



## NCAA BASEBALL BAT TESTING PROTOCOL UPDATED FEBRUARY 2023

### GENERAL PRINCIPLES

The NCAA Baseball Rules require all nonwood bats used during competition be reviewed by baseball bat testing conducted prior to each regular season series or single date of competition. A bat must satisfy all sections of the bat testing process to be compliant for competition. Bats failing any section of the testing protocol are deemed illegal for competition. The purpose of this testing is to ensure that legal equipment is used in competition. Rule 4.4.c requires that coaches confirm that their team is playing with legal equipment.

All bats used during competition must appear on the [NCAA Approved Bat List](#), pass the barrel ring test and barrel compression testing. Bat testing is required for all regular and post season NCAA competition.

### BAT TESTING PROCEDURE

Bat testing consists of three parts. The first part is a visual inspection of the bat. The second part is a ring test to verify the maximum diameter and that the barrel is not misshapen. The third part is a barrel compression test to verify the compression level in two locations on the barrel in the process described below.

#### a. Visual Inspection of the Bat

1. Ensure that the bat model appears on the approved bat list
2. Ensure the bat does not have flat spots.
3. Ensure the bat does not have audible rattle.
4. Ensure the bat does not have cracked or loose knob or end caps and attachments.  
(By NCAA rule, attachments are not permitted on the end cap or knob of the baseball bat.)

#### b. Ring Test

1. Place the bat end cap on the ground and place the bat ring over the knob letting it fall.
2. If the ring passes over the bat from gravity alone (without force), the diameter passes.
3. If the bat passes through the ring, it proceeds to barrel compression testing.
4. If the ring does not pass over the bat, the bat is unacceptable for play and is surrendered for the duration of the game/series.

#### c. Barrel Compression Test Procedure

1. **Calibrate fixture** - It is important to check the calibration of the bat testing fixture before testing occurs. To check the calibration of the device, insert the calibration cylinder (provided with the tester) just as you would a bat. Be sure to center the cylinder under the anvil. Turn the gauge until it reads "0 lbs." and pull the cam level. The compression should meet the tolerance engraved on the cylinder. If the device is not calibrated, contact the LV Sports customer service line with any questions.
2. **Barrel compression test.**
  - a. Each bat will be tested approximately six (6) inches from the end of the barrel. The bat will then be rotated 90 degrees and tested again.

- b. Bats will be tested a maximum of three times, until it receives two passing results or two failing results, whichever comes first.
- c. If after tests:
  1. The bat has two passing results, the bat will be considered approved for competition.
  2. The bat has one passing result and one failing result, the bat will be removed from the machine and be visually inspected for cracks. If no cracks are found, the bat will be tested a third time for a final result.
  3. The bat has two failing results, the bat will be considered unacceptable for play and is surrendered for the duration of the game/series.

### **IDENTIFYING APPROVED BATS**

Bats passing bat testing shall be identified as approved with a tamper proof sticker at the taper area of the bat. The taper area is the area at the bottom of the barrel, just above the handle.

- Bat stickers will be supplied by the NCAA for all rounds of the NCAA Baseball Championships (all three divisions).
  - a. Bats shall be tested prior to the first contest during a regional or super regional. Bats shall be identified as passing with the applicable round tamper proof sticker.
  - b. The tamper proof sticker shall be applied to the same location on the bat to allow a single tamper proof sticker for the applicable round to identify the bat as compliant.
  - c. Series at campus location – Bats shall be tested prior to the first game of the series. Bats shall be identified as passing by placing the opposing team's tamper proof sticker on the bat.
  - d. Single date of competition at campus or neutral location – Bats shall be tested prior to all single dates of competition at a campus or neutral site location. Bats shall be identified as passing by placing the opposing team's tamper proof sticker on the bat.
  - e. Tournament or neutral site events – Bats shall be tested prior to the first contest during a tournament or neutral site event. Bats shall be identified as passing with a tournament or event tamper proof sticker provided by the host institution or entity.
  - f. The tamper proof sticker shall be applied to the same location on the bat to allow a single tamper proof sticker for the applicable game, series or tournament shall be the prominently visible sticker to identify the bat compliant.

### **LOCATION AND TIME OF TESTING**

- a. The location for barrel testing will be determined by the host and will be communicated to participating institution(s) no less than 24 hours prior to the team's first competition.
  - Bat testing is valid through the conclusion of the event.
- b. Testing must be conducted by the host with the team representative present.
- c. Coaches or team designee will bring all bats to the testing location.
- d. Testing should not be conducted in public view or near fans/media.

### **PROCEDURE FOR FAILED BATS**

Bats that fail any part of the bat testing protocol shall be surrendered to game management and be retained for the duration of the game, series or tournament for being unacceptable for play.

### **BARREL COMPRESSION TESTING EQUIPMENT**

Barrel compression testing equipment is required to conduct barrel compression testing. It is recommended that testing equipment be purchased from Bat Testing Solutions via [www.barrelcompression.com](http://www.barrelcompression.com).

The following should be purchased:

- G4 SSL Baseball Bat Compression Testing unit (\$1,350)
- Baseball bat ring (\$100)

### **BAT STICKERS**

Bat stickers shall be made of a destructible material, so that the sticker is not transferrable from one bat to another. Bats that pass the testing protocol shall be identified with the opposing team's sticker for the single game, doubleheader or single opponent series throughout the season. Bats that pass the testing process shall be identified with the tournament/event or conference's sticker for tournament or multi-team events. The sticker shall remain visible during the contest, series or tournament.

The sticker shall be placed at the taper, the area at the bottom of the barrel, just about the handle of the bat.

### **Bats Exempt from Barrel Compression Testing**

- **Wood bats.** All wood bats are exempt from compression testing.
- **Mizuno Maxcor.** The Mizuno Maxcor model is exempt from compression testing.

### **Lowest Passing Barrel Compression Results**

- **Metal bats:** 1250 lbs.
- **Composite bats:** 1000 lbs.
- **Non-linear\*:** 800 lbs.

\*The Rawlings Quatro, Rawlings Quatro Pro, Rawlings Quatro Max, Rawlings Quatro IX and Mizuno PWR CRBN models are currently the only BBCOR models with a barrel compression approved for non-linear bats.

### **Maximum Barrel Compression Results**

- There is no maximum compression for metal and composite BBCOR baseball bats.

### **TESTING QUESTIONS**

Member institutions and conferences should contact Ben Brownlee ([bbrownlee@ncaa.org](mailto:bbrownlee@ncaa.org)) regarding questions about the NCAA bat testing process (Rule 1.12.g and Appendix G).

### **CUSTOMER SERVICE**

How to videos on how to calibrate the testing The Bat Testing Solutions staff can be reached at [www.barrelcompression.com](http://www.barrelcompression.com), and via email at [G4battesters@gmail.com](mailto:G4battesters@gmail.com).