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UMPIRE NEWS

January 2022



UIC JAMES COLE



Meet Your Staff

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Welcome to 2022 and the first issue of the UIC's Monthly Newsletter. This is an opportunity for me to spread as much umpiring information from local Nor Cal and USA Softball to all our Nor Cal Umpires.

Speaking of the Commissioner, John Gouveia has retired and is enjoying the easy life now. Our new Commissioner is Dan Opperman. He is the Napa Parks and Recreation Coordinator. He is a great guy and has some fantastic plans for Nor Cal in the coming year. If you get the chance, introduce yourself to him. He is very pro umpire.

Take a look at our current staff. You will notice some Districts are missing a UIC. Some UIC's have moved, some retired and some Districts never had a local UIC. In the next couple of months Dan and I will be looking at moving/combining some cities/areas to different/new Districts. If you live in any of these areas and think this is something you might like to try, get in touch with me and we'll talk more.



This Newsletter is also a venue for you to voice your suggestions and concerns or identify any problems you might across.

Don't be afraid to let me know.
Nothing but time on my hands.



TRAINING

In Nor Cal, Training is something that never stops. Besides being a requirement for being an umpire in good standing. If you plan on moving up and doing higher level tournaments and eventually National Championships, you must stay current and at the top of your game.

At the beginning of every year training is always offered by your local Association.

All Nor Cal known Clinic dates and locations will be listed on our web site. If you can't make one of your local Clinics, you can always attend a Clinic with another Association.

For those of you who really want to advance your game skills and knowledge, we offer you the opportunity to attend a USA National Umpire School. Here you'll work closely with the USA Softball National Umpire Staff. This is a 3-day school that is well worth your time. You will definitely be a better umpire after completing the School. See page 6 for this year's school. Also, we can conduct a special onetime Clinic, anytime, anywhere if it is requested by your District Commissioner. Don't be afraid to ask.

REGISTRATION

All Nor Cal Umpires have to be Registered with USA Softball every year. If you don't get Registered, you can't work any Sanctioned games/leagues or tournaments. What does this mean for you? Simple,

[Register Now](#)

USA Softball has updated the Registration Program/Process and Nor Cal is following suit. Beginning this year all of us will have to Register Online. It's very easy. Log on, pay (by Credit Card) for your Background Check, complete your Safe Sport Training and pay your Nor Cal dues of \$65 for 2022. That's it, you are good to go. So let's get this done as soon as possible and make everyone's life easier.



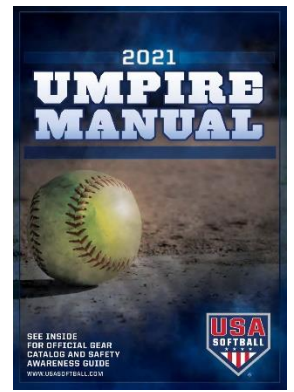
I'm sure by now that everyone has heard of Safe Sport and formed their own opinion of the program. Over the last few years, a lot of you have blamed Nor Cal Softball for forcing them to complete the training. It's time to clear the air. In late 2020, a game-changing Federal Law was passed—the [Empowering Olympic, Paralympic, and Amateur Athletes Act of 2020](#).

Then came the [Protecting Young Victims from Sexual Abuse and Safe Sport Authorization Act of 2017](#).

It defines the various forms of prohibited conduct for Participants, including the various forms of sexual, emotional, and physical abuse.

In simple terms, it means Sports Governing Bodies (USA Softball for one), must follow these guidelines to ensure the athletes safety. This is a Federal Law, not a USA Softball Law and definitely not a Nor Cal law. The most important aspect of this program is as follows: If an incident is reported and it is discovered you knew about it but didn't follow guidelines and report it to the proper people, you can be charged, arrested and jailed by the Federal Government.

So in Nor Cal, we all go on-line, do the training, cover ourselves and have a great time on the ball field. If you have any questions just ask your UIC or email me and I'll answer them.



As an Umpire we live and die by the Rules of the game. In softball, the game is constantly changing and so are the Rules. Each year we get a new Rule Book with all the changes. We also have an Umpire's Manual that provides us with the most up to date Field Mechanics and game philosophies.

Starting this year, a few procedures have changed. Nothing major, we just need to understand why and how.



We now get a new hard copy Rule Book every 2 years instead of annually. Changes in the off years come out via a PDF file which you can download and keep with your current book. The complete current Rule Book will always be available online to all Registered USA Umpires for your reference. Along with the Rule Book, the current Umpire's Manual has been online for the last few years.

This year, to get us through the transition, our Commissioner has graciously purchased 500 Rule Books for our 2022 Registered Umpires. We will see what next year brings. Once delivered, see your local UIC for your copy. You can also contact me for a book if you are having problems getting one.

Finally, the USA Softball Umpire Test. Depending on your local Association's policies/procedures you have had the opportunity to take the test a variety of ways except online. This year we are in the process of allowing you this option. Some of you may get to do this this year. Next year all of you will be testing online.

**STUDY THEM == PRACTICE THEM
MASTER THEM**

SOFTBALL

Once you start umpiring, you have a large choice of what type of games you work: Fast Pitch / Slow Pitch / Junior Olympic / Men's / Women's / Co-Ed / Seniors. Next comes where you want to work: Local City Leagues / Club Games / Local Weekend Tournaments / Out of Town Tournaments / State Championships and finally National Championships. That's a lot of opportunities to work.

In Nor Cal, selection for higher level games / tournaments and National Championships are a simple process:

- ➔ Be a member in good standing with your local Association and Nor Cal.
- ➔ Register with USA Softball every year.
- ➔ Successfully pass the Umpire Test.
- ➔ Be evaluated on field during games by a District UIC validating your skill level.
- ➔ Attend a National Umpire School every 5 Years if you want to do a National Championship.
- ➔ I then put you on my Master List of Qualified Umpires. When a slot becomes available, the top listed umpire is selected and sent to the National Championship. It's all on your shoulders on how far you wish to advance.



Appreciation

As an Association who has had up to 750 members, we wanted to recognize those who work in the trenches doing local league games day in and day out, who help out their Association whenever needed. Each year your UIC or local Director / Commissioner submit names to me. You then become a member of the National Medals Program. You receive a couple of gifts and permanent online recognition with your peers. We also pay some registration fees for every Umpire School you attend and all travel expenses for those who wish to travel/work out of the Nor Cal area.



OFFICIAL OF THE YEAR

TERRY HUSKEY



SAN CARLOS

Terry has completed 3 National Championships working the Major 16/18U Gold this year in Salem, Virginia. Along with that, Terry has attended numerous National Umpire Schools and supported the Nor Cal State Championships on a yearly basis.

Under his direction, NorCal District 1 hosted the 31st annual "Tournament for Tots" tournament the first weekend in December on the San Francisco Peninsula. This Youth Fast Pitch Softball Tournament is a benefit to raise toys and funds for First Responders Christmas toy programs in the area.

Terry first started this event in 1991 and was held as a Men's Slow Pitch Tournament until 2006. After a two-year hiatus, the tournament restarted in 2009 and has been held every year since as a Youth Fast Pitch Tournament. This year's tournament attracted 32 teams across four levels of play with teams participating in the 10U, 12U, 14U and 18U divisions.

In addition to the team entry fees, all players and coaches must provide a new toy or make a monetary donation to participate. Umpires are encouraged to donate their time to work the games while many also provide a toy for the toy-box. This year's event raised over **\$30,000** in donations and it is estimated that over **\$750,000** has been raised for children in need since this tournament was first held.

Terry continues to be a great asset to the training and success of the NorCal Umpire Program.

2022 NATIONAL UMPIRE SCHOOL



The USA Softball National School is run by a team of National Umpire staff members, who serve as the Clinicians. With a ratio of at least one Clinician per 25-30 students, each participant will receive hands-on personal instruction on both Fast Pitch and Slow Pitch umpiring including base and plate mechanics. Attendees at this USA Softball National Umpire School can expect discussions on rule changes for the upcoming 2022 season while developing and enhancing their skills with lectures and on-field drills. This year, Nor Cal will pay your Registration Fee for the School. Get your names into your UIC as soon as possible.



NATIONAL UMPIRE SCHOOL

Roseville, California

FEE: \$90

JANUARY 29-30, 2022

IMPROVE YOUR SKILLS

SCHOOL SITE
Maidu Community Center
1550 Maidu Drive
Roseville, CA 95661



HOST HOTEL
Orchid Hotel & Suites
130 N Sunrise Ave
Roseville, CA 95661

REGISTER TODAY:
WWW.USASOFTBALLSACRAMENTO.ORG
FACEBOOK.COM/USASOFTBALLSACRAMENTO

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