



## October Plays and Clarifications

### From the Director:

For the first time since 2019 we are working on a new rule book for the 2022 season. We will be adding any new rules that are submitted, discussed, and passed at our 2021 USA Softball Council Meeting. We will be correcting anything that may be wrong in the 2020 rule book and if you have any items of concerns in the current rulebook that you feel need correcting, please let us know. Send an email to your Deputy Director of Umpires so we can review what may need to be corrected. We have done some already and soon will have a first draft of the book. So, if you see anything let us know.

The same is true for the 2022 Umpire Manual. If you have noticed anything that does not look right, please reach out to the Umpire Manual Committee Chairman Randy Sprouse. It is a large document and needs a lot of eyes looking at it. So, if you see something say something as we want the best product for our umpires.

The National Umpire Staff, as a group, will be discussing National Umpire Schools, Umpire Advanced Camp, National Championships, UIC Clinic, and many more topics. If you have any suggestions on how we can improve the USA Softball Umpire Program, please reach out. We continue to discuss, on many occasions, that we need to be better communicators, and this is one way to accomplish this. Let us know your thoughts, we will weigh the pros and cons of your suggestions for the betterment of the whole program, and let you know what we think. This is your chance to have an open discussion and share your thoughts. Again, let us know by contacting your Regional Umpire-in-Chief, Deputy Director and or the Director of Umpires.

### 2022 Fast Pitch Camp:

The 2022 Fast Pitch Camp is scheduled for June 15<sup>th</sup> – June 19<sup>th</sup> in Woodstock Georgia. Now is the time to reach out and register as we only allow 60 total students. The camp coordinator is James Edlen and can be reached by email at [james@gwinnettumpires.com](mailto:james@gwinnettumpires.com) or by phone 404-849-4634.

### 2022 National Umpire Schools

The 2022 National Umpire Schools are set. We will have schools in Region 1 Epsom New Hampshire, Region 2 Ocean City Maryland, Region 4 Oxford Alabama, Region 6 Louisville KY, Region 8, Sioux Falls SD, and Region 10 Roseville CA. We will have more information posted on the USA Softball Website soon. In the meantime, reach out to your Regional Umpire-in-Chief who has all the information you will need.

### Equipment

Rawlings has a new model bat called the Mantra. It comes with an in-knob sensor. If the sensor is not in the knob it comes with a cap that belongs in the knob. If you see a Mantra with nothing in the knob, sensor, or cap the player should be told they must have one or the other in the knob.

If they so desire, they may tape the knob to cover the entire knob so that the hole is covered. So, during bat inspection at the beginning of the game if the bat does not have the sensor, the cap or the knob is not taped to cover the knob, the bat should not be allowed to be used. If it has been compression tested and the knob does not have the sensor or the cap remove the hologram, tell the player to have knob corrected and have the bat retested. Bottom line a bat with a hollowed-out knob cannot be used unless the knob is filled with a sensor, a cap or covered with tape.