

## Do you still get **excited**?

For some of us the long fall and winter months have a tendency to make us forget the **excitement** we need to be successful as umpires. As I stared at the blanket of snow last week I almost **forgot** the pleasure I get when I am (was) on the field. But then, there was a knock at the door and the Fed Ex man gave me a package. What could this be? As I opened it up - it was as if the sun came out and all the snow went away. .. ***the excitement returned*** - It was the **2017 & 2018 NCAA Rule Book and Mechanics Manual**. This delivery reminded me that it is time to start the mental preparation to get ready for the 2018 season and have the re-birth of the excitement and zeal *I have for this wonderful game*.

We have to have diligence to renew our commitment every year by diving into the **Mechanics Manual and the NCAA Rule Book - both as individuals and as Umpire Associations**; the blood should start to flow, and the anticipation of calling that first pitch should be something we all look forward to doing.

**Now** is the time to re-ignite the flame that grows in us all - to be the best that we can be for the great game of college baseball.

**Here is my challenge:** *“Do you wait until the strange play happens and then guess which is the right call? Or do you prepare yourself through the diligent study of rules and mechanics to make yourself ready to make the right call?”*

I remember a line from the movie, **The Rookie** that should apply to us all as we prepare for the 2018 season: “Do you know what we get to do today, Brooksie? We get to play BASEBALL!!”

Hopefully, we all have that same kind of excitement and zeal toward becoming the best umpire we can be. **WE GET TO UMPIRE!!**