

# **SOUTHERN ARIZONA SOFTBALL UMPIRES**

## **WELCOME TO THE 2025 HIGH SCHOOL SOFTBALL SEASON**

The 2026 Season is fast approaching. On behalf of the SAZSUA Board, we would like to welcome you to the 2026 season.

Our First pitch meeting will be held January 10<sup>th</sup>, 2026 at Salpointe Catholic High School at 9am in the cafeteria. We will have Raffles, 50/50, rule books and more. It is important that you attend the first pitch meeting or one of our 2 meetings at Cholla to meet 1 of your post season requirements.

Please make sure you are registered for the 2026 season on the AIA website. For more information about the registration process, please go to the website. Please remember if you are a new or returning umpire to check your Fingerprint card and make sure it is current. This can take a couple of weeks, so please plan accordingly. [www.sazsua.org](http://www.sazsua.org). <https://sazsua.org/be-an-umpire>. Here you can find all the information about registration, fingerprint cards, uniforms, etc.

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.

There will be no KINO games this year, but we have been contacted by numerous High School Coaches asking us to come umpire their scrimmages. We will be organizing this with board members and new and transfer umpires. We will do small groups so that we can get maximum repetitions. If you are a returning umpire that would like to be included in this, please let me know or let us know at the board meeting. This will not be counted as your scrimmage; this is replacing the kino games as a training opportunity for umpires.

### **Association Committee members:**

**President** - *John Mertes*

**Vice President** - *Charlie Miller*

**Past President** - *Chris Laplante*

**2 Year Member-at-Large** - *Marcus Janes*

**2 Year Member-at-Large** - *Terri Swaney*

**1 Year Member-at-Large** - open

**Secretary/Treasurer** - open

**2-3-5 Representative** – open

**Webmaster** - Seth Nilson (Non Voting Member)

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

The **CDO tournament** is the 26-28<sup>th</sup> of February. This is a big tourney in Southern Arizona, it features local teams and teams from the Phoenix area, New Mexico and Texas. Please make sure you update your availability when you register for the AIA so that you will be scheduled accordingly.

We have 2 tentative dates for meetings at Cholla High School, January 26<sup>th</sup>, Monday and Feb 10<sup>th</sup>, Tuesday. Both at 6pm. We will add more meetings as needed as the season approaches.

For up-to-date information on upcoming meetings and events please visit the SAZSUA website calendar at [SAZSUA Calendar](#). This calendar will be updated on a regular basis.

If you are buying new uniforms this year, please remember, this is the last year of the light blue umpire shirt and heather grey pants. The new uniform of Navy College style shirt with Charcoal pants is going into service next year exclusively. This year you may wear either uniform, but you must match your partner. If you think you will get playoff games, please note that **the NEW uniform is required for playoff games this year**. Navy ball bags and Navy hats, also, Purchase officials sells a Navy Blue AIA hat. At this time that hat is NOT acceptable for AIA games. Just a plain Navy hat.

## DO NOT BUY THIS HAT



If you have any questions, please contact me and I will try and help.