



## **New Youth *Baseball* Bat Standard (USABat) - *Effective Jan. 1, 2018***

Effective January 1st, 2018, USA Baseball, the national governing body for the sport of baseball in the United States, will adopt a new method for measuring bat performance in the testing of youth baseball bats.

### **What Will the USABat Standard Change and Why?**

Similar to the NCAA and NFHS BBCOR standard that was implemented in 2011, the new "USABat Standard" will **create wood-like performance in youth baseball bats.**

With the creation of the new standard, players will be allowed to use bats with either a 2 1/4 inch or 2 5/8 inch barrel diameter (***as long as they carry the new USABat stamp.***)

### **What's wrong with the bats we're using now?**

According to USABaseball.com the rationale for the new regulations is that "a wood-like performance standard will provide for the long-term integrity & safety of the game. Translation, in other words, they're trying to level the playing field for batters and pitchers because some composite bats have gotten too "hot," (powerful) creating an unfair advantage for batters using them.

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

Probably not. Current bats that are *not* stamped USABat will not be allowed for league play or postseason Cal Ripken play.

### **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? The new bats are available in the fall of 2017, in sufficient time for the 2018 season. Are wood bats allowed? In the Junior League (13-14) & up, wood bats that bear the USABat licensing mark will be permissible for play in the leagues and tournaments of the participating youth baseball organizations.

### **What about tee ball bats?**

Unlike standard youth baseball bats, tee ball bats (lengths 26" and shorter) are not required to undergo lab testing to receive approval under the USABat Program.

**Senior League Baseball, ages 15-18 will not be affected by the new rules. The current BBCOR Standards remain in place.**

### PENALTY FOR USING NON-COMPLIANT BAT

- 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.

### National Organizations That Will Be Affected

- American Amateur Baseball Congress (AABC)
- ***Babe Ruth Baseball / Cal Ripken Baseball***
- Dixie Youth Baseball
- Little League Baseball
- PONY Baseball
- Dizzy Dean

The logos on the approved bats will look like this:

