



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: marketing@ipridesoftball.org

IPRIDE SOFTBALL ANNOUNCES MARK FIORELLO AS UMPIRE OF THE YEAR FINALIST

A DEDICATED OFFICIAL WHOSE SERVICE STRENGTHENS BOTH THE GAME AND THE LGBTQ+ SOFTBALL COMMUNITY.

Dallas, TX - August 1, 2026

International Pride Softball (iPride Softball) announced Mark Fiorello as a finalist for the 2026 iPride Umpire of the Year Award, recognizing his commitment to fair officiating, leadership, mentorship, and promoting integrity throughout the LGBTQ+ softball community.

During the 2025 season, Fiorello continued serving as an umpire while drawing on his experience as a former commissioner, player, coach, and league leader. His deep connection to the game provides a unique perspective, allowing him to approach each game with professionalism, consistency, and impartiality.

Fiorello has demonstrated exceptional conflict management skills, helping teams and officials navigate challenging situations through communication, education, and a focus on fairness. His ability to de-escalate concerns while maintaining the integrity of the game reflects the qualities of an outstanding official.

Beyond officiating, Fiorello has played a significant role in strengthening the umpire community through recruitment and mentorship. His efforts have helped develop new officials, expand the pool of trained umpires, and create additional leadership opportunities within his league.

Fiorello understands that officiating is about more than enforcing rules—it is about creating an environment where players feel respected, competition remains fair, and the spirit of the game.

About the iPride Awards

The iPride Awards recognize the volunteers and member associations whose leadership, service, and excellence strengthen International Pride Softball and the LGBTQIA2S+ community. Presented annually, the awards celebrate achievements that advance inclusion, sportsmanship, volunteerism, and community, honoring those who make a lasting impact both on and off the field.

COMPETITION. HERITAGE. INCLUSION. COMMUNITY.