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

Hello everyone.

The season is fast approaching. Fall ball is in full swing and umpires are fine tuning their game.

Details on our Assignors meeting will be available shortly. The date is confirmed January 5, 2014 at Pasadena City College. So mark your calendar.

We welcome all the new officials that we have had the opportunity to work with this preseason. This is an exciting time for our new people and an opportunity for our veterans to mentor these people if you work with them. We all have an opportunity to make each other better for the benefit of the game.

Just a reminder, your training fee for the 2014 season is due now, past due December 1st. The cost is \$140.00 and \$160.00 after December 1st. This fee enables CCSUA to continue the umpire training required of the Assignors by the conferences. The registration form is available on our Central Hub at <http://csuw.arbitersports.com/Front/102522/Site> on the left side under Calendar and Forms.

Greg
CCSUA Chairman

MESSAGE FROM: Dimas Resendez, CCNUA President

Welcome to the 2014 season

Hello College Officials,
California College Umpires (CCU) North enters the 2014 season with much enthusiasm. The fall season is nearly complete and CCU hosted the 10th annual college umpire development camp in Northern California with sixty-four attendees.

The CCU-North training and assignors meeting is Sunday January 19, 2014. So mark your calendars.

Please send your annual membership dues in a timely manner. Preparation is the key for the upcoming collegiate season, ensure the contact information and your availability is up-to-date in the ArbiterSports website.

Please contact a board member with any questions you may have and ask a member of CCU to be a mentor to you in 2014.

Sincerely,
Dimas Resendez, President

MESSAGE FROM: SUP National Coordinator Staff

I would like to share the In Focus Topics that need particular attention for the 2014 season.

- Strike Zone
- Chasing fly Balls
- Sportsmanship
- Angles and Distances

All of these topics will be covered at the Assignors meeting and will be part of the on line clinic when you register on the SUP web site <http://sup.arbitersports.com/front/104484/Site> . For those of you who are new to the SUP, registration is \$100.00 and will open around December 1st, 2013. With this fee you receive the 2014-2015 Softball Rules and Interpretations book along with the 2014 CCA Mechanics Manual.

You can also take the on-line rules test which will help you improve your game. The test is required for potential assignment to post-season play although taking the test does not guarantee any post season assignment. If you have any questions give me a call.

Thanks and Happy Thanksgiving!

Greg Schmidt
SUP Regional Advisor



Greg Schmidt
NCAA Softball Regional Advisor
West/Pacific Region
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IMPORTANT ASSIGNORS and TRAINING STAFF INFORMATION!

From CCSUA Training Staff

Thanks to all of you who are following the Fall Ball rules. We are still having some coaches express surprise when asked for their bat list before the game. There are NO exceptions. Whether it is an observation game, a game assigned by one of our Assignors, or a game for which you are assigned through any other means, if it involves at least one college team, **including Community Colleges**, a bat list check must be done. Please realize what a huge liability you are bringing upon yourself and your partners if you do not do this.

From CCNUA Training Staff

In the always-conducting-training mode that California College Umpires (CCU) - North operates under, here is a picture of one of our most-recent recruits as he beats new member, Michael Presley, to the answer posed by their group leader at CCU's recent umpire camp held on October 12-13, 2013, at Alden E. Oliver Sports Park in Hayward, Ca.

This was the tenth annual camp hosted by CCU. This camp is unique in that it consists of classroom instruction. This year's clinician was Emily Alexander and her gaggle of crocodiles. Once the classroom portion was done for the day, many of the campers were then given the opportunity to practice what they learned on the ball field with live games.

This year, the participating teams included: Cal, Fresno State, St. Mary's College, San Jose State, UC Davis, Notre Dame de Namur, Ohlone College. The games are divided into two (2) sections so 2 groups of three (3) umpires can work each game. At the conclusion of their portion, evaluators then review their efforts with the umpiring crew so they can then use the comments received from their evaluator to better their game. Already, many teams, as well as umpires, have expressed a desire to return for the 11th annual CCU camp.



FOOD FOR THOUGHT CORNER

FACEBOOK, EMAIL, TWITTER AND TEXTING ARE NOT YOUR FRIENDS!

Last year in our November 2012 newsletter we touched on the above-mentioned topic, but it seems that some people didn't heed the words of advice. Therefore, we decided it's time to re-iterate the message!

As you type or post your comments, re-read them, as it may be detrimental to your umpire career. **"DON'T PRESS SEND!"** Unless you are absolutely sure you can live with the consequences.

Once your comments are sent or posted just know it can and has been distributed to many people you never thought would view.

FOCUS AND PREPARATION

Focus will be a big emphasis this year. In addition to the Focus Topics which will be in Section 1 of the 2014 CCA Manual (see Greg's Schmidt article above), the word "focus" is used a lot throughout this Manual. Here are some examples of the topics for which the word "focus" is specifically used:

- The entire Section 3.1 is devoted to it.
- Angles and distance
- Pre-pitch preparation will keep you focused
- Leaving before the pitch
- Set position on bases
- Tracking the pitch

The word "focus" and its derivatives are used 37 times in the 2014 CCA Manual. As you are reading the Manual, note each time it is used. Then go back a few times during the season and re-read each section in which it is used.

RULES CORNER

Last month's rule question

The answer to last month's rule question regarding: What is the difference between an Administrative and Behavioral Ejections can be found in the new Rules Book (2014-2015) on page 162, under Rules 13.1.1 and 13.1.2.

This month rule's trivia question pertains to the changes made in the Rounding or Returning Rule. Research the change and we will expand on it the December's newsletter.

Rule changes for 2014-2015

Go to the CSUW Locker Room *Rules Corner* for a summary of the rule changes in the NCAA Softball 2014-2015 Rules and Interpretations book. It is extremely important that all college umpires become familiar with the rule changes for the upcoming seasons. Note: Corrections to the 2014-2015 Rule Book have been posted on the SUP Central Hub.

Defensive player blocking the view of a runner

We are still getting arguments from coaches regarding the first basemen blocking the view of the runner on first base from seeing the release of the pitch. It seems to be becoming more common each year. Go to the CSUW Locker Room *Rules Corner* for a word-for-word copy of an important Interpretation from Dee Abrahamson, NCAA Softball Secretary-Rules Editor, for Rule 9.5.2.9, "Fielder blocking runner's view."

MECHANICS

SALES CALLS

Decisive Signals Convey Confidence in YOUR decisions

The below insert was taken from an article titled "Sales Calls" in the October 2013 monthly *Referee Magazine*:

Strong signals can help prevent disagreement with coaches and players. It's called "selling" the call and it's often the officials' best friend. As with the other aspects of signaling, however, remember that moderation and timing is the key. Save the sell for the close ones. Using it all the time is like shouting; after people get used to it, it has lost its desired effect.

Whenever you signal, stand tall and firm. Use good posture. It will help give an appearance of confidence and possibly reduce the number of conflicts. Hold your head up; don't dip your chin. Avoid giving signals on the move; come to a stop, pause until the play is completed and then signal.

Don't forget that you have other communication tools at your disposal. You can convey messages the old-fashioned way, with your voice. Never bark at a player or coach. You don't like to be shouted at, so apply the same courtesy. Be firm when necessary, but use a normal relaxed voice. That approach works wonders in helping to calm a heated situation. There are times when you need to raise your voice, but shouting often indicates loss of control.

GAME MANAGEMENT

PREVENT PARTNER PROBLEMS

Game Management encompasses all areas of officiating, especially, working well with your partners on the field. How can we “ALL” do a better job in this area? In the same October 2013 monthly *Referee Magazine* as above-noted there is another article that mentions some key points to remember regarding “Preventing Partner Problems.”

- If you are a veteran and see that you’ll have an inexperienced official with you, be ready to help him or her. Make him or her feel at ease and provide a confidence boost.
- Set an example. There is no excuse for giving less than 100 percent just because you may not be thrilled with your partner. If the other official kicks a call or performs a mechanic incorrectly, maintain good body language. Don’t let players, coaches and fans see you roll your eyes; drop your shoulders or shake your head, as this will show discord between you and your partner.
- Coaches who are more familiar with you or those who recognize that your partner isn’t as skilled or confident will sometimes attempt to have you overrule your partner’s call. Politely, but firmly decline those requests. By overruling, you can ruin any confidence your partner has or destroy their credibility with the coaches.

Remember, you do not get to select your partner(s) for every game, but you do have a choice to set your personal feelings aside and work together for the betterment of the game!

PHOTO CORNER



Photos by Denny

Knowledge is Power and Experience is the best teacher.