NCAA SOFTBALL BAT COMPLIANCE AND TESTING INFORMATION

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SECTION 1
INTRODUCTIONS AND RESOURCES

PROGRAM INTRODUCTION

The NCAA Softball Rules Committees (Division I subcommittee and Division II and III committee) created and oversee a comprehensive program to ensure bats used in NCAA competition support its core values of safeguarding the integrity of the game, ensuring fair and equitable competition between teams, supporting the delicate balance of offense and defense within the game, and maintaining vigilance regarding both student-athlete safety and risk minimization.

To that end, and as specified by NCAA softball playing rules, coaches are responsible for properly equipping their team. That includes the expectation that coaches will review the then in effect NCAA Approved Softball Bat List, comparing it to their team inventory, and to continuously monitor, and/or teach their student-athletes how to monitor, the condition and performance of all equipment, particularly bats used in competitions.

Besides oversight by players and coaches, umpires and bat testing managers also play an important role in ensuring only appropriate bats are used in competition by confirming bats used in the game are correctly accounted for on each team's NCAA Approved Softball Bat List, appropriately stickered and free of damage other than cosmetic scuffs or paint chips.

It should be noted however, that the restriction to adhere to the NCAA Approved Softball Bat List only applies to game competition and coaches are responsible for making their own decisions on what products, including bats, are appropriate for use during warm-ups, practices, or scrimmages.

DOCUMENT INTRODUCTION

There are five distinct components to the bat compliance program, presented here individually in **section two** although the three involving "bat testing" are often mistakenly interchanged. The components are: 1) initial USA Softball certification of bat models; 2) inclusion on the NCAA Approved Softball Bat List with NCAA established barrel compression minimums; 3) pre-competition barrel compression testing (BCT) by bat testing managers; 4) on-field bat inspection by game umpires; and 5) post-competition evaluations and compliance testing in the lab.

Following descriptions of those five components, **section three** of this document has additional detailed explanations and guidelines for users, officials and manufacturers. **Appendices** at the end of this document are a sample postseason log sheet, an explanation of the exceptions to the BCT minimum standards and the manufacturer's process for gaining "backstop style" model status.

Lastly as a **point of information**, at the time of this writing, NCAA data for bat BCT exceptions and post-competition compliance testing have historically been, and continue to be, conducted at the Sport Science Lab at Washington State University. However, an additional lab will soon be available for bat and ball testing for manufacturers, USA Softball and NCAA softball. Therefore, all references to "the lab" throughout this document refer to either of the approved laboratories.

RESOURCES AVAILABLE ON NCAA AND REFQUEST (RQ+) WEBSITES

2026 and 2027 NCAA Softball Rules Book:
NCAA Publications - 2026 and 2027 Softball Rules Book

NCAA Lists, Forms, and Tutorials:
Softball Rules of the Game - NCAA.org
RQ+ (refquest.com)

- Current NCAA Approved Softball Bat List
- Summary of Bat List Changes
- Electronic Noncompliant/Inappropriate Bat Form
- NCAA Softball BCT Flow Chart for Regular Season
- NCAA Softball BCT Flow Chart for NCAA Postseason
- NCAA Softball BCT Tutorial PowerPoint Slides
- NCAA Softball BCT Tutorial as a PDF with accompanying notes
- NCAA Softball Bat Compliance and Testing Information Document

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

G4 SSL Softball Bat Compression Testing fixture available through sole vendor, Bat Testing Solutions, LLC (www.barrelcompression.com).

For questions regarding the BCT fixture, visit the website or email G4battesters@gmail.com.

For questions regarding playing rule consequences for inappropriate bats, contact NCAA Softball Secretary-Rules Editor, Vickie Van Kleeck, at ncaasbsre@gmail.com.

For questions regarding NCAA Softball Bat Testing, contact NCAA Softball Equipment Consultant, Dee Abrahamson, at Abrahamson@niu.edu or 815-751-2648.

BAT COMPLIANCE AND TESTING COMPONENTS

COMPONENT 1: BAT MODEL CERTIFICATION

Prior to consideration of a bat model being used in NCAA competition, the manufacturer must submit every new model to the lab for USA Softball certification testing.

The certification process was created under the oversight of ASA Softball (2000) which was later known as ASA/USA Softball and, most recently, rebranded as USA Softball (2017). While the NCAA does not officially participate in that process or its contracts, it does require that models placed on the NCAA Approved Softball Bat List bear either the ASA 2004 or USA Softball certification mark, which verify the batted ball exit speed (BBS), as tested in the lab, does not exceed the 98.0mph maximum.

COMPONENT 2: NCAA APPROVED SOFTBALL BAT LIST

In addition to the appropriate certification mark, models must meet the specifications as listed in the current NCAA Softball Playing Rules Book and be deemed by the manufacturer to be appropriate to the rigors of collegiate fastpitch (extensive practices and use in multiple environments including a wide variety of climates) to be eligible for inclusion on the NCAA Approved Softball Bat List.

The first page of the NCAA Approved Softball Bat List (see example image on next page) details information useful to coaches, umpires, and bat testing managers. Near the top is a section listing future planned posting dates. Note that additional dates may be necessary whenever a model must be removed. In those cases, email notifications of a new list will be sent to NCAA members including head coaches, senior woman administrators and conference commissioners.

The next two boxes are user information with the first being a summary of models which have been assessed strikes for compliance testing failures. While listed bats are still permissible for use, any model would be removed from the NCAA Approved Softball Bat List if a third strike was assessed. The next box is a summary of backstop style bats with their respective exceptions to the 1550psi BCT minimum. Those exception numbers are also individually listed on the line of each approved bat model.

The large interactive sections are for the bat testing manager to record the results of BCT and umpires to document their inspections of bats available for play. Space for disqualification information for bats that fail BCT or are removed due to damage is provided.

Finally, the bottom section is a reminder of the coaches' responsibilities including, at a minimum, providing the first and all appropriate pages for both barrel compression testing and the pregame bat inspection. The provided list must have bat models highlighted and annotated with the number of each model presented for competition.

Example of an NCAA Approved Softball Bat List First Page:

Planned postings of the NCAA Approved Bat List will be the 2nd Monday in December 2023, April and August 2024; additional lists will post when model(s) must be immediately removed. Information new to the list is noted in blue font.

Summary of strikes assessed to models currently on the NCAA Approved Softball Bat List:

1 strike each- Demarini CFF34-19, CFP34-21 & PZP-20; Dirty South FSSW08; Mizuno 340500, 340531, 340556, 340606, & 340651

2 strikes each - Easton FP18GH10*** Mizuno 340554

BARREL COMPRESSION TESTING MINIMUMS: ALL BATS MUST MEET A MINIMUM OF 1550PSI EXCEPT THE FOLLOWING MODELS WHICH ARE SUMMARIZED BELOW AND NOTED ON THE APPROPRIATE LINES AND PAGES OF THE CURRENT NCAA APPROVED SOFTBALL BAT LIST

*Demarini Models *Prism & custom (PZF-20 & 21, PZ1-21, PZP-19, 20, 21 & 23)-1200psi minimum; all Whisper series -1100psi minimum

***Easton Models ***Ghost EFP4GHAD8, FP21GHADG4TG10, FP22GH & FP22GHAD series, FP22GHAF10, and FP22GHAM10, FP22GHT10, FP23GH8, FP23GHU series- 900psi minimum

***Ghost FP18GH, FP20GH, FP20GHAD series & FP20GHCAN10, FP20GHSNS10, FP21GHADGLD -1000psi minimum

***Ghost EFP3GHB10, EFP4GHAD9 & 10, FP23GH9 & 10-1050psi minimum

**Louisville Slugger **All LXT, PXT, RXT & XENO series -1400psi minimum; KRYO & META series -950psi minimum

*****Mizuno Models ****PWR CRBN (340527,340528, 340529, 350551 350552, 340553, 340603 340604 340605) -1400psi minimum

*****Monsta Model *****22FPH24A2 & 24FPFUL-1350psi minimum

****Rawlings Models ****MANTRA (FP1M9&10 & RFPM39&10) -1100psi minimum; MANTRA 3.0 (RFP4M9&10) -1200psi minimum

****MANTRA PLUS (RFP3MP9&10 & RFPMP9&10) -1000psi minimum

Barrel Compression Testing and Pregame Inspection Information:

Bat Testing Manager Name (s)_____

Day One Sticker Color_____ # Passed Bats_____ Date _____ Umpire Initials_____ # Bats Presented & Approved_____

Day Two Sticker Color_____ # Passed Bats_____ Date _____ Umpire Initials_____ # Bats Presented & Approved_____

Day Three Sticker Color_____ # Passed Bats_____ Date _____ Umpire Initials_____ # Bats Presented & Approved_____

FOR NCAA GAMES--Disqualified bats MUST be reported via the Noncompliant/Inappropriate Bat Report found on www.refquest.com (under governing body choose NCAA; scroll down to softball banner and select the form).
Bat testing managers MUST file the report for failed bats including the actual BCT readings; umpires MUST complete the form for bats disqualified for damage.

Failed BCT Information:

Date	Manufacturer	Model Number	BCT Readings	Bat Manager Initials

Disqualified Damaged Bat Information:

Date	Manufacturer	Model Number	Issue (e.g. break, crack, illegal, illegible, rattle, wobble, endcap, connection)	Initials

FOR ALL COMPETITION:
Model numbers on the bat must exactly match the approved model numbers on this list; color descriptions are for user convenience only.
Bat models available for use must be highlighted and the appropriate number available must be placed in the relevant game column.
This first page and whichever pages are relevant MUST be provided for bat testing and on-field inspection by umpires.
Addional copies of the bat list MAY be attached to this first page if the bat testing is relevant for more than three games.

COMPONENT 3: PRE-COMPETITION BARREL COMPRESSION TESTING (BCT)

Although not a perfect predictor of bat performance, BCT is intended to be an incentive for manufacturers to provide products that will remain performance compliant for the life of the bat and a disincentive for users attempting to improve the performance of a bat from its manufactured state (e.g. shaving, removing performance limiters, acid flush, etc.). It is a relatively reliable, fast, inexpensive on-site predictor of the result of performance testing should it be performed in the lab.

Barrel compression testing is conducted prior to competition in order to filter out bats with shells that have softened below their intended minimums. Typically, as a bat breaks in, the shell softens and when that is excessive, batted ball speed often exceeds the standard set through the certification process. BCT is designed to demonstrate the softening of an individual bat's shell (by any means including normal use, alteration, and manufacturing anomaly) and to identify bats that require further examination to ensure they perform within the allowable performance standards.

In general, the stiffness of the barrel must register a minimum of 1550 pounds per square inch (psi) when BCT occurs, however, "backstop style" bat models may be granted specific lower minimums. The explanation of the science behind the granting of lower minimums for "backstop style" bats and the process for a manufacturer to request a lower BCT minimum are detailed in this document in Appendixes B and C respectively.

BCT is required, at a minimum, prior to each tournament, series, doubleheader or game as selected by conference/tournament rule or by agreement of participating coaches in addition to daily testing for competing teams in each tier of the NCAA postseason. Whenever it occurs, all bats which will be in the team's dugout or used in the competition must be barrel compression tested and have an event-specific, distinctive, destructible sticker affixed indicating compliance with the appropriate minimum compression standard.

Responsibilities

- The host of the event shall equip an appropriately secluded testing location and communicate its location to the bat testing manager and participating head coaches no less than 48 hours prior to the team's first competition.

- Testing must take place prior to the team's first competition of each event. The time and the frequency of testing (whether prior to each game or just prior to the start of their first game of a tournament, series, or doubleheader) shall be determined by tournament/conference policy or by agreement between the host and participating coaches, whichever applies, and the timing shared with all participating coaches and the bat testing manager.

- The host and/or bat testing manager should collaborate to ensure the following softball barrel compression testing equipment is available for testing purposes prior to all competition:
    - The G4 SSL Softball Bat Compression Testing fixture (see resource page).
    - A table at least four feet long, at least one chair, athletic tape and a pen.
    - Arrange for sufficient numbers of destructible bat stickers distinct for each event. The stickers must be designed to not transfer to another bat without being destroyed.
        - For tournaments when stickers are provided by the host, they shall be unique to each event. For each tier of NCAA postseason play, the daily, distinct, destructible stickers will be provided to the bat testing manager by the NCAA.
        - For competition with a single opponent, stickers may be provided by each team to be placed on the opposing team's bats, provided by the conference (distinctive by color or design for each conference date/opponent) or be a single sticker design which allows for a testing date and initials of the bat testing manager to distinguish it for that competition.

- In all cases, the stickers must be distinct for each cycle of testing so a bat previously stickered, indicating it passed BCT, cannot be mixed in with bats being subsequently tested.

- The bat testing manager is responsible for assembling, positioning and calibrating the BCT fixture, conducting the testing on all bats presented, applying the stickers, and filing the follow-up electronic report as needed.

- The team representative is responsible for attending the team's bat testing time at the agreed upon time with the bats and paperwork as detailed below:
  - Presenting all bats which the team wishes to have in its dugout or use in the competition. In addition, the representative shall line up the bats in the order in which they appear on the NCAA Approved Softball Bat List for ease in testing.

  - Presenting, at a minimum, the first and all relevant pages of the current NCAA Approved Softball Bat List with the appropriate lines highlighted and the total number of each model bats entered in the game column.

  - Providing stickers to be placed on the opposing team's bats if requested.

Detailed BCT Procedures

Barrel compression testing consists of three parts.

1. First, the bat testing manager must verify the presented bats are on the NCAA Approved Softball Bat List and count the amount of each model. The model number on the bat must be legible and exactly match the highlighted model number and the number of bats presented must match the number noted by the team representative. Return any bat disqualified from the preceding step or any with obvious damage to the team representative at this time (i.e. without the event sticker).

2. The second part is the barrel compression test to verify the compression level is above the prescribed barrel stiffness minimum. In general, bat pressure must be greater than 1550psi, however, many manufacturers produce models with a "backstop style" internal design that allows the outer shell to be softer. Those models with exceptions to the minimum (details available in Appendices B and C in this document) are summarized on the first page of the presented NCAA Approved Softball Bat List and are individually noted throughout the list for each model with an asterisk(s).

   - To perform the test, insert the bat until the end cap rests against the stop stick; place the cylinder under the bat handle so that the bat remains level; make sure the lever is pointed down, twist the pressure gauge until it reads exactly 500psi (called preload); lift the handle and make note whether the bat exceeds the minimum psi (i.e., passes) before lowering the lever and releasing the preload on the pressure gauge; rotate the bat 90 degrees (one quarter turn) and retest. Bats will be tested a maximum of three times, until they receive two passes or two fails, whichever happens first.

   - Testing Tip: position the front page or applicable page of the provided NCAA Approved Softball Bat List between the cylinder and the fixture (it will be directly below the bat as it is tested) for easy reference of the unique minimum pressures for every model.

3. The third part is the final disposition of the bats – stickering those that pass or disqualifying those that fail and filing the necessary electronic report. The bat testing manager applies stickers to each bat that passes BCT with a destructible sticker appropriate for the event. That sticker is valid for the length of the event or as determined by tournament/conference policy. Stickers should be securely placed as close as possible to the barrel end of the grip and on top of older stickers whenever possible. Stickers should be securely placed to prevent them from falling off during use. Older stickers may first be removed if they create a noticeably raised area.

    - Note: when stickers are provided by the competing teams, the bat testing manager applies the sticker from the opposing team on each bat.

Bats that fail BCT are tagged using the athletic tape with the institution's name, removed from use, and given by the bat testing manager to the on-site administrator to secure. During regular season competitions, teams may request return of the disqualified bat(s) following the completion of their last competition at that site if there is no contradictory conference policy. For the regular season NCAA staff tested events and all postseason competition, bats that fail BCT will not returned to the team while on-site but instead sent to the NCAA Softball Rules Committee designee for additional evaluation. This designee will perform BCT using at least two different BCT machines and provide the results to the appropriate NCAA Softball Rules Committee. If the bat passes the additional BCT or has visual damage, it will be returned to the institution. If the bat fails the additional BCT testing, it may be sent to the lab for compliance testing.

Once BCT is completed, the bat testing manager shall complete the information box on the front page of the team's NCAA Approved Softball Bat List, then return the list to the team representative for use by the umpire crew during the pregame inspection(s) at the dugout**. In addition, the bat testing manager is responsible for filing the electronic Noncompliant/Inappropriate Bat Form (see resources for link) for any bat failing regular season BCT (postseason failures need only be noted on the appropriate NCAA championship log sheets)**.

- Note: Bats presented in multi-day events need not be identical day-to-day as coaches may delete from or add to their inventory at every testing opportunity.

<u>COMPONENT 4: ON-FIELD BAT INSPECTION</u>

The umpire crew shall reconcile the total number of bats noted on the team's NCAA Approved Softball Bat List with the stickered bats lined up, preferably in appropriate order, outside the dugout and then inspect each bat for suitability for play. During the pregame inspection, if a bat is determined not to have the correct sticker or a bat is deemed unsuitable for play, the bat shall be removed, the team's bat list appropriately amended, and the bat secured by the on-site administrator. Should a non-approved bat be detected at any other time, the consequences are detailed within the playing rules based on the time the violation is reported by/to the umpire. **In all cases, the plate umpire shall file the electronic Noncompliant/Inappropriate Bat Form and the affected team may request return of the bat(s) at the end of competition.**

<u>COMPONENT 5: POST-COMPETITION COMPLIANCE TESTING</u>

Post-competition compliance testing refers to the testing done at the lab to verify that the batted ball speeds for broken-in bats are no faster than the accepted maximum performance

standard of 98mph. Each model that meets the standard will be deemed compliant and those that exceed the maximum will be considered noncompliant and assessed a strike up to a maximum of three.

To ensure models on the NCAA Approved Softball Bat List are appropriate and that individual bat performances are within the standards, a pool of bats is annually considered for this lab testing. All bats that failed BCT at an NCAA staff tested event (regular and postseason) are part of the pool. The remainder of the pool is comprised of twenty-four bats that passed daily BCT at every tier of the postseason. Specifically, two bats will be secured immediately following the DII and DIII national championship game from each of the finals teams and two bats will be secured from every Women's College World Series team following the team's final game. Bats sent to the lab for compliance testing will typically include bats expected to fail (those filtered out through BCT) and bats expected to pass (from the twenty-four taken following the championships).

Bats that pass the lab's cannon testing (either because BCT inappropriately filtered them out or they were part of the twenty-four compliant bats) will be returned to their institution.
Bats that fail the lab's cannon testing remain surrendered, the model is assessed a strike, and a notification letter is sent to the affected institution and manufacturer.

Appeal and Verification Opportunities
Institutions and manufacturers of any bat that fails in the lab are issued a letter of noncompliance, which includes testing results, the strike assessed to the model, and information regarding an opportunity to challenge the results.

- An appeal opportunity is available to manufacturers of a bat considered noncompliant. In the event a manufacturer believes there are unique circumstances or wishes to provide additional data for the appropriate NCAA Softball Rules Committee to consider, a request must be made, in writing to the NCAA Softball Rules Committee designee within seven (7) business days of notice of the model failure. The appropriate NCAA Softball Rules Committee will remove the strike if they are convinced by the data that the model is compliant.

- A compliance verification opportunity is available for the institution or manufacturer to challenge the test result. To initiate the process, the request must be made, in writing, to the NCAA Softball Rules Committee designee within seven (7) business days of notice of model failure and arrangements made with the applicable NCAA Softball Rules Committee liaison at the NCAA for payment (at the time of this update, approximately $1,000). The bat then will be retested using the compliance protocol (certification without accelerated break-in procedure) and if the lab results indicate the BBS is compliant, the bat will be returned to the institution and the strike removed from the model. If the bat fails BBS again, it will remain surrendered to the NCAA, and the model failure remains a strike.

- A failure verification (autopsy) opportunity is also available for the institution or manufacturer to challenge the reason for the failed test result. It too must be requested, in writing, to the NCAA Softball Rules Committee designee within seven (7) business days of notice of model failure. To arrange for the failure verification autopsy opportunity, payment must be arranged with the NCAA Softball Rules Committee liaison at the NCAA and the NCAA Softball Rules Committee designee will notify the lab of the request. If desired, arrangements can be made to have the requestor present (physically or virtually) when the failure verification autopsy is performed. Expenses (at the time of this writing, approximately $200) will be paid by the requestor even though there is a chance the lab staff will have no explanation for the excessive BBS or the reason for the results might be inconclusive.

  The results of the failure verification autopsy will be made known to the requestor and the appropriate NCAA Softball Rules Committee which will notify the appropriate NCAA staff and relevant Softball Championship Committee if the conclusion is user alteration. That NCAA Softball Rules Committee shall determine, in its discretion, whether further investigation or action is warranted in response to the findings.

Bat Disqualification

When a model is assessed a third strike, the NCAA will send an email or other such communication to the manufacturer as notice that the model has been deleted from the updated NCAA Approved Softball Bat List. At the same time, the updated NCAA Approved Softball Bat List will be posted without the disqualified model. If the disqualification occurs at any time other than immediately preceding the regularly scheduled posting of the NCAA Approved Softball Bat List, notification will be sent to the email addresses for head coaches, senior woman administrators and conference commissioners, on file with, or otherwise held by, the NCAA Directory. Coaches are responsible for checking their respective email accounts referenced herein on game days, for reviewing and complying with any such notification received thereat, and for informing the NCAA in writing of any requested changes to the recipient email address or for providing one to the extent one is not on file with, or otherwise held by, the NCAA.

SECTION 3
NCAA SOFTBALL REGULAR SEASON
BARREL COMPRESSION TESTING PROTOCOL CHECKLIST

GENERAL PRINCIPLES

BCT must be conducted at a minimum, prior to the start of each tournament, series, doubleheader, or single game. Based on the best practices learned from testing for more than fifteen years, the NCAA Softball Rules Committees are providing the following guidance for conferences and institutions to create their exact protocols for testing. Because protocols will vary, hosts for tournaments and non-conference games are responsible for sharing the details of their protocols with competing teams at least one week before the competition.

PROTOCOL PLANS

Notice given to opponent (who & date):_____

Testing prior to (check one): Tournament _____ Series_____ Doubleheader_____ Daily_____

Testing location:_____ Date _____ Time_____

Stickers provided by (check one): Host_____ Participating teams_____

Testing manager and cell number: _____

On-site administrator and cell number: _____

Disposition of failed bats if conference games: _____

Optional plan for back-up fixture (encouraged):_____

EQUIPMENT

The G4 SSL Softball Bat Compression Testing fixture location:_____

Testing table, chair, athletic tape and pen:_____

Sufficient number of distinctive, destructible stickers:_____

PREP BY BAT TESTING MANAGER

1. **Review "how to" information** for assembling, positioning, calibrating and using the BCT fixture (see resources for website addresses of tutorials).
2. **Locate all testing equipment and materials and contact information of on-site administrator.**
3. **Position the fixture** on the level table and insert the stop stick from the preferred side until it is flush with the far side then tighten the set screw to secure it.
4. **Conduct a calibration trial every time** the fixture is set-up by inserting, preloading and compressing the provided cylinder to confirm the reading matches, or is within the tolerance of, the load printed on the cylinder.

PREP BY PARTICIPATING COACHES

1. **Ensure the team is properly equipped** with legal and undamaged bats.
2. **The team representative/coach shall provide the bat testing manager with the first and all relevant pages of the current NCAA Approved Softball Bat List** with the models highlighted and indicate the total count of each model to be tested.
3. **Line up the bats** in the order in which they appear on the NCAA Approved Softball Bat List for ease in barrel compression testing and on-field inspection by umpires.
4. **Prior to the start of EVERY game, provide the NCAA Approved Softball Bat List used in BCT and line up the stickered bats** for damage inspection by the game umpires.

POST-EVENT RESPONSIBILITIES

1. **Bat testing managers-** secure any disqualified bats with on-site administrator and file the electronic Noncompliant/Inappropriate Bat Form.
2. **On-site administrator-** at the request of the affected coach, return any disqualified bats from the bat testing manager and umpires following all competition at the site**. EXCEPTION**-in the NCAA postseason, bats disqualified by the bat testing manager for failing barrel compression testing must be sent for lab analysis. Contact the NCAA Softball Rules Committee designee for a prepaid shipping label.
3. **Umpires-** file the electronic Noncompliant/Inappropriate Bat Form for any bats disqualified in the pregame inspection as unsuitable for use.

APPENDIX A
EXAMPLE OF POSTSEASON BAT LOG SHEET

NCAA Bat Compliance Log Sheet

2, 3 or 4 test days

Institution_____ Head Coach_____

Host School_____ Coach's email_____

Test Manager _____ Coach's cell_____

Email_____ Division_____Regional or Super Regional (Circle One)

Passed/Stickered Bat Information (use other side if needed)

Manufacturer (list in NCAA Bat List alpha order)	**Model #** (list in NCAA Bat List numberical order)	**BCT Minimum**	**Day One** Pass/Test	**Day Two** Pass/Test	**Day Three** Pass/Test	**Day Four** Pass/Test
sample-Dee Bat Co.	*D2023*	*1550*	*1/2*	*1/1*	*1/1*	*na*
sample-Dee Bat Co.	*D2024*	*1200*	*3/3*	*3/3*	*2/3*	*na*
Total Number of Passed/Stickered Bats Each Day						

Failed Bat Information (include damaged bats disqualified by bat testing manager; use other side if needed)

Manufacturer	**Model**	**Disqualified Date**	**First BCT** Reading	**Second BCT** Reading	**Third BCT** if needed	**Damage** Type
sample-Dee Bat Co.	*D2023*	*day 1*	*900*	*850*	*na*	*crack*
sample-Dee Bat Co.	*D2024*	*day 3*	*1150*	*1250*	*1150*	*none*

APPENDIX B
EXPLANATION OF THE EXCEPTIONS TO THE 1550 POUNDS PER SQUARE INCH BARREL COMPRESSION TESTING STANDARD

Here's a simple explanation of the science: Recall from your physics class that in a collision, the harder object deforms the softer one and either crashes through or rebounds off. In the case of a hollow implement (softball bat) with a solid object (the ball), the bat deforms and trampolines the ball off. Since the ball is the same for both teams, bat manufacturers design bat models to get high batted ball speeds (BBS) to create a product that is market competitive but not so high performing that they are out of compliance with our BBS maximum standard of 98mph. Compliance with that standard is measured in the ASA 2004 and current USA Softball bat certification processes and in NCAA compliance testing.

Barrel compression testing (BCT) is used as a predictor of compliance testing in the lab. In general, bat models with a barrel stiffness of at least 1550psi produce acceptable BBS. Therefore, bats stiffer than that are considered to have passed BCT when tested. In these cases, if you were to graph the stiffness of the bat shell and BBS you would see them rise in a reasonably linear relationship (the softer the shell, the higher the BBS).

However, there is a group of models that, although they have soft outer shells, have unique designs of having an internal "backstop limiter" which prevents the soft outer shell from too much flex. These models do not show the same correlation of outer shell barrel stiffness to BBS and are therefore referred to as "non-linear" or "backstop style" bats. Because the BCT fixture only compresses/measures the shell's stiffness and not the internal performance limiter, the test results are not reasonably linear. Therefore, they must be granted specific exceptions to the minimum 1550psi when barrel compression tested.

Regarding the current NCAA Softball BCT exceptions: Most major manufacturers have at least one "backstop style" bat model with a negotiated exception to the 1550psi minimum. The specific models and their approved lower psi minimums are summarized on the front page and listed on the specific pages of the current NCAA Approved Softball Bat List.
Note: The exception is not an exception to have the bat barrel compression tested; it is an exception to the minimum psi that separates passed bats from failed ones.

As to the exception protocol: The 2012 NCAA Softball Rules Committee created a protocol to allow manufacturers to submit requests for exceptions to the 1550psi. The process was initially circulated to manufacturers, later posted in the NCAA Bats column of the applicable websites titled "Exception for Compliance with Existing Barrel Compression Testing Standard", and now included in Appendix C of this document.

B**CT as a predictor but not the defining test:** What BCT does is identify specific bats that are likely too high performing by using a fixture that is a convenient, portable and an inexpensive predictor of the lab result. The NCAA will continue to use this tool during all competition including postseason play to filter out bats that are predicted to fail in the lab, send those bats to the lab for actual testing and amend the NCAA Approved Softball Bat List as appropriate using those results. Tournament hosts and NCAA institutions will use BCT as a filter to prevent bats with testing results below the minimum psi from use in competition. Remember, batted ball speed, not BCT minimums, is still the bat performance standard required for inclusion of models on the NCAA Approved Softball Bat List.

APPENDIX C
NCAA SOFTBALL PROCESS FOR EXCEPTION TO THE EXISTING NCAA BARREL COMPRESSION TESTING STANDARD

In order for a manufacturer to request an exception to the existing minimum barrel stiffness (as measured in pounds per square inch – psi) for NCAA Barrel Compression Testing (BCT), the following protocol shall be used. Manufacturers must collaborate with the NCAA Softball Rules Committee designee for bat issues in order to create the timelines, make the necessary arrangements for conditioning the sample bats including their shipment to the lab, and collect the relevant data as listed below.

1. The manufacturer must show that the bat model's structure deviates significantly from the traditional single wall, multi wall and/or layered composite designs that traditionally meet the 1550psi minimum during BCT;
2. The manufacturer must submit a reasonable explanation in writing to the NCAA Softball Rules Committee designee, which is acceptable to the applicable rules committee, detailing how the bat model's design will consistently and repeatedly produce BCT results softer than the existing minimum then in effect;
3. The manufacturer must provide lab data from the USA Softball certification testing process and the batted ball speeds (BBS) from the sample provided clearly demonstrating the correlation between the requested lower BCT minimum and compliance with the maximum BBS then in effect (which, at the time of this writing is 98.0mph);
4. No more than 10% of the provided sample may exceed the maximum BBS then in effect;
5. The lab results reflected in the above-referenced data must be obtained from a sample of bats as noted below:
    a. Conditioning arranged by the NCAA Softball Rules Committee designee: at least 75% must be broken in through play or practice activities;
    b. Sample size provided by the manufacturer: 12 to 24 bats representing ALL length and weight combinations to be listed on the NCAA Approved Softball Bat List; and
    c. An exception to the sample of all length and weight combinations may be approved for a manufacturer to add a heavier edition of a model that has completed the above process as long as the heavier model shares the same lay-up and BCT minimum exception and the lighter edition is still included on the NCAA Approved Softball Bat List.

A new bat model which is presented for inclusion on the NCAA Approved Softball Bat List through the affidavit option of USA Softball certification may be granted the same BCT minimum exception as the model to which it is connected. Similarly, a new bat model may be granted the same BCT minimum exemption as a different bat model if the barrel construction is documented to be identical to the original bat model. In both cases, the exception may be granted through testing of a smaller sample or without following the exception protocol listed above at the discretion of the NCAA Softball Rules Committees designee and upon forwarding the appropriate documentation to the same.

Except as may be otherwise expressly provided for by the appropriate NCAA Softball Rules Committee, all costs and expenses associated with all testing contemplated herein shall be borne by the manufacturer requesting the exception. The final decision regarding any requested exception and the appropriate BCT tipping point between pass and fail for a bat model shall rest with the applicable NCAA Softball Rules Committee or its' designee. Unless and until an exception is granted, the bat model shall be subject to BCT testing and standards then in effect. The NCAA Softball Rules Committees shall have the right to periodically review and revise the criteria for this exception, in its sole discretion. All other terms and conditions of the NCAA softball bat protocol and related procedures shall continue to apply, whether an exception is granted.