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We hope that everyone had a great summer with family and friends!

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

Hello Everyone,

The season is fast approaching. Our Fall Clinic is September 7th at Glendale College. If you are a 1st or 2nd year official you should be there. John Bennett has contacted the appropriate people. Some veterans should also be there. Joanne has contacted the appropriate people.

Please remember that being a college official requires diligence on your part to check your emails **daily** and respond, as needed, in a timely manner.

I look forward to seeing some of you at Glendale and everyone at our January assignors meeting.

MESSAGE FROM: SUP National Coordinator Staff

Hello Everyone,

The new Rules book is now in print and the new CCA Softball Mechanics Manual will be soon. Remember you will receive the new Rules book and Mechanics Manual when you register on the SUP site. **Registration for the 2014 season will open on December 1, 2013.** More information will be available at the beginning of September.

Continue to work on your game. Everyone can use a tune up during the Fall!
See you soon.



Greg Schmidt
NCAA Softball Regional Advisor
West/Pacific Region
818-400-9453
rrbluegreg@verizon.net

IMPORTANT ASSIGNORS and TRAINING STAFF INFORMATION!

From our Assignors

Game fees have been increased for 2014 in these conferences:

| | |
|------------------------------------|------------------------|
| Southern Calif. Community Colleges | \$90/single & \$155/dh |
| CCAA/D2 | \$90/single & \$170/dh |
| GSAC/NAIA | \$85/single & \$140/dh |

Fall Ball Season is starting. The game fees are \$50. If a game is extended by design (not by rule), the fee is \$8 each inning after 7 innings.

Off-Season Training- Individuals should make themselves available for Fall Ball and attend at least a clinic or training venue prior to the spring season starting. Review 2-ump and 3-ump mechanics for the conferences we service.

Get into physical shape this fall! Umpires shall perform athletically just as the student-athletes.

Expectations for officials increase each year. Take the extra step to elevate your performance. Look for reading material to better help manage your game in areas of: engaging in discussions and to calm a particularly heated confrontation when dealing with coaches and players. Learn how to read attitudes and gestures from coaches, players and partners at the on-set of a discussion, which may help to prevent the situation from escalating.

College requires more emphasis on the professional approach in a structured educational setting: study, engage, prepare, and perform on the field. Communicate and be a leader.

Mechanics and on-field movements are just the initial steps to becoming a successful collegiate softball official.

The professional approach that is the foundation of our success is expected by Administrators and coaching staffs of the Conferences we service.

From our Training Staff

CCSUA Information (South)

By the time many of you are reading this the CCSUA will have started on our Fall training cycle. On September 7th our Fall Clinic will be held at Glendale Community College, Hall of Fame room, from 9am to 3:30pm. This Clinic is for our potential new college softball umpires, umpires who will be working their second year in 2014, and selected veterans.

We cycle through our veterans every three years unless a specific umpire is already receiving continual observations based on their college umpire schedule. Because of the large number of attendees, you must be invited to this Clinic (emails have already been sent); no walk-ins please.

Veterans:

- We have another good group of potential umpires for 2014 due to our first ASA/CCSUA observation event in July
- As you know we have added many quality umpires over the last few years
- We have a large number of umpires in CCSUA who are going to clinics and camps, working high-level travel ball during the off-season, and working hard to improve so they can continue to increase their number of college games each year.
- Are you doing the same so they do not pass you by in ability, hustle, athleticism, rules and mechanics knowledge??

The rest of the annual Fall training cycle will include Fall Ball observation dates, Roundtables initiated by CCSUA members, the CCSUA Fall test, and our Pre-season Camp on Jan. 31 and Feb. 1, 2014. More information on these events will be showing up in our Newsletter each month.

CCNUA Information (North)

The CCU North will hold their Annual Clinic/Camp in conjunction with the Battle of the Bay Tournament in Hayward, CA, on October the 12th and 13th. The clinicians will be Emily Alexander and Tanya Garig.

Please contact Tanya Garig for further information at tanya.garig@pillsburylaw.com

FOOD FOR THOUGHT CORNER

If you strive to be perfect, maybe, just maybe, you will become great!

By Jonathan Odgen
Hall of Fame Football Player-Baltimore Ravens

FOCUS AND PREPARATION

By Tanya Garig

How do I get from here to there? Part 1I

Last month we talked about how the ability to focus for a moment when we expect something to happen makes a good umpire. What kind of focus does it take to make a great umpire? How do I get from here to there? A truly great umpire knows how to maintain the **appropriate** level of focus at all times on the field.

No umpire can stay completely focused all the time. Our brains are just not wired that way. We need to take breaks; to relax; to switch our attention; to turn it on and off frequently. Most really good umpires are able to umpire just about any game assignment by being focused only a small fraction of the time on the field. We turn it on and turn it off. We can get away with that because we are really good, we have lots of experience and we have good instincts about when our focus will be required.

We get comfortable, maybe a little cocky about our ability to do that and then we get caught off guard. Something happens that is unexpected that we did not anticipate, our instincts fail us and we have the focus turned off at the wrong moment. We kick a call, we miss a rotation, we feel foolish, and we know in that moment that even though we are really good, we are not truly great. We have not mastered the ability to maintain the **appropriate level of focus** in that moment. That is the difference in being able to focus for a moment when you expect something to happen and being able to maintain the **appropriate level of focus** at all times on the field.

So are truly great umpires superhuman? Can they stay completely focused for every moment of every game – not taking any breaks? No -- they just do a better job of determining the **appropriate level of focus** at any given moment. Truly great umpires rely less on instincts than really good umpires when it comes to determining the right time to focus. Truly great umpires are more strategic about when they take those little mental breaks that we all need. Being able to maintain the appropriate level of focus at all times, turning it on and off strategically is a skill. How do you develop a skill? Practice, practice, practice! So how do you get from here to there? Be more strategic and less instinctual about your focus on the field.

There are many different ways to practice focus. It is not a one-size-fits-all kind of thing. Some prefer meditation, others use distraction exercises. I prefer hot yoga (it forces me to ignore the sweat and the heat, and focus when I am uncomfortable) – works for me 😊. Every really good umpire who wants to be a truly great umpire will need to find their own path to developing this skill and **think more strategically about how to maintain the appropriate level of focus at all times on the field.**

KUDOS CORNER

We would like to also give an additional Kudos to Terry Ching, who has been appointed as the Coordinator for the new West Coast Conference (D-I). Congratulations Terry!

RULES CORNER

The answer to last month's rule question regarding: What is a considered a legal "Catch" can be found in the current (2012 and 2013 Rules Book) on page 85, under Rule 9.1, The three important statements of what constitutes a catch is noted as, **"the fielder must hold the ball long enough to prove she has control of the ball and her release of the ball is voluntary and intentional."**

This month rule's trivia question is: What is the difference between an Informal and Formal Warning? This is new for the 2014 season and the answer will be noted in our October Newsletter, which brings us to the next topic.....

Our new 2014-2015 Rules Book is now available in a PDF document on the SUP Central Hub under "Touching base with Dee," as well as a new 2014 Rule Interpretations document, dated 08/15/13. If you have not already done so, please begin to read and study the new changes and interpretations for the upcoming next year, as there are many that will enhance our umpire ability.

It's never too early to study the rule book!



"Whoa, whoa ... What? Really?! That's not even close! ... Next!!"

Photo and commentary by Jim Johnson

MECHANICS

Next month we will cover new mechanics and point of emphases once they have been posted on SUP Central Hub.

GAME MANAGEMENT

KNOWLEDGE OF THE RULES

By Jim Bertuzzi

In the off-season we have to do more than just stay in physical shape. We must also study the rules of the game. Use the off-season to become a better umpire for the next season. Commit to bettering your rules knowledge, as this is an intricate part of Game Management.

There are two types of coaches and players who cause umpires problems in their attempt to call a game according to the rules. The first type is the player or coach who doesn't know the rules. These individuals come up with all sorts of ideas in order to test your patience. Make sure you have some scripts prepared to deal with this type of coach or player. The second type is the coach or player who knows the rules better than the umpire. The only way to deal with this type of individual is to master the rules until you are as well versed as you can be.

In order to master the rules you must read and study the rulebook consistently, not just once or twice a week or during the season. When difficult situations happen read your rule book to make sure you got the rule correct; talk about situations that have happened to you with fellow umpires and get some feedback. These conversations can be some of the most productive and insightful conversations an umpire can have. If you can rehash these experiences, you will certainly profit.

You can be excused once for your mistake, (as long as you learn from it and it isn't a habit) but not twice.

PHOTO CORNER



Photos by Denny

Thanks to Tanya Garig, Jim Bertuzzi, Terry Ching and Jim Johnson for contributing to the newsletter.

Knowledge is Power and Experience is the best teacher.