



January 1, 2012

Dear Fellow Georgia ASA Umpire:

I want to thank each of you for your contribution and help this past year as a member of Georgia ASA. We are a strong family and we are recognized nationally for our accomplishments on the field and as an organization. I hope you have had the opportunity to read the article about GA ASA that was in the December 2011 issue of *Balls & Strikes*. We had a great year and I look forward to the opportunities that lay ahead of us in 2012. As we enter 2012, let's begin with a review of our 2011 season.

As an organization, we were awarded many opportunities to work National Tournaments this past year. These opportunities were given to us based on our reputation nationally and the hard work each of you put in this past year. Georgia ASA had 58 umpires selected to work 2011 ASA National Championships. 100% of them received a rating of good or better. We registered 1,036 umpires and we were ranked 6th overall in the country in umpire registrations. We continue to maintain a statewide website where umpire recognition and training information is available at the touch of a button. The website is www.georgiaasa.com.

We have also gained a presence on facebook and Twitter. The addresses are listed below for your use and convenience.

facebook (www.facebook.com/GeorgiaASAumpires)

Twitter (twitter.com/GAasaUmpires).

Training and wearing the proper uniform will again be our key priority for 2012. It is of the greatest importance we take pride in our uniform and the ASA brand. Our State Clinic will be held at Emory University on January 28th with check-in starting at 8:30am. Our guest speaker will be Kevin Ryan, Supervisor of Umpires from the ASA National Office. Kevin will review the 2012 rule changes and he will update us on current events from the National Office. The cost of the state clinic is \$10. Uniforms will be available for purchase during the state clinic. Georgia ASA will be hosting a State Umpire Development School in Cumming, GA on Saturday, February 25th at Fowler Park; check-in starting at 8:00am. This school will begin at 9:00am and will be focused on umpire training in the classroom and on the ball field. We will review the umpire training videos and we will practice umpire mechanics and movement. The cost of the school is \$30 that includes a school shirt and lunch. Our Zone Clinics have been scheduled and their dates and locations can be found on our website under the training tab in the umpire section.

In 2012, the cost to be a registered umpire in ASA has increased from \$55 to \$60. This increase is due to a \$5.00 increase in insurance cost from Bollinger Insurance. The ASA National Office in Oklahoma City researched other insurance companies to compare coverage and cost vs. Bollinger Insurance. There was not another company in the market place that could match the coverage for the same price. As in the past couple of years, **background checks are required** to be registered as a Georgia ASA Umpire. These checks must be performed by ASA, no substitutions. Remember, ASA is the national governing body of softball and when it comes to softball umpires, we are the most professional and respected in the game.

To be eligible to work post-season play as an umpire in Georgia ASA, at a minimum you must meet the following requirements:

1. Attend any one of the following schools or clinics:

- A. State Clinic**
- B. State Zone Clinic**
- C. National UIC Clinic**
- D. ASA Umpire School**

2. Work at least 10 local association ASA assignments.

3. Be in good standing with Georgia ASA and the ASA National Office.

I am looking forward to seeing you at a clinic or at a school this year, and hopefully I will have the opportunity to watch or call a game with you. Thank you for your hard work and for being such an important part of Georgia ASA.

Jimmy Derrick
Georgia ASA Umpire in Chief