

Official Ruling 18-01

5-6 Coach Pitch Bats

January 12, 2018

In prior years, Bat Manufacturers marketed 24", 25" and 26" bats for use in both Tee Ball and Coach Pitch play. Both the Tee Ball and Coach Pitch met the previous BPF 1.15 standard in prior years.

Effective in 2018, the new USA Baseball bat standard went into effect for all league-based youth baseball programs in the United States. In developing the engineering and production standards for the new bats manufactured with the new USA Baseball specifications, the bat manufacturers have encountered significant (though not impossible) challenges to the 24", 25" and 26" coach pitch bats due to their short length and weight. Therefore, there will be no 24", 25" and 26" coach pitch bats produced and marketed in 2018 with the USA Baseball stamp. No BPF 1.15 24", 25" and 26" coach pitch bats are allowed for play in 2018 in any league-based youth baseball program including Dixie Youth Baseball.

Ruling:

The only 24", 25" and 26" bats allowed in DYB (6 and Under) play in 2018 will be the USA Baseball stamped Tee Ball bats. The physicists who test the new USA Baseball bats at the official bat testing facility at Washington State University in Pullman, Washington have determined that the shorter (24", 25" and 26") Tee Ball Bats may be used for coach pitch as well as 27" and longer non-Tee Ball composite and metal bats.

The Tee Ball bats stamped with the USA Baseball mark (lengths 26" and shorter) feature the words "Only For Use With Approved Tee Balls" printed on the barrel of the bat. There is no guideline or requirement that these bats must be used with a tee, just that they must be used with an approved low compression baseball. If Tee Ball bats are used with other than low compression baseballs, it will void the warranty on the bat and may damage the bat.

Coach pitch leagues (for players who must use the (24", 25" and 26") Tee Ball Bats) should use balls featured on USA Baseball Approved Tee Ball List for their 6 and Under Coach Pitch games. The full list can be found at <https://usabat.com/approved-tee-balls/> and it is also shown in Exhibit A to this ruling.

For 6 and Under coach pitch should use one of the level 5 baseballs on this list. Most level 5 balls meet our criteria for low compression baseballs. These will work well for coach pitch leagues while allowing 6 and under players to use 24", 25" and 26" bats in coach pitch games.



Wes Skelton, Commissioner

Approved Low Compression Baseballs

Manufacturer	Model	Model #
Spalding	Spalding	41-105LL Tee Ball
Wilson	A1228	WTA1228B
Wilson	A1217	WTA1217B
Rawlings	Training Ball	ROTB5
Rawlings	Training Ball	ROTB1
Rawlings	TVB Baseball	TVB
Franklin Sports	MLB Soft Strike Chrome D	23430
Franklin Sports	MLB Soft Strike T-ball	1920
Franklin Sports	MLB Soft Strike Chrome B	23339
Diamond	Diamond	DFX-LC1 LL TEEBALL
ProNine Sports	ProNine Sports	Tee Ball Lvl 1
BSN Sports	MacGregor #56 Tee Ball	MCB56TBX
Baden Sports	Official League T-Ball	SAF BST
AD STARR	STARR5	STARR5
AD STARR	STARR1	STARR1
Champro Sports	Safe- T -Soft	CBB-61