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

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who participated in the Glendale Camp this year. Special thanks to our observers for their insight to help umpires with their game in order to better service the schools in our area.

Have a great season!

Greg
CCSUA Chairman

MESSAGE FROM: Dimas Resendez, CCNUA President

2014 College Softball Season Kickoff

Hello College Officials,

CCU North members are in the midst of the 2014 collegiate season and the vast majority of our officials adhere to the NCAA SUP standards with a few exceptions. As a reminder each Crew Chief has the responsibility to complete game reports in a timely manner. The assignors review these reports on a daily basis to ensure you've fulfilled your responsibilities not only to your crew, but also to the institutions.

Please visit the CSUW website on a regular basis, as it contains important information and training tools, such as: monthly quizzes, articles from your fellow umpires in the monthly newsletters, rules interpretations and updated mechanics.

The wet weather is here and games will be cancelled, postponed, and possibly re-scheduled at a moment's notice. Please keep your availability up to date and contact assignors for the rainouts.

Sincerely,
Dimas Resendez
California College Umpires-North, President

MESSAGE FROM: SUP National Coordinator Staff

Hello Everyone,

As we move forward into the season, I ask that you work on focus and timing as part of every game you officiate. Focus and timing are keys to not missing calls because of being too quick or not getting to the correct position to see a play.

Please go to the SUP Central Hub and look at the News and Announcements section. You will find a Mechanics Update that Donna has posted. There are three issues that every umpire should be aware of and implement.

There will be more to come as the season progresses.



Greg Schmidt

NCAA Softball Regional Advisor
West/Pacific Region
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IMPORTANT!!!!!!!!!!

The CSUW rainout policy is posted in the Arbiter. Please open it, read it, print it, and put it in your umpire bag. It can be found under the List/Forms tabs, labeled: Rainout Policies - NEW!
Posted on 01/01/14.

IMPORTANT ASSIGNORS and TRAINING STAFF INFORMATION!

From the Assignors

GENERAL REMINDERS....

FREEWAYS.....To check lane closures here is a link:
<http://www.lcswebreports.dot.ca.gov/lcswebreports/>

Why this has to be a reminder escapes us.....please don't make up rules to get out of a conversation with a coach. So far during the last few weeks we had two (2) guesses at the rules.....really? Coaches do talk to us you know.

From the National Coordinator.....Q - Should an umpire move out of line-of-sight when requested by a player. A- Yes, when requested they should move to allow the players to see the play/ball hit off the bat etc...

Good game reports...thank you!!! You're being honest with yourselves on what you could have "done differently" and, although we may wince, it provides a flavor for the game and an "alert" to a potential call or email from a coach. Good work – no reflection on you – we know you are working on your game.

Game balls.....when you finish a game one of the things you need to remember to do is get the game balls out of your ball bags. Do something physical to remind yourself....perhaps you drop your arms to your side and put your indicator away....it might remind you.

Bat removals.... **DO NOT** take a bat out of a game unless it's really a crack. Some of the paint peels...that's not a crack.

The NCAA Softball Coordinator sent out a reminder to check the Central Hub and review bat check video on BCT Testing, as well as Bat Check Protocol-Quick Reference under section heading "General Umpiring Information." Go to the SUP Central Hub for the above-mentioned video and document.

WEST COAST CONFERENCE-D1

The Conference will use Observers who will be a part of post games.

PAC-WEST CONFERENCE-D2

Payments will start in April, as the Pac West has two different scales according to the regions, Utah, Hawaii and California.

CCAA CONFERENCE- D2

Umpires that work games at Cal State San Bernardino are instructed to check in at the Coyote Kiosk (located on Coyote Drive) for your parking permit.

GSAC CONFERENCE-NAIA

Vanguard University has a bat with a small flare cone attached to it. The bat IS ILLEGAL according to Dee Abrahamson, National Rules Editor. It may not be used in a game – the coach was notified in an email on Feb 19. According to Dee A...."Yes this is considered a cone grip in that it diminishes the "lip" between the handle and the edge of the knob that was intended by the manufacturer....A player with an injury can tape her hand or add padding to her hand but cannot put attachments on the bat."

SOUTHERN CALIF. COMMUNITY COLLEGE CONFERENCES

Compton/El Camino CC – does not use Ref Pay. They collect a W-9 from you on the day of the game... next business day they prepare an officials payment request and attach the W-9 to it, send

it to their business office for processing, and they will mail umpires a check. It usually takes 10 days.

From CCSUA and CCNUA Training Staff

With the season well under way, it is time to brush up on some of the items which have caused some concern for assignors, coaches and your fellow umpires.

There are two rule options in the NCAA Rules book which may be used by conferences and tournaments pertaining to the Tiebreaker rule (6.15) and the Halted Game rule (6.17). If the contest is a non-conference game, these options **must** be discussed at the pregame with the coaches. If the contest is a conference game, the conference policies should list whether these options are being used. If you have a conference game and are unsure of their conference policy regarding these rules, ask at the pregame meeting with the coaches.

A bat was pulled before a game because it had an attachment which caused it to have a cone grip. Good job to these umpires who recognized an altered bat (3.3.1.8.2). Curious about what this grip looked like? Go to the end of this Newsletter and you will see a picture of it.

What strange situations have you encountered? We can all learn from these situations. Send John Bennett an email with the information and maybe it will make it into the next Newsletter.

CSUW Locker Room

The CSUW Locker Room is being updated. Please send John Bennett an email if you see anything that is outdated, incorrect (e.g. rule references), or needs work. Thanks!

FOOD FOR THOUGHT CORNER

Finishing is better than starting!

FOCUS AND PREPARATION

By Dimas Resendez

Consistency

An example of consistency is, “customers expect consistency in the quality of service they receive.” Are you consistently good in your practices as a college softball umpire? Softball coaches and their teams expect this quality.

I recently watched a women’s Olympic ice hockey contest. During the contest, the announcers made a point of discussing the referee in this match. The importance was obvious as both teams have historically competed against each other with plenty of physical play and a history of heated battles between the teams. The referee was a respected official with many years of Olympic and International experience. The announcers stated that the referee was allowing both teams to play

physical in the first period of this hockey match, but was whistling penalties when necessary to keep the game within the Olympic rules. The announcers noted that the referee was “consistent” as she officiated this Olympic contest.

With today’s technology, we, as college umpires, are in the spotlight at all levels of collegiate softball. Today, umpires have to work extremely hard to earn the respect of the television announcers, coaches and players competing in the collegiate softball games that we work. This takes years of hard work, on and off the field from the moment you receive your assignments, contacting your partners, professionalism and game management towards the coaches and players, good post-game and completing your game reports. Doing all of the little things pays off for you if you are consistent in your practices. Every softball contest is unique and the coaches know your tendencies and expect the same consistent level of officiating from you game to game. When you remain consistently good, you will earn respect from your partners, coaches, players and assignors.

Remember that good consistent habits are in your best interest. Continue to add new traits to build upon when you step onto the softball diamond during this 2014 season, and beyond. Be sharp, and be ready!

RULES CORNER

In last month’s newsletter we asked 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 answer is: the “second offense” results in a Behavioral Ejection, rules 10.16, 10.13 and 9.4.2.11, respectively.

Congratulations to the first fifteen-people, who submitted the correct answer:

Mario Romero, Dan Cowan, Rick Hausvik, Joe Campanella, Robert Shord, Steve Wilson, Dan Marksbury, Steve Rodriguez, Anthony Garcia, Mark Korras, Robert Plancich, David Florentino, Erik Geierman, Bill Plante and Mark Craver.

This month’s trivia question is: There are two Obstruction rules that call for an “Immediate Dead Ball.” What are they? Please send your answer to kelie.sturgis@att.net.

Bat Protocol issues: Several umpires have told coaches that they do not need to enter the number of their bats of each model on the list and this is **Incorrect**. Rule 3.3.4.1.1. gives instructions on what each coach **shall** do prior to our arrival to inspect bats, which includes this step.

Again, please review this rule section on proper Bat Protocol administration, along with the video and document provided to us on the SUP Central Hub.

MECHANICS

More and more at pre-game umpire meetings we are hearing umpires talk about “DEVIATIONS!” A “Deviation” is **NOT** a mechanic.

There are situations that may occur in a game on a specific play that will cause you to “Deviate” from the approved CCA Manual Mechanics and will be acceptable for that play. But “DEVIATIONS” should not be a part of your routine pre-game meeting with your partners.

GAME MANAGEMENT

By Jim Bertuzzi

“Stepping UP” And Leading by Example

It is inevitable that at some point in the season your crew will have a breakdown on the field. It may be a small or big breakdown, but it will occur. When it happens you be the one to shine and lead at any given moment by taking charge of the situation in a professional manner. Leadership will change within the crew during the game when breakdowns occur and each individual umpire should be prepared to “Step-Up” verbally to communicate or signal “Big and Strong” portraying confidence in your body language to handle the situation. The most important thing is that your leadership at that given moment will help your crew get the play right!

Every game has a “Crew Chief,” but in order to promote growth and foster leadership each member of a crew has to do their part and be the “Chief” at any given moment, which includes “Stepping Up” when needed. You should not hope nobody “Saw That” or “Heard That” and then hope you can get away with ignoring “**THAT.**” “**THAT**” is unacceptable on any level and this type of behavior invites dissention in the crew. We all have a lot to focus on during a game and no umpire should ever be concerned about whether their partner(s) will “step-up” when needed.

If you are a base umpire and the coach in the box next to you is making comments about your plate umpire’s zone “STEP-UP,” be a “Leader” and take charge of the situation. First recognize that something needs to be managed then “Manage the Moment” by saying something to defuse the comment in a professional manner using the proper rules book terminology. Know that you may have to endure some static from one or two of those coaches, but others will understand and stop their behavior immediately. Your actions will represent a good “Leader,” and an even better crewmate.

Leaders prepare for conflict in advance (Off the Field Practice) long before it happens and then manage that conflict. Leaders look for opportunities to develop talent on their crew and help bring out that talent by having a plan in place.

Never be afraid to **“Step Up and Lead”** when the opportunity presents itself.

Thanks to Jim Bertuzzi for contributing to this newsletter!

Photo Corner



