



Touching All Bases

Let's Play Ball!

Hello all!! We are moving along with the training part of the 2019 season. Hopefully you all have been able to get into the books and refresh your memory with the goal of translating that knowledge onto the field. Hope you have either started or finished your NFHS Certification Exam so you can be included in the first assignments.

Thank you to all of the volunteers who represented NCOA Softball at the league meetings!!

The third and final Boot Camp is scheduled for February 7th and is currently open for registration. Please register at bootcampregistration2019@yahoo.com. We need participants in order for these events to be successful!

For On-field clinic registration please send your preference to softball@ncoa.info. The two days scheduled for the clinics are Feb 9th at Rocklin HS and Feb 16th at Antelope HS. See the 2019 Training Schedule in this newsletter.

For election nominations please send to me email address below. The two positions which are up for election are:

Group Leader / Co Group Leader

Rating Committee - 2 slots

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

Frank Moreno
NCOA Softball Group Leader

Upcoming Events:

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

**REGISTRATION UPDATE (as of February 5, 2019): We have 94 officials registered to work the 2019 season. There are 11 others that have started but not completed the process. Please help someone else register to help our cause of providing the best possible umpiring for the players and coaches!*

***100 Point NFHS Certification Exam** - Opened Sunday, January 6, 2019 on Arbiter in the **NFHS Tier 2 Central Hub (106237) on the Testing tab.** Find Softball in the Open Tests section and have at it! The official closing date is March 31, 2019. Game assignments will start in mid-February.

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

* **On-field Training Clinics** - 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 both On-field clinics and 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.

***Live Approved Scrimmages** - Scrimmages are forthcoming and will be available for Self Assign on Arbiter on the **[NCOA Central Hub, Jorgensen Sports Service – Softball \(110796\) link under the Schedule Tab](#)** starting in February 2019. *Attendance of one approved scrimmage (2 games) is required by all umpires.*

Regional Study Groups** - Facilitated Study Groups will meet again regionally for six weeks in January – February and started the week of January 14th. ***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 dates and locations on Arbiter on the **[NCOA Central Hub, NCOA Softball North link](#)** and the newsletter.

* **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.

* **Basic Skills Boot Camps** jointly sponsored by NCOA and USA Softball Sacramento are continuing with the last Boot Camp on ***February 7th***. Only new and less experienced umpires will be registered for these Boot Camps. They are being 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.

Should you have any questions contact Neil Hillel at: ncoaump16@gmail.com.

Important News:

* Training is necessary to be certified to work CIF High School games. ***You must complete 18 hours of documented training to be certified to receive game assignments. The 18 hours is a CIF mandated requirement.***

* **Training Options** - The Training Team has adjusted training hour credits and requirements to better serve our umpires. 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.

Other News:



*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.



* 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 bringing 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.

ARTICLE 26 SOFTBALL

Constitution & Bylaws for 2018-19

Creation of CIF rules and regulations, developed and approved by member schools which all schools pledge to observe, began in

1914. This decision established an enforcement program designed to be a cooperative undertaking involving schools, leagues, sections and the State CIF working together for an improved administration of education based interscholastic athletics.

Below are portions of Article 26 (Softball) Bylaw of the CIF Sac Joaquin Section concerning the length of a game.

2600. LENGTH OF GAME

Sections are authorized to limit junior varsity softball games to seven innings or a maximum of two hours (no new inning shall begin after two hours have expired from the start of the game), whichever occurs first.

2600.1 Sac-Joaquin Section adoption of National Federation Rule 4-2-3: A game may end anytime after five innings, when a team is behind by a specified number of runs (10) and has completed its turn at bat. 2600.2 The Sac-Joaquin Section adopted a seven-inning limit or maximum of two hours for frosh-soph or JV softball game and the 10-run mercy rule in varsity softball. In non-varsity games, no inning shall start after the two-hour limit.

2600.3 A game that is called due to weather or darkness and at least five innings have been completed will be considered a regulation game.

2600.4 A game that is called due to weather or darkness and at least five innings have been completed and the score was tied at the completion of the last full inning will be considered a suspended game. The game will continue from the point of interruption at a time, date and place to be determined by the schools involved.

2600.5 A game that is called due to unnatural circumstances (i.e., sprinklers, power outages, etc.) shall be considered a suspended game and continued from the point of interruption at a time, date and place to be determined by the schools involved.

2600.6 A game that is called due to weather or darkness prior to five complete innings will be considered a no game. The entire game would be played from the beginning at a time, date and place to be determined by the schools involved.

2600.7 Sac-Joaquin Section adoption of National Federation Rule 4-2-6. The National Federation tie-breaker procedure will be used in a game that reaches the 10th inning. While using the tie-breaker, each half-inning begins by placing a runner on second base. That runner is the player in the batting order who precedes the lead off batter in that inning. Then the game proceeds a full inning or until a winner is determined in that inning.



For Your Toolbox

Article #1

Last week we introduced an article from Referee magazine email series named *Next Level Softball Umpiring*. As an official in our association you can subscribe to this 9-Week Free Email Series by logging into <https://www.referee.com/free-guides/> and signing up to receive the 9 weeks of officiating tips from Referee magazine.

Enter your name and email address (once you go to the link provided above) to start *Next Level Softball Umpiring 9-Week Free Email Series* and join the *Referee.com* email list to receive valuable tips and officiating related information.

These articles will feature:

- **Go Beyond the Basics** - Every situation in a softball game has basic requirements to officiate it correctly, but you can move beyond them. Advice and guidance can fine tune your skills, increase your accuracy and make calling any situation easier.
- We've collected **some of the best tips & techniques** we could find on every part of umpiring softball into a weekly email series that will keep you thinking softball all the way until the season begins.
- **Each week for the next 9 weeks** we'll send you softball officiating tips that won't overload you, but will make you better and more prepared for the upcoming season.

Article #2

As you are aware, the rule change pertaining to Rule 2-65-2 Intentional Walk generated great discussion in the General Meeting and is doing so in our regional study groups. With no definite consensus, this issue was sent to the State Rules Interpreter, Vince Rosse for an answer.

Here's the official ruling on the question regarding the Intentional Walk and an appeal of batting out of order.

The rule

2-65-2: Intentional Walk (Base on balls) - A request made to the umpire by the defensive coach, pitcher or catcher, for the purpose of awarding the batter first base. The request may be made prior to or during the at bat. For the purpose of an appeal:

- a. an intentional walk is considered a time at bat, therefore, an appeal of the previous play cannot be made following the intentional walk.

b. when an intentional walk is awarded by the umpire, it is considered the same as throwing a pitch.

There can be no appeal of any prior play to the intentional walk once it has been administered by the umpire. If the batter that was awarded the intentional walk batted out of order, you would be able to appeal that play as long as it is before the next pitch legal or illegal.

9. R3 occupies 3rd base with two outs. B4 hits a roller to F1, who flips the ball to F2 at the plate. R3 is ruled safe. F2 alertly fires to 1st base to retire B4 on a close play. The run scores.
10. The plate umpire may rectify any situation in which an umpire's decision that was reversed has placed either team in jeopardy.



WEEKLY QUIZ

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

1. Materials inside the bat or treatments/devices used to alter the bat specifications and/or enhance performance are prohibited and render the bat illegal.
2. Only one appeal may be made on any given runner.
3. A team's lineup card must include each starting player's first initial and last name, jersey number, position and batting order
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. Either foot may be removed first when a pitcher is removing herself from the pitching position.
7. When an improper batter becomes a runner or is put out, all outs on the play stand if the defensive team properly appeals.
8. The batter-runner is out when an infielder intentionally drops a fair fly ball with first base occupied and less than two outs.

Answers:	
1. ANS: T	REF: 1-5-1c
2. ANS: F	REF: 2-1-8
3. ANS: T	REF: 3-1-3
4. ANS: F	REF: 4-3-1g
5. ANS: F	REF: 5-1-1p
6. ANS: T	REF: 6-1-1f(3)
7. ANS: T	REF: 7-1-2 penalty 2
8. ANS: T	REF: 8-2-10
9. ANS: F	REF: 9-1-1
10. ANS: T	REF: 10-2-3m

Softball - Sacramento

2019 Training Options

Updated 12/1/18

Training Options (18 hours Required by CIF/SJS)

	# <u>Required</u>	Hours <u>Credit</u>	Total <u>Req. Hours</u>
<u>All Umpires</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 2/4/19

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 10	Thursday 6pm	Boot Camp Session #2	Rusch Park Gym
Jan 14 - Feb 21	Mon-Thurs 6:30pm	Regional Study Groups	Various Locations
Jan 15	Tuesday 6pm	General Meeting**	Jesuit HS (Harris Center)
February		Webinars	On-line
February		Scrimmages	Various
Feb 7	Thursday 6pm	Boot Camp Session #3	Rusch Park Gym
Feb 9	Saturday 9am	On-Field Clinic Session #1	Rocklin HS
Feb 16	Saturday 9am	On-Field Clinic Session #2	Antelope HS
Feb 18	Monday 9am	On-Field Clinic make-up Session #3	Antelope HS
Mar 31	Wednesday	Classification Exam Due	

****Rescheduled date**

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

Rocklin High School
6301 Victory Lane
Rocklin, CA 95765

Updated 12/09/18

2019 Study Group

Day		Location	Dates	Facilitators
Monday	Round Table Pizza 5110 Laguna Blvd., #119 Elk Grove	Elk Grove	1/14, 1/21, 1/28, 2/4, 2/11, 2/18	Kevin Okino Jack Wendell
Monday	Mel's Diner 1730 Grass Valley Hwy Auburn	Auburn	1/14, 1/21, 1/28, 2/4, 2/11, 2/18	Pete Dufour Greg Walker
Tuesday	Round Table Pizza 2345 Sunset Blvd Rocklin	Roseville/Rocklin	1/15, 1/22, 1/29, 2/5, 2/12, 2/19	Phil Perkins Gary Butler
Tuesday	Round Table Pizza 2234 Sunrise Blvd Rancho Cordova	Folsom/Cordova	1/15, 1/22, 1/29, 2/5, 2/12, 2/19	Jim Halstead Robert Morris
Wednesday	Round Table Pizza 2105 Town Center Plaza #F-180 West Sacramento	West Sacramento	1/16, 1/23, 1/30, 2/6, 2/13, 2/20	Frank Moreno
Wednesday	Round Table Pizza 4949-C Marconi Avenue Sacramento	Carmichael	1/16, 1/23, 1/30, 2/6, 2/13, 2/20	Rick Post Dennis O'Leary
Thursday	Round Table Pizza 7700 Sunrise Blvd Ste 1100 Citrus Heights	Citrus Heights	1/17, 1/24, 1/31, 2/7, 2/14, 2/21	Rudy Aguilio
Thursday	Round Table Pizza 888 Alamo Drive Vacaville	Fairfield/Vacaville	1/17, 1/24, 1/31, 2/7, 2/14, 2/21	Al Weihe Mike Goble

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

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