

## BAT POLICY

**BAT POLICY and STANDARDS – the GTC SPL & RCMSPL will continue to administer bat compression testing. Any bat that is to be used in game play will be tested and a tracking sticker will be adhered to the bat. All bats are subject to compression testing regardless of year, make or model.**

**NON-Approved Bats – ANY bat made by the JAK'D manufacturer is not legal for play.**

**Approved Bats** - To be eligible for GTC SPL, RCMSPL and SPO play, all bats must be approved by SPO. As a result of our discussions with the various softball associations, bat manufacturers and of course, the players it is felt that the most acceptable policy for our players is to use the United States Specialty Sports Association (USSSA) bat policy. In addition, to maintain a competitive balance, these bats will be used with an appropriate ball as prescribed by SPO.

**The GTC SPL and RCMSPL will follow the USSSA Bat Certification Program.**

<http://www.ussa.com/slowpitch/slowpitch-bat-ball-equipment-info>

<http://web.ussa.com/ussa/ussa-general/SoftballBatMarks.pdf>

<http://web.ussa.com/ussa/ussa-general/LicensedEquipmentBatandBallRuleseff12-18-11.pdf>

**Reminder:** If you buy a new model bat, make sure it has the "USSSA BPF 1.20" finger print mark on it. Make sure you know where your new "legal looking" bat has come from. Some illegal bats are being repainted and sold as "legal" bats. These bats can be dangerous and if someone was injured by one of these altered bats you, the batter, and the person repainting/selling it, are liable and any liability insurance you have would be null and void. Ignorance of where the bat came from or that it had been altered is not an excuse. This also means you should be careful when borrowing a teammate's bat unless you know for sure it is a legal bat. SPO will deal very harshly with anyone discovered using such a bat. Note that Bats with multiple standards listed must meet all the requirements of each of these standards.

**What are the sanctions for having an altered bat?**

**1st offence - The player will be suspended for a minimum of two (2) years.**

**2nd offence - The player will receive a life suspension. All team members will receive a minimum of one (1) year suspension.**

**SPO reserves the right to revise this policy as necessary.**

Only composite bats on the USSSA Licensed / Approved bat list are legal for use. To be legal they must be marked with the new mark. Wood bats or aluminum bats with a visible USSSA BPF 1.20 logo are legal provided they contain one of the ASA logos mentioned. The finger print logo is located on the taper of the barrel and is shown in the following pages.

NOTE: In addition, previously accepted ASA bats may still be legal for use if they contain the ASA 2000 or 2004 stamp (shown next) AND comply with the updated ISF banned list. While most ASA bats are still approved for play there are some ISF standards that have expired and those bats are no longer legal. See ISF standard list on the following pages. Any bat that contains the new 2013 ASA stamp MUST ALSO have the new USSSA stamp. If the bat only contains the ASA 2013 stamp (as shown next) then it is NOT legal for play.

The ISF Playing Rules Commission adopted bat certification standards effective January 1, 2002. Currently, the (ASTM F2219) high-speed batted ball test (100 mph) is used for determining bats allowed to be used in ISF World Championships, World Cups and the Olympic Games. Also included are the qualifying tournaments for both the World Championships and the Olympics.

**August 31, 2008 marked the end of the period during which bats that complied with the previous ISF bat performance standard (1.20 BPF) were permitted to be used in ISF play. Bats containing the ISF 1.20 BPF stamp are NOT permitted in ISF play. All bats must contain the ISF 2005 bat stamp.**



Manufacturers that currently participate in the bat certification program are: Anderson Bats, Baden, Boombah, Combat, Dirty South Bats, Dudley, DeMarini, Easton, Louisville Slugger, Miken, Mizuno, Pure Sports Tech, Rawlings, Wilson, and Worth.

The following companies are listed, however, they have dropped out of the program, so their bats will expire five years from the date that is listed (model-by-model) as when it was added as certified: Baden Sports and Rawlings.

Any Albin, Nike, Rip-It, or Schutt bat previously ISF certified has expired, so, no bats from either of those companies are permitted in ISF play.

<http://www.wbasc.org/softball-bat-list/>

SPO, with the purchase of bat testing machines, has developed a strict [Bat Testing Policy](#) to restrict the use of altered/illegal bats.

**Note: (Sanctioned league/tournament play) Any batter, after entering the batter's box, discovered using an altered/illegal or non-approved bat is immediately ejected and suspended for the rest of the game/tournament. In addition, there will be a review by the League Disciplinary Committee.**

**A second offence will result in a minimum one year suspension. The League and any Affiliation will deal very harshly with anyone discovered using such a bat.**



**- Legal as per previous ASA/SPO Guidelines**



-Legal ONLY IF accompanied by Finger Print

## **USSSA** *FINGER PRINT*

