



MEMORANDUM

February 15, 2022

VIA EMAIL

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

FROM: Dee Abrahamson
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NCAA Softball Rules Committee

Vickie Van Kleeck
Secretary-Rules Editor
NCAA Softball Rules Committee

SUBJECT: Mandatory Softball Barrel Compression Testing (BCT) Clarifications and Reminders.

As the 2022 softball season is underway, the Softball 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 bat testing manager (see below) prior to the tournament, series, doubleheader or game, the game shall not be played. Bats that are not tested are considered illegal equipment. Rule 4.4.1.3 in the 2022 and 2023 Softball Rules Book states, "...The head coach is accountable for ensuring that all players are legally and safely equipped and properly attired." 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 NCAA Softball Bat Compliance and Testing Information, Barrel Compression Testing Tutorial and Barrel Compression Testing Flow Chart, which are all available on the [softball playing rules website](#) under NCAA bat information.
2. **The bat testing manager** is responsible for conducting BCT at a minimum prior to the team's first competition in each tournament, series, doubleheader or single game. Testing must be conducted by the host bat testing manager with the team representative present. Resources for the bat testing manager are included in the NCAA Softball Bat Compliance and Testing Information, Barrel Compression Testing Tutorial and Barrel Compression Testing Flow Chart linked above. Common options for who can serve as the bat testing manager:
 - a. A team representative (e.g., coach, including volunteer or student coaches, team manager) or the on-site administrator (Rule 4.7 requires host administration to designate an on-site administrator for each game), therefore, no additional personnel would be needed.
 - b. A coach from another sport (often a fall sport), someone from campus recreation, or a summer ball softball coach.

- c. As a last resort, umpires also can be used, however, this may require them to be compensated for being on-site earlier to ensure they are able to test bats and perform their other pregame responsibilities.
- 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. 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 or USA Softball Commissioner, who are all also requiring BCT.
 - c. In some cases, state high school associations are performing BCT at their state tournament. Borrow a testing unit from the state association or local high school.
- 4. **If a BCT unit malfunctions during the testing process**, use the visiting institution's testing unit. This is not intended to be used to challenge a failed bat result, but as an alternative should the home team's unit not work properly. In the event the testing unit malfunctions and no backup unit is available, the game may be played using only bats with the verifying sticker from the team's last competition. In this case, the umpires will reconcile the model numbers of the presented bats with the [NCAA Approved Softball Bat List](#) in addition to performing their bat inspection. The crew chief will also file a [Noncompliant/Inappropriate Bat Report](#) after the game indicating that the BCT unit malfunctioned. 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 Dee Abrahamson (abrahamson@niu.edu) or Vickie Van Kleeck (ncaasbsre@gmail.com).

Have a great 2022 softball season!

DA/VVK:af

cc: Carol Bruggeman
Divisions I, II and III Softball Conference Coordinators/Assignors
NCAA Registered Softball Umpires
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