

## Updated: For 2016 Playing Season – Bat Approval

Babe Ruth League, Inc. Approved and Non-Compliant Bats

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**"It is the policy of Babe Ruth League, Inc. to assure the safety of all participants. Accordingly, Babe Ruth League, Inc. reserves the right to ban any equipment, including bats, at any time, including during the season, based upon a change of existing policy and/or upon new information made available to Babe Ruth League, Inc."**

### APPROVEDBATS:

To follow up our previous correspondence and information posted on the Babe Ruth League website, the following details on all baseball bats approved by Babe Ruth League, Inc. for local league and tournament play. Such descriptions are included as part of the Babe Ruth League Rules and Regulations.

#### CAL RIPKEN

#### BASEBALL

#### DIVISION

The bat may not exceed 33" in length, and the bat barrel may not exceed 2 1/4" in diameter. Only 2 1/4" barrel non-wood bats marked BPF 1.15 will be allowed. Wood 2 1/4" barrel bats are allowed.

#### 13-15

#### BASEBALL

#### DIVISION

The bat may not exceed 34" in length, and the bat barrel may not exceed 2 5/8" in diameter. All aluminum/alloy barrel bats and all composite handle (only) aluminum/alloy barrels are allowed. Only composite barrel bats certified and marked BBCOR .50 will be allowed. Wood barrel bats conforming to the specifications of Official Baseball Rule 1.10 are allowed.

#### 16-18

#### BASEBALL

#### DIVISION

The bat may not exceed 34" in length and the bat barrel may not exceed 2 5/8" in diameter or be greater than a -3 length to weight ratio. Only metal/composite bats certified and marked BBCOR .50 are allowed. Wood barrel bats conforming to the specifications of Official Baseball Rule 1.10 are allowed.

**Babe Ruth League, Inc. – All Divisions – If any bat in Cal Ripken Baseball, Babe Ruth Baseball or Babe Ruth Softball cannot be clearly identified for its make and model to determine the barrel composition, then the bat should be removed from the game.**

[Click Here](#) to read about the USABat Standard to be used beginning on January 1, 2018.

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### **NON-COMPLIANT BATS FOR - BABE RUTH/CAL RIPKEN:**

Contained below is a current listing of non-compliant bats that are not eligible, or approved, for use in any Babe Ruth/Cal Ripken Baseball program or activity.

Effective immediately, and until further notice, the Combat B2YB1 Da Bomb Youth Baseball Bat, is not eligible, or approved, for use in any Cal Ripken program or activity.

\* Babe Ruth League, Inc. has been informed that Nike Bat Model #Aero CX2-BTO636 (light grey), CX2-BTO573 (dark grey) and CX2-BTO598 (blue) have failed recent performance standard compliance testing.

Effective immediately and until further notice, Nike Bat Model #Aero CX2-BTO636 (light grey), CX2-BTO573 (dark grey) and CX2-BTO598 (blue), including all graphic variations, is not eligible, or approved, for use in any Babe Ruth/Cal Ripken program or activity.

\* The National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) has advised Babe Ruth League, Inc. that the BBCOR decertification process has been implemented for the following bats:

Marucci CAT-52 33-inch model, CAT-52 34-inch model, and Black 33-inch and 34-inch models  
Reebok Vector-TLS 33-inch model

\* Babe Ruth League, Inc. has been informed that Louisville Slugger TPX Dynasty -12, (black/red/grey) composite bat has failed recent performance standard compliance testing.

Effective immediately and until further notice, Louisville Slugger (Hillerich & Bradsby) TPX Dynasty bat (Model - YB12D -- (black/red/grey) including all graphic variations, is not eligible, or approved, for use in any Babe Ruth/Cal Ripken program or activity.

\* Babe Ruth League, Inc. has been informed that Mattingly Sports, Inc., Balistk (blue) composite bat has failed recent performance standard compliance testing.

Effective immediately and until further notice, Mattingly Sports, Inc., Balistk bat (Model - BTKYB, blue) including all graphic variations, is not eligible, or approved, for use in any Babe Ruth/Cal Ripken program or activity.

Effective immediately and until further notice, the bats listed above are not eligible, or approved, for use in any Babe Ruth/Cal Ripken program or activity.

**NON-COMPLIANT BATS FOR - BABE RUTH SOFTBALL:**

Contained below is a current listing of non-compliant bats that are not eligible, or approved, for use in any Babe Ruth Softball program or activity.

\* Babe Ruth League Softball has been advised that Louisville Slugger is recalling the entire current line of the OneX fastpitch softball bat (all lengths and weights) from the market.

Effectively immediately and until notified otherwise, these bats are no longer approved for play in any level of the Babe Ruth Softball program. It should be noted that both the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) and the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) have taken similar action at the request of Louisville Slugger. [Click here](#) for more information.

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**PENALTY**

- **If the illegal bat is discovered prior to a batter completing his "at bat" the bat is simply removed from play and the "at bat" continues.**
- **A player who uses an illegal bat or non-conforming barrel dimension and hits a fair ball will be ruled out. No advancement on the bases will be allowed, and any outs during the play shall stand. This is an appeal play. The "at bat" will be considered legal once a pitch is thrown to the next batter.**
- **Any bat discovered prior to the game that does not conform to the above rule shall be directed to be removed immediately and not be allowed for use during the game.**

If you have any questions on approved or non-compliant bats, do not hesitate to contact Babe Ruth Headquarters.

<u>Regions</u>	<u>Commissioner</u>	<u>Email</u>
Middle Atlantic, Ohio Valley, Southwest Pacific Northwest, Pacific Southwest	Robert Faherty	<a href="mailto:robert@baberuthleague.org">robert@baberuthleague.org</a>
New England, Southeast, Midwest Plains	Rob Connor	<a href="mailto:rob@baberuthleague.org">rob@baberuthleague.org</a>

**USA BASEBALL, MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS  
ANNOUNCES NEW YOUTH BAT  
PERFORMANCE TESTING PROGRAM**



### *Implementation of USABat Standard Begins on January 1, 2018*

USA Baseball, the national governing body for the sport of baseball in the U.S., in conjunction with participating national member organizations (NMOs) announced the decision to adopt a new method for measuring bat performance in the testing of youth bats. Informed by the research of leading scientists on the USA Baseball Bat Study Committee, and supported by its NMOs, -- including the American Amateur Baseball Congress (AABC), Amateur Athletic Union (AAU), **Babe Ruth Baseball/Cal Ripken Baseball**, Dixie Youth Baseball, Little League Baseball and PONY Baseball -- USA Baseball has concluded that recent advancements in science, engineering, technology, and the materials available to fabricate non-wood bats, now allow the manufacturers to construct youth bats that can perform at a wood-like level through the entire range of lengths and weights of youth bats.

The new USA Baseball bat standard (USABat), which will apply to bats that are classified below the NCAA and NFHS level of play, will be implemented on **January 1, 2018**, allowing the bat manufacturers sufficient time to bring these bats to the marketplace.

**The Cal Ripken Division of Babe Ruth League, Inc. have approved the use of the 2 5/8 inch barrel bats for local league play and tournament play beginning in January 2018 and coinciding with the new USA Bat standard.**

Similar to the NCAA and NFHS BBCOR standard, which helped to eliminate discrepancies with different length bats and thus provide a more direct measure of bat performance, the new USA Baseball bat standard will allow youth baseball organizations in the United States to reach their goal of establishing a wood-like standard, a standard that will provide for the long-term integrity of the game.

**It is important to note there will be no immediate change** to youth baseball organizations' bat rules. All bats, currently accepted for the respective leagues, remain permissible through December 31, 2017. Each participating national member organization will incorporate the new standard into their rules for the 2018 season and will begin, with this announcement, to inform their membership of the USABat standard.

Frequently Asked Questions about the USABat standard:

#### **Which national member organizations are implementing this new standard?**

To date, the following organizations are participating (in alphabetical order): American Amateur Baseball Congress (AABC), Amateur Athletic Union (AAU), **Babe Ruth Baseball/Cal Ripken Baseball**, Dixie Youth Baseball, Little League Baseball and PONY Baseball.

## **Why the change to a wood-like standard?**

USA Baseball's national member organizations believe that a wood-like performance standard will best provide for the long-term integrity of the game. The new standard will not have a drop-weight limit, so young players can use bats made with light-weight materials.

## **Why not just use wood bats?**

Wood is a scarce resource. The new bats will be designed to perform much like wood, where its performance will be limited to the highest performing wood.

## **How is the USABat standard different from the BBCOR standard used by the NCAA and NFHS?**

Both the USA Baseball and NCAA bat performance tests are based on the coefficient of restitution from a bat-ball impact. The scale of results is different, however, since they use different test balls and test speeds. The testing difference is necessary to address the various levels of play in the respective age groups.

## **Why is USA Baseball involved?**

The national member organizations asked USA Baseball as the national governing body to take the lead in this process to establish a new standard. Many other national governing bodies set and enforce standards for the equipment in their respective sports. To that end, USA Baseball established a Bat Study Committee of leading scientists and conducted theoretical modeling, field testing and lab testing. The committee shared its findings with the national member organizations, who then endorsed the new USABat standard.

## **Who were the scientists on the USA Baseball Bat Study Committee?**

Alan Nathan, Ph.D., Professor Emeritus of Physics at the University of Illinois

Dan Russell, Ph.D. Professor of Acoustics at Penn State University

Glenn Fleisig, Ph.D. Research Director of American Sports Medicine Institute

## **Why wait until 2018?**

The implementation date of 2018 will allow bat manufacturers sufficient time to conduct the appropriate research, design, testing, manufacturing and shipping needed to get new bats into retail outlets. This date also allows the participating national member organizations adequate time to educate their memberships of the USABat standard.

## **Is my current bat good for league play?**

Yes. Current league-approved bats can be used through December 31, 2017.

## **Is safety the reason for the change?**

No. Youth baseball continues to be one of the safest of all sports for youth participants.

**How will I know which bat to buy?**

All new bats that bear the USABat licensing mark will be permissible for play in the leagues and tournaments of the participating youth baseball organizations.

**When can I buy the new bat?**

It is the intention of the bat manufacturers to make the new bats available in the fall of 2017, in sufficient time for the 2018 season