



MEMORANDUM

July 12, 2021

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 Softball Comment Period on Playing Rule Proposals, Mandatory Barrel Compression Testing Information and Latest Approved Softball Bat List.

The Softball Rules Committee would like to update the membership on a few important items as we approach the 2021-22 academic year:

1. Rules Comment Period. Commissioners, directors of athletics and head softball coaches should have received an email from rulesinterp@ncaa.org on July 6 with instructions to provide feedback on the 17 rules proposals recommended by the Softball Rules Committee for the 2022 and 2023 seasons. Please provide your feedback on the proposals by July 20. If you have any questions about the comment period or did not receive the email (please check your junk/spam), please contact Bri Rigney from the NCAA staff at brrigney@ncaa.org.
2. Mandatory Regular-Season Barrel Compression Testing (BCT). As a reminder, regular-season BCT will be required for all NCAA competitions beginning January 1, 2022. This necessitates purchasing the required equipment, including the G4 SSL NCAA Softball Bat Compression Testing unit available at www.barrelcompression.com and a sufficient number of destructible bat stickers. Please note, the NCAA softball testing unit differs from both the NCAA baseball testing unit and the USSSA softball testing unit. Information on BCT required equipment and protocol guidelines is available in the [NCAA Softball Bat Compliance and Testing Information](#). If you have any questions about the BCT required equipment or protocol guidelines, please contact Dee Abrahamson at abrahamson@niu.edu.
3. Bat List. The first NCAA Approved Softball Bat List for the upcoming 2021-22 academic year has been posted on the NCAA Softball Home Plate at www.sup.arbitersports.com and on [NCAA Softball Rules of the Game](#).

Approved Softball Bat List distribution dates for the 2021-22 academic year are December 13 and April 11 (the second Monday of those months) at 9 a.m. Eastern time. Additional lists will

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be posted if timely information warrants, such as when a manufacturer withdraws a bat model or the results of bat testing dictate assessing strikes against and/or removing a model.

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. Regardless of when barrel compression testing occurs, on-field bat inspections will be checked before every game. Any 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 must be filed. Please refer to the NCAA Softball Bat Testing and Compliance Information for a more detailed explanation of the process. The form and testing/compliance information are both available on the NCAA Softball Home Plate and NCAA playing rules websites at the links above. If you have any bat/equipment questions, please contact Dee Abrahamson at abrahamson@niu.edu.

Thank you in advance for your time. Please contact the appropriate person listed above for questions.

DA/VVK:af

cc: Ms. Carol Bruggeman
NCAA Softball Rules Committee
NCAA Registered Softball Umpires
Selected NCAA Staff Members