



Touching All Bases

Let's Play Ball!

Hello all, hope the season is going well and you have been putting the training you have received into your games. I believe most all of you have completed the necessary training hours. Please, if anything happens in a game that you have questions about please share. If I don't have an answer I will do my best to get you one. If you are reading this newsletter you are witnessing why the elections have been delayed. We thought it would be a good idea to have the candidates share some information.

We plan to have elections mid-to-late March.

It has been my pleasure and maybe a little grief serving as your Group Leader. I would like to thank all those who have volunteered their time and made an effort to help with the various training activities to help improve the umpiring in the NCOA.

I will be helping at least 1 more year with getting umpires for this year's Optimist All-Star games May 29th at Capital Christian... if interested please let me know.

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

Thanks, Frank Moreno

NCOA Softball Group Leader

Important News:

Ejection/Disqualifications

At the General Meeting at Jesuit HS and in a follow up e-mail, it was requested as directed by the CIF League Commissioners that ALL DISQUALIFICATIONS & EJECTIONS in the 2019 softball season use the form on the JSS Softball site. This form can be found on Arbiter in the **Jorgensen Sports Service – Softball (110796) link. Click on List, then click on the Forms tab.** The form is called NCOA/JSS Game Report.

*Please note: **NO other form, E-Mail or note is acceptable.*** This form must be used!



NCOA Softball Group Leadership Elections

NCOA North Softball is electing a new Group Leader and Rating Committee (2) positions for the upcoming season. These positions run for 3 years.

All of the nominees were asked to submit a short statement on why you, the group they will be serving, should vote for them. Please read each nominee's statement and vote!

Voting will be done through a Survey Monkey link that will be sent to you.

The nominees are:

Group Leader (select one)

Rudy Aguilio

Pete Dufour

Phil Perkins

Rudy Aguilio

My umpiring journey began in 2000 working recreational slow pitch with GSSA. However, I was introduced to it much earlier watching my father and uncle working fast pitch games. I would love to hang out in the umpire room and hear tales of bonds created on and off the field with men and women not just from our area, but also from across the nation.

I have always admired the role umpires play in the sport and the special skills needed to work together and succeed. What I have learned, officiating over the past 19 years, is that those skills do not come easy. I have made a conscious effort to improve my skill set through extra clinics, taking work in other regions, UIC work, leadership, volunteering, training, evaluating tasks and just sharing stories and listening. Officiating has given me the skills to be a better professional in my day job, as an IT Project Manager/Analyst, in the way I work and

the way I interact with my teams to achieve our goals.

I come from a place where being genuine to and respectful of others is paramount. Our association is a team. ALL of its members are unique and important. We are all individuals contributing to a common goal. You each bring a special skill set to our collective.

As Group Leader, I would work to put together an org structure to support a collaborative dynamic that allows each individual a role in our development as a group. At the same time, the same culture would create opportunities for the group to support each individual's personal development. I would help build an atmosphere of trust and bring a focus on quality, communication, efficiency, dedication and a positive attitude with an emphasis on teamwork.

There are some good challenges/opportunities for us in the near future, but we should also have Great Expectations. I look forward to team building with each of you and moving to the next evolution.

Pete Dufour

Many thanks to Frank and Carl for their leadership over the years!

The continued development of our existing group and the critical recruitment of new officials would be my main goals as Group Leader. I want to help YOU get better and have more fun on the ball field. I've served as the chair of the rating committee, developed the video observations at our clinics and games, created a video on pitching which has been used in some fashion ever since (Rudy included it in his great pitching webinar this year), I started the NCOA newsletter, and wrote the NCOA Umpire Guide that has provided a basis for much of our mechanics instructions in class. I began pushing for pre

and post-game meetings with our fellow umpires years ago, and now we are doing a better job of that.

I worked at the NCAA Division II level (with some Div. I) for six years and currently work with the West Coast Conference and Big West Conference helping umpires evaluate their performance. I have plans for better video training for all levels, and an off season “camp” which would also be videotaped, so we have more online training and continuity in our training program. I’d like to think we all want to grow each year. It will require some work, but if the group is up to this challenge, I’d be happy to serve as your GL.

Sincerely,

Pete

Phil Perkins

Good day NCOA membership, this is Phil Perkins, and at this time I would like to ask you for your support and vote for NCOA Softball Group Leader. As some may know, I’ve been an umpire at the NCAA, USA, and NCOA levels for some 30 plus years in the Sacramento area. I have a considerable amount of experience within the Softball world. Besides being an umpire, I played in the men’s Fast Pitch game for many years at a competitive and national level. I then moved into coaching my daughters and helped them to have successful careers. I also have been involved as an administrator and board member for some of our local leagues and associations. As well as being on the instructional staff for USA Softball of Sacramento & NCOA, I’m the UIC for the Northern California Girls Softball Association.

In my years as an NCOA member I have had the privilege to work with several very good and strong Group Leaders. I guarantee I will follow in the footsteps of those before me to be

sure that NCOA Softball continuous to grow and improve in all areas. While I will follow up on what our past and current leadership has established, I will also bring many of my own ideas to help improve the group. I will work extremely hard to be sure that each member is satisfied and confident with the group and is reaching whatever goals they may have as an umpire. I will also be more than just your leader, but also be a listener, help the group to be more cohesive, and maintain a positive outlook and high morale. And above all be sure that NCOA Softball North, is the best trained, and well-prepared groups of Umpires in the state. Thanks in advance for your support.

Sincerely

Phil Perkins

Rating Committee (select two)

Rudy Aguilio

Steve Everett

Danny Galyean

Loren Gardner

Robert Morris

Dennis O’Leary

Rudy Aguilio

See statement in Group Leader section (Group Leader position is advisory to the Rating Committee... therefore one cannot be elected to both positions)

Steve Everett

When I started umpiring in 1983, we didn't have the training that we have here in Sacramento. I went years with no one helping me to develop in to a good umpire. I want to be able to help the younger (less experienced) umpires develop. With the decreasing number of umpires, it is necessary to nurture the new umpires, so they are not intimidated and have the confidence when they take the field, so they will continue umpiring for many years to come. With the age of our current roster, we need to encourage young people to get in to the umpiring profession.

Danny Galyean

I have been with NCOA Softball for over 30 years and have been through lots of change. I feel that I can give lots of ideas to make the rating committee a better committee. I will listen to your concerns.

Thank you,

Danny Galyean

Loren Gardner

I am interested in joining the Training Committee. After working within NCOA and GSSA Softball I feel it is time to give back to softball. I have played baseball, fast pitch and slow pitch softball since I was 9 years old. It has been a blast. I started umpiring in my early 20's with Little League. I became a slow pitch umpire in SoCal around 35 to support my playing habits. When I moved to NorCal in 2006 I began working for NCOA baseball & softball, and GSSA/ASA softball. Umpiring has allowed me to "stay in the game" I enjoyed playing for so many years. It is time to give back to the organizations that have allowed me to do so. Looking forward to new adventures.

Robert Morris

Hello to all. I'm Robert Morris. Some of you know me as Rob...others, as Bob. Some of you may call me other names that I'm not certain I want to know about. Anyway, I have been nominated, along with other qualified officials, for election to the NCOA's Rating Committee.

I am and have been a member of NCOA's extended Training Leadership and Umpire Evaluation Teams. I have, also, co-chaired with Jim Halstead, our annual 6-wk Study Sessions in Rancho Cordova. I could tell you of a whole list of my accomplishments, awards and years of experience in NCOA and USA/ASA Softball, but I won't. I will leave that for someone else to say if they wish to.

What I really would like you to know about me (if you don't already) ... is that I am honest, and I am fair with all my evaluations of each umpire based solely on that particular game. I go over each item with you in our post game reviews so that you are aware of what might be in your written evaluations. There are NEVER any surprises. I have honed my craft through the years and continue to do so by working and studying hard, staying in shape and listening & adapting to positive critiques given to me by my peers. We NEVER stop learning or improving and adding to our tool belts.

I want you to vote from the heart for the person you feel will help you best improve your skills, knowledge and overall game management with their honest and fair evaluations that you can trust. If you are sincerely wanting to improve, move up to higher levels and become the most successful umpire you can be...you must be open to positive critique and honest feedback. That's where a Rating Committee Member comes in. That's their job.....to help you become your very best in officiating and achieve all your goals. We want every umpire that has the desire...to become a 100 Rated

Umpire. It just makes us all better as an association and as partners on the field of play.

Make a choice for 1 or 2 of us (whomever you decide).....But....PLEASE VOTE!!!!

Sincerely yours,

Rob/Bob Morris

Dennis O'Leary

My name is Dennis O'Leary and I am seeking a seat on the Rating Committee.

I have been an umpire for the last 30 year predominately doing fast pitch and slow pitch. The last 12 years I have umpired High School games, mostly doing varsity games. I have also been privileged to be one of the teachers for the Instructional Clinics for the last 8 years and I have taught components of the weekly pre-season classes for the last 5 years.

For the past 12 years I have seen many changes within the organization, all for the better. This Committee is one of those changes. This Committee's task is to help umpires improve their techniques and skills to provide a positive and professional experience for players, coaches and fans. I believe that I am ready to take on this challenge and feel I have much to contribute.

I have had many great mentors over my 30 years, and I recognize that without their guidance I would not be the umpire I am today. I want to pass my knowledge on to other umpires like others have done for me.

I thank you for considering me for this position.



Other News:

***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 have started.**

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

* **On-line Webinars** - Webinars have been posted on Arbiter on the **NCOA Central Hub under the Video tab.** *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.

* 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.***

RULES CORNER



* 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.

9. Fair batted balls, prevented by detached player equipment from going over the fence in flight, are four base awards.
10. A runner may leap or hurdle a defensive player who is lying on the ground.



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 worn on the batting helmet, an eye shield must be clear and permit 100 percent allowable light transmission.
2. An on-deck batter may leave the circle to avoid interfering with the catcher's opportunity to make an out.
3. A player may change to a different fielding position at any time, except the pitcher, who may only be removed and return to pitch once per inning.
4. After a dead-ball situation, the ball becomes live when it is held by the pitcher on the pitcher's plate and the umpire signals "play ball."
5. A pitcher may lick her fingers and make contact with the ball without restriction.
6. When the pitcher fails to deliver the pitch within the required timeframe, a ball is called on the batter and runners are advanced one base.
7. A penalty strike can be called if the batter delays the game by stepping out of the batter's box when the pitcher is on the pitcher's plate.
8. A batter shall not hit the ball fair or foul while either foot is touching the ground completely outside the lines of the batter's box or while touching home plate.

<u>Answers</u>	
1. ANS: T	REF: 1-6-7
2. ANS: T	REF: 2-5-3; 7-5-4
3. ANS: T	REF: 3-1-6; 3-3-2 note
4. ANS: T	REF: 5-1-4
5. ANS: F	REF: 6-2-2
6. ANS: F	REF: 6-2-3 penalty
7. ANS: T	REF: 7-2-1e; 7-3-1
8. ANS: T	REF: 7-4-8
9. ANS: T	REF: 8-4-3e penalty; 5-1-2b
10. ANS: T	REF: 8-6-10 note

Softball - Sacramento

2019 Training Options

Updated 1/1/19

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
USA Softball National School	4
USA Softball 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 Session #3	Antelope HS
Feb 28	Thursday	Registration Closes	
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