NCAA SOFTBALL BAT COMPLIANCE

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Batology Presentation
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**REASONS TO REGULATE BATS**

- Protect the integrity of the game and credibility to its participants.
- Assure fair and equitable competition between teams.
- Maintain the balance of offense and defense.
- Regulate the defender’s available reaction time.
- Ensure performance is a result of player’s skill more than of her equipment.
OVERVIEW OF THE NCAA SOFTBALL

BATTING COMPLIANCE PROGRAM

Bat is USA Softball certified & on NCAA Approved Softball Bat List

Barrel Compression Testing

On-field Inspection

Lab Testing

Responsibilities:
- Coach responsibility every day
- Admin responsibility prior to competition
- Umpire responsibility every game
- NSRC responsibility selected bats
PRIOR TO THE START OF THE SEASON, HOST ADMINISTRATIONS MUST SECURE A BCT FIXTURE AND HAVE PLANS FOR EVERY COMPETITION OTHER THAN THOSE USING NCAA ASSIGNED BAT TESTING MANAGERS.

Individual conferences and tournaments must establish protocols to include, at a minimum...

- Source of distinctive stickers to indicate bats have passed BCT;
- The disposition of bats surrendered following BCT failure;
- And when, where and by whom BCT will be performed.
STICKER PLANS

Stickers for single-opponent competitions are typically provided by each team as each places its stickers on the passed bats of their opponent.

Tournament hosts should provide stickers distinctive to the event and secure them from all teams. Alternatively, they may inform competing teams they will be responsible for providing stickers for their opponents.
NCAA APPROVED SOFTBALL BAT LIST

December 13, 2021

NCAAAPPROVED Softball Bat List

Planned postings of the NCAA Approved Bat List are the 2nd Monday in July, December and April; additional lists will post when needed(s) must be removed.

Information new to the list is noted in blue font.

Summary of strikes assessed to models currently on the NCAA Approved Softball Bat List:

1 strike each: Demarini CFT34-19 and CFP-18
2 strikes each: Demarini CFT19 and CFP1A-18

Bat models listed herein are placed on the list by the manufacturer because the manufacturer believes them to be appropriate to the collegiate fastpitch game and in compliance with the NCAA Softball Playing Rules and batted ball exit speed standard of less than 98 mph. Placement of bats on the NCAA Approved Softball Bat List does not guarantee, or otherwise mean, compliance with USA Softball/NCAA standards. Such placement is based on manufacturers' representations that they do so comply, and institutions take on the risk that bats may not so comply. Manufacturers are responsible for, and liable for, any damages resulting from, any misrepresentations associated with the same.

ALL BATS WHICH ARE BARREL COMPRESSION TESTED MUST MEET A MINIMUM OF 1550PSI EXCEPT THE FOLLOWING WHICH ARE NOTED ON THE APPROPRIATE LINES AND PAGES OF THE CURRENT NCAA APPROVED SOFTBALL BAT LIST:

*Demarini Models
  *Prism (PZI-20 & 21, PZI-18, PZF-19, 20 & 21) -1200psi minimum
  **Easton Models
  **Ghost FP21GH, FP21GH & GHOST series & FP20GHCS10, FP20GHCN10, FP21GHADGLOD -1000psi minimum and
  **Easton Specific Models
  **Pwr CRBN (340471, 340473, 340497, 340527, 340528, 340529, 350551, 340552 & 340553) -1400psi minimum
  ****Pwr CRBN (340471, 340473, 340497, 340527, 340528, 340529, 350551, 340552 & 340553) -1400psi minimum

WHenever BCT OCCURS, THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION IS NEEDED:

Bat Testing Manager Printed Name
Sticker Color
# Passed Bats
# Failed Bats
Day Two Manager Name
Sticker Color
# Passed Bats
# Failed Bats
Day Three Manager Name
Sticker Color
# Passed Bats
# Failed Bats
Failed bat summaries:
Manufacturer
Model #
# units
Date
Manufacturer
Model #
# units
Date
Manufacturer
Model #
# units
Date

Failed bats MUST be reported via the Noncompliant/inappropriate Bat Report found under the Forms tab of the sup.ArbiterSports.com website.

FOR ALL COMPETITION:

Model numbers on the list must exactly match the approved model numbers on this list; color definitions are for user convenience only.

Bat models available for use must be highlighted and the appropriate number available must be placed in the relevant game column.

This first page and whichever pages are relevant MUST be provided for bat testing and on-field inspection by umpires.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sticker game 1</th>
<th>game 2</th>
<th>game 3</th>
<th>Anderson model(s)</th>
<th>BCT minimum model name</th>
<th>shell color</th>
<th>stencil color</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>017005</td>
<td>1550</td>
<td>1550</td>
<td>RocketTech FP</td>
<td>red tape/blue barrel</td>
<td>instigator</td>
<td>black/white</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>017007</td>
<td>1550</td>
<td>1550</td>
<td>RocketTech FP</td>
<td>red tape/silver barrel</td>
<td>black/white</td>
<td>black/white</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>017011</td>
<td>1550</td>
<td>1550</td>
<td>RocketTech FP</td>
<td>blue tape/red barrel</td>
<td>blue/white</td>
<td>black/white</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Barrel compression testing is a simple predictor of bat performance.

In general, a reading of 1550 pounds per square inch (psi) is the minimum standard because it correlates to the maximum allowable batted ball speed of 98mph.

However there are approved lower minimums for “backstop style” models as noted on the NCAA Approved Softball Bat List.
**PREP BY COACHES**

PRESENT EVERY BAT
Bats without the appropriate sticker will not be allowed in team areas.

ANNOTATED BAT LIST
Highlight the models presented and indicate the number of each that will be tested.

LINE UP BATS
Arrange the bats in the order in which they appear on the NCAA Approved Softball Bat List.

**PREP BY TESTERS**

LOCATE ALL TESTING MATERIALS
Case with fixture, cylinder, stop stick plus tape and pen to identify failures and stickers. If applicable- postseason notebook with log sheets.

CALIBRATION TRIAL
Insert and compress cylinder to confirm reading matches the load printed on it.

STOP STICK
Insert stop stick from preferred side until it is flush with far side then tighten set screw.
THE PROCESS

VERIFY BAT MODELS
Model numbers on the bat must exactly match those on the list.

DISQUALIFY OBVIOUS DAMAGE
Don’t waste your time testing obviously damaged bats.

COMPRESSION TEST
Test until the bat passes or fails twice, whichever happens first.

FOLLOW-UP
Sticker bats that pass; retain failures and delete them from bat list.
VERIFY BAT MODELS

Using the coach-provided NCAA Approved Softball Bat List, the model numbers on the bats must exactly match.

Disqualify those bats that do not match the list or are illegible.

The number of bats of each model are totaled and the bat testing manager completes the paperwork.
DISQUALIFY DAMAGED BATS even though umpires will check each bat for suitability prior to each game.
COMPRESSION TEST PROCESS

1. Insert bat into chamber until it stops at stop stick.
2. Place the cylinder under the handle so the bat remains level.
3. Making sure the lever is pointed down, turn the pressure gauge until it reads exactly 500 psi (called preload).
4. Lift the handle and make a mental note of the reading before releasing the lever. Release the pressure.
5. Rotate the bat 90 degrees and retest. If a third test is needed, rotate the bat 45 degrees for the final test.
BACKSTOP STYLE BATS HAVE SPECIFIC PSI MINIMUMS NOTED ON THE APPROPRIATE PAGES AND SUMMARIZED ON THE FIRST PAGE OF THE CURRENT NCAA APPROVED SOFTBALL BAT LIST…
BATS THAT PASS ARE STICKERED...

- Stickers must be distinctive for a single round of testing;
- Placed at end of grip and on top of existing ones;
- Secured to ensure stickers cannot be moved to untested bats;
- Destructible;
Amend number of bats on provided paperwork;

mark bat with school name on provided tape and secure bat with OSA;

know in advance and follow appropriate policy for bat’s disposition.

BATS THAT FAIL ARE DISQUALIFIED…

NEVER REPEAT TEST;
NCAA POSTSEASON TESTING NOTES

- The postseason notebook contains:
  - detailed BCT fixture set-up information;
  - responsibilities of coaches;
  - responsibilities of NCAA site representative and host tournament director;
  - log sheets for each team;
  - daily stickers envelope; and
  - a return ship label.

Host tournament director is responsible for return shipping failed bats and notebook with the unused stickers and all the completed log sheets.
FINAL TIPS:

Because BCT has occurred prior to the pre-game inspection, umpires need only match the total number of bats annotated on the NCAA Approved Softball Bat List with the number of stickered bats. If the numbers do not match, a traditional reconciliation of the individual models on the NCAA Approved Softball Bat List with the actual bats is required.

In addition to verifying the correct number of appropriate bats, umpires are responsible for checking all bats for damage.

Noncompliant/Inappropriate Bat Reports are required for all bats disqualified for damage at each pre-game inspection and for those failing in-season barrel compression testing. In the post season, bats failing BCT need only be noted on the log sheet.
Mandatory NCAA On-Site Portable Barrel Compression Testing (BCT)

1. In advance of season-Obtain portable BCT fixture; Procure stickers distinct by team or by event; Create and communicate testing plans including frequency, time and location for testing and disposition of failed bats for both conference and non-conference competitions. In addition, create contingency plans to ensure testing will occur...for example, back-up fixture (perhaps asking visiting team to travel theirs), more than one person trained to be the bat testing manager, extra stickers in case visitors forget theirs.

2. Highlight and enter numbers of each model on the NCAA Approved Softball Bat List. Bring team stickers for opponent's bats (if applicable). Attend BCT at the predetermined time. Arrange bats in bat list order. If applicable, place team stickers on opponent's passed bats Following testing, retrieve team's list and bats.

3. Secure failed bats from the bat testing manager, securing them until team departs.

4. Obtain disqualified bats from the umpires, securing them until team departs.

5. Request BCT failed bats (in-season only) and those removed for damage from the on-site administrator when departing the facility for the final time.

6. In the event one or both teams has no bats passing BCT and therefore stickered, call the head coaches together to inform them the game will not be played.

7. Following the game, complete the electronic Noncompliant/Inappropriate Bat form for bats disqualified for damage.
THANK YOU!

For more detailed documentation, visit SUP.ArbiterSports.com to access “NCAA Softball Bat COMPLIANCE and Testing INFORMATION”.

For questions regarding the BCT fixture, visit www.barrelcompression.com.

For questions regarding NCAA Bat Testing, contact Dee Abrahamson at Abrahamson@niu.edu or 815-751-2648.