

Technical Bulletin

Subject: Bat Handle Moulded Finger Grips & Axe Handle Bats
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1. Bat handle moulded finger grips

Moulded finger grips for bat handles, approved for international play, are starting to come into our market in Australia.

Rule 3 Sec 1L states: *Bats shall have a safety knob of a minimum of 0.6 cm (1/4 in) protruding at a 90 degree angle from the handle. It may be moulded, lathed, welded or permanently fastened.*

NOTE to Sec 1L: A bat with a "flare" or "cone" grip attached will be considered an altered bat

The knob on the bats handle's sole purpose is to prevent the bat slipping from the batters hands and causing injury to others.

Moulded bat grips that enhance the batters grip to prevent the bat from slipping during the swing are considered legal by the International Softball Federation (ISF) and also SAL. It has been proven that the fingers on the knob area itself prevents this, not necessarily the palm section of the hand.

A moulded bat grip has moulded finger sections. On some models a small section of the grip meets the same height of the bats knob. These are considered legal. See Fig 1, 2 & 3.

Note: Cone grips are still considered illegal. See Fig 4.

Fig. 1. Legal.



Fig. 2. Legal



Fig. 3. Legal



Fig. 4. Illegal



2. Axe handle bat handles

The Axe handle bat, has a handle that is shaped like the handle of an axe. In other words, an ob-longed shaped handle.

These bats have been approved for use at ISF and SAL tournaments.

See Fig below



Shall have a knob with a minimum diameter of 40 millimetres (1.6 inches) and no sharp edges. The knob shall be permanently attached to the bat at the end of the handle. The knob may be covered with grip tape or a grip enhancer.

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