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

Hello Everyone,

Well, Fall Ball is in full swing. Camps are moving along so everyone has an opportunity to improve their game.

The game is becoming quicker, players are stronger and faster so this mandates that we work on our game and stay (or get in) shape. The umpires who *get* this will progress and achieve their goals while others will be replaced by people who are focused and in shape, enthusiastic about working for the game. **Which category do you fit in?** We hope everyone is working hard for the game.

We now have our new Central Hub "College Softball Umpires West" up and running. <http://csuw.arbitersports.com>

The new site now has three groups involved:

- Joanne Venditto, Rich Kollen and Jim Johnson with CCSUA (South)
- Terry Ching and Dimas Resendez with CCNUA (North)
- Dale Wilson with Arizona Community College Athletic Conference (ACCAC)

With our new arrangement we can now have input from our associates in other geographic areas on the site, as well as, for our News for Blues monthly publication, Kelie Sturgis, Editor.

We will have articles and comments from the Assignors along with the training coordinators from the other groups. Tanya Garig will be a regular contributor along with NCAA National Rules Committee member John Bennett. This is an exciting time and should benefit everyone involved.

Reminder to **CCSUA(South) Officials only** - training fees are due now and will be delinquent if received after December 1<sup>st</sup>. After 12/01/13, fees will be \$160.00. Go to the CSUW Central Hub and on the left side find "Forms." Click on Forms and on the resultant page will be

“CCSUA 2014 REGISTRATION.” Print it, fill it out and send it in along with your training fee of \$140.00. Put this on your to-do list!

**CCSouth Officials** mark your calendar for: The Annual Assignors’ meeting to be held on Sunday, January 5, 2014 at Pasadena City College.

**CCNorth Officials** mark your calendar for: The Annual Assignors’ meeting to be held on Saturday, January 19, 2014, time and location TBD.

**Arizona Community College Athletic Conference (ACCAC) Officials** mark your calendar for: The Annual Assignor’s meeting to be held on Saturday, January 4, 2014, at 10:00 a.m., Central Arizona College.

We will have more to come on Assignors’ meetings in your area as we get closer.

Look forward to seeing you soon,

Greg  
CCSUA Chairman

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## MESSAGE FROM: SUP National Coordinator Staff

Hello Everyone,

The SUP Central Hub (<http://sup.arbitersports.com/Front/104484/Site>) is the place to go for all softball information on a national level. Here you will find the most current Bat List, information on camps and clinics along with the most up to date mechanics and rules decisions. We also have instructional videos that can help improve your game. These videos are very informative; check them out, if you have not already.

The SUP staff continues to attend camps and clinics to help improve the consistency of umpiring throughout the country. The new rule book is already in print and the CCA Manual will be shortly.

Please remember that to be eligible for post-season consideration you must sign-up on the SUP Softball Central Hub and under the Registration tab, take the test and pass with a score of 90%. Registration opens **DECEMBER 1, 2014**. After you register, you will receive the new Rules Book and CCAA Manual, so sign up early to receive your books, as soon as possible.

Thanks,



**Greg Schmidt**

NCAA Softball Regional Advisor  
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## IMPORTANT ASSIGNORS and TRAINING STAFF INFORMATION!

### **From our Assignors**

As you all work Fall Ball make sure you are focusing on something that you want to improve on for the spring season. Go to each game with a plan:

#### **Examples:**

- Communicate with your partner (improve the use of “**verbal**” communication)
- Use of the point to sell a close play
- Rounding or Returning: read-up on this rule and focus on those situations that occur on the field.

*“If you aren’t fired with enthusiasm, you could be fired with enthusiasm”*

*Vince Lombardi*

### **From our Training Staff**

#### **CCSUA(South) Information**

The 2014-2015 NCAA Softball Rule Book is now available; you can order it through the SUP Central Hub. The new rule book lists specific rules to be used for the Non-Championship Segment (Fall Ball). The new Rule Book goes into effect in fall for all winter and spring sports (per the NCAA Rules Committee). So we must adhere to the Non-Championship Segment, as well as, all rule changes during our Fall Ball 2013 games.

**A document had been posted to our *College Softball Umpires West* "Locker Room" which**

**discusses the 2014-2015 major rule changes and the special rules for Non-championship play. It also has information about the proper protocols for Fall Ball. Anybody who works during the Fall must read this document.**

You can find this document in the Rules Corner section (right pane); click on "Fall Ball 2013 Rules". Please read this document and discuss this information during your pre-games. If you have any questions about this information, please email John Bennett at [bennettjoh@sbcglobal.net](mailto:bennettjoh@sbcglobal.net)

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## FOOD FOR THOUGHT CORNER

Never think you're too good to work any level game.....as you may not be as good as you think!

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## FOCUS AND PREPARATION

*By Matt Moore  
Referee Associate Editor*

### **'Practice' Games**

Possibly one of the funniest and most famous rants in the past 10 years was Philadelphia 76'ers forward Allen Iverson going off about practice:

“We talking about practice. We ain't talking about the game. We talking about practice....”

With fall starting a lot of umpires will be doing just that - PRACTICING. Just as when you played the game, there is a right way and a wrong way to practice umpiring.

You can't just go through the motions in your “practice games nor can you just go out and work without getting feedback, otherwise, you aren't going to benefit, and in fact, you might suffer if you develop bad habits. So what should you do? Try these tips to make your **practice perfect**:

- Try to work at a level higher than what you normally work during your regular college games. You will work with better umpires and the game will be faster and probably played better.
- Work with a veteran who works at the higher levels, even if it costs you a “meal or drink after the game.” Invite a veteran out to work with you, who you trust and know will give you honest feedback, both good and bad.
- Attend a CAMP. Find the right camp that is going to serve your needs. If you are trying to move to the next level, find a camp that is run or taught by people at that level. If you are just trying to improve your skills, find a camp that includes more game experience.

- Ask for feedback. Better yet, don't ask; demand it. And when someone gives it to you, accept what he or she is saying. They may not be right, but if you are asking for their opinion then don't argue with them when they give it to you.
- Watch games. Even if you aren't umpiring, you can go watch people work. If you watch people above your current level; look at how they move and handle situations. What can you pick-up from their game that will make you a better umpire?

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## RULES CORNER

The answer to last month's rule question regarding: What is the difference between an Informal and Formal Warning 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 is: What is the difference between an Administrative and Behavioral Ejections? This is another new rule change for the 2014 season and the answer will be noted in our November Newsletter.

One of the newly defined terms in the 2014-2015 Rules book is noted as the "Offense Player" (OP), which is now used in reference to the DP and Flex. Read more about this new term on our *College Softball Umpires West "Locker Room"* or in the PDF version of the new Rules book on the SUP Central Hub.

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## MECHANICS

The 2014 Mechanic Updates (Point of Emphasis) are noted below for 2 and 3 umpires:

1. Infield Fly: This signal has changed to right arm raised above head, with fist closed, left arm at side and say "Infield fly." This signal is initiated by the plate umpire. If the plate umpire does not make the call, the base umpire should make the call.
2. Check Swing: The plate umpire, when asked to get help of if there is any doubt regarding a swing attempt, by rule shall ask for help from the open umpire. The open umpire must remain with the swing or actions (bunt/slap) long enough to give help when asked, even if a runner attempting to steal.
3. Dropped Third Strike: Base umpire(s) will **only** signal to the plate umpire indicating that a third strike was not caught. It alerts all umpires to a potential play on the batter-runner. The signal is used when the batter, by rule, is entitled to run if the third strike is dropped.
4. Ball Four or Any Time First Base is Awarded: The plate umpires will remove their mask and observe the runner advance to first base. If the batter was hit by a pitch, trail the runner 10-15 feet up the line to ensure good sportsmanship by all players.

For specific 3-umpire new mechanics and "Focus Topics" for all umpires go to our *College*

*Softball Umpires West "Locker Room"* and under the Rule Corner section (right pane) click on 2014 Rules Interpretation, which will take you directly to the SUP Central Hub. Once there read "Notes from the National Coordinator-September 2013" and click on both the bold printing that states "See attachment for more information."

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## GAME MANAGEMENT

### SILENCE IS GOLDEN

What does that title really mean? Sometimes we are quick to answer a coach before they even have a chance to complete their question about a call.....Not sure if this is a defensive mechanism to questioning the call or because we are so sure of our call we want to dismiss the question, immediately. But whatever the reason is we should remain 'QUIET' and 'LISTEN' to the entirety of the question before answering the coach.

Communication is a two-way street, but we must first understand the totality of the question before we can effectively respond. A part of good 'game management' is listening completely, and then responding in a professional manner.

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## PHOTO CORNER



Photos by Denny

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