



## **December Plays and Clarifications**

### **From the Director:**

As the calendar year comes to an end and we prepare for the 2022 season, I wanted to take the opportunity to say thank you, on behalf of the entire USA Softball Umpire Staff, to all the umpires who registered with USA Softball in 2021. It is because of you that the USA Softball Umpire Program continues to cultivate the best trained umpires in the world. Because of you, everyone wants USA Softball Umpires to work their tournaments and championships whenever possible.

Those of you who work league are the backbone of our program. To those of you who also work National Championships, thank you for showing the teams why they should play in our Championships. The combinations of the two, League and Championship umpires, make us strong today and for the future.

Now is the time we need to look toward next year and who we can get to join our ranks. We need to put forth the effort to find our replacements as true leaders always do. Reach out and ask someone to become an umpire. Explain to them the why we do what we do and the enjoyment we get from it. Yes, it is hard work, but the rewards are many. It is incumbent on us to add to our ranks, so USA Softball Umpires remain on top.

Lastly, from the National Umpire Staff we wish everyone a Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays and a very Happy New Year.

### **2022 National Umpire Schools**

We held our first National Umpire School December 10<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> in Louisville Kentucky. The participation of the umpires who attended was outstanding and shows our schools still provide top tier training opportunities. Please check the USA Softball Website for the remaining 2022 National Umpire Schools starting in January. When possible, please attend and you will see why those who have attended previous schools talk about how worthwhile the schools really are.

### **2022 Rules Changes**

The 2022 USA Softball rule changes are now posted on the USA Softball website. Please go online and review the changes to start preparing for next season.

### **2022 Rule Book**

Next year we will post the 2022 USA Softball Rulebook on our website for the first time. It will be available for download and there will also be a limited number of books printed. Check with your Local Association to see if they ordered any printed books for your Association.

**MERRY CHRISTMAS HAPPY HOLIDAYS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR**