Touching All Bases

COMING UP SOON:

USA Softball National Umpire School
- February 10th – 12th (Fri-Sun) in Roseville.

Field Clinic #1 - February 18th (Sat) at Vanden HS in Fairfield.

Scrimmages - February 18th (Sat) at Freedom Park, Bella Vista, Lindhurst, Oak Ridge and Rosemont. Published for Self-Assign next week.

Field Clinic #2 - February 25th (Sat) at Freedom Park.

Scrimmages - February 25th (Sat) at El Camino, Lindhurst, Roseville, Yuba City, and New Life Christian. Published for Self-Assign next week.

GROUP LEADERSHIP CORNER

Reminder: Get your training hours done now. Don’t wait and get shut out of assignments. Any special circumstances must be approved by the Group Leaders with an email to macsports.14@gmail with your proposed plan to get your hours completed.

Reminder: Election nominations are due March 1. We have received no nominations for Executive Board Representative or Rating Committee (2 spots).

Your Group Leaders,
Frank and Carl
JSS SOFTBALL ASSIGNORS

The 2017 High School Softball Season is just a few weeks away. Although Mother Nature is not cooperating, most schedules have been loaded in Arbiter and assignments will be forthcoming in the next couple of weeks.

Scrimmages will be published on Self-Assign next week.

Saturday 2/18 Scrimmages
Freedom Park, Bella Vista, Lindhurst, Oak Ridge & Rosemont

Saturday 2/25 Scrimmages
El Camino, Lindhurst, Roseville, Yuba City and New Life Christian

All scrimmages are Non-Paid games.

The teams may begin play on 2/23 and a few teams do have games scheduled prior to some scrimmages.

Please, update your arbiter calendar; blocking dates you CANNOT work & keep your calendar up-to-date. Having a professional looking passport type photo in your Arbiter profile is certainly appreciated.

Assignments will be published 2-3 weeks out. If you have any questions, recommendations, concerns, please, feel free to contact the JSS Softball Assignor’s.

Thanks, and have a great season!
James & Dave
JSS Sports

IMPORTANT NEWS

From the Rating Committee (by Pete Dufour)
- Three bad habits to break this year.

1. It’s something we all have done as the plate umpire. The batter hits a pop up on the infield or a fly ball and the first thing we do is look up for the ball! If you are still doing looking up, this would be a good habit to break as you progress in your umpire career.

What goes up, must come down, so there is no need to look at the ball. Let the player’s watch the ball, and get your eyes quickly back down to your partner and the players. Depending on what they do, you will know where you need to go. If the players are converging on a fly ball, check to see if your partner is going to go to the outfield to “chase” the ball, or is coming in. If he’s coming in, you need to quickly move into the infield or the holding area along the third base line to get a good angle on the possible catch.

If your partner does decide to go, you know right away you are in a one-man system and are responsible for all calls on the infield. When you work 3-man mechanics, looking at your partners is extremely important on fly balls.

2. Another habit some of us still need to break is not waiting for the ball to be controlled by the pitcher in the circle before moving to our next position. Wait to see that it’s the pitcher who has the ball, and that the throw to the circle wasn’t wild. If the shortstop catches the ball in the circle after the second baseman lobs it in from short right field, a base umpire moving from his button hook to his next position behind the second baseman might find himself getting T-boned by an alert batter-runner who noticed nobody was covering second base.

IMPORTANT NEWS

After your scrimmage game is completed, you must send an email to Neil Hillel (ncoaump16@gmail.com) to get credit for scrimmage training hours!
3. The third bad habit is sticking close to home plate when you have no play, and you have multiple runners on base. If a runner is scoring without a throw home, move up the 3b line to the foul territory holding position and take a good look at the runner scoring from there. You are then ready to move into calling position for a play at 3b. When you are starting from "C" position behind shortstop on a base hit to the outfield, don't button hook straight toward the circle, move between the circle and 2b to watch the batter-runner and any runner moving to 2b. (NFHS Manual, Two-Umpire System, starting on page 38. Did you know the manual is available for viewing for free on the NFHS Central Hub?) http://nfhs-softball.arbitersports.com/front/105414/Site/PageContent/NFHS-Softball-Publications

Remember: On a base hit to the outfield with no potential for a play at the plate, the lead runner going into third base is the responsibility of the plate umpire, usually on a throw from the outfield. But if coverage breaks down and we have to deviate, by all means "communicate" loudly to your partner, and look at your partner so you both don't make a call on the same play.

Rule Clarifications from the State Rules Interpreter - Your leadership is getting clarifications from Vince Rossi, the CIF Softball Rules Interpreter. We will report to the membership as we get information for you.

Webinars - Webinars are now posted on the NCOA Central Hub website. Four webinar hours are required for your training plan to get your 18 hours of documented training for us to certify you to the CIF Assignors for assigning games. The 18 hours are state-wide requirements.

It has been brought to our attention (thanks, Kevin!), that there is some mis-information regarding feet and the pitching rubber in the Illegal Pitches webinar.

Approximately one third of the way through this video, the screen turns green and Emily Alexander (Cactus Umpires) starts presenting. What she says regarding the non-pivot foot needing to remain in contact with the rubber does not apply to our High School game. There is also mention to the lines for the 24 inch pitching lane that also does not apply to the High School game.

Training Options Adjusted - We have adjusted the training hour credits this year a little bit. ASA training hour options are available for those in multiple organizations. The ASA National Umpire School is in Sacramento this weekend. Sign up and get credit. See details in this Newsletter for the Training Hour options for 2017. It is your responsibility to communicate to us of your training hours IN ADVANCE.

Regional Study Groups-- Four weeks have been completed with great attendance numbers. We will meet again regionally for an additional two weeks in Feb. Four of the six sessions are required, so make sure you are on-track. Check for the specific locations on the Central Hub and in this newsletter.

On-field Training Clinics are back – Sessions are scheduled on Feb. 18 & 25. Please remember Feb. 20th is cancelled. Make sure you secure your spot for the 18th or 25th (macsports.14@gmail.com)!!
Leadership Team - The NCOA Softball Leadership Team is made up of elected and appointed NCOA members. The elected members are (with term expiration):

Co-Group Leaders – Frank Moreno (19) and Carl Clark (17)
NCOA Board representative – Bob Senchy (17)
Ombudsman – Phil Perkins (18)
Rating Committee – Rudy Aguillio (18), Pete Dufour (18), Mike Machovec (19), Phil Perkins (17) and John Williams (17).


Elections – Nominations are due by March 1st. There are four positions listed below that will be up for election this year:

Co-Group Leader (3-year term)
NCOA Board Representative (3-year term)
Rating Committee 2 positions (3-year terms)

Uniform - We have seen a couple of mistakes for uniforms. Buy the right uniform for softball. It is different from baseball. The official uniform for NCOA Softball is: Powder Blue (no logos) or Navy Shirt (color must match) (short or long sleeves); Heather Gray Slacks; Plain Navy Jacket (No stripes or piping; NCOA Hat; Heather Gray or Navy Ball Bag.

Your uniform contact is Chuck Brabec. Email him at uic@usasoftballsacramento.org or call (916) 834-8074 for more information.

Certification Test - Opened January 8, 2017 on the NFHS Tier2 view (Group ID: 106237) on Arbiter. Once there, click on the TESTING tab, find softball in the Open Tests section and have at it! 52 of us have successfully completed the test to date! The official closing date is March 31, 2017, however you must successfully pass this exam (80%) before you will receive any game assignments!

Registration is scheduled to close this Saturday, February 11th! If you and/or any of your buddies have yet to register, please do so by Saturday!
RULES CORNER

This information was shared in the last newsletter and is being repeated here. These issues will get us in trouble if we don’t know the rules!!

- **Bats Rule 1-5-2c. Holes in the taper** – It was noted that no bat manufacturer is now making a bat with holes in the taper. There was a bat approximately 5-6 years ago by Reebok that had holes but was not approved.
  - Reminder that the ASA certifications from 2013 are for slow-pitch only not past pitch.

- **Uniforms – 3-2-1 Sweatshirts** - NFHS and CIF has approved use of sweatshirts in increment weather. The umpire does not have to approve use of sweatshirts. If they are worn they do not have to have numbers and can be worn when batting. If a ball hits the sweatshirt when the ball is out of the batters’ box it is the judgment of the umpire if she made an attempt to get out of the way.

- **Equipment for inspection Rule 3-2-15** – We had a question of the term “ALL” Equipment had to be lined up outside the dugout. The term is interpreted to mean all equipment for Umpire inspection must be placed outside the dugout in an area away from the warm up area. This can be in front of the dugout or elsewhere.

**HOW DO WE HANDLE EARLY SEASON NON-COMPLIANCE?**
  - Communicate with the head coach that it needs to be corrected and come back after dealing with other team or getting balls.
  - If non-compliance, issue a team warning.
  - If non-compliance continues, banish the coach to the dugout for the duration of the game.
  - If non-compliance still continues, **DO NOT PLAY THE GAME.** They were very adamant about this due to safety concerns and issues that have arisen with umpires in the dugouts with contact with players and their personal equipment. There have been incidents with liability insurance issues.
  - Report the incident to the Group Leaders and Assignors by email within 24 hours.

- **Substitute Reporting** – A reminder was issued the penalty for an unreported substitute is: Team Warning with 2nd incident Head coach restricted to the dugout for the duration of the game. (NO EJECTION)

- **Infractions by the Pitcher Rule 6-2-2** – Several updates were included:
  - Don’t have to wipe off drying agent (a list is coming out about what is a drying agent)
  - Dirt is considered a drying agent.
  - It is OK for a pitcher to put their hand in the chalk (not removing the chalk line).

- **Batter is Out Rule 7-4-8 NOTE** - There is no change in how we have administered but the NOTE was inadvertently left off in the past 2 years Rule Books. It is now back in.

- **Pitching position Rule 6-1-1 Step back** – It was pointed out that umpires must be careful and not cause an illegal pitch in NFHS when the pitcher steps back after the hands are together... because the pitcher has the opportunity to step back with either foot to remove herself from the pitching rubber. Delay just a second to see if the pitcher will remove the other foot before calling illegal pitch.

- **Pitching position Rule 6-1-1 Signals** – Emphasis was made that even if the pitcher is getting a signal from coach and uses a wristband behind the rubber, the pitcher must step on with HANDS APART then SIMULATE TAKING A SIGNAL. Pitcher may look to catcher, to coach, to stands, to mom and dad, etc. in the simulation. THEN THE HANDS COME TOGETHER. **WE MUST CONSISTENTLY CALL THIS!**
REFLECTIVE MATERIALS – We received clarification that glitter was not allowed on uniform, ribbons, bows, headbands. An expansion of the language in the book was provided - NO GLITTER IS ALLOWED ON THE EYE BLACK.

HOW DO WE HANDLE EARLY SEASON NON-COMPLIANCE?

- Remind the head coach (not the player) that it needs to be corrected.
- If non-compliance, issue a team warning.
- If non-compliance continues, banish the coach to the dugout for the duration of the game.
- If non-compliance still continues, DO NOT ALLOW THE PLAYER TO PLAY - DO NOT START THE GAME with players in non-compliance. They were adamant about this due to safety concerns.
- Report the incident to the Group Leaders and Assignors by email within 24 hours.

CIF POINT OF EMPHASIS – BALLS - All balls must have the NFHS authenticating Mark. The other coach cannot agree to play with balls with other authorizing marks. This is a liability issue that will fall on you as an umpire since it is safety related.

CIF POINT OF EMPHASIS – CONCUSSION PROTOCOL BYLAW 503 H

While some of are concerned regarding this subject, it is our job to administer the issue during the game being worked. After the game document with the Group Leaders and Assignors. The School and head coach are responsible for any certification of evaluation of the player by a health care provider trained in this specialty. If the coach certifies the player, we are good to go in starting another game later in the day.

CIF POINT OF EMPHASIS – COACH HELMET -BYLAW 2502–This Bylaw is on our website. The point is the helmet must be a protective helmet not a souvenir type of helmet. Other types of protective helmets are OK unless they make a travesty of the game in your opinion. If you are concerned, send the Group Leaders and Assignors an email reporting the situation.

Study Session 3 brought some more interesting dialog. We ran our interpretations by the State Rules Interpreter and here is that dialog. Learn from it!!

13.) With one out, R2 on 2nd base as B3 bats with two strikes. B3 swings and misses for strike three. F2 drops the ball (AKA dropped 3rd strike). B3 bolts for and enters the 1st base dugout as R2 runs toward 3rd base. F2 throws to F5 at 3rd base and R2 is tagged out. What are the calls? (3)

A. The ball is dead
B. The ball is delayed dead ball
C. The ball is live
D. B3 is out
E. R2 is out
F. R2 is returned to 2nd base
G. R2 is awarded 3rd base

The correct answers are.... A-D-F Ref: 8-2-4

The class thought the answers should be C-D-E.

The rule reference states that the batter would be out & ball live. There are some exceptions, but they do not apply in this scenario.

From another class:

No. 13 is tricky! A. D. and F. are the answers.

The reference is indeed 8-2-4, but keep reading. After Article 5 comes the penalty for both articles 4 and 5. It's on the next page. Batter commits an "infraction" when she "fails to advance to first base and enters the dugout."

Article 4 says the ball is in play on the dropped third strike, but the batter "bolts for and enters
the dugout as R2 runs toward third base." So what they are saying is, yes the ball is in play, until she enters the dugout. Then you kill it. The test question says the tag play at 3b occurred AFTER the batter entered the dugout, so you should have killed it before the tag play, so she goes back to second base.

So let's add on to this. If the tag play at third occurs before the batter enters the dugout, you get two outs! So now we know we have to pay attention to when she enters that dugout!

From the Rules Interpreter:
13.) You need for them to read the penalty for 8-2-4. I disagree that the reference states the batter would be out and the ball is live.

PENALTY: (Art. 4 and 5) The ball is dead and the runner(s) must return to the last base touched at the time of the infraction.

17.) No runs shall score (3)

A. When all continuous action double play results in a third out to end the half inning.
B. On all third out force outs
C. On any third out that occurs before the batter-runner touches 1st base.
D. By all the following runners when a preceding runner makes the third out of the half inning.

The correct answers are...B-C-D, Ref: 9-1-1... We also thought A would be a correct answer as well. We talked about several scenarios that could be continuous DP & timing plays. We were wondering if we could get some more info or clarification about answer A.

From the Rules Interpreter:
This is a question of semantics and the key word is “all” Not all continuous plays are necessarily force plays.

Example: One out with the bases loaded and the batter hits a slow roller to F4 who field the ball and throws to F3 for out. The runner on 3rd scores and the the runner that was on 2nd overran 3rd base and as she dove back to the base, F3 fired the ball to F5 who tags the runner before she gets back to third. This would be considered a continuous play that resulted in a double play.

*******************

One more time on this rule as well...

Rule 3-2-7:

a. Exposed undergarments, if worn, are considered part of the official uniform. All exposed undergarments shall be a solid, single color: black, white, gray or a school color.

1. For individual players, exposed upper-body undergarments do not have to be the same color as exposed lower-body undergarments.

2. For all team members, exposed upper-body undergarments shall be the same solid, single color, and all exposed lower-body undergarments shall be of the same solid, single color.

3. Garments other than team uniforms – such as arm sleeves, leg sleeves, and tights – are permissible. Anything worn on the arm or leg is a sleeve, except a brace, and shall meet the color restrictions.

Rule 3.2.7 has been modified for 2017 and we need to take note. Our issue will be the many different arm sleeves that have appeared across all leagues in recent years. The rule states that any sleeve must be a solid single color.

There is also the issue of all exposed upper-body undergarments being the same color (solid, single). So if one player has a blue undershirt on and someone else is wearing
white while the team is supposed to be in pink… we have a problem. Same issue with lower-body undergarments… they all need to be the same, but they can be a different color (solid, single) than the upper-body garments.

We need to start the education process and the enforcement of this rule from the moment we first step on the field this season. We need to educate the coaches early on. Our voice must be consistent across our Association!

The Committee [NFHS Rules Committee] discussed concerns about the use of glitter or reflective materials on hair control devices. Coaches and players are reminded that a uniform shall not have any reflective adornments. Reflective materials on ribbons, bows, and headbands, including glitter and rhinestones, are considered illegal and should not be permitted. A headband made of elastic material that is designed to be tied in the back is not considered a bandanna, and is legal if it meets the color and manufacturers logo restrictions.

**WEEKLY QUIZ**

Each newsletter will include a 10-15 question true/false quiz for your enjoyment. Answers are included in the same issue.

1. If space allows, the on-deck circles should be 30 feet from home plate.
2. Runners are permitted to return to a missed base or a base left too soon before a dead-ball appeal can be made.
3. Visible or exposed undergarments are considered part of a player's official school uniform.
4. A team may finish the game with fewer than eight players.
5. It is a delayed-dead ball situation when an illegal pitch occurs, but no pitch has been delivered to the batter.
6. If an illegal pitch is called and the batter does not reach first base safely or if any base runner fails to advance at least one base, the coach of the team at bat shall have the option of the result of the play or the penalty of the illegal pitch.
7. The pitcher shall not take the pitching position on or near the pitcher's plate without having possession of the ball.
8. An improper batter is considered to be at bat as soon as she enters the batter’s box and one pitch has been thrown.
9. The batter shall not delay the game by failing to promptly take her position in the batter’s box within 10 seconds.
10. If a pitched ball is entirely within the batter’s box, the batter does not have to make an attempt to avoid being hit by the pitch.
11. A runner is considered to be in the three-foot running lane when she has one foot touching inside the lane and one foot touching on the line.
12. A runner who misses a base while advancing may not return to touch the missed base after a following runner has scored.
13. A run does not score if a preceding runner is declared the fourth out for missing a base, and the defensive team selects that out to its advantage.
14. Umpire jurisdiction ends when the final out is recorded and the defensive team leaves the field.
15. Either the plate umpire or the base umpire may call an illegal pitch.
**WEEKLY QUIZ ANSWERS**

1. **ANS: T**  REF: 1-1-3d
2. **ANS: T**  REF: 2-1-3b; 8-8-16
3. **ANS: T**  REF: 3-2-3; 3-2-7
4. **ANS: F**  REF: 4-3-1g
5. **ANS: F**  REF: 5-1-1p
6. **ANS: T**  REF: 6-1-1exception
7. **ANS: T**  REF: 6-1-1e
8. **ANS: T**  REF: 7-1-1
9. **ANS: T**  REF: 7-3-1
10. **ANS: T**  REF: 8-1-2b
11. **ANS: T**  REF: 8-2-5
12. **ANS: T**  REF: 8-3-9
13. **ANS: T**  REF: 9-1-1 exception (e)
15. **ANS: T**  REF: 10-2-3f; 10-3-1
# Softball – Sacramento

## 2017 Training Options
(Updated 12/1/16)

## Training Options (18hr. Required by CIF/SJS)

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<th>#</th>
<th>Hrs.</th>
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<tr>
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<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Classification Exam</td>
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<td>Webinar sessions 4 of 6</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1 ea</td>
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### Required for New umps & optional for 200-500 Ratings

| On-Field Clinic | 1 | 5 ea | 5 |

### Required for New umps & optional for 200-500 Ratings

| Basic Skills Boot Camp | 1 | 3 ea |

### Optional Training Hours

- General Meeting | 2 |
- Vet. Scrimmages (verified)(2 max) | 2 ea |
- On-field Clinic (if space available) | 5 |
- Boot Camp (if space available) | 3 |
- Study Guide (80% +) | 2 |
- Extra Study Group | 2 |
- GSSA Clinic | 2 |
- ASA/USAS National School | 4 |
- ASA/USAS National Fast Pitch School | 8 |
- NCAA Clinic (verified)(non paid) | 2 |

## NOTE:

* Required sessions can be made up with approval of the Group Leaders on a case-by-case basis with an agreed upon training plan.
* It is the responsibility of the umpire to submit an email request for an alternate training plan.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Session</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tr>
<td>Jan 10</td>
<td>Tu</td>
<td>6pm</td>
<td>General Meeting</td>
<td>Jesuit High School</td>
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<td>Jan 12</td>
<td>Th</td>
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<td>Basic Skills Boot Camp #2</td>
<td>Rusch Park Gym</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jan-Feb</td>
<td>MTWTh</td>
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<td>NCOA Study Group Sessions</td>
<td>see chart</td>
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<td>Basic Skills Boot Camp #3</td>
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<td>Fri-Sun</td>
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<td>USA Softball National Umpire School</td>
<td>Roseville</td>
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<td>Feb 18</td>
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<td>Field Clinic #1</td>
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<td>Feb 20</td>
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<td>GSSA Umpire Clinic</td>
<td>TBA</td>
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Sunrise Recreation & Park
District
Rusch Park Gym
7801 Auburn Blvd.
Citrus Heights, CA 95610

Jesuit High School
1200 Jacob Lane
Carmichael, CA 95608

Vanden High School
2951 Markley Lane
Fairfield, CA 94533

Freedom Park
2802 Perrin Avenue
McClellan, CA 95652
## 2017 Study Group Information

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Facilitators</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Monday  | Round Table Pizza 2345 Sunset Blvd  
Rocklin | 1/16, 1/23, 1/30, 2/6, 2/13, 2/20 | Phil Perkins, Gary Butler   |
| Monday  | Round Table Pizza 2105 Town Center Plaza #F-180  
West Sacramento | 1/16, 1/23, 1/30, 2/6, 2/13, 2/20 | Frank Moreno, Kevin Nicholson |
| Monday  | Denny's Restaurant 1800 Auburn Ravine Road  
Auburn | 1/16, 1/23, 1/30, 2/6, 2/13, 2/20 | Pete Dufour, Greg Walker    |
| Tuesday | Round Table Pizza 2234 Sunrise Blvd  
Rancho Cordova | 1/17, 1/24, 1/31, 2/7, 2/14, 2/21 | Jim Halstead, Rich Reynolds |
| Tuesday | Round Table Pizza 5110 Laguna Blvd #119  
Elk Grove | 1/17, 1/24, 1/31, 2/7, 2/14, 2/21 | Kevin Okino, Kevin Nicholson |
| Wednesday | Round Table Pizza 8795 Elk Grove Blvd  
Elk Grove | 1/18, 1/25, 2/1, 2/8, 2/15, 2/22 | Jack Wendell, George Green  |
| Wednesday | Round Table Pizza 4949-C Marconi Avenue  
Sacramento | 1/18, 1/25, 2/1, 2/8, 2/15, 2/22 | Rick Post, Dennis O'Leary   |
| Wednesday | Round Table Pizza 2345 Sunset Blvd  
Rocklin | 1/18, 1/25, 2/1, 2/8, 2/15, 2/22 | Rudy Aguillio               |
| Thursday | Round Table Pizza 888 Alamo Drive  
Vacaville | 1/19, 1/26, 2/2, 2/9, 2/16, 2/23 | Al Weihe                    |

* All meeting times are 6:30 to 8:30 pm *

* You are required to attend 4 of the 6 sessions, 1 a week *