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

Happy New Year!

As we move into the New Year with all the parties and holiday festivities behind us now it's time to reflect back on last year. As in life, we as umpires all have things we would have done differently if given another opportunity. Take those moments that did not go so well on the field and turn them into a positive to become better as an umpire and a person. Take the 2014 season to challenge yourself on becoming a better official: I WILL study the Rules book and own those areas that I lack knowledge in. I WILL study the Mechanics Manual and become proficient in game situations that I was lacking in last season.

CCSUA as an organization has come a long way with our training methods and philosophies. You as an umpire have a wealth of knowledge available to you being associated with our group. Take advantage of that knowledge; strive to reach your attainable short-term goals for this season, which will allow your long-term goals to become more within your reach.

I will leave you with a few great comments by Will Rogers that may hit home for you as an umpire:

- Never miss a good chance to shut up.
- If you find yourself in a hole, stop digging!
- Good judgment comes from experience and a lot of that comes from bad judgment.
- If you're riding ahead of the herd, take a look every now and then to make sure it's still there.
- Lettin' the cat out of the bag is a whole lot easier' n puttin' it back
- After eating an entire bull, a mountain lion felt so good he started roaring. He kept it up until a hunter came along and shot him.

**The moral is: When you're full of bull, keep your mouth shut.**

**See you on the 5<sup>th</sup> in Pasadena.**

**Again, HAPPY NEW YEAR!**

Greg  
CCSUA Chairman

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## MESSAGE FROM: Dimas Resendez, CCNUA President

### **Happy New Year!!**

Hello College Officials,  
California College Umpires (CCU) North extends a sincere Happy New Year to you and your family.

The 2014 college softball season is upon us with the assignor's meeting and CCU Training session scheduled for Sunday, 01/19/14, 10:00 a.m. at the Kenneth B. Aitken Senior Center, 17800 Redwood Road, Castro Valley, CA (Hayward Areas & Recreation Park District).

The assignor for your respective conference(s) have sent you email notices inviting you to attend specific meetings to be held on the same above-date and time as the main meeting, as well as, to remind you to register on the NCAA Central Hub Website.

I look forward to seeing everyone at the meeting!

Sincerely,  
Dimas Resendez  
California College Umpires-North, President

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## MESSAGE FROM: SUP National Coordinator Staff

Hello Everyone,

I hope everyone had a safe and happy Thanksgiving and Christmas holiday.

The SUP Central Hub has a wealth of information at your fingertips. We cover general umpire information, rules, training and post-season updates, as well as, general updates from Donna Vavrinec each month in her "Notes from the National Coordinator" comments. Check the SUP Central Hub often for the most up-to-date information on rules and college softball material.

Currently the Central Hub is open for registration at: <http://sup.arbitersports.com/front/104484/Site>. Go to the registration tab at the top of the page and follow the instructions. After registration, you will be sent the new Rules and Interpretations book for 2014-2015, along with the CCA Softball Umpires Manual. When you register you can take the open book test (the test should open around Jan 6<sup>th</sup>), which if you pass with a score of 90% makes you eligible for potential post-season assignment(s). As with most things in life there are no guarantees for assignment(s) to post-season, but you need to take the first step, which is taking and passing the test to put yourself in a position to succeed.

For the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> year umpires we feel that taking the test gets you into the Rules book and makes you a better overall umpire. We would like for you to get involved early in your college career so that you will have a better grasp and understanding of the Softball Umpire Program. Even if you don't receive a

post-season assignment this year, it is a great and valuable learning tool to help you grow as an umpire and be better for the game.

Happy New Year!



*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**

If you choose not to join the SUP Central Hub you need to purchase the CCA Softball Umpires Manual (Mechanics) and the NCAA Rules Book from the NCAA ([www.ncaa.org](http://www.ncaa.org)). Please bring these books to your Assignors' meetings.

The Assignors' meetings are where we conduct business and also ask instructors to present clarifications and information regarding rules & mechanics for the upcoming season. The acceptable attire for all meetings is *business casual*.

### **WEST COAST CONFERENCE-D1**

There will be three (3) pre-season Assignors' meetings to be held as follows:

- January 5<sup>th</sup> in So. Cal, Pasadena City College at 3:00 p.m.
- January 18<sup>th</sup> in Utah at Salt Lake Community College from 8-11 a.m. Contact Brett Higgins at (801) 540-9826 for more information, if needed.
- January 19<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m., in No. Cal at Kenneth B. Aitken Senior Center, Castro Valley. This meeting will be held separately than the main meeting, although they both will be held at the same location. Contact Dimas Resndez (510) 909-8553 for more information, if needed.

### **PAC-WEST CONFERENCE-D2**

Preseason Assignors meeting will be held at the locations above after or during the main meetings.

In order to be assigned to this conference it is required that you register with the NCAA Central Hub; take the test and pass with a minimum 90%.

### CCAA CONFERENCE- D2

The Cal State Stanislaus Annual Tournament will be held the first weekend in April. Game fees are \$85. There is a travel fee of \$80 for umpires who drive over 75-miles to the site and work multiple days. There is no hotel stipend this year. The tournament will use six-diamonds with Division-2 teams coming in from all parts of the country. The NCAA Rules Interpreter, Dee Abrahamson, will be there to coordinate bat checks. The NCAA staff will be on hand to observe umpires.

If you are interested in working this tournament, please send an email to Terry Ching, Assistant Conference Assignor, at [bluehawaiian22@sbcglobal.net](mailto:bluehawaiian22@sbcglobal.net). List the day(s) you want to work: 04/03 (Thu); 04/04 (Fri); 04/05 (Sat); 04/06 (Sun).

### GSAC CONFERENCE-NAIA

There are two new universities added to the GSAC this spring: Arizona Christian and San Diego Christian University. All Game fees for the GSAC will be paid through Ref-Pay. Make sure you have a Ref-Pay account set-up and linked to the Golden State Athletic Conference (GSAC). Universities include: AZ Christian, S.D. Christian, Biola, Vanguard, Hope International and Concordia.

### COAST CONFERENCE (CC)

This is the Northern California Community College Conference. The pre-season Assignor's meeting will be from 10a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the Kenneth B. Aitken Senior Center in Castro Valley. It is Highly Recommended that you register with the NCAA Central Hub take the test and pass with a minimum 90% to be considered for post season.

### **From CCSUA Training Staff**

#### **Reminder: Assignors and CCSUA Training Annual Meeting information:**

To be held on January 5, 2014, at Pasadena City College, Building CC, 2nd floor, Craveling Lounge from 9 a.m. to 2:15 p.m. Registration time is: 8:00 a.m., to 8:55 a.m. If you cannot be on time, be early! In the past the Assignors have considered your lateness to the meeting equal to being late for one of your college softball games.

Guest speakers will be: College World Series and Super-Regional umpires. Parking is \$2 and they will ticket so make sure you bring singles for the parking permit machine. Box lunches will be provided.

There is a link to a map of the Pasadena City College campus on our CSUW Locker Room Central Hub- Left panel, CCSUA Information, CCSUA Calendar. This map highlights where to park and the exact location/building for the meeting.

Contact John Bennett, Greg Schmidt or Joanne Venditto if you have any questions.

## **From CCNUA Training Staff**

As we begin the season, shortly, we want to address the topic of “Pre-Game” preparation. A “Pre-Game” meeting is an important discussion for all officiating crews working a collegiate contest.

The Crew chief sets the tone for the single game or weekend series. Veteran crew chiefs should include the entire crew in their discussions and ask for honest feedback during these meetings. If you are unsure what topics and questions to discuss there is a list of suggested “Pre-Game Topics with Partners” located in the CCA Softball Umpires Manual in Section #4. Make a copy for yourself and address these issues with your crew.

The College Softball Umpires West Central Hub is another valuable tool for game day information.

Always give yourselves plenty of time to meet with the crew; have a thorough discussion; review the two opponents and any past game notes that you or one of your crew member(s) would like to address.

Remember that a thorough pre-game will set the tone for the entire crew with the upcoming game and or series at hand. Be sharp and be ready!

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**Late-breaking news!! Go to the CSUW Locker Room for an excellent article, written by Tanya Tanya Garig, which discusses getting prepared for the upcoming season.**

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## **FOOD FOR THOUGHT CORNER**

“Successful people are willing to do what unsuccessful people won’t do!”

*Jameis Winston*  
*2013 Heisman Trophy Winner*

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## **FOCUS AND PREPARATION**

### **Pre-Season Preparation**

Well the time has arrived! We are four (4) weeks away from the start of the season and now the question of the day is what have you done to prepare yourself during the last few months?

Did you know that there is an outline for studying the rules and mechanics posted on our CSUW Hub to prepare you for the upcoming season??? Go to CSUW Hub and under the CCSUA Information column you will see the topic noted as Training Information. Click-on “Training Calendar” and you will find the outline study material for the month of December, January and February. Here are three other ways you can prepare yourself from now to the beginning of season:

- Find travel ball games or contact college coaches and ask them if you can come to a couple of their practices to call balls and strikes so you can work on fine-tuning your strike zone to the zone that is emphasized in the 2014-2015 Rules book!
- Find an open softball field and simulate plays to work on your signals and mechanics.
- EXERCISE!!!!!! If you do not have a regular work-out routine, start! Find 30-minutes a day at least four times a week to do some type of cardiovascular work, such as: walking, running/jogging, biking, elliptical machines or yoga. And don't forget to add a 5 to 10 minute stretching session after exercising, which helps prevent injuries to the back and legs.

All the above tools will help you prepare and be more focused at the start of the season, instead of the later part, when it may be too late to be considered for post-season.

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## RULES CORNER

In our Rules book, as have been noted in the past, is a section called “Common Practice Updates.” This section sometimes goes unnoticed or read by many umpires, and yet, they are just as important as the “Major Rule and Editorial Changes since a word or two will be changed or added to give clarity to a rule. Take the time to go over each “Common Practice Update,” as that one or two words will make the difference when explaining a rule to a coach.

In Dee Abrahamson's 2014-2015 NCAA Softball Rule Interpretations the following scenario is noted:

There are base runners on first and second bases when a slow roller is hit to the second baseman. The base runner leaving first base makes minor contact with the fielder as she crossed the baseline to field the batted ball. The second baseman was able to shovel the ball to first base for the out, which was the only play she had.

Since the second baseman was not denied the opportunity to make a play, is it a no-call or does the contact constitute interference?

Email the answer to [kelie.sturgis@att.net](mailto:kelie.sturgis@att.net) and we will post it in the next newsletter along with the first five people's name, who submitted it. Hint: you will find the answer in section 12 of the interpretation document.

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## MECHANICS

By now most of us have received the new Mechanics book. You will notice that changes in the book have been highlighted by bold and grey print. Familiarize yourself with the suggested and recommended 2 and 3 umpire mechanics, as this is what is expected of a college umpire, as noted by the following insert from the Introduction page of the Manual:

This manual assumes a basic knowledge of umpiring fundamentals and it is meant to inform umpires of the **preferred methods and expectations of umpiring college softball**. It provides a consistent system that offers the very best field coverage for college softball umpires. Uniformity of performance and rules interpretations by all umpires is an absolute necessity. This manual provides **uniformity**.

Note that the first topic under Section 1, In Focus, is “Strike Zone.” If it is listed as the first topic, then ALL umpires at all levels should make it a priority to improve in this area for uniformity.

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## GAME MANAGEMENT

By now most of you have seen the horrendous action of an umpire intentionally getting hit with a pitched ball. This action was allegedly instructed by the coach to his pitcher and catcher after he was unhappy with the ball and strike calls of the game, especially, the last sequence to a batter that led to a walk and a runner scoring.

If you have not seen this video, please click on the link below:

<http://youtu.be/IM0HzMOT4nc>

After you have reviewed it, we would like for you to think about the following:

- Could you have used any type of Game Management skills to avoid the situation?
- Are you prepared to handle this type of situation if it occurs?

Unfortunately, umpires are being intentionally pitched at and we need to be prepared to handle this situation without becoming overly-emotional. Discuss this topic with your partner(s) in your “Pre-Game” meeting so that everyone will know the appropriate way to handle a situation like this without letting emotions over take you at the instance that it happens.

Lastly, know that if this blatant situation occurs, although we truly hope not, you have the full support of how to properly handle ejections to all parties involved within your Rules Book (**Rule 10.14**). **USE IT!!!!**

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We would like to thank Steve Wilson for his contributions to this month’s newsletter.

**Happy New Year!**

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