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### Link to Arbiter

[http://sup.arbitersports.com/Groups/104484/Library/files/NCA\\_A\\_Approved\\_Softball\\_Bat\\_List.pdf](http://sup.arbitersports.com/Groups/104484/Library/files/NCA_A_Approved_Softball_Bat_List.pdf)

### Contact Us

CCSUA information

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

### FOCUS AND PREPARTION

Hello Everyone,

There is a lot of talk about Pre-Pitch Preparation. What is pre-pitch preparation? It keeps you involved and focused on the game. What should I focus on? Here are some guidelines which will help you be prepared every pitch:

#### Plate Umpires

- ❖ Where are the runners?
- ❖ Are my partners in the correct starting position?
- ❖ How many outs? Do I have an umpire-to-umpire signal to give?
- ❖ Where do I go if a partner chases?
- ❖ Where do I go on a hit to the outfield?
- ❖ Where do I go on an infield hit?
- ❖ Who will I go to on a checked swing?
- ❖ What's the potential for a steal or pick-off?

#### Base Umpires

- What is my chase area?
- Where are the outfielders in my area positioned?
- Where do I go if a partner chases?
- How many outs?
- Where do I go on a hit to the outfield?
- Where do I go on an infield hit?
- Is it my checked swing responsibility?
- What's the potential for a steal or pick-off?

I hope this will help you to become the best umpire you can be at whatever level you work. Remember every game is important to someone and a lot of time and preparation goes into each game by teams and coaches. We need to bring our best game to the field every game.

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## MESSAGE FROM ASSIGNERS: Joanne, Jim, Rich

For some reason coaches think that any bat can be used in fall ball. We have sent out 2 emails to remind the Athletic Directors and the Coaches about the liability of using an illegal bat.

The decisions that some of you have made to also ignore this NCAA rule demonstrates poor decision-making on your part. For the remaining games in the fall please insist on a bat list and follow the procedure for inspecting bats. The Plate umpire listed in the Arbiter should complete a game report and let us know how many bats were removed and if each team had their list. If there is an injury, and you have set aside a rule, the CCSUA cannot support you as you have decided to set aside a rule. What are you thinking?

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## CCSUA FALL TEST

John sent out a mass email on Friday, 11/02/12 regarding testing. Here is a shortened version of that email to remind all umpires of this new procedure. Please read his full email regarding grading and instructions on completing and submitting your test:

Each umpire will be required to take on-line tests at various times during the year. These tests will cover the NCAA rule book and the CCA Manual. The first test is ready to take. **The deadline is November 15, 2012.**

After you submit the test, you will get a page which tells you what grade you received, You may send John an email **after the November 15 deadline** requesting which questions you missed. PLEASE, do not send him emails before that time.

You access the test by going to the web site: [4refs.org](http://4refs.org). Select Softball from the home page, then select the Take the CCSUA Test, Fall 2012 link. If you have any problems with the test, contact John.

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## FOOD FOR THOUGHT CORNER

### FACEBOOK AND TWITTER ARE NOT YOUR FRIENDS!

**“In this day and age of cell phones, email, social networks, like Twitter, YouTube and Facebook, news of any kind travels swiftly. More people than ever before are now privy to the everyday happenings in other people’s lives. An umpire’s behavior off the field needs to be ABOVE REPROACH (Pg. 27, Section 3.5 of the CCA Softball Umpire Manual).”**

Let’s address some major issues that have been posted on different College Officials Facebook or Twitter accounts over the past year that have been topics of negative verbal conversation amongst officials, coaches, student-athletes and fans.

1. Political views
2. Comments about what game(s) and umpires you have been assigned and responses from other colleagues about the teams or the umpires you will be working with through your Facebook or Twitter account(s).
3. Comments about coaches, i.e. “The coach gave me a hug telling me I called a good game.” And even negative comments about them and their team.
4. Comments about congratulating certain teams on their “Win” or Post-Season appearance.

These above posted comments and replies from colleagues are examples of what is unprofessional and inappropriate for a College Umpire to post or send through social media. According to the above quoted statement under the CCA Manual, Section 3, “**Principles of the College Umpire,**” we are expected to be “above reproach” when it comes to off-the field behavior, which includes social media usage.

When an employer requests a background check on a new hire prospect, the first place an investigator searches is social media avenues to see what they have posted or twitted. Why? Because through their social media comments it gives an employer a glance of the person’s character and morals in helping them decide if this person would be a suitable hire for their company.

Everybody understands that Facebook and Twitter are public forms for socialization, but as College Umpires you “**are very visible, and therefore, recognizable to the media, coaches, student-athletes and fans\***” at all times. Some comments are just inappropriate given your current profession.

Think twice, three times, before you post your next comment or send a tweet, as it may cost you your friends, a job or career. Food for thought!

\*Reference cited can be found in the CCA Manual, pg 28, Section 3.6

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## REALITY vs. PERCEPTION

### **It’s more important to be respected than liked.**

**“Some unpleasant truths must be accepted when we decide to become officials. One of the big ones is the realization that “Doing the RIGHT thing” won’t make us popular with everyone.**

**But getting the tough call correct in a key situation will result in your gaining RESPECT- from your peers, from assigners and more importantly, from the person who looks back at you in the mirror every day.**

**Ironically, gaining a reputation as a competent, fair-minded official will lead to some “likes.” Assigners like to hire that type of official. Other officials like to work with them. And coaches like going into a game knowing the game is in competent hands.**

**If you work to be “liked” instead of RESPECTED, you will achieve neither. Those who like you will stop liking you the moment what you do is no longer seen as helping them. No one of importance respects someone whose acts are obviously designed to breed popularity.”**

The above-mentioned statement is the third principle from the Referee Magazine article regarding REALITY vs. PERCEPTION. I agree that everyone wants to be liked, but the reality is everyone is not going to like you for a gamut of their own personal reasons. Wanting to be “liked” makes it appear as though it’s all about “you.” Being “Respected” for having integrity to make the right call and to do the right thing makes it both professionally and personally gratifying.

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## RULES CORNER

The answer to last month’s rule question, “Batter is awarded Second base with no liability to be put out” can be found on page 129, Rule 12.3.3. Under this rule you will find five sub-section rules that pertained to awarding the Batter second base.

This month trivia question is: Bases missed or left too soon on a caught fly ball must be retouched before advancing. However, no base runner may return to touch a missed base or one she has left too soon on a caught fly ball if...:

- What are the five situations for which she cannot return?
- What section of the book would you find this rule and its exceptions?

The answer will be available in the December Newsletter.

### **RULE 12.26 Running Out of the Base Path or Out of the Runner’s Lane**

Rule 12.26.2 states, “The batter-runner shall not run outside the runner’s lane and, in the **umpire’s judgment**, interfere with the fielder taking the throw at first base.” This is an interference violation.

There are four exceptions to this rule and two Major NOTES that tend to be forgotten or overlooked in making the correct call or explaining the rule to the coach:

#### **EXCEPTIONS**

The batter-runner may run outside the runner’s lane:

- 1. If she has not yet reached the start of the runner’s lane;**
- 2. To avoid a fielder attempting to field a batted ball;**
- 3. Or if she leaves the lane on her LAST STRIDE in order to touch first base.**
- 4. The infraction is ignored if the act does not interfere with the fielder taking the throw at first base.**

## **NOTES:**

1. *The batter runner is considered outside the runner's lane if **either foot is in contact with the ground and is completely outside of either line.***
2. *A batter-runner being hit with a thrown ball does not necessarily constitute interference.*

Two things to emphasize in this rule: First, if there is no throw to first base you do not have a Running Lane Violation (Page 331, CCA Manual). Second, be alert to if either foot is in contact with the ground and completely outside of either line when the interference occurs, as this part of the infraction is different than other codes.

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## **MECHANICS**

### **Wait for the Play to Conclude**

No matter what level of college games you officiate, you should always “wait for the play to conclude” before moving to your next position. Here are three key factors that are emphasized on page 57 of the CCA Manual that apply to working Two or Three-umpire mechanics:

- Always obtain the appropriate primary or holding position on every play. Always end the play at the appropriate primary or holding position.
- Hold your position until the pitcher has the ball in the circle and all runners have stopped on a base.

OR

- Hold your position until the calling umpire finishes their “out” signal when there are no runners on base or there are two outs.

If runners are still on base after all action has ceased, which is considered the conclusion of the play, the umpire (usually the plate umpire) watches the pitcher and runner(s) while other base umpires move to their next starting positions.

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## **GAME MANAGEMENT**

### **Preventive Umpiring**

You can ask any umpire what techniques they use for Preventive Umpiring and you will get a lot of colorful answers. But to keep it simple, each umpire should have some guidelines and tools they can use effectively when it comes to preventive umpiring.

The CCA Manual specifically addresses the following guidelines and tools\*:

- Be alert and constantly vigilant. A heightened sense of awareness allows the umpire to

anticipate problems before they happen.

- Give your full attention to Bat checks, lineup card management and photographers on the field.
- Be proactive. If the pitcher is pitching illegally, the umpires **may** advise the coach and player during warm-ups, but once the game has started and she pitches illegally, **make the call.**

The flow of the game and possible problems between teams require special attention from umpires. Tempers that flare usually have warning signs. Recognize the warning signs and step in to diffuse them before they escalate into something bigger.\* Give warnings to players or coaches if you feel it is necessary to de-escalate the situation at the first sight of warning signs from either team. Make sure you write down who was warned and the reason.

If the situation necessitates itself, you may have to give the warning loudly for both teams to hear, even if you are only addressing one team, specific player or coach, as this is another tool to help de-escalate tension between the two teams. It basically places everyone on notice that their inappropriate or unsportsmanlike conduct will not be tolerated throughout the remainder of the game. This should not be the norm, but know that it is an option if there is a need to use it in certain situations.

If you are the plate umpire, let your partners know that you have issued a warning and the reason. There is nothing worse than giving a warning to a coach or player and your partner(s) have no clue of what happened and then turns around and wants to issue a warning for the same offense, when the person should be ejected at this point.

\*Reference cited can be found in the CCA Manual, pg 332, Section 8.8

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## PHOTO CORNER



Happy Thanksgiving to All and remember,

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