

Technical Bulletin

Subject: Softball Australia Championship WBSC-SD Bat Certification Verification Procedure. TB 2017-1 Revised v3.4

Date: 31 August 2019

Softball Australia only approves softball bats tested and certified for Batted Ball Speed (BBS) by WBSC-SD or USA Softball for Championship play.

The previous Bat Performance Factor (BPF 1.2) is no longer allowed to be used; the procedure set out in this document will be used to check bats prior to an Australian Championship.

International university studies have proven that a BBS above 100 MPH reduces defensive players reaction time which can result in injury.

Below is an excerpt from the Australian Championship Rules:

***Approved and Non-Approved Bats and Batted Ball Speed (BBS) Test Certification
All bats used in Australian Championships shall:***

- Be approved for use in Australia if it is listed on the current WBSC-SD Certified Bat List.*

And

- Any bat not listed on the WBSC-SD Certified Bat List will be considered approved for use in Australia if it is listed on the current USA Softball Approved Bat List.*

It is of utmost importance that players, coaches, parents, team managers and administrators, not just the umpires, understand they play an important role in this requirement. The practicality of checking bats with separate lists prior to all games at all levels is not feasible.

Note 1: Bats are continually being retested to ensure they comply with the International standards

Note 2: The WBSC-SD BBS standard is 161 KPH (100 MPH); the USA Softball standard is 157.7 KPH (98 MPH)

Note 3: If a bat cannot be identified due to the manufacturer's logo and model number being worn away, then the bat should be rejected.

The current BBS registered markings for certification are applied to the bats at manufacture.



- *Team management and players should ensure their team bats are checked prior to the championship and only bring bats that are on the certified lists to the tournament.*
- *Any bat that cannot be identified or the manufacturer's model number is covered will be removed.*
- *The bats will be checked at either the technical meeting or prior to the first game for each team. The coach, manager and players should ensure all bats are presented for certification checking.*

Any bat that does not pass certification checking is then held by the Tournament Chief Umpire (TCU) until the tournament is completed.

The Australian Championship rules currently allow for bats to be checked prior to the tournament at the technical meeting, reducing time prior to the game allowing players and coaches to better prepare for the game. This procedure is already being used at International Championships.

Non-certified bats have been found in games following the initial inspection procedure either being mistakenly or deliberately not being presented for checking. This has resulted in a more formal process being implemented, with defined penalties for non-compliance, to protect participants specifically and the sport in general.

Procedure for all Australian Championships.

- 1 All bats will be brought to the technical meeting by each team.
- 2 Bats will be checked against the WBSC-SD certified bat list and then, if required, against the USA Softball certified list.
- 3 Certified bats will be stamped or labelled with the Softball Australia logo.
- 4 If a bat cannot be positively identified due to the manufacturer's name, logo or model number being worn away or otherwise illegible the bat will be rejected.
- 5 Any bat that does not comply, will have a label "non certified" (or similar) with reason applied that includes the team name and kept until the end of the tournament.
 - 5.1 Note: It will be each team's responsibility to collect equipment at the end of the tournament.
- 6 Any non-certified bats discovered during pre-game equipment checks will be taken to the TCU prior to the game commencing. The TCU will check these bats and will either certify the bat and return it to the team or retain the bat until after the tournament.
 - 6.1 Note: Umpires will still check all bats and helmets prior to every game for certification labels, dents, cracks, etc.
- 7 Coaches are responsible for ensuring all bats are checked and certified.
- 8 If a non-certified bat is detected or reported to the umpire at any point during a game, it will be treated the same as any protest and heard immediately. The bat will then be checked against the certification lists.

If the bat is proven to be non-certified:

 - 8.1 On the first occasion:
 - 8.1.1 If prior to the batter completing their turn at bat, the batter will be called out, the play will be nullified if applicable, and the batter will be ejected from the game.
 - 8.1.2 If after their turn at bat, the Batter Runner will be called out, any advance of runners will be nullified, any out made during the play remains out, and the Batter Runner will be ejected from the game.
 - 8.2 On the second occurrence by any player of the same team during the championship the effects of 8.1.1 and 8.1.2 above will result and the Head Coach will be ejected from the game.
- 9 Where available all bats will be checked with an approved bat compression tester, as per TB-2017-2.1



References:

The World Baseball Softball Confederation-SD bat list is on the <http://www.wbsc.org> web site

<http://www.wbsc.org/softball/softball-bat-list/>

The USA Softball bat list is available at

<http://www.teamusa.org/usa-softball/play-usa-softball/certified-usa-softball-equipment>

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