from coaches, players and fans throughout your game.

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## MECHANICS

### **The Power of the Point**

**“The point signal is extremely valuable and effective when used wisely. Overuse of the point dilutes its strength and power. It SHOULD NOT be used for OBVIOUS Bunt attempts or OBVIOUS swinging strikes, even if they are the third strike.”**

**“Outs happen when the tag is applied, not when the decision is announced. Point at a TIME-PLAY third out the Instant the out occurs. This approach gives the Plate Umpire precise timing to judge whether a run scores or not.**

The above quotes can be found on pages 33-34 of our 2013 CCA Manual, section 5.1. In this section are other topics, such as: Calling Position for Force and Tag Plays; Going for Help; Look Back Rule; The Value of Verbal and several more. All of them should be read and studied in their entirety.

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## GAME MANAGEMENT

### **Postgame-Partner and Self**

As a collegiate umpire you are expected to have a good POSTGAME with your partner(s), as well as, be honest with yourself. On page 20 of our 2013 CCA Manual, section 3.2, are protocols we should follow at the conclusion of each game.

It will benefit you to read and type them on a separate document and keep a copy in your notebook to carry with you for each game, along with a Pre-Game List of Topics (Page 19 of the CCA Manual). Although the Plate Umpire is responsible for **conducting PRE and POST-Game discussions**, everyone should always maintain a copy of both list no matter what position you are assigned to work for that contest.

## PHOTO CORNER



**Thanks to Joanne Venditto for contributing to this month's newsletter!**

**Happy New Year's!!!! Let the games BEGIN!**

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