



## **September 2019 Plays and Clarifications**

### **From the Director of Umpires**

I want to thank all umpires who worked a National Championship this year. We have one Championship left for 2019 and our thank you includes these umpires also. If you umpired a Junior Olympic Championship or a Championship completed before September 4<sup>th</sup> your umpire evaluations have been sent out on 9/10/19 with only a few exceptions. Hopefully the new evaluation format is a helpful tool all umpires achieve their umpiring goals. If you have any suggestions on how to make the evaluation better, please let us know and we will discuss and see if it can be implemented.

We also want to thank all of you on behalf of USA Softball for the time and effort you all put into the Safe Sport Program initiated by the USOC and the United States Congress. I think we all agree we need to keep the kids away from harm and this is just one way to do so. We will update everyone on next year's requirements, if there are any, as soon as we have a better understanding of them.

We did have a few issues with rules and mechanics at our 2019 National Championships. We will be addressing them soon at both our 2019 umpire schools and camps. We will also be adding them to the Plays and Clarifications and to the Points of Emphasis in the Umpire Manual in the upcoming months.

Thank you again for all the hard work you put into your National Championships. It is because of the umpires like you that we send to National Championships, USA Softball remains the leader of Softball Championship events.

### **2020 National Umpire Schools**

The new National Umpire School agenda put together by Jim Craig and his Committee has continued to generate interest in our schools and camps. We have 6 schools scheduled for 2019 along with a Fast Pitch and a Slow Pitch Camp. The schools and camps scheduled for 2019 are:

- Region 1 USA Softball of Maine
- Region 2 USA Softball of Ohio
- Region 3 USA Softball of Tennessee
- Region 8 USA Softball of Wisconsin
- Region 9 USA Softball of Seattle
- Region 10 USA Softball of Central California
- Fast Pitch Camp USA Softball of Kentucky

- Slow Pitch Camp USA Softball of Portland

All the information will soon be posted on the web. You may also contact your State or Metro UIC or your Regional UIC for more information. Their contact information can be found on the web under the umpire tab and it is also located in the Umpire Manual, both are available at <https://www.teamusa.org/USA-Softball>.

### **Blues Across America**

Our program to recognize our umpires from League Play to Championship Play has not been as successful as we had hoped it would be. We truly believe we need to have a program to recognize our umpires that register every year, ask for no recognition and are the backbone of our umpire organization. We have had many great submissions, some of which that will be written up in our magazines such as Balls and Strikes or Inside Pitch. Some regions have had great participation by some of their State and Metro Associations and others the response not as good. We want a program that everyone can be proud to participate in and recognize their umpires in a way the umpires enjoy it. We are looking to redesign the Blues Across America or if need be designing a new program. In order to do so we need your help. Contact your Regional UIC, any Deputy Director of Umpires, or myself with any ideas or suggestions you may have. I plan to meet with the State and Metro UICs at this year 's Council Meeting and work to develop a program that you, our umpires and umpire associations want. We look forward to your ideas. To those State and Metro UIC's that are unable to attend the Council Meeting please reach out to one of individuals listed above to ensure your opinion and suggestions about this important topic are heard.