



MEMORANDUM

April 12, 2021

VIA EMAIL

TO: Softball Conference Commissioners, Directors of Athletics, Senior Woman Administrators and Head Coaches.

FROM: Dee Abrahamson, equipment consultant
NCAA Softball Rules Committee.

SUBJECT: NCAA Approved Softball Bat List and Regular-Season Barrel Compression Testing Reminder.

NCAA Approved Softball Bat List. The most recent NCAA Approved Softball Bat List has been posted on the NCAA Softball Home Plate (www.sup.arbitersports.com) and on the NCAA playing rules website (www.ncaa.org/playingrules).

This is the final planned Approved Softball Bat List distribution for the 2020-21 academic year. Additional lists will be posted if timely information warrants, such as when a manufacturer withdraws a bat model or the results of bat testing dictate assessing strikes against and/or removing a model.

When reviewing the bat list, please note that a bat on the list with a strike(s) may be used in competition. Coaches are reminded they are responsible for legally equipping their team, and bats used in competition MUST appear on the current approved bat list. Coaches are to highlight and indicate the number of bats of each model that will be on the field or in the team area during that game on the appropriate page(s) of the bat list before providing the bat list to the umpires (and the tester at sites where barrel compression testing is performed). Bats are to be checked before every game. Any time a bat is removed from a team's possession at competition, whether through barrel compression testing or by an umpire, the Softball Noncompliant/Inappropriate Bat form must be filed. Please refer to the NCAA Softball Bat Testing and Compliance Information for a more detailed explanation of the process. The form and testing/compliance information are both available on the NCAA Softball Home Plate and NCAA playing rules websites at the links above.

Additional Critical Information.

1. Please note that per Rule 5.2.3, the tester shall ensure all bats tested are on the current NCAA Approved Softball Bat List by matching each individual bat with the corresponding model on the bat list, verifying the total number of each model, and shall follow the protocol in Appendix D of the 2020-2021 NCAA Softball Rules Book. The tester is responsible for disqualifying (i.e., not testing) any bat model that does not exactly match an approved model as documented on the provided NCAA Approved Softball Bat List.

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2. Regular-Season Barrel Compression Testing. As a reminder, due to financial challenges from COVID-19, the Softball Rules Committee and Playing Rules Oversight Panel delayed the implementation of required regular-season barrel compression testing (BCT) for Division I until January 1, 2022. This is the same date for Divisions II and III (January 1, 2022). **Please ensure your institution is prepared for regular-season BCT before January 1, 2022, which includes purchasing required equipment.** Information on BCT required equipment and protocol guidelines is available in the [NCAA Softball Bat Compliance and Testing Information](#).

Thank you in advance for your time. Please contact Dee Abrahamson at abrahamson@niu.edu for bat/equipment questions.

DA:af

cc: Ms. Carol Bruggeman
NCAA Softball Rules Committee
NCAA Registered Softball Umpires
Selected NCAA Staff Members