

December 29, 2013

To: St. Louis ASA Umpires
Re: 2014 News & Registration Information



Hello All!

I hope the holidays have been enjoyable and safe for everyone! I was fortunate enough to visit family this Christmas and had a wonderful time! Although I am “off from school” I have been working (along with the staff) to get ready for the upcoming 2014 Softball Season. Attached are some documents that will be referred to in this letter. Please take some time to go through this thoroughly as I’m planning to talk about several items.

Early Bird Registration will be \$60.00 again this year through March 8th. Afterwards, registration will be \$70.00. This is the same as we have done the past two years. **RETURNING St. Louis ASA Umpires – please complete the gray highlighted sections of the registration form (at minimum).** **New umpires or those who have taken a year or so off – please complete the entire form.** The attached form can be downloaded, typed using your computer, saved, and then emailed back to me, OR you may print it off and mail to me along with your registration fees. Either is acceptable. If emailing, please bring payment to one of our early ASA Clinics and make payment then.

Attached is a PDF - 2014 ASA Activity Schedule - Dec 2013 Version which contains several of the upcoming learning opportunities (clinics) hosted by either Roger Berry or myself. It also contains many of the fast pitch tournament schedules for this summer. **Umpires wanting to work leagues, continue to read for more information!** *This document is just a start, and is subject to change, so please continue to read emails as they are sent, or check out our website for the latest “News.”*

Umpires looking to work either Fast Pitch, or Slow Pitch, or Both, attached are two CALANDERS for you to use. You can print as many as needed, complete as directed, and then send it to whomever is scheduling the leagues you desire to work. *This is an AID for the coordinators who schedule, and helps them put their schedule together.* As independent contractors, you may umpire wherever you would like – PROVIDED YOU ARE REGISTERED WITH St. Louis ASA. Registration provides umpires the insurance coverage required by all of the ASA Softball Played throughout the country! If you are NOT Registered, you put yourself, your family, the association, and all those you are around in jeopardy. PLEASE be sure to register before umpiring any league or tournament play – Thank you.

ASA National Umpire Schools are held throughout the country and begin very early in the year. There are two NUS that are fairly close to St. Louis this year. Attached are both fliers containing information on the weekend schools. Also attached are two fliers for the ADVANCED FP/SP Camps held this year. The FP Camp is fairly close, and if you are serious about attending, please let me know ASAP so I can help. The ADVANCED Camps require quite an investment, and although not for everyone, are great for those who desire to really improve their skills and advance toward major championships.

The umpire staff and I met a few weeks ago to review the year and cover several topics. There were areas of concern, particularly related to my absence early last spring. I have no regrets traveling to New Zealand to umpire the ISF World Championships. It was an experience of a lifetime! Unfortunately, there were things that I was unable to get done during my absence. We have developed a plan to help reduce those concerns for this year, and I am working hard to make sure everyone will get the support they need in 2014! The association is ordering uniform items so that EVERYONE can be in uniform this summer. The ASA Rule Books should arrive by the end of January, and we will ensure EVERYONE who registers gets one! The ASA Exam will still be taken ONLINE using Register ASA, but we will allow those who need to complete the exam on paper the opportunity to do so.

The StLMSUA.com website has many updates! There are more to come, but it’s a great place for you to get started. Many of the questions umpires ask regularly are found on the site. Some notable changes are – design/content, social media, forms/documents (including NEW Non-Approved Bat List), and staffing. We have two New DUIC’s for 2014. Please be sure to welcome and congratulate Paul Jacoby and Joshua Rosenfield. Other notable staff members that help us throughout the year are Micky Cohen, Shannon Kamp, and Dianna Wozniak.

Micky Cohen and I are both available to help with your uniform needs. We’re working with Shannon to make the process of getting uniforms easier and more accurate. Should you need something this season, please be sure to contact me and we will work to see you receive it! Micky is also in charge of our fundraising events and Operation Food Search canned goods drive. Between the two events we had this year, over 2000 lbs of food was donated to OFS by our association – Thank you to all you that helped! Micky has a SUPER BOWL BOARD that is going strong. Attached are some details on it should you want to participate.

Have a great 2014 Season!

Greg Pohl



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