



# COPPER STATE UMPIRES™ NEWS

## COPPERSTATE'S COMMITMENT STARTS WITH TRAINING UMPIRES

JULY 2009

### POINTS OF EMPHASIZES

- CSUA PAY POLICY

- WEB SITES

www.topchoicebaseball.com  
 www.triplecrownsports.com  
 www.azmsbl.com  
 www.azusssafastpitch.com  
 www.azaba.net  
 www.azdiamondreport.com  
 www.az511.com  
 http://radarover.com/

- STRIKE ZONE

- WATCHING THE BALL AND GLANCING AT RUNNERS

- BASE UMPIRE SPLITTING THE DIFFERENCE WITH MULTIPLE RUNNERS

## Jeff Macias Umpires Two Perfect Games

Have you ever heard of lighting striking twice in the same spot? Maybe you've heard or know of a person that has won the Powerball twice. Better yet, as a fellow umpire, have you ever heard of an umpire to umpire behind the plate for two perfect pitched games? If you haven't, you have now. Jeff Macias is that umpire. For those umpires who do not know Jeff Macias, he is one of the Arizona Umpiring Academy instructors and is currently in his 3rd year in the PCL. On Tues-

day, June 30th, Jeff had his 2nd perfect game in Colorado Springs. His 1st perfect game occurred while he was in the Texas league. According to Macias, it is believed he is the only umpire at the professional level to have ever umpired two perfect games. When asked how does it feel to be the only umpire in professional baseball to have been a part of two perfect games, Macias replied, "There have been many memories throughout my ca-

reer that I have had the pleasure to enjoy. Calling a perfect not once, but twice is almost of unthinkable to me. To be a part of history of this nature is will be one of my all-time favorites."



Jeff Macias, Minor League Umpire

## CSUA PAYROLL PROCESS



CSUA policy's for distribution of pay to umpires are the following:

### Tournaments

Checks will be distributed twice a month for umpires that were assigned tournament games. Depending on the amount of tournaments played in a month, pay checks will be printed the day following the completion of the tournament. If there are more than two tournaments a month, checks will only be processed twice for that month.

### Regular Season Games

Checks will be distributed the first day of each month for all regular season games.

Did you know you can print your schedule to verify it against your pay sheet? Click schedule, then enter date query required, the click print preview.



*"CSUA recognizes for  
"Umpire of the  
Month" all the  
umpires that have  
committed to CSUA  
for the past nine  
years. "*

# CSUA Umpire of the Month



It goes without saying it will always be difficult to select the umpire of the month. So many umpires are well deserving of this praise. With that being said, I want to personally thank each umpire that has committed to CSUA. More important, recognize all the umpires that have volunteered

their time to umpire the Tournament of Champions and All-Stars. CSUA recognizes for "Umpire of the Month" all the umpires that have committed to volunteering. It is appreciated by the leagues, fans, coaches, players, and myself.

## Connie Mack 2009 World Series

CSUA is pleased to announce that Ken Gonzalez will represent Arizona at the 2009 Connie Mack World Series in Farmington, New Mexico. This is the second year CSUA has been asked to nominate an umpire to represent Arizona in this prestige baseball event. It is with great pride that CSUA has talented umpires that deserve such recognition. Due to the hard work and commitment to umpire excellence from all CSUA umpires, CSUA has received national recognition. Ken Gonzales after being informed of his selection stated, "Thank you for the opportunity. I will not let CSUA down." We know you won't Ken. Congratulations and keep up the great work!



[www.fmtn.org/conniemack](http://www.fmtn.org/conniemack)

*Set your  
calendars for  
September  
26-27, 2009.  
CSUA will be  
hosting a  
2-day clinic*



## CSUA CLINIC

Set your calendars for September 26-27, 2009. CSUA will be hosting a 2-day clinic. This clinic is designed for new officials (never officiated) and those new umpires (some experience) who would like to brush up on their skills. If interested you can contact Mark Hratko or visit the link below for more information.

[http://www.arizonaumpiringacademy.com/csua/CSUAClinic/CSUA\\_Clinic.html](http://www.arizonaumpiringacademy.com/csua/CSUAClinic/CSUA_Clinic.html)

# Mechanics - Two Umpire System

Situation:

- Runners on first (R1) and third (R3)
- One out
- High fly ball hit down the right field line
- Right fielder catches the baseball for the second out
- R1 does not tag and stays at first base
- R3 does not legally tag up and runs down third base line toward home plate
- R3 retreats back to third when the right fielder throws to third base retiring R3

What are the proper mechanics for the both the base and plate umpire?

## Plate Umpire (PU):

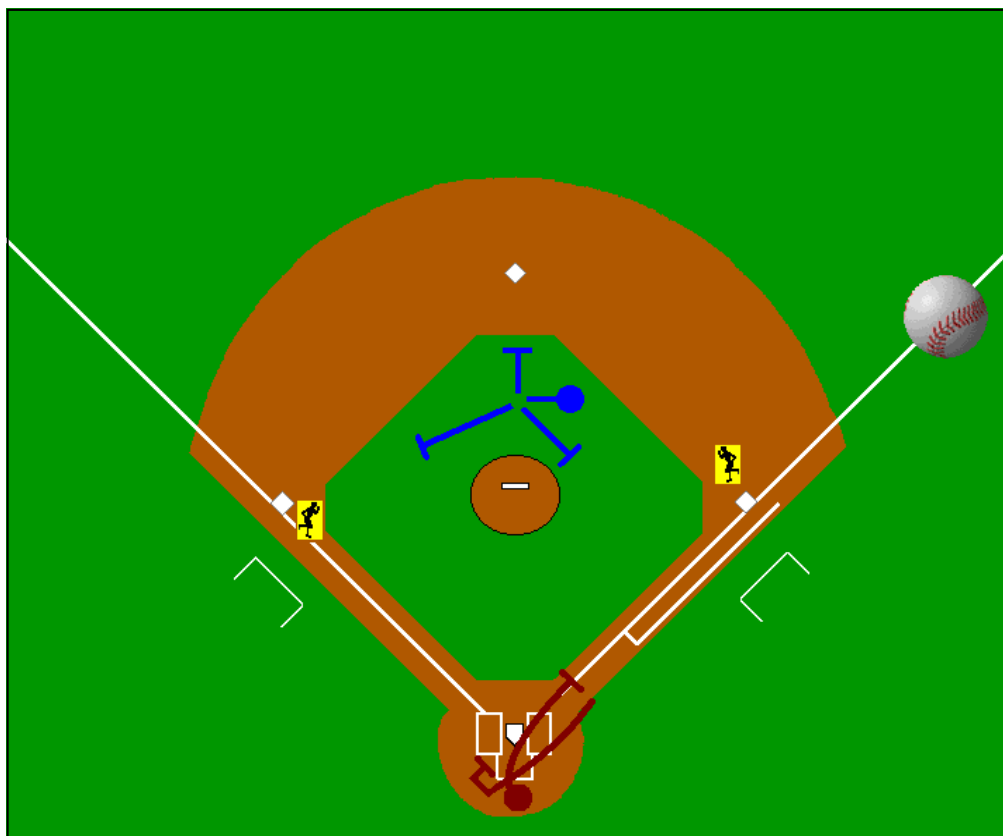
The PU has fair/foul responsibility on the fly ball down right field line. The PU Communicates with the base umpire, "I'm on the line!" This communication informs the base umpire that the plate umpire has fair/foul responsibility only, and no rotation. The PU must go up the first base foul line. The PU cannot go as far as the play will allow, as the PU has other responsibilities after the foul/fair and catch no catch. There may be a possible play at the plate with R3. The PU needs to be straddling the foul line and

be set for the fair/ foul and catch/ no catch. The next part is tricky. Once the catch is made, (ONLY AFTER A LEGAL CATCH WAS DETERMINED BY THE PU) then look at third base to see if R3 has tagged up legally or not. Many umpires tend to turn away from the catch as soon as the ball hits the glove of the fielder so they can see the tag-up. Stay with the catch and check for the tag up by R3. Once the baseball is caught and is thrown into the infield the plate umpire retreats back to home plate for any possible plays at the plate.

## Base Umpire (BU):

The BU has all responsibilities of any possible plays at all bases. The BU must keep in mind to

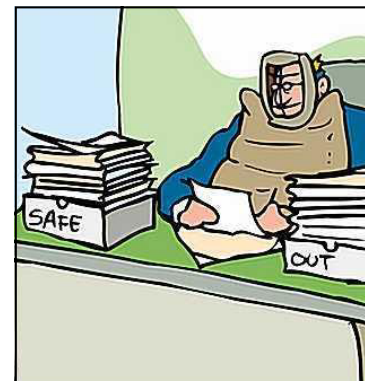
watch the ball and glance at runners during this entire play. It is extremely important that the umpires always know the status of the baseball and the runners. With multiple runners, the BU should always try to split the difference and stay in the working area. Although the tag of R3 is not the BU's responsibility, once the baseball **touches** (remember, it is not the BU responsibility for the catch/no catch) the glove of the outfielder, the BU should glance at R3 to see if R3 legally tagged. Afterward, the BU should focus back on the R1, the baseball, and R3. Once the baseball is thrown to third base, the BU must open up, keeping the chest (eyes) to the ball, and start working toward third base as shown in the diagram.



# QUIZ TIME

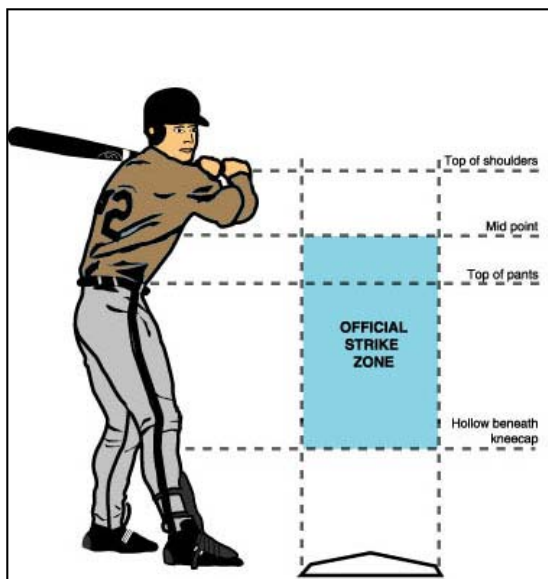
## Situation

- 0 outs
- Runners on first (R1)
- Batter hits a ground ball to the second baseman
- Second baseman fields the ball, tags the second base for the first out
- Second baseman throws the ball to first base
- The throw pulls the first baseman off the bag toward home plate
- First baseman drops the ball and picks the ball up with his bare hand
- First baseman then tags the batter runner, prior to reaching first base, with his glove (still holding the ball in his bare hand)



What's the call?

## Are You calling the Strike Zone According to the Rule Book?



The strike zone is an imaginary box above home plate, and the umpire judges whether or not a baseball has entered it. His judgment can cause controversy.

The dimensions of the strike zone vary according to the batter's height and stance. The 2004 Official Rules of Major League Baseball defines it as "that area over home plate the upper limit of which is a horizontal line at the midpoint between the top of the shoulders and the top of the uniform pants (of the batter), and the lower level is a line at the hollow beneath the knee cap."

### CSUA CONTACT INFORMATION

**Office: 623-561-7790**

**Mark Hratko's cell: 602-818-3626**

**Fax: 623-561-9837**

**E-mail: csua\_@cox.net**

There are 14 Baseball tournaments & 6 Softball tournaments planned starting 9/5 thru 12/31/2009.

#### Web Sites

[www.triplecrownsports.com](http://www.triplecrownsports.com)

[www.topchoicebaseball.com](http://www.topchoicebaseball.com)

[www.azusssafastpitch.com/](http://www.azusssafastpitch.com/)

If you are interested, but haven't responded, please do so ASAP.

# Do You Know How To Protect Yourself From Identity Theft



For the second year in a row, Arizona topped the Federal Trade Commission's list of states with the most identity-theft complaints. There's no ironclad protection that guarantees that you'll never fall victim to some form of identity theft. But there are steps you can take to protect yourself, many of which are rather simple:

**1. Destroy private records and statements.**

**2. Secure your mail.** Empty your mailbox quickly, lock it or get a P.O. box so criminals don't have a chance to snatch credit card pitches. Never mail outgoing bill payments and checks from home. They can be stolen from your mailbox and the payee's name erased with solvents. Mail them from the post office or another secure location.

**3. Safeguard your Social Security number.** Never carry your card with you, or any other card that may have your number, like a health insurance card. And don't put your number on your checks. It's the primary target for identity thieves because it gives them access to your credit report and bank accounts. (For more on protecting your Social Security number, see "[Safeguard your Social Security number.](#)")

**4. Don't leave a paper trail.** Never leave ATM, credit card or gas station receipts behind.

**5. Never let your credit card out of your sight.**

**6. Know who you're dealing with.** Whenever anyone contacts you asking for private identity or financial information, make no response other than to find out who they are, what company they represent and the reason for the call. If you think the request is legitimate, contact the company yourself and confirm what you were told before revealing any of your personal data.

**7. Take your name off marketers' hit lists.** In addition to the national [Do-Not-Call registry](#) (1-888-382-1222), you can also cut down on junk mail and opt out of credit card solicitations. For details, see Liz Weston's article, "[Free at last from telemarketing invasions.](#)"

**8. Be more defensive with personal information.** Ask salespeople and others if information such as a Social Security or drivers license number is absolutely necessary. Ask anyone who does require your Social Security number -- for instance, your insurance company -- what their privacy policy is and whether you can arrange for the organization not to share your information with anyone else.

**9. Monitor your credit report.** Obtain and thoroughly review your credit report (now available for free at [Annualcreditreport.com](#) or by calling 877-322-8228) at least once a year to look for suspicious activity. If you spot something, alert your card company or the creditor immediately. You may also want to subscribe to a credit protection service, like Experian's [CreditCheck](#), which alerts you any time a change takes place with your credit report.

**10. Review your credit card statements carefully.** Make sure you recognize the merchants, locations and purchases listed before paying the bill. If you don't need or use department-store or bank-issued credit cards, consider closing the accounts. For more on when and how to close credit card accounts, see "[Cancel a credit card --](#)

---

## Zip Code / Address Change

ZIP codes in much of Pinal County, Queen Creek, and some unincorporated areas of Maricopa County beginning July 1 are changing. If your zip code is affected, you need to change it in Arbiter and then send CSUA an email with your new Zip Code so your check will reflect the new zip code.

Any questions on zip code changes, please call USPS customer service at 1-800-275-8777

**New address?** You must change it in Arbiter and then email CSUA with your new address .