**GOLD COAST OFFICIALS’ ASSOCIATION**

Welcome to the 2024 season.

The Board of GCOA expresses our appreciation to returning umpires and offer a warm welcome to new and prospective members. We expect to support the same 12 leagues as last year.

The purpose of this letter is to inform all current, new and prospective members of our upcoming meetings, training schedule, registration requirements, and other general information. **Please read carefully.**

**The Board encourages all members to contact anyone who you think would be interested in umpiring and invite them to attend the first meeting on Monday, January 15, 2024. Furthermore, feel free to forward this information to any new and prospective members.**

If any members or prospective members have any questions or need information, feel free to contact:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| President | Tony Gazzera | 805-469-5722 | alcheapo@aol.com |
| Vice President | Jesse Steinberg | 818-854-1496 | jesse@jsitservice.com |
| Sec/Treasurer | Paul Cochet | 805-448-8418 | paulcochet@earthlink.net |
| Member at Large | Brian Ward | 805-624-2792 | ward62@aol.com |
| Assignor | Bob Cheney | 805-625-7002 | atozssa@sbcglobal.net |

**REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS**

The goal of GCOA is for all umpires to meet the qualifications of a certified umpire. However, if you choose you can be an approved umpire only. In the past, the requirement to be a registered umpire was to register with USA Softball of Southern California (“SoCal USAS”) and clear the background check. In 2021 the requirements have changed. To be a registered umpire and therefore have the ability to umpire softball games you are required to meet the following requirements:

1. Registered as an umpire with SoCal USAS;
2. Clear the background check; and
3. **Complete the required Safe Sport training**.

If you do not meet all of the above requirements you will not be allowed on the field as an umpire for GCOA.

**INTRODUCTION OF NEW MEMBERS**

**If you bring in a new member that has not been with Gold Coast Officials Association in the past you will get ½ your fee back. If you bring in 2 new members you will get your entire fee back after those umpires do 10 games or more. Or you can apply to next year’s fees.**

**KEEP UP TO DATE**

Keep up to date on all matters SoCal USAS. Subscribe today to have the latest news delivered directly to your Inbox.

Simply go to <https://www.usasoftballsocal.com> and subscribe using your name and email address.

For all SoCal USAS umpire information and regular updates, bookmark this link, <https://www.usasoftballsocal.com/umpires/>

**IMPORTANT DATES**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Open Now** | Safe Sport Training for Returning Umpires, go through your [registerusasoftball.com](https://registerusasoftball.com/Account/Login.aspx?ReturnUrl=%2fUser%2fDefault.aspx) account |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
| December TBA, 2023 | [registerusasoftball.com](https://registerusasoftball.com/Account/Login.aspx?ReturnUrl=%2fUser%2fDefault.aspx) Opens |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
| December TBA, 2023 – January 2, 2024 | Registration Fee on registerusasoftball.com  Do not try to register for USA Softball until you receive an Email from a USA Staff Member telling you registration is open | $68.00  $17.00 Background Check  $35.00 Clinic | Youth  $55.00  $20.00 Clinic |
|  |  |  |  |
| December 16th, 2023 | Umpire Clinic Western District  Oaks Christian High School  31749 La Tienda Rd  Westlake Village, CA 91362 | $35.00 | Please register for this clinic as soon as USA Registration Opens! |
|  |  |  |  |
| December 17th, 2023 | Umpire Clinic Los Angeles/South Bay  Minnie Gant Elementary School  1854 Brittan Dr  Long Beach, CA 90815 | $35.00 |  |
|  |  |  |  |
| January 3, 2024 through January 31, 2024 | Registration Fee on registerusasoftball.com | $78.00  $17.00 Background Check  $35.00 Clinic | Youth  $55.00  $20.00 Clinic |
|  |  |  |  |
| January 3, 2024 | Open Rules Exam Test Site - <https://canvas.instructure.com> |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
| **Mandatory Meeting Monday January 15, 2023** | **Pre-registration & New Members** | 6:30pm | CIC  391 South Dawson Drive Suite 1A, Camarillo California 93012 |
| **GCOA Meeting** | 7:00pm |
| * Expectations |  |
| * Assign Mentors |  |
|  |  |  |  |
| January 21 and 22, 2024 | Western District Select Tournament |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
| January 27th, 2024 | Umpire Clinic East  El Roble Intermediate School  665 N Mountain Ave  Claremont, CA 91711 | $35.00 |  |
|  |  |  |  |
| January 28th, 2024 | Umpire Clinic San Diego  Palomar Community College  1140 Mission Rd  San Marcos, CA 92069 | $35.00 |  |
|  |  |  |  |
| February 1, 2024 | Registration Fee on registerusasoftball.com | $88.00  $17.00 Background Check | Youth  $55.00 |
|  |  |  |  |
| February TBD | New GCOA Umpire On Field Training | TBD | TBD |
|  |  |  |  |
| Monday, Feb 12, 2024 | GCOA Meeting | 7:00pm | Zoom |
| * Complete the Rules Exam |  |
|  |  |  |  |
| Tuesday February 27, 2024 | Rules Test Deadline |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
| Monday March 15, 2023 |  |  | Zoom |
| GCOA Meeting   * Roundtable | 7:00pm |
|  |  |  |  |
| Tuesday March 12, 2024 | Rules Correction Deadline |  |  |
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| March 3 and 10, 2024 | Western District Select Tournament |  |  |
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| April 1, 2024 | Deadline for completion of Availability Google Form for Certified Umpires |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
| Monday April 22, 2024 | GCOA Meeting | 7:00pm | CIC  391 South Dawson Drive Suite 1A, Camarillo California 93012 |
| * Board Nominations |  |
| * Roundtable |  |
|  |  |  |  |
| Monday May 20,2024 | GCOA Meeting |  | CIC  391 South Dawson Drive Suite 1A, Camarillo California 93012 |
| * Board Elections | 6:00pm |
| * District Tournament Meeting | 7:00pm |
|  |  |  |  |
| June 14 – 16, 2024 | C District Tournament |  |  |
| June 21 – 23, 2024 | B District Tournament |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
| Jun 28 to Jun 30, 2024 | C State Tournament |  | Lancaster, CA |
| July 5 – 7 2024 | B State Tournament |  | Lancaster, CA |

**MEETINGS**

**As indicated above, the January 15, 2024, meeting is a mandatory meeting.** The purpose of this meeting is to welcome new members, assign new member mentors, communicate the expectations of the Board and other important information.

Attendance at the monthly meetings is very important as this will be the primary means of communication with you. Furthermore, these meeting are used to discuss rule and mechanics changes, interpretation and situation that may have arisen during one of your recent games.

**You must** **notify a Board Member or the Assignor if you cannot attend a meeting. The only excused absence for the monthly meeting is if you are officiating a softball game.**

**USA SOFTBALL CERTIFICATION**

In order to be considered for SoCal USAS Sanctioned Tournament during the year and in particular during the summer months, you are required to become a Certified Member Umpire. Our Tournament schedule normally starts in May. In order to become a Certified Member Umpire, you are required to:

* Attend one Annual Umpire Clinic;
* Pass an online Open Book Test;
* Complete the SafeSport training requirements;
* Complete your Availability via Google Form.

**Please Note: The Board is committed to putting the best-trained people on the field for all games. Therefore, Certified Member Umpires receive preferential assignments over Member Umpires during the regular and tournament season.**

**MEMBERSHIP FEES**

**Please be aware that you are required to be a Member Umpire with SoCal USAS** **in order to be a member of GCOA, without exception. Your Arbiter account will not be activated until there is proof of USA Softball registration.**

These are the membership fees required to receive certification for USA Softball Sanctioned Tournaments and to be scheduled for GCOA and/or SoCal USAS games.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |  |  | **Adults** | **Youth** |
|  | GCOA Membership |  | $45.00 | $40.00 |
|  | USA Softball of Southern California Membership |  | $68.00 for the period December TBA, 2023 – January 2, 2024  $78 for the period January 3, 2024 – January 31, 2024    $88 after February 1, 2024 | $55.00 |
|  | Annual Umpire Clinic Fee  **Background Check Fee** |  | $35.00  **$17.00** |  |

All indications are that registration will be opened on December 12, 2023. Go to <https://registerusasoftball.com/Account/Login.aspx?ReturnUrl=%2fUser%2fDefault.aspx> in order to register for 2024. To avoid unnecessary delays at the clinic, please register online prior to attending a clinic. Do not try to register for USA Softball until you receive an Email from a USA Staff Member telling you registration is open.

To register for GCOA:

* Complete the GCOA Registration Form, this form is only required for new members and those returning members whose basic information has changed from last year. If your basic information has changed, ensure you update Arbiter with the new information;
* Send a Check for $45 to:

Gold Coast Officials Association

4725 Ninth St., Unit #11

Carpinteria, CA 93013

Or

* Venmo $45 to gcoasoftball@gmail.com

A GCOA Registration Form is available online at GCOA.info.

**GAME FEES**

Below is the fee schedule for 2024:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | Single Umpire Game | Two Umpire Game (Per umpire) |
| Games scheduled for 1 hour 30 minutes, no new inning | $60.00 | $55.00 |
| Games scheduled to be greater than 1 hour 30 minutes but less than 2 hours, no new inning | $65.00 | $60.00 |
| Games scheduled for a full 7 innings, normally Championship Games, or has a 2 hour no new inning limit | $70.00 | $65.00 |

**A NO-SHOW or LATE ARRIVAL will cost YOU a game fee.**

**SCHEDULING / AVAILABILITY**

As in the past, GCOA will be utilizing the Arbiter web-based system. This system aids members and the assignor in managing your game assignments.

An important part of being a GCOA member is to keep your availability on Arbiter accurate at all times.

As the majority of games will be self-assigned by you through the Arbiter system, we expect a minimum number of turn-ins.

We realize that occasionally you will be unable to do a game you have assigned yourself. However, when you turn a game in a certain amount of work is required to re-assign the game and you will have to pay a re-scheduling fee. These fees for 2024 are as follows:

1. Once you assigned yourself a game on Arbiter or accepted a game assigned to you, and then turn in the game - $5.00 per game
2. Games turned in 48 hours before the day of game - $8.00 per game.
3. Games turned in day of game(s) - Game Fee(s)
4. No Show or Late Arrival at Games – Game Fee(s) for all games self-assigned or accepted for that day.

**Should you be unable to work a game you self-assigned, the only acceptable form of communication with the assignor is through a phone call. Text messages are not acceptable forms of communication with the assignor.**

**Your assignor is: Bob Cheney - (805) 625-7002**

**Do not change games with another umpire or find another umpire to do a game you want to turn in**.

Make every effort to contact the assignor before anything else. **If all else fails** only a GCOA member can cover your game.

In the event of inclement weather, it will be **YOUR** responsibility to contact the assignor or a league representative to determine the status of your games. Check Arbiter before you leave for the field for weather cancelations.

**UNIFORM AND EQUIPMENT**

We require all our umpires to be outfitted in a neat and professional manner. (It goes a long way to establishing creditability). We follow the uniform requirement of USA Softball, without exception. Therefore, you will need:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Navy Blue Hat, with a Logo |  | Black Shoes, with no white lettering |
|  | Shirt (Pullover), with a Logo |  | Mask |
|  | Ball Bag, with a Logo |  | Ball/Strike Indicator |
|  | Heather Grey Slacks, with no pleats |  | Brush |
| Chest Protector, Cup and Leg Guards are recommended – This is Fast Pitch | | | |

For returning umpires, now is the time to check your uniform and to replace your old and faded items. Uniform items can only be purchased locally, at the Annual Umpire Clinics, using the SoCal USAS or directly from USA Softball at [www.officialgear.com](http://www.officialgear.com). Using SoCal USAS will save you delivery charges and in certain cases cash will get you a 10% discount.

If you are purchasing new equipment this year we would appreciate if you would bring your old equipment to the first meeting so that our newer umpires may benefit from that equipment and save some money.

In addition, e-mail Tony Gazzera with the items you have available. An inventory will be maintained to assist members of the organization and youth umpires within the leagues we service. Ensure that you include the size of the items you have available.

**BRING THIS PACKET WITH YOU TO THE FIRST MEETING**