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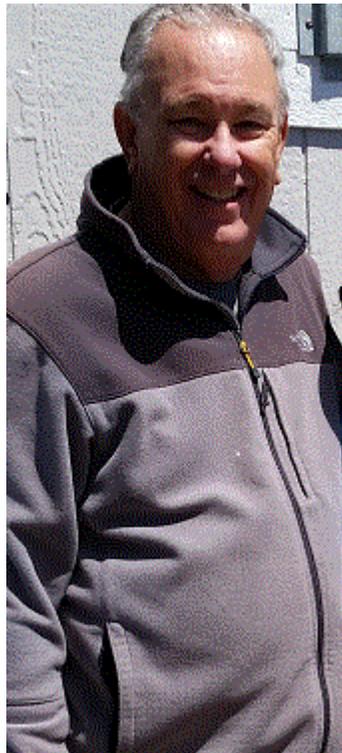
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Greg Schmidt, CCSUA Chairman, SUP Regional Advisor

It is with deepest sadness that we write this portion of the Newsletter for our friend, mentor and wonderful person, Greg Schmidt, who passed away early Friday morning, 05/08/15.



As the editors of the Newsletter, we will take a moment to remember and reflect on our friend!

Beloved husband of Yolanda, and adored father of Gregory Schmidt Jr, Greg Sr would have been 67 years of age on Monday, May 11th.

In lieu of flowers, the family is setting a fund to help defray costs. You can send via Paypal.com GregLSchmidt@gmail.com **ATTN: Yolanda Schmidt

Greg's contributions to the sport of softball are many. He started as a recreation softball

umpire with El Sereno Officials Association, moved on to join the California Softball Umpires High School Association, and then became involved in the Amateur Softball Association. Greg officiated and/or instructing at the top levels of each of these organizations. Greg became a college umpire and worked Division 1 through community college before he retired in 2008 due to medical reasons. During his college tenure he was selected to umpire Division 1 Regionals in 2002-03-04 and a Super Regional in 2005 and 2006. Greg worked Division 2 National Championship in 2005

Greg continued to volunteer his time in college softball developing the California College Softball Umpires Association, a non-profit college umpire training organization. He was instrumental in planning the merger of the northern and southern college training groups to become the largest and most successful college softball umpire training group in the United States.

Greg was selected in 2010 as the National Umpire Staff Member for the NCAA Softball Umpire Program.

The softball community lost a giving person. As an Observer in the Pac-12, Big West, and West Coast Conferences, Greg would never say no to helping out an umpire or answering questions, or just sitting and talking about different ways to manage a game. His kind and supportive manner in delivering the information rallied many umpires to want to do their best.

He will truly be missed by all officials locally and nationwide, but never forgotten, as a part of him will live with each of us, as we continue to officiate the game that he loved!

ASSIGNORS and TRAINING STAFF INFORMATION!

From the Assignors

As the season draws to a close, we Assignors thank you all for your willingness to travel, your focus during games, and your patience in dealing with on-field discussions. The College Umpire has to display professionalism both on and off the field because they hold that title.

We had some bumps in the road....dealing with bats...coaches who want us to go for help on everything...and some umpires just in it for the money and they were so obvious, coaches sent us comments in game reports. We all want the \$, but we know it doesn't compensate us enough for the long drives or the sitting in traffic time it takes to get to a game. Thank you to those who made those long drives or who took a last minute assignment. We hope we were able to help you out in extra games. We know who you are, so this practice will continue next season.

The Arbiter will be shut down for about a month during the off-season, so we can redesign the site and the Locker Room. We are going to work through NASO to bring you more extensive Locker Room information, training tips and video clips come the fall 2015 and into the 2016 season.

This group has an opportunity to join NASO at a very discounted rate this next season. You would get the NASO insurance coverage, the Referee Magazine just as you do now (for those who are NASO members already), but the discount is excellent, as you would be paying a group rate. The officials who are members of CBOA or SCVOA have a further discount, as you register through those groups. We hope you will all take advantage of this. If you wish to pay your dues in the next couple of months because you have your game fees in hand, the CCSUA training group will be sending you information on how to do that.

Best of luck to those umpires who are working post season games. Have great games, keep the uniforms clean and polished so you make that great first impression to coaches you have not worked in the past. Here are a few reminders to help you focus on the "second season"

Watch for the illegal pitches...benefit of the doubt to the student athlete

Watch for the illegal pitch during an intentional walk....pitchers are just stepping onto the rubber and throwing - pre game this

Don't get together on simple "going for help" plays such as pickoffs, pulled foot, a tag as runner goes by. Ask the direct question to the partner involved with the "help" possibility...or stand your ground if they are not in position

Check swings happen on balls, not strikes: so stay down and focus a bit extra on that possibility

Use best game management techniques. Coaches are passionate - really passionate now, as they are in post-season and only one team can win it all.

Again, thanks for all your work in the 2015 season.

Joanne, Terry, Jim and Rich

For CCSUA Training Staff

Reminder: check our Locker Room for the latest information. We have a new link which takes you directly to the official NCAA Rule Interpretations. And the recently posted Notes from the Training Staff suggest a great approach to reading the Rule Book and CCA Manual on a regular basis.

Did you know that the CCSUA has an Associate program? Umpires who are not in our group but want to access our Locker Room for all the great information posted there, can join CCSUA as an Associate. These umpires are paying to use a valuable resource to which you have access as part of your CCSUA dues. Are you using it to improve your game?

Have you seen towels hanging out of player's uniforms when watching some of the college softball games on TV, and there is not a cloud in the sky? What would you do if you were umpiring this game? Here is a recent interpretation which we received from Dee Abrahamson, Rules Editor for NCAA softball:

We have always allowed players (usually pitchers and catchers) to hang towels from their waistband to dry their hands from sweat or dry a wet ball. But if it does fall out, it would be displaced defensive equipment which would be a two-base award on a batted ball so there is risk of a consequence but really not a safety hazard. Actually it is probably a bigger hazard not to have a dry hand before pitching the ball. If you told

her to take it off and she let the ball fly and hit a batter, she could claim she had no grip because you made her give up the towel...

Don't Stop Umpiring..... Here is a situation that needs your attention at all times:

R1 & R3; passed ball with a play at the plate. R3 is safe. R1 is now on second base and the ball is still live. The pitcher has the ball and is walking back to the pitching circle with her head down. R1 sees this and takes off for 3rd base. The pitcher see's the runner going to 3rd and is surprised..... her throw to 3rd is late and the runner is safe. Were you surprised as well? Remember until the pitcher has the ball back in the circle, you should hold your position, watch and react to the runner (s). Remember to keep umpiring.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT CORNER

Don't just dream about the things you want in life, but turned those dreams into reality by your own effort, determination and perseverance.

FOCUS AND PREPARTION

As the season has ended and we are now in post-season, all levels of games will be intensified. Make sure that your officiating skills meet that intensity and enjoy each moment, as you have earned it!

For all of us Focus and Preparation doesn't end at the conclusion of our season, but continues to move into our next phase of preparing, which may include, attending a camp during the summer seasons. Here are a few camps that have already been posted on the SUP Central Hub:

**Hammond LA Umpire Camp
(June 11 - 14, 2015)**

**Minnesota Camp
(June 25 - 27, 2015)**

**Colorado Fireworks NCAA/Collegiate Umpire Camp
(July 1 - 4, 2015)**

**Stop DWI NCAA Softball Umpire Evaluation Camp
(July 10-11-12, 2015)**

**Champions Cup Collegiate Umpire Camp
(July 14-17, 2015)**

Visit the SUP Central Hub if you would like more information about the above camps. If you did not register with the NCAA SUP ask a fellow umpire who is registered to research the information for you.

Keep in mind that you should attend a camp that your coordinator(s) or at least one of the SUP Staff will be present. The additional information noted on the SUP Central Hub lists the instructors and conference coordinators in attendance.

RULES CORNER

Thank you to the following umpire: Dennis Allen, Joe Campanella, Dan Cowan, Mark Craver, Tom Duarte, Ed Earle, Anthony Garcia, Erik Geierman, Greg Germansky, Rick Hausvik, Joel Hessing, Herb Huitt, Mark Korras, Dan Marksbury, John Miller, Bill Plante, Robert Pratt, Jason Robinson, Steve Rodriguez, Mario Romero, Jeffery Samuels, David Shea, Ralph Vasquez, Glenn Waggoner, Ron Wagner, George Whitmer and Steve Wilson.

Here are the answers to April's questions:

1. With base runners on first and second bases with two outs, the batter hits a ground ball to right field. The base runner from second base is obstructed going home as the throw is coming to the plate (she would clearly have scored). However she collides with the third baseman and manages to scramble safely back to third base. Meanwhile, the throw to the plate gets by the catcher. The catcher retrieves the ball and throws to third base in time to tag out the trailing runner who is also on third base.

Is the obstructed runner awarded home, although the trailing runner was put-out at 3rd base for the third out of the inning?

Ruling: The obstructed runner is awarded home and the third out on R1 stands. See Dee's Interpretations 9.5.2^{^2}, also Rule 9.4.1 Notes #3

2. The pitcher puts her front foot on the pitcher's plate and looks to the catcher who by her hand/arm movements apparently gives the pitcher the signal. The pitcher then steps on the pitcher's plate with her rear foot assuming a legal position, immediately without pausing brings her hands together, and begins the pitch. Is this a legal pitch?

Ruling: This an illegal pitch, Rule 10.2 (All subsections)

Again, thank you to EVERYONE, who has participated in the monthly quizzes throughout the entirety of Fall and Spring season. The quiz section will resume in our September monthly issue.

GAME MANAGEMENT

We would like to thank everyone who sent an email regarding one aspect of Game Management that they feel is important! Here are several comments of your comments:

Most important part of game management is the management of the team line-up. The majority of times an umpire gets into problem because of bad line-up management. This is of particular importance as a re-entry of a substitute or a double re-entry of a starter will result in an ejection. The moral of the story is bad paperwork will result in more paperwork. *Official: Mark Korras*

Although I feel that all aspects of game management are important as stated in 4.3 of the manual, I feel it is most important to address issues in a professional manor and be pro-active in stepping in to resolve issues before they escalate. Be the calming influence on the field and listen to what the coach has to say before responding to their question. *Official: Joe Campanella*

Efficiency is an important aspect of game management: starting from keeping an efficient line-up card to reporting substitutes to our movements on the field. Efficiency keeps the game moving and safe for all participants. *Official: Ed Earle*

As to what I feel is the most important aspect of **Game Management**, I always fall back to a quote that, “the good Lord gave us two ears and one mouth ... he meant for us to do twice as much listening as talking.” When confronted by a coach, listen carefully to his/her argument and concisely respond with the verbiage of the rule in a calm and professional manner and then be quite. If it should be strictly regarding a judgment call, explain exactly that all of the elements of the play were assessed from the proper distance and angle to the play. Respect his/her argument and then play ball.

Official: Dan Marksbury

In our June Newsletter we will post several more comments.

Knowledge is Power and Experience is the best teacher.

