Umpires –

This is a reminder that the USA Softball Cincinnati Umpire Clinic is now less than two weeks away. Our 42nd annual Umpires Clinic will be Sunday, March 17 at Sycamore High School running from 9AM TO 4PM. Sycamore is located at 7400 Cornell Rd in Montgomery. Please park on the east side of the school near the athletic facilities and use the pool entrance which is at the northeast corner of the building.

Our clinic program will feature our local staff and topics will include new and difficult rules, interpretations, game management, tournament procedures, and umpire mechanics. Don't miss this great clinic and remember the **COST IS STILL INCLUDED IN YOUR REGISTRATION FEE.** High School umpires attending will receive OHSAA local meeting credit.

**For umpires in need of uniform items please email me by Friday, March 8 with a list of what you’d like to purchase and I will order it for the clinic and you can pick it up at that time. This will help you by avoiding shipping charges. A complete list of available items with prices can be found at** [**www.officialgear.com**](http://www.officialgear.com)**. Please be sure and include the quantity, size and exact item that you would like when emailing me. Send to** **asauic@fuse.net** **by March 8.**

We will also recognize umpires who participated in National Championship play or earned other special recognition in 2018. ***Remember that USA Softball offers umpires the opportunity to participate in Championship play each season. Last year our local umpires received thirty assignments to Nationals.***

Attendance is mandatory for area umpires working any USA Softball championship, sponsored tournament, or special event. The cost of the clinic is included in your registration fee and again includes your lunch.

This year’s clinic will also provide us time to review the opportunities that will come as part of our new affiliation with USA Softball of Ohio. Included among these is the first National Championship to come to the area in over forty-five years as Waterworks Park in Fairfield will host the Girls Class A 12U Eastern National Championship July 16-21.

Remember that **one thing that has changed for this year is the registration process! You can access the registration form at: http://www.usasoftballohio.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/2019-UMPIRE-APPLICATION.pdf**  **This fee is only $45 and should be paid prior to the clinic. Fees paid after the clinic will be subject to a late charge of $10. Mail your check, payable to Ohio USA Softball, to the umpire office at 3016 Ambler Drive, Cincinnati, OH 45241.** Umpires do not need to pre-register for the clinic. Note that background checks are now handled separately from the registration process this year and we will cover that procedure at the clinics. The fee is $10 and paid when the background check is ordered. All umpires working youth games must complete a mandatory USA Softball background check. No assignments to youth games will be made until the registration and background check process has been completed.

In addition to the clinic, your registration fee includes your USA Softball Rule Book, Umpire Manual, the USA Softball Comprehensive General Liability insurance coverage, Excess Medical insurance coverage, weekly rules meetings, all of our other educational programs, tests, USA Softball tournament assignments, and all the other benefits that go with being part of the world's largest organization of softball officials.

Rule Books and Umpire Registration cards will be distributed at the clinic. We will also review the new process for background checks that day.

**We also have a tremendous need for NEW UMPIRES – our class is coming up March 16 and 17 at Sycamore HS (separate room from the clinic). Please help us by getting the information to any prospects – advance registration is required and details are in the attached flyer.**

Remember that our weekly meetings continue each Monday through April 1 at Landmark Church, 1680 Glendale Milford Rd. in Evendale**. Meetings are at 7PM except for March 25 and April 1 which will be at 730PM.**

**We will be hosting the USA Softball Advanced Camp here June 19-23.** This is the only advanced camp in the country and enrollment is strictly limited to the first sixty approved applicants. Details are found at this link - <http://usasoftballcincinnati.com/2018/11/26/usa-softball-advanced-fast-pitch-camp-2/> I encourage those of you who are interested to apply now and contact me with any questions. We already have umpires registered from thirteen states so this is a great opportunity for our local umpires. The camp is limited to sixty umpires and we are over 70% full.

We are happy to have you as part of USA Softball. Our goal is to continue providing the finest training opportunities that allow you to be the best you can be. The programs available are outstanding and we are looking forward to having each of you participate to the greatest extent possible. Please email me at asauic@fuse.net or call me at 513-563-2755 with any questions or for information on any of our events.