VIA EMAIL

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

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

SUBJECT: Updated NCAA Approved Softball Bat List and Ball Requirement Reminder.

Updated Bat List: As a result of postseason bat compliance testing, effective immediately, the Mizuno 340557 is being removed from the NCAA Approved Softball Bat List. In addition, the Mizuno 340551, Mizuno 340554 and Mizuno 340606 have been assessed strikes on the updated list. The revised list and summary document can be found on NCAA Softball Rules of the Game and the RefQuest (RQ+) website.

Scheduled approved Softball Bat List distribution dates for the 2023-24 academic year are December 11 and April 8 (the second Monday of those months) at 9 a.m. Eastern time.

When reviewing the NCAA Approved Softball Bat List, please note that a model 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.

As a reminder, softball barrel compression testing is required to be conducted at a minimum prior to the start of each tournament, series, doubleheader or game. This is a requirement for all competitions, including preseason tournaments, nonconference games, conference games and postseason.

Regardless of when barrel compression testing occurs, on-field bat inspections will be checked before every game. Every 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.

Ball Requirement for 2024 Season: The requirement to use the new ball with a maximum compression of 275-375 pounds during competition is effective with the 2024 season (January 1, 2024). This rules change was approved in Summer 2021 to standardize ball specifications with the NFHS and USA Softball.

If you have any questions about bats/equipment or the BCT required equipment/protocol, please contact me at abrahamson@niu.edu.
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August 22, 2023
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cc: Carol Bruggeman
    NCAA Softball Rules Committee
    NCAA Registered Softball Umpires
    Selected NCAA Staff Members