

**SOUTHERN ARIZONA SOFTBALL UMPIRES
WELCOME TO THE 2025 HIGH SCHOOL SOFTBALL SEASON**

THE NEW SEASON IS APPROACHING FAST, ON BEHALF OF OUR COMMISSIONER DAVE WHATTON AND YOUR ASSOCIATION COMMITTEE MEMBERS, WE ARE HAPPY TO HAVE ALL NEW AND RETURNING OFFICIALS BACK!!

This welcome letter will provide you with information on upcoming events to include details on the First Pitch meeting, scrimmages, training opportunities (Kino Games), committee members, availability, dues, and our website www.sazsua.org. Be sure to get registered early. If you have any questions about the registration process, please go to the following link. <https://sazsua.org/be-an-umpire> . Here you can find all the information about registration, fingerprint cards, uniforms, etc.

The First Pitch meeting will be held at Salpointe HS on Saturday 4 January at 10am. Please arrive early so the meeting can start on time. **ALL** officials are required to attend, and please plan on staying for the entire meeting. During this meeting we will provide rule books and other material provided by the AIA. We will also be collecting dues and providing the association with a financial report from the past year.

Association Committee members:

President – John Mertes
Vice President – *Vacant*
Past President – Chris Laplante
2 Year Member-at-Large - *Vacant*
2 Year Member-at-Large- Terri Swaney
1 Year Member-at-Large – Seth Nilson
Secretary/Treasurer - Will Heath
2-3-5 Representative - *Vacant*

As you can see there are some open positions that need to be filled, so if you are interested in becoming a committee member, please let it be known at the first pitch meeting.

Once you register, please start looking at your availability for the upcoming season. It is always important to maintain your availability on the AIA Official's Dashboard (<https://aiaonline.org/officials>). You should be visiting your availability calendar at least once a week to ensure nothing has changed. Remember you are assigned games based on your availability.

Scrimmage week is typically the week prior to the start of the regular season. Mark your calendar for Monday 10 February for an association meeting to be held at 6 pm at Colla HS (2001 West Starr Pass Blvd., Tucson, AZ 85713). This will be an opportunity to sign up for scrimmages. All officials will receive at least one scrimmage, and if you'd like to work more, please let it be known. This meeting will also be an opportunity for those that didn't

make the First Pitch meeting to get their mandatory meeting in. The season starts 26 February so make sure our availability is up to date. Another training event for the association is the Kino Games. This is an opportunity for non-certified or new officials to work games under the guidance of certified trainers without the pressure of in-season games. These games usually take place during the last 3 Saturdays in January and the first Saturday in February.

Also, during the First Pitch meeting we will be collecting membership dues of \$10.00. Some things that the dues will go towards will include the annual website maintenance fee, costs to provide refreshments at association events, support of training, etc. Any questions about the dues can be addressed during the financial report.

For up-to-date information on upcoming meetings and events please visit the SAZSUA website calendar at <https://sazsua.org/calendar> . This calendar will be updated on a regular basis.