



Touching All Bases

Let's Play Ball!

Hello all, hope you had a wonderful off season. NCOA NORTH Softball registration is now open so please get registered ASAP. The first Boot Camp is right around the corner on December 27th... the NCOA NORTH Softball season has officially started for some of us! I am looking forward to seeing most of you at the upcoming General Meeting scheduled for Tuesday, January 8th, 2019 at Jesuit High School. Remember this will be the only General Meeting we have this year. It is highly recommended that you attend the General Meeting to pick up your rule book and get started with your required **18 hours of training**. Please be sure to complete the registration process online before the General Meeting so we can get the meeting started and completed in a timely manner.

This year I am relying on help with the training from several volunteers with the Boot Camps, weekly training, and on-field clinics. I want you to know this is your officials (umpires) group. The more volunteers who take a lead role...or even an assistant role is greatly appreciated and helps improve the NCOA NORTH Softball organization.

Please feel free to contact me with questions or concerns at fmoreno4901@wavecable.com.

Frank Moreno, NCOA Softball Group Leader

Important News:



* **Only ONE General Meeting** - Tuesday, January 8th, 2019 6pm - 8pm at Jesuit High School Harris Center. Registration begins at 5:30pm. If you paid your fee you can collect your 2019 NFHS Softball Rulebook. Please plan on arriving early if you need to take care of any registration issues so we can start the meeting on time.

* **Training is necessary to be certified to work CIF High School games.** The Training program is a number of different activities and events beginning in December with one of our Basic Boot Camps for our new or less experienced umpires. **You must complete 18 hours of documented training for us to certify you to the CIF Assignors for assigning games. The 18 hours are state-wide requirements.** Get your training planned so you don't get left out.



IMPORTANT * **Training Options Adjusted** - The Training Team has adjusted training hour credits and requirements again this year to better serve our umpires based on feedback between our Leadership Team and coaches. This year these training options are required by all umpires:

- ✓ Passing score on 100 point NFHS Certification Exam
- ✓ One live Scrimmage (2 games)
- ✓ 4 of 6 Regional Study Group Sessions
- ✓ 4 of 6 On-line Webinars

See dates and details in this Newsletter for the Training Hour options for 2019. It is your responsibility to plan your training and communicate to us in advance if you have issues.

IMPORTANT * **100 Point NFHS Certification Exam** - Opens January, 2019 on Arbiter in the **NFHS Tier 2 Central Hub on the Testing tab**. Find Softball in the Open Tests section and have at it! The official closing date is March 31, 2019, but game assignments will start in mid-February..

**NOTE: You must successfully pass this exam (80%) before you receive any game assignments!*

IMPORTANT * **On-field Training Clinic** - Attendance at one on-field clinic is suggested for all umpires. This is where we can do on-field training to help you polish your skills, both behind the plate and in the field. Full uniforms and equipment are required for live scrimmages. We will be using video as a tool for instant feedback. Continue to check subsequent issues of this Newsletter for information on registering and dates.

IMPORTANT * **Live Approved Scrimmage** - Scrimmages are forthcoming and will be available for Self Assign on Arbiter on the **NCOA Central Hub, Jorgensen Sports Service - Softball link under the Schedule Tab** starting in February 2019. *Attendance of one approved scrimmage (2 games) is required by all umpires.*

IMPORTANT * **Regional Study Groups** - Facilitated Study Groups will meet again regionally for six weeks in January - February. *Attendance of 4 of 6 scheduled weekly meetings are required by all umpires.* Remember you can only get credit for one session per week since the same material is covered at all locations in each weekly session. Mechanics again are being stressed in the study materials. Check for the specific locations on Arbiter on the **NCOA Central Hub, Softball NCOA North link**.

IMPORTANT * **On-line Webinars** - Webinars will be posted on Arbiter on the **NCOA Central Hub under the Video tab** in February 2019. *Four webinar hours are required by all umpires.* This is where you can brush up on some basics such as general, one-umpire, and two-umpire mechanics, Pitching, Obstruction/Interference, and the DP/FLEX rule. The Leadership team is working hard on updating the webinars to reflect recent rule changes.

* **A Basic Skills Boot Camp** jointly sponsored by NCOA and USA Softball Sacramento is continuing with three sessions starting in December. Only new and less experienced umpires will be registered for these Boot Camps. They will once again be hosted by the Sunrise Recreation and Park District at their Rusch Park gym. Thanks to our own Robert Morris for all the site arrangements. Don Heyde is heading up this training element for NCOA in partnership with Mike Machovec and Dennis Hobart coming from USA Softball Sacramento.

We will be focusing only on Plate mechanics and difficult situations on the field. Self register by emailing bootcampregistration2019@yahoo.com.

Please include the Boot Camp date you would like to attend. Should you have any questions contact Don Heyde at: hidho1953@gmail.com.

Other News:

IMPORTANT *REGISTRATION - Log into Arbiter at www.ncoa.arbitersports.com, go to the **NCOA Central Hub, Softball NCOA North link and click on the Registration tab at the top of the homepage.**

Please help someone else register to help our cause of providing the best possible umpiring for the players and coaches!

***Leadership Team** - The NCOA Softball Leadership Team is made up of elected and appointed NCOA members. The elected members are:

Group Leader - Frank Moreno

NCOA Executive Board representative - Neil Hillel

Ombudsman - Phil Perkins

Communications and Accountability – Neil Hillel

Rating Committee - Rudy Aguilio, Pete Dufour, Al Weihe, Phil Perkins, Gary Butler

Appointed Training Team members: Chuck Brabec (GSSA/USA Softball liaison), Gary Butler, John Diaz, Steve Everett, George Green, Jim Halstead, Don Heyde, Neil Hillel, Dennis Hobart, Mike Machovec, Tom Martin, Robert Morris, Kevin Okino, Dennis O'Leary, Russ Patty, Rick Post, Tom Stancheck, Greg Walker, Al Weihe, Jack Wendell.

Elections - The following positions will be up for election this year:

Group Leader (3-year term)

Rating Committee 3 positions (3-year terms)

More information on the website will be posted soon.

***Rating Committee** - The Rating Committee provided clarification on your ratings that were forwarded to the JSS Assignors for their use last year. The Committee will be at full strength again this year. Chairman Pete Dufour is joined by Rudy Aguilio, Phil Perkins, Gary Butler and Al Weihe from the Vacaville/Fairfield area. More information will be coming from the Committee in future Newsletters and at the first meeting.

IMPORTANT *Uniform

Jacket - Our uniform jacket is the navy blue pullover/zip-up jacket with piping on the shoulders. The piping is on a stretch panel with two white stripes and one wide powder blue stripe in the middle (see photo). It is the jacket NCOA South and college umpires wear. These jackets are warm, comfortable, and look sharp!

Cost of the jackets is approximately \$45 for the lightweight version of the jacket, which is probably best suited for our climate. Jackets are usually sized to go over your chest protector, but be sure to check the sizing instructions from your vendor. You may want to get a second, smaller size for working the bases, but is not required.

Officials are on their own for ordering the jackets. Consider combining your jacket order with other purchases while updating your uniform, because some vendors provide free shipping for orders above \$75-\$100.



Hats - Hats can now be purchased through D1 Sports Apparel. You can go online and start ordering now at www.d1sportsapparel.com.



IMPORTANT ***RULES CORNER**

2019 NFHS Softball Rules Changes

1-1-7, 2-22-4, Table 5-1, 5-1-1o: The media shall be prohibited from being in live-ball area. The home team or game management may designate an area for the media in dead ball territory.

Rationale: Clarifies that game management may designate a media area in dead ball territory.

1-5-2a: The knob may be molded, lathed, welded or adjustable, but must be permanently fastened.

Rationale: Clarifies that an adjustable knob is permissible, provided the knob is permanently fastened by the manufacturer.

1-8-4: Defensive players are permitted to wear a shield on their face/head protection in the field, but it must be constructed of a molded, rigid material that is clear and permits 100 percent (no tint) allowable light transmission.

Rationale: In an effort to promote risk minimization, tinted eye shields are prohibited for defensive face/head protection.

6-1-1 PENALTY, 6-1-2 Thru 4 PENALTY, 6-2-1 PENALTY, 6-2-7 PENALTY: In the case of an illegal pitch, the batter is awarded a ball. The penalty that permitted base runners to be awarded one base without liability to be put out is removed.

Rationale: The new language creates more balance between offense and defense. The batter should receive the award rather than runners already on base.



2019 NFHS Softball Major Editorial Changes

2-65-2: Clarifies there can be no appeal of the play that occurred prior to the umpire awarding an intentional walk.

6-1-2a, b: Clarifies what motion constitutes the start of the pitch and when the step back of the non-pivot foot may be taken.

Appendix H: An Appendix regarding DP/FLEX rules was added for quick reference.

2019 NFHS Softball Editorial Changes

2-65-2, 3-5-1 NOTE, 5-1 Table, 5-1-1k, 6-2-5, 7-1-2 PENALTY 3, 8-2-4 PENALTY, 8-4-3, 10-1-1

3-6-12, 10-1-6: Language provides clarity and consistency for restriction of alcohol and tobacco use by participants and officials.

8-1-2: This change requires the batter to make an attempt to avoid being hit by a pitched ball in the area between the plate and the batter's box. This portion of the rule had been inadvertently omitted.



*** Points of Emphasis**

2019 NFHS Softball Rules Points of Emphasis

Pitcher Simulating Taking a Signal - While on the pitcher's plate and prior to bringing her hands together, the pitcher must take or simulate taking a signal from the catcher. A signal may be taken from a coach either by hand signals, verbal call, or by looking up on a wristband with a playbook/playcard. The signal obtained from the coach can be taken while on the pitching plate or while standing behind the pitcher's plate prior to taking a position on the pitcher's plate. By rule, the only requirement is that no matter where or from whom the actual signal is obtained, the pitcher must take a position on the pitcher's plate with the hands separated and simulate taking a signal from the catcher. Requiring the pitcher to take position on the pitching plate and simulating taking a signal from the catcher prior to bring her hands together allows the batter to prepare for the start

of the pitch. If the pitcher does not pause after stepping onto the pitcher's plate to simulate taking a signal from the catcher prior to bringing her hands together, an illegal pitch should be called.

Proper Technique When Sliding - One of a coach's responsibilities is to help reduce risk and injury to players whenever possible. This includes teaching proper sliding techniques as well as educating players on executing a legal slide (Rule 2-52). Ensuring that players utilize proper technique when sliding will help reduce the potential injuries seen when a slide is performed. Ensuring that the slide is performed legally will also reduce the risk to the defender when a tag is being applied to a player sliding into a base.

Head Coach Listed on Lineup Card - Although not a requirement by rule, it is considered a best practice that the head coach list his/her name on the lineup card submitted at the pre-game conference. By listing his/her name on the lineup card, it assists both the umpire and other team if communications dealing with the game are required.

Illegal Pitch Penalty - The NFHS Softball Rules Committee voted to remove the advancement of runners when an illegal pitch is called. Since the intent of an illegal pitch in softball is to deceive the batter, the committee felt that only the batter should receive an award when an illegal pitch occurs. The change to the penalty for an illegal pitch will result in a ball being called on the batter, but runners will only advance if forced as the result of the batter being awarded first base. Exceptions to the penalty for an illegal pitch in Rule 6, Section 1, Article 1 have also been modified in order to be in compliance with the new penalty and ensure that runners are no longer advanced as a result of an illegal pitch.

Softball - Sacramento

2019 Training Options

Updated 12/1/18

Training Options (18 hours Required by CIF/SJS)

	#	Hours	Total
<u>All Umpires</u>	<u>Required</u>	<u>Credit</u>	<u>Req. Hours</u>
Study Groups 4 of 6	4	2 each	8
Webinar sessions 4 of 6	4	1 each	4
Scrimmage (2 games)	1	2	2
Classification Exam (required by CIF)	1	1	1

Recommended

Basic Skills Boot Camp (newer officials)	3 each
On-Field Clinic (all officials)	5

Optional Training Hours

General Meeting	2
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 to the Group Leader for an alternate training plan.**

Updated 12/1/18

2019 TENTATIVE MEETING SCHEDULE

<u>Date</u>	<u>Day Time</u>	<u>Session</u>	<u>Location</u>
Dec 1	Saturday	Registration Opens	
Dec 27	Thursday 6pm	Boot Camp Session #1	Rusch Park Gym
Jan 8	Tuesday 6pm	General Meeting	Jesuit HS (Harris Center)
Jan 10	Thursday 6pm	Boot Camp Session #2	Rusch Park Gym
Jan 14 - Feb 21	Mon-Thurs 6pm	Regional Study Groups	Various I
February		Webinars	On-line
Feb 7	Thursday 6pm	Boot Camp Session #3	Rusch Park Gym
Feb 9	Saturday 9am	On-Field Clinic Session #1	TBA
Feb 16	Saturday 9am	On-Field Clinic Session #2	TBA
Feb 18	Monday 9am	On-Field Clinic Session #3	TBA
Feb 28	Wednesday	Classification Exam Due	

Antelope High School
7801 Titan Drive
Antelope, CA 95843

Jesuit High School
1200 Jacob Lane
Carmichael, CA 95608

Rusch Park Gym
7801 Auburn Blvd.
Citrus Heights, CA 95610

Vanden High School
2951 Markley Lane
Fairfield, CA 94533