



September 2018 Plays and Clarifications

From the Director of Umpires

I want to take the time and thank all umpires that have worked a National Championship this year or are scheduled to umpire any of the few National Championships left. If you umpired a Junior Olympic Championship or a Championship completed before September 4th your umpire evaluation should have been sent out with only a few exceptions. Hopefully the new evaluation format is a help to all umpires. 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 are in the process of putting together a list of mechanics that were seen as problems in our past Championship season. Once we have these we will share with everyone. We will also tailor our teaching to try and correct any misunderstanding our umpires may have. We will discuss this at our staff meeting in OKC at the USA Softball Council meeting and put a game plan together to enhance these areas of our teaching.

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 as we have better understanding them.

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

2019 UIC Clinic

The 2019 Biennial UIC Clinic is less than five months away and the plans to make this a 'Clinic for the Ages' is underway. Our theme is "**USA SOFTBALL LEADING INTO THE FUTURE**", so come to the Clinic and help be part of that movement.

The Clinic will be held from January 31 - February 3, 2019. It will begin around 5PM on Thursday the 31st with the required Sensitivity Training, National Championship UIC training and possibly more followed by the meet and greet for all attendees. This year's Hospitality will be hosted by Region 10.

This year we will be in a new hotel and all attendees will be able to be housed at this property. It is at the Sheraton Oklahoma City, Downtown Hotel (1 N. Broadway Ave., Oklahoma City, OK,

73102) and you can contact them by calling, (405) 235-2780. You can make reservations on line at <https://starwoodmeeting.com/Book/2019UICClinic>. Room rates are \$104.00 per night plus applicable State and Local Taxes. The reservation line is now open for those who wish to make their reservation. **We have asked for a specific amount of rooms to be held for us at that price so we ask that when making a reservation only ask for the number of rooms you will need and not to reserve rooms not needed.**

The fee is the same as last year, \$185.00, and the agenda is packed. We will have six breakout sessions. The topics are

- Teaching Rules and Mechanics Interactively?
- What is Impeding, Hindering & Confusing?
- Why is Game Mgt. critical to an Umpire's success?
- Training Umpires with your evaluations?
- Why Slow Pitch & Fast Pitch Umpires are the same?
- How can we help you help your State & Local Umpire Association?

We have put together an exciting group of instructors who are already preparing for their presentations. Make your plans to attend by going on line at <https://usa.asasoftball.com/UICClinic/login.asp> and register. We are expecting another great crowd with some exciting new presentations.

2019 National Umpire Schools

The new National Umpire School agenda put together by Jim Craig and his Committee has generated a lot of new interest. We have eight (8) schools scheduled for 2019 along with a fast pitch camp. The schools are scheduled for

- Region 1 USA Softball of Rhode Island
- Region 4 USA Softball of Alabama
- Region 5 USA Softball of DFW
- Region 6 USA Softball of Michigan
- Region 7 USA Softball of Kansas City
- Region 8 USA Softball of North Dakota
- Region 9 USA Softball of Wyoming
- Region 10 USA Softball of Northern California
- Fast Pitch Camp USA Softball of Ohio

All the information will soon be posted on the web. In the meantime, contact your State or Metro UIC, or your Regional UIC for more information. Their contact information can be found on USASoftball.com under the umpire tab and located in the Umpire Manual.