

# St. Cloud Officials Association

## Softball Communication 2024 - 2025

Tom Keller - SCOA Softball Assigner, MSHSL Softball Regional Coordinator



Greetings ADs, school staff, and section softball coordinators.

Here is a recap of the 2024 softball season:

- We assigned 706 umpires to 308 regular season games.
- We assigned 95 umpires to 42 section games.
- We visited 7 schools to discuss new rules, and appropriate interactions between players, coaches, and umpires and presented material to attempt to recruit new umpires.
- Working together to reschedule games to alternate days of the week, we could assign umpires to all but a few JV contests and one varsity contest. Thank you for using alternate days to get your games played.
- We conducted an umpire mechanics clinic in early season dome games to improve our umpire's mechanics and field movements to be in the proper position to make quality calls.
- We are proud to report that we had seven SCOA umpires selected for the MSHSL State Softball Tournament.

**Please offer any suggestions to improve our softball assigning process.**

Items I stress to our umpires are:

1. Check-in with the AD or designated representative 2 school days before the contest, confirming the contest date and game time.
2. Ask for a site representative's cell number in case of travel problems.
3. Be professional both with communication and appearance.
4. Know softball rules and apply them as written. I can defend judgment, but not a misapplied rule.
5. Allow the coach to ask questions and answer the question with appropriate rule references.

**Please offer any compliments, or items you feel we are doing well that I may be able to forward to our umpires.**

Moving forward to the 2025 softball season we will again offer to visit your schools to discuss rule changes, interactions between coaches, players, and umpires, and attempt to recruit new umpires for the future. This year I'd like to ask you to invite your player's parents to attend the recruitment meeting as we are finding many parents try umpiring after their student-athlete has completed their playing career.

