



MEMORANDUM

April 8, 2024

VIA EMAIL

TO: Softball Conference Commissioners, Directors of Athletics, Senior Woman Administrators at Conferences and Institutions and Head Coaches.

FROM: Dee Abrahamson, equipment consultant  
NCAA Softball Rules Committee

Vickie Van Kleeck, secretary-rules editor  
NCAA Softball Rules Committee.

SUBJECT: NCAA Approved Softball Bat List, Ball Requirement Reminder and 2024 Playing Rules Survey.

**Bat List:** The most recent NCAA Approved Softball Bat List has been posted on [NCAA Softball Rules of the Game](#) and the [RefQuest \(RQ+\) website](#). This is the final planned Approved Softball Bat List distribution for the 2023-24 academic year.

When reviewing the NCAA Approved Softball Bat List, please note that a model on the list with a strike(s) may be used in competition. Coaches are reminded they are responsible for legally equipping their team, and bats used in competition MUST appear on the current approved bat list.

As a reminder, softball barrel compression testing is required to be conducted at a minimum prior to the start of each tournament, series, doubleheader or game. This is a requirement for all competitions, including all tournaments, nonconference games, conference games and postseason.

Regardless of when barrel compression testing occurs, on-field bat inspections will be conducted by umpires before every game. Every time a bat is removed from a team's possession at competition, whether through barrel compression testing or by an umpire, the [Softball Noncompliant/Inappropriate Bat Form](#) must be filed. Please refer to the [NCAA Softball Bat Testing and Compliance Information](#) for a more detailed explanation of the process.

**Ball Requirement for 2024 Season:** The requirement to use the new ball with a compression of 275-375 pounds during competition is effective with the 2024 season. This rules change was approved in Summer 2021 to standardize ball specifications with the NFHS and USA Softball. There is no exception or exemption to this rule.

**2024 Softball Playing Rules Survey:** The 2024 softball playing rules survey will open Monday, April 22, and close Friday, May 24. Head coaches, conference coordinators listed in the NCAA Directory and NCAA-registered umpires will receive a link to the survey via email. Conference commissioners, directors of athletics and senior woman administrators may access the survey via the survey page in NCAA Weekly.

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If you have any questions about bats/equipment or the BCT required equipment/protocol, please contact Dee at [abrahamson@niu.edu](mailto:abrahamson@niu.edu). If you have playing rules questions, please contact Vickie at [ncaasbsre@gmail.com](mailto:ncaasbsre@gmail.com). If you have questions about access to the playing rules survey, please contact Ashlee Follis at [afollis@ncaa.org](mailto:afollis@ncaa.org).

DA/VVK:af

cc: Carol Bruggeman  
NCAA Softball Rules Committee  
NCAA Registered Softball Umpires  
Selected NCAA Staff Members