TO: Divisions II and III Baseball Conference Commissioners, Directors of Athletics, Head Baseball Coaches and Senior Woman Administrators at Conferences and Institutions.

FROM: Doug Aiken
Chair
NCAA Baseball Rules Committee

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As the 2022 baseball season is underway, the Baseball Rules Committee would like to remind you of the following items on barrel compression testing (BCT):

1. **Regular-season BCT is required for all NCAA competitions during the 2022 season.** If BCT is not performed by the host institution prior to each regular season series or single date of competition, the game shall not be played. Testing at neutral site games or tournaments must occur prior to a team’s first competition. Bats that are not tested are considered illegal equipment. Rule 4.c in the 2021 and 2022 Baseball Rules Book states that during the pregame meeting, the umpire-in-chief shall receive confirmation from the head coach or his representative that playing equipment meets NCAA rules and regulations. Further, NCAA bylaws state, “Member institutions shall conduct all of their intercollegiate competition in accordance with the playing rules of the Association in all sports for which the NCAA develops playing rules.” More information is available in the Baseball Bat Testing Video and the NCAA Bat Testing Protocol, which are available on the [baseball playing rules website](#) under Bat Information.

2. **The bat testing staff** is responsible for conducting BCT at a minimum prior to the team’s first competition in each tournament, regular season series or single date of competition. Testing must be conducted by the host institution with representatives from both teams and game management present. Testing at neutral site events or tournaments, testing does not require both teams to be present for testing. Resources for the bat testing staff are included in the NCAA Bat Testing Protocol, as well as on the baseball playing rules website under Bat Information (link above). Common options for who can serve as the bat testing staff:
A team representative (e.g., coach, including volunteer or student coaches, team manager) or the on-site administrator (Rule 3.9 strongly recommends the host institution assigns game management for each game); therefore, no additional personnel would be needed.

b. A coach from another sport (often a fall sport), someone from campus recreation.
   - The rules committee noted that staffing and time commitment should be similar to the 2021 season when BCT was delayed and all other aspects of the bat testing protocol (ring test, visual inspection of the bat and confirmation that the bat is on the approved bat list, etc.) were required for Divisions II and III.

3. **If you have not yet received your BCT unit**, please review your order number and visit the link on the invoice to determine the status of delivery. The G4 SSL unit must be ordered through [www.barrelcompression.com](http://www.barrelcompression.com). Here are alternative options to perform testing prior to receiving your testing unit:

   a. Communicate with the visiting institution and request they bring their unit. Please note that it is highly recommended the visiting team always bring its unit as a backup.

   b. Borrow a testing unit from a local NAIA or NJCAA institution, who are also requiring BCT.

4. **If a BCT unit malfunctions during the testing process**, use the visiting institution’s testing unit if it is available. In the event the testing unit malfunctions, and no backup unit is available, the game may be played using only bats approved through compression testing for the team’s most recently played game or series. All bats must go through the other steps of the bat testing protocol to be permitted in play. This process is only permitted if a testing unit malfunctions and a backup is not available. This is not an option for those who have not received their testing unit.

If you have any questions about barrel compression testing, please contact Ben Brownlee (bbrownlee@ncaa.org) or Randy Bruns (rbuns11@gmail.com).

Have a great 2022 baseball season!

DA/RB:bb

cc: NCAA Baseball Rules Committee  
    NCAA Registered Baseball Umpires  
    Select NCAA Staff