MEMORANDUM

December 11, 2023

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

          Vickie Van Kleeck, secretary-rules editor
          NCAA Softball Rules Committee.

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

**Bat List:** The most recent NCAA Approved Softball Bat List has been posted on [NCAA Softball Rules of the Game](https://www.ncaa.org) and the [RefQuest (RQ+) website](https://refquest.com). The other planned Approved Softball Bat List distribution date for the 2023-24 academic year is April 8 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 all tournaments, nonconference games, conference games and postseason.

Regardless of when barrel compression testing occurs, on-field bat inspections will be conducted by umpires 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](https://www.ncaa.org) must be filed. Please refer to the [NCAA Softball Bat Testing and Compliance Information](https://www.ncaa.org) for a more detailed explanation of the process.

**Ball Requirement for 2024 Season:** The requirement to use the new ball with a 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.

DA:af
cc: Carol Bruggeman
    NCAA Softball Rules Committee
    NCAA Registered Softball Umpires
    Selected NCAA Staff Members