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

Hello everyone,

As we approach the beginning of fall ball we have the opportunity to “tune up” our strike zone and base mechanics so we are prepared for the upcoming season.

Don't hesitate to call a local college, ask to work a scrimmage or call pitches in the cage. They are usually happy to accommodate, as it gives them a chance to get a feel for how their pitchers are doing.

New this year:

As noted in our August Newsletter, the “Scissors” stance is no longer an approved stance. This stance puts our umpires more in jeopardy for concussion injury. The NCAA Injury Surveillance System shows 5 to 18% of all injuries are concussions based on the sport.

Also, the between inning “Alternative Position” (standing on the baseline inside the diamond 15-feet from first or third base) will no longer be used. Being on the baseline inside a base during warm ups by the infielders puts you more in a position to be hit by a throw. You should work to get your “Standard Positions” between innings (pages 284, CCA Manual).

Remember: **EVERY PITCH, EVERY PLAY, EVERY TIME**

Greg Schmidt

CCSUA Chairman

NCAA Softball Regional Advisor

West/Pacific Region

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IMPORTANT ASSIGNORS and TRAINING STAFF INFORMATION!

From the Assignors

The Assignors have announced the dates for the annual College Softball Umpires Association meetings. The NCAA will announce in October / November that the registration for the NCAA is open. Please register right away so you get your books in time for the meetings in January.

ARIZONA UMPIRES WORKING ARIZONA CHRISTIAN...

Please attend the meeting that Dale Wilson sets up for college umpires on January 17, 2015 at 10:00 am. Location: Paradise Valley Community College

I will provide information on the GSAC Conference and big changes to the NAIA in the near future. Umpires have an opportunity to join the NAIA Central Hub.

UMPIRES IN HAWAII...

The annual meeting will be held in conjunction with the Big West meeting at 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday, 02/03/15. Please RSVP to Terry Ching that you will attend that meeting bluehawaiian22@sbcglobal.net.

Clinicians this year are Tony Cooper & Dave Long.

- Please dress appropriately for a meeting (Attire is polo shirt and “Dockers” type pants/shorts. Close-toe type shoes should be worn)
- Bring your NCAA Rule Book & Mechanics Manual

CALIFORNIA UMPIRES...

There are two (2) main CCSUA meetings – please attend one of them. The same information will be discussed at both meetings. John Bennett & Vincent Price are the two lead clinicians.

We would like to recommend that you register now for CCSUA. Get it done and then you won't conflict with budgets you have set aside for holiday parties and gifts. *Go to the Arbiter/Central Hub/Locker Room and look for the Registration Form.*

January 11, 2015 @ Pasadena City College – Room CC (same location as last year)

- 8:00 a.m. - Check-in.....9:00 a.m. - Training Meeting will start for all umpires (John Bennett & Vince Price)
- 2:30 p.m. - D1/D2 Conference meetings (Big West & West Coast) (CCAA & Pac-West). If you are on these rosters, you will receive meeting handouts and information the week before.
- **Be prepared to purchase a parking permit in the kiosk parking lot (\$2 or \$3)**

January 18, 2015 @ (Hayward Senior Center) 22325 N 3rd St, Castro Valley, CA 94546

- 9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. - D1/D2 Conference meetings (Big West & West Coast) (CCAA & Pac-West). If you are on these rosters, you will receive meeting handouts and information the week before.
- 11:00 a.m. - Lunch is served
- 11:30 a.m. - Training Meeting will start for all umpires (Vince Price & John Bennett)
- 3:30 p.m. - Meeting ends
 - Attire is polo shirt and “docker”-type pants, shorts. Close-toe type shoes should be worn.
 - As always, the companies who sell umpire gear and uniforms will attend both meetings.
 - Lunch is provided at both meetings.

Joanne, Terry, Jim, & Rich

From CCSUA Training Staff

The CCSUA-South will be holding its annual Preseason Camp at Glendale Sports Complex on Friday, 01/30/15 and Saturday, 01/31/15. More details on starting times and assignments will be issued as we approach these dates. Umpires from both CCSUA-North and CCSUA-South are invited to this Camp. We will have 2-umpire training and may offer 3-umpire training depending on demand.

The Registration form for Preseason Camp is posted on our Locker Room (left panel, CCSUA Forms). Please note: The CCSUA Registration Form for the 2015 season is also posted on our Locker Room.

The cost for the Camp is \$140 for 2 days, \$85 for one day. Lunch, drinks and snacks are included on both days. **You must register for the Camp by December 15, 2014. Don't forget to block Arbiter for the dates you choose.**

FOOD FOR THOUGHT CORNER

Never worry about being perfect. Concern yourself with getting and being better.

Freddie Coleman-ESPN Sports Radio/TV Announcer

FOCUS AND PREPARTION

Now that Fall Ball season has begun what are you doing to improve your umpire skills? Most will say that they are working games and going to camps. But what about getting a Mentor?

The perfect time to ask someone to be a Mentor is during Fall Ball season so that person can work with or observe you on games and give you honest feedback to help you improve before the spring season begins. A Mentor is also there to answer your questions; review the rules and mechanics with you and be a sounding board.

Here is a quote taken from the June 2014 issue of *Referee Magazine* regarding “Getting a Mentor.”

Ask any successful official for secrets to success and he or she will tell you they got a helping hand from someone along the way. Whether it was part of a formal mentoring program or just a grizzled veteran, who was willing to help, few officials advance without tutoring of some sort.

In choosing a Mentor make sure that it is someone who is well respected, experienced, knowledgeable and a good teacher to fit your way of learning (i.e. visual, physical and verbal)!

RULES CORNER

Last month we invited all to send in a rule that they have had difficulty with so that we could expand on the interpretation to help others. One of those rules was certain “Interference” calls.

Below are two scenarios involving some type of “Interference” for which several of us have mistakenly enforced the penalty:

1. R3 is on third base and R1 is on first with no outs. B1, with a 1-1 count, hits a fair fly ball near the foul line about eight feet on the home plate side of third. As F5 settles under the ball, R3 bumps F5 causing her to drop the ball. What is the call and enforcement of the penalty?
2. The bases are loaded with no outs. B4 hits a hard smash to F4, whose throw to the plate is low and wide to the first-base side of the plate which draws F2 that way. R3 is safe at the plate, but she accidentally contacts F2, as she is recovering the errant throw and attempts to make a play on B1 after her wide turn at first base.

What’s your call and enforcement penalty for both scenarios? Send me an email at kelie.sturgis@att.net with your answer and Rule section cited.

GAME MANAGEMENT CORNER

When most of us think about what describes good “Game Management” skills we envision any college game under two-hours without any complaints or unnecessary comments from coaches, players and especially fans!

But in reality that seldom happens and we are faced with several games over the course of the season that last anywhere from two to three hours and sometimes more. Are you prepared for the extra innings games? Or the games where neither team has pitching and the defensive players are struggling just to make a second or third out, which makes for a long game?

Both scenarios are not your fault and have nothing to do with good “Game Management, skills” and yet how do you still prepare to make the best out of the situation.

In the September 2014 issue of *Referee Magazine* it has an article titled, “**Running on Fumes**” in which it talks about how to continue to officiate during those long games when you are running on empty. A paragraph in this article notes:

You work on your physical fitness so that you’ll remain mentally fit throughout the game, no matter how long it lasts. If the blood isn’t getting to your legs, it sure isn’t getting to your brain, and that’s when trouble starts.

Below are some tips they noted to help you before and during those times:

1. Expect every game to go into overtime, which will allow you to keep your energy reserves and hydration topped up, not wish you had.
2. Learn ways to keep your focus. A lot of officials start talking to themselves more preferably without their lips moving. The active process of “speaking” keeps your mind engaged and helps you stay alert.
3. Look like fatigue won’t be an issue. No matter how many of your internal organs are turning to Jell-O as the game wears on, keep up the appearances.

The article closes with this:

The officials’ job is to prepare for any eventuality in a game and one of those is it being double the expected length. All you can do is be physically ready and understand how you react to fatigue; then develop a mental approach to work through it.

Knowledge is Power and Experience is the best teacher.

