

Jim Metz



Pittsburgh, PA
Umpire Category
Inducted November 2004

Jim Metz from Pittsburgh, PA traveled to the NSA World Series in 1985 with friend and partner Mike Pascuzzi to Lexington, Kentucky and into NSA history. Little did the NSA family nor the Metz families know that from that simple beginning two things would transpire: (1) Jim Metz and Mike Pascuzzi were the first two umpires to ever step on a plane and travel to an NSA tournament other than the original 5 umpires that were sanctioned by NSA and (2) Jim Metz would umpire his way into the NSA Hall of Fame.

He was awarded the highest honor that an NSA umpire can achieve when he was awarded the prestigious Mike Pascuzzi award in 1988. The award was named in Mike's honor after Mike's death and Jim became only the 3rd recipient of this great honor, which goes to the umpire that is voted the best umpire in the NSA.

In his 20+ years as an NSA umpire Jim Metz has worked thousands of slow pitch and fast pitch games. He has worked countless State tournaments where he was chosen to work the finals countless times. Jim has worked dozens of Regional Tournaments where again, he has worked many finals. Jim has been in such demand to work World Tournaments that he's logged more air miles just to NSA events than most would log in two lifetimes. In most of those World Series, Jim was chosen to work the finals time and time again. Jim has worked the Men's Major World Series on six different occasions. Jim was selected to be part of the first crew of NSA umpires to travel to Canada and work the PIF softball tournament, which is the largest tournament in Canada. He was also selected to work the first WSL final four which was held in conjunction with the NSA. Jim has also been selected to work 5 Youth Fast Pitch World Series tournaments and 1 Youth Super World Series. Jim has worked the 35 & Over World Series, the Industrial World Series, the AA, A, B, C, D, & E World Series, the Super B, C, D & E World Series, Numerous NIT's in which Jim was selected to work the finals numerous times. Most of these tournaments Jim had to fly to. Jim Metz always paid his own airfare to these tournaments on a schoolteacher's budget. Jim retired from teaching in the inner city of Pittsburgh after 35 years of service in which all 35 years were taught in the same classroom.

No one that has ever met Jim Metz or seen him umpire has ever forgotten him. Jim has somehow touched the lives of every player that has ever played a game in which Jim was umpiring or every umpire that has worked with Jim. His game management is the stuff that legends are made of, and in his own right Jim Metz at the time of this writing is a living legend. When Jim walks onto a softball field he commands the respect of the players, but most importantly Jim Metz respects them back. With the high level of competition that Jim Metz works, he still works the league and local tournament games with distinction. Jim is a consummate professional who puts the game, the players, fellow umpires and the NSA before himself. For all that Jim Metz has given to the game of softball, softball finally got its chance to give back in November of 2004 when Jim Metz became the 6th umpire inducted into the NSA Hall of Fame.