

Meet Southern California NSA's new head ump

Albert Terrazas



Story by Scott Oxarart
Photo by Mike Huffstatler

When Albert Terrazas goes to softball tournaments, he isn't necessarily focused on the game.

He's focused on the umpires, the speed of the game, the communication and the respect on the field.

After being hired as the new umpire in chief for the National Softball Association in Southern California, Terrazas's main focus will be to better those qualities for umpires in that area.

"I see a lot of problems on the field with umpire relations, player relations," Terrazas said. "I want to work on changing that."

With nearly 25 years of experience as an umpire in baseball, slow pitch and fast pitch softball, Terrazas was hired in February.

His duties include handling all complaints and questions during Southern California NSA tournaments as well as scheduling, teaching and mentoring new umpires.

The first thing he wants players and coaches to know is he will be attending every tournament he can.

He wants to be right in the action to appropriately and efficiently respond to whatever problems or questions arise.

"That's the first thing I want to do: be at every tournament," Terrazas said. "It's important to me to be a UIC that is visible at tournaments. To be there and back up the umpires and help the tournament directors do the job they are supposed to do."

Recruiting new umpires is also a big concern for Terrazas.

He plans to have necessary communication in order to attract new umpires to clinics. Terrazas said that he's always looking for new umpires.

"Communication is tough when trying to learn and get training," he said. "That's one thing I want to improve. I want to be available as much as I can to my umpires."

Terrazas got his start in 1986 when he participated in a slow-pitch softball tournament as a player.

He remembers talking with the ASA commissioner at the time in Stockton, Calif., and being introduced to Frank Cortez, who was the umpire in chief in San Joaquin County.

"(Cortez) really taught me a lot," Terrazas said. "He taught me the ins and outs of softball and I just took off from there."

Terrazas started in girls fast pitch, then switched to baseball before going to slow pitch in the mid 1990s.

From 2001 to 2009, Terrazas worked in the United States Slowpitch Softball Association, umpiring in Southern California and Arizona.

"What I really want to do is take my experience

and pass it on," he said.

Terrazas said NSA Southern California Director Armando Acosta approached him about the UIC position and after giving it some thought, he decided to apply and eventually accept the position.

"It's a very important position to me," Terrazas said. "It's something I've worked toward for a number of years. I'm very appreciative for the opportunity to do this."

When Terrazas is not at tournaments, he works in the air freight business.

He lives in Pico Rivera, Calif., but said he has a home in Arizona, too.

- Albert Terrazas was named the new umpire in chief for NSA Southern California
- Terrazas has umpired since 1986 in all levels of competitive softball.
- Terrazas got his start in Stockton, California