

Lausanne, 16 January 2018

Subject: *Bulletin #3, Softball Bat Testing Protocol*

The WBSC has set the following criteria for a bat to be permitted to be used in a WBSC World Championship or sanctioned event:

1. Must be stamped with the 2005 ISF Certified Logo.

NO OTHER LOGO WILL BE ACCEPTED.



2. Must be on the WBSC Approved Bat List
3. Must pass the WBSC Compression test.

At a WBSC World Championship or sanctioned event, the following protocol will be followed when approving bats for use:

1. When a bat is presented for bat testing, the testing team shall first check the bat for the 2005 ISF certified Logo.
 - a. If the 2005 Logo is found the bat will be processed further.
 - b. If the 2005 Logo is not found, the bat will be returned to the team with the advice that the bat may not be used however if it can be established that the logo is worn off or missing due to manufacturer error the bat will be processed further under the Protocol.
2. If the logo is located on the bat or if it is established that it was worn off or missing, the testing team shall search the Approved Bat List under the manufacturer's name for the make and model number of the bat.
 - a. If the bat is found on the Approved Bat List the bat will continue to be processed under this Protocol.

- b. If the bat is not found on the Approved Bat List, the bat will be returned to the team. The testing team will note the manufacturer's name and the make and model number of the bat and take a picture of the bat if possible. The testing team will contact the WBSC office and ask that they check with the manufacturer to see if the bat should be on the Approved Bat List. If the bat is added to the Approved Bat List it will be further processed under this Protocol.
3. Bats that have been found to be on the Approved Bat List will be bat ring tested and physically checked to ensure that the bat has no rattles, burrs or any other non-compliance with the Official Bat specification as described in Appendix 2.
 - a. Bats that pass the physical inspection shall be further processed under this Protocol.
 - b. Bats that do not pass the physical inspections shall be returned to the team for repairs or for storage.
4. Bats that have passed the physical inspection will undergo a compression test using the bat compression tester as seen in the figure below



Bats must meet or exceed the compression level set for that particular type of bat. The compression benchmark for approved bats is 1460 PSI, unless the bat is of non-linear construction in which case the compression shall be the benchmark established for that make and model of bat. The benchmark for non-linear bats may be obtained from the USA Softball Website or the WBSC Approved Bat List. A non-linear bat is a bat whose structure deviates from the traditional single wall, multi wall and/or layered composite designs.

The compression test shall be carried out as follows.

1. The compression tester's calibration will be checked at the start of each testing session and the tester must be within 100 PSI of the calibration standard of 2000 PSI.
2. A bat shall be inserted into the test as far as the stop guide will allow. The bat shall not touch the sides of the tested and shall be held level. With the bat in

the tester, the tester will be pre-loaded to 500 PSI. During the pre-load the lever must be held in the down position. Once the tester is pre-loaded, the lever shall be lifted smoothly ensuring that the operator's hands are not touching the moving silver portions of the machine.

- a. If the bat compression reading is equal to or reads higher than the benchmark for that bat, the bat shall be considered to have passed and a tournament sticker will be applied to the bat in a clean area on the bat. All other stickers should first be removed.
- b. If the bat compression reading is below but close to the benchmark, the bat should be turned a quarter turn and re-tested.
- c. If the bat compression reading is below the benchmark for that bat, the bat will be considered to have failed and shall be returned to the team with the instruction that the bat has failed the compression test and may not be used. The team shall be told the compression reading. A team may request that the bat be retested in their presence.