

# **NCAA SOFTBALL POSTSEASON ON-SITE PORTABLE BARREL COMPRESSION TESTING (BCT) OVERVIEW**

The tournament host is responsible for providing the NCAA site representative with a secure location to bat test, their bat testing fixture, and the envelope shipped to them from the NCAA with the appropriate stickers and an administrative bat log for each team.

Coaches, or a team representative, must bring their team's bats and their current, annotated NCAA Approved Softball Bat List (referred to hereafter as the "Bat List") for BCT to the designated location at the designated time on each game day.

Once the coach has their bats lined up in the order in which they appear on the Bat List, the bat testing manager shall match the model number of each bat with the models highlighted on the team's Bat List and verify the correct number of each is listed in the appropriate column.

The bat testing manager shall barrel compression test each bat, per the protocol, until there are two passes or two failures (whichever comes first), using 1550psi as the standard minimum or the specific, lower exception number listed for backstop style bats (as listed on the Bat List).

Bats that pass will be stickered and, when necessary, the team's Bat List will be amended to account for failures. Bats that fail must be marked with the team's name, secured from the team's possession by the tournament host and will be shipped for further analysis at the conclusion of the post season tier.

The bat testing manager must complete the information in the summary box on page one of the team's Bat List for use on the field of play by the umpires and coaches.

On the first testing day, the administrative bat log (provided in the sticker envelope from the host tournament director) must be completed by the bat testing manager or team representative to reflect all bat models tested and their respective pass/fail status.

Note-After the initial testing day, the bat testing manager may use either the administrative bat log or the team's Bat List to perform the subsequent day testing but must copy the results from the testing document to the other document at the end of the daily testing.

At the conclusion of testing for each tier, the completed administrative bat logs, unused stickers and the bat testing fixture must be returned to the host tournament director.

# NCAA POSTSEASON BARREL COMPRESSION TESTING (BCT) DETAILS FOR COACHES

## Pre-Competition Barrel Compression Testing (BCT)

### General Information

1. Pre-competition BCT will be conducted daily (competition days only) at all rounds and at all sites during the NCAA Softball Championship using the G4 SSL fixture.
2. Each team must have every bat that will be in a team area or on the field tested during the pre-competition testing. There is no limit to the number of bats a team may have tested and bats may be added on any testing day.
3. Coaches, or a team representative, must bring a current NCAA Approved Softball Bat List (hereafter referred to as "Bat List") with their bat models highlighted and quantities noted to the testing site and have that copy in their dugout during each game for use by umpires.
4. Bat models must be legible and exactly match those on the Bat List.
5. The bat testing manager will sticker each bat that passes BCT with an appropriate sticker for each day.
6. Bats that have not undergone BCT, and thus do not have the appropriate sticker, will not be permitted on the competition field or in team areas.

### Testing Protocol

1. At each postseason site, at least one individual designated by the NCAA Championship Committee will conduct BCT as the bat testing manager (most likely the NCAA site representative) according to the protocol listed in Rule 5.2 of the 2024 and 2025 NCAA Softball Rules Book.
2. The bat testing appointments and location will be determined by the site representative/tournament director.
3. Each team must send a coach or team representative with its bats and its annotated Bat List to the testing. This representative shall assemble the bats in order as they appear on the current Bat List and take possession of the team's annotated Bat List and stickered bats after testing by the bat testing manager.
4. The bat testing manager shall match each bat's model number to the annotated Bat List and may request assistance from the team representative for reminders of BCT minimums for backstop style models and/or for applying the daily sticker for bats that pass.
5. BCT details: Each bat is tested, unclamped from the machine, rotated 90 degrees and then tested again until there are two passes or two failures (whichever comes first). Passing bats are stickered. Failing bats are secured by the tournament host and will be shipped to an NCAA designee for additional testing.
6. Following testing, the bat testing manager shall complete the summary box (lavender) on the first page of the team's annotated Bat List for use by the game umpires.
7. On the first testing day, an administrative bat log (provided by the host tournament director) must be completed to reflect all bat models tested and their respective pass/fail status. The log or the team's Bat List may be used by the bat testing manager for daily testing but the two lists must match at the end of each testing period.
8. All bats surrendered to the bat testing manager will not be returned to the teams while on-site. Please note an exception exists for damaged (e.g., cracked, dented) bats which will be marked and may be returned to the team upon their request following the team's final game of the round.

## Post-competition Bat Compliance Testing

### General Information

1. As in the past, two (2) bats will be selected and secured from teams in each of the three division's NCAA final games and from the six (6) WCWS teams failing to qualify for the final game for bat compliance testing.
2. Bats selected to be tested in the lab will be selected randomly, based on performance or based on what is currently in the NCAA bat database.
3. Selected bats will not be collected until the season has ended for the participating team.
4. Results on bats sent to the lab, whether taken post-competition as noted above or for failing BCT, will take approximately three (3) months to obtain.
5. Bats that pass lab testing will be returned; however, bats that fail in the lab will remain surrendered.
6. Affected institutions, the appropriate bat manufacturers, the NCAA Softball Rules Committee and relevant NCAA Championship Committee will receive notification of a bat model that fails in the lab.

# NCAA POSTSEASON BARREL COMPRESSION TESTING (BCT) DETAILS FOR SITE REPRESENTATIVES AND TOURNAMENT HOSTS

Materials provided by

- Host tournament director – secure location with a table and three (3) chairs, BCT case (with BCT fixture, calibration ring, stop stick, athletic tape and Sharpie pen), NCAA provided stickers for the bat testing manager and printed administrative log sheets for each team.
- Each team – dispatch a coach or team representative for testing at the designated time with a current, annotated NCAA Approved Softball Bat List and all bats which will be in the dugout or on the field.
- NCAA softball equipment consultant – mail envelopes with stickers separated by day and provide electronic log sheets to the host tournament director.

## BCT PROCESS FOR BAT TESTING MANAGERS

1. Verify the fixture's proper calibration each time it is set up by placing the calibration ring in the fixture and testing it for the stiffness (psi) stamped on the ring.
2. Match the model number on each bat with the model number on the latest NCAA Approved Softball Bat List. **THE NUMBERS/LETTERS MUST BE LEGIBLE AND EXACTLY MATCH...NO EXCEPTIONS.** If it does not match, disqualify the bat by applying provided athletic tape with team name to barrel. Disqualified bats remain with the site representative or tournament director until their return is requested as the team departs. Record the disqualified bat(s) on the front page of the team's log sheet as illegal.
3. If listed, test the bat by placing it in the BCT fixture until the endcap touches the stop stick; place the calibration ring under the handle so the bat is level and square to the fixture for testing. With the lever hanging down, preload the gauge to 500psi by twisting the gauge then lift the lever. Mentally note the pass/fail result.
4. Bats are considered to pass when the BCT pressure gauge reads 1550psi or higher unless the bat being tested is noted on the NCAA Approved Softball Bat List as an exception having a lower minimum (noted by asterisks).
5. Release the pressure and rotate bat 90 degrees and retest. Mentally note the pass/fail result.
6. If both results are the same (pass/pass or fail/fail), that result is final.
7. If the results differ, inspect the bat for damage. If found, the bat is disqualified as noted in #2 above. If no damage is found, test the bat a third time to determine the final result.
8. For bats that pass, place the appropriate sticker on the taper of the bat nearest the grip, preferably on top of previous stickers. **NOTES: STICKERS ARE SPECIFIC TO EACH DAY, FRAGILE AND CANNOT BE REAPPLIED AND IF YOU HAVE AN INSUFFICIENT NUMBER OF STICKERS FOR ANY ONE DAY, APPLY HALF STICKERS.**
9. For bats that fail, apply the provided athletic tape with the team's name to barrel. Failed bats remain with the site representative or tournament director and will NOT be returned to the team but instead, sent for further analysis.
10. In all cases, direct the team representative to record the model and only the final test result for each bat presented for testing on the NCAA-provided administrative log sheet.
11. Following testing, the bat testing manager is responsible for completing the lavender portion of the first page of each team's annotated NCAA Approved Softball Bat List for later use by the game umpires.
12. At the end of testing for the team, verify the numbers of stickered and disqualified (damaged, illegal and failed) bats match the team's Bat List and administrative log sheet. The site representative takes possession of disqualified bats as well as the administrative log sheet.
13. After the first testing day, the bat testing manager may use either the administrative bat log or the team's Bat List for subsequent testing however the lists must match at the end of daily testing.

**The host tournament director is responsible for attaching the completed NCAA-provided administrative log sheets to an email and shipping any bats that failed BCT to the NCAA Softball Equipment Consultant no later than the next day (excluding Sundays). If the site will host the next round, shipping failed bats may be delayed until the next round testing is completed.**

**DO NOT DEVIATE FROM THIS PLAN WITHOUT FIRST TALKING TO DEE ABRAHAMSON, NCAA SOFTBALL EQUIPMENT CONSULTANT.**

Contact info for Dee Abrahamson: Cell: 815-751-2648; Email: [abrahamson@niu.edu](mailto:abrahamson@niu.edu);

Shipping Address: 498 Quinlan Ave., DeKalb, Illinois 60115.

Backup contact regarding BCT fixture or testing: Donna Martin: Cell: 815-761-8626; Email: [dmartin1@niu.edu](mailto:dmartin1@niu.edu).

## NCAA Softball On-Site Portable Barrel Compression Testing (BCT)-Post Season

### Key to responsibilities:

Tournament Host-black font;

Team Rep-green font;

Site Rep-red font;

Umpire-blue font.

Note- "bat list" refers to the current NCAA Approved Softball Bat List

#### 1. In advance of testing-

Designate a secure location with table and chairs for barrel compression testing. Provide site rep with your portable BCT fixture and the provided envelope with the stickers and bat log sheets for each team (which were shipped to your attention). In conjunction with site rep, communicate testing plans, time and location to participating coaches.

2. Highlight and enter the number of each model on the team's bat list. Attend BCT at the predetermined time. Arrange bats in the appropriate bat list order. Following testing, retrieve team's bat list and bats that passed BCT.

2. The site rep should be the bat testing manager, or at a minimum, closely supervise a neutral party replacement. Assemble and calibrate portable BCT fixture whenever it is assembled. Match the model number on each bat to each team's bat list. Return bats not on the bat list, those with illegible model numbers, or those with obvious damage to the team rep at this time. Compress each bat until it passes or fails twice paying attention to back-stop style exception minimums as noted on the bat list. Sticker or oversee stickering of bats that pass twice. Disqualify bats that fail twice, identify them with the team's name prior to securing them with the tournament host, and appropriately amend the bat list. Complete the appropriate section of the first page of bat list. On the first day, complete (or have team rep complete) the provided bat log which then must be updated daily.

3. Secure failed bats from the site rep for shipment to Dee following your tier.

3. Present only stickered bats (preferably in order) and current bat list to umpires at the dugout for inspection prior to each game.

3. Verify the number of presented bats equals the number of bats in the game column of the relevant pages of the provided bat list AND equals or is less than the total listed by the site rep in the appropriate box of page one. Amend the list to the number of stickered bats presented if needed. Inspect the bats for appropriateness, remove those with damage and amend the bat list appropriately. Secure damaged bats with the tournament host.

4. Obtain disqualified bats from the umpires on the field, securing them until the team's final departure from the site.

4. Retrieve damaged bats from the tournament host when departing the facility for the final time.

5. If any bats failed BCT, contact Dee following the final testing session to obtain a shipping label and ship them ASAP.

5. No later than the end of each day, complete the RefQuest electronic Noncompliant/Inappropriate Bat form for bats failing BCT.

5. Following the game, complete the RefQuest electronic Noncompliant/Inappropriate Bat form for disqualified bats due to damage.

7. Immediately following each tier, forward the teams' bat logs through an email or screenshots to Dee (Abrahamson@niu.edu). Note-stickers need not be returned.

6. Following the final BCT for the tier, return the BCT fixture, unused stickers and completed log sheets to the tournament host.