

Bat Testing Information Summary 2026

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There are no Barrel Compression Testing (BCT) procedural changes from the past year.

Tournament hosts are responsible for providing:

A secure space with table and chairs;
Their BCT fixture and an envelope from the NCAA office containing the BCT materials;
Sites with an experienced Bat Testing Manager may be asked to engage that person to assist the site rep on the first round of testing for that tier;
A secure location for BCT failed bats until shipping them to Dee following the tier as well as retaining disqualified bats from umpires until the team requests their return as they leave the tier; and
Electronically (email attachment or screenshots) send the log sheets to Dee immediately following the tier.

Team representatives/coaches are responsible for:

Providing an annotated, highlighted copy of the current NCAA Approved Bat List for bat testing and the on-field bat inspection by umpires;
Lining up their bats in the order in which they appear on the NCAA Approved Softball Bat List at the BCT site at the appointed time; and
Presenting stickered bats and the NCAA Approved Bat List for umpire inspection prior to each game.

Site representatives are responsible for:

Assembling and calibrating the portable BCT fixture whenever it is assembled;
Matching the model numbers of the bats presented with the team's annotated, highlighted NCAA Approved Softball Bat List;
Conducting daily BCT including compression and appropriate stickering of bats that pass;
Completing the necessary paperwork:
1) Create the provided NCAA bat log on day one and update it after each round of testing;
2) Amend the team's provided NCAA Approved Softball Bat List to reflect BCT failures;
3) Complete testing information in the box on page one of the team's NCAA Approved Softball Bat List; and
4) File the RefQuest electronic Noncompliant/Inappropriate Bat form in the event any bat(s) fail BCT;
Securing any failed bats with the tournament host (who will ship them to Dee); and
Following the last day, return the BCT fixture, unused stickers and completed bat log to the tournament host.

Site reps might also be asked to transport bats disqualified by umpires during their pregame inspection to the tournament host to secure until the team departs the tier.

NCAA Softball Post Season BCT

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 & bat log sheets for each team (shipped to your attention). In conjunction with site rep, communicate testing plans, time and location to participating coaches.

2. The site rep should be the bat testing manager, or at a minimum, closely supervise a neutral party substitute. 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. 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.

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..

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.

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 team's bat logs (via email or screenshot) 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 host.