



## **December 2020 Plays and Clarifications**

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

2020 is finally coming to an end. It has been a tough year for all of us at USA Softball. We have had some umpires that were able to call some games, some umpires call a few games and a lot of umpires not even able to get on the field. We were only able to play about 25% of our National Championships. Even with all this, USA Softball and the USA Softball Umpire Program remain strong and ready to bounce back. All indications show that we will be back on the field in 2021 and back to as close to normal as we can be.

We need to begin now to prepare for 2021. When possible, attend your Local Association Training whether it is in person or virtual. It is incumbent upon us to be ready when the time comes for us to be back on the field. We know we will have rust on our mechanics and on our physical abilities to shake off, but we still can prepare and be ready when we do get on the field.

Despite the limitations of 2020 many of our Local Associations have and are moving toward some form of virtual training. We applaud their ingenuity and effort, and encourage all to embrace the challenges and keep working to move our game forward.

Finally, a thank you to all of you that have been able to stay engaged. It shows that USA Softball Umpires still lead even when times are tough.

### **National Umpire Schools**

We have started our National Umpire schools with the first held in Southern California on 12/12/2020, virtually. Thanks to the leadership of Commissioner Christina Drumm, UIC Laura Head, and staff members Mark Korras and Hal Van Ryswyk and so many others, it was a huge success. We now move on to our next school held by USA Softball of Georgia January 23, 2021, which will also be virtual. USA Softball of Minnesota has also chosen to go virtual. The rest of our schools scheduled for 2021 are posted on the USA Softball website and will be updated on any changes.

### **2021 UIC Clinic**

The preparations for the 2021 Virtual UIC Clinic are almost complete and will be announced shortly. A lot of thought and preparation is going into this first ever Virtual UIC Clinic. We feel we have put together a good program that just needs some fine tuning. This should be complete by 12/18/2020 and all the dates and times announced shortly after that. Stay tuned.

From the USA Softball National Umpire Staff, we want to wish all of you a

**Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah and Happy New Year!**