

MIAA Handbook Rule 65.4 – BASEBALL BATS

NFHS Rule 1, Section 3

Article 2 – The bat shall have the following characteristics and components.

- a. Each legal wood, aluminum or composite bat shall:
 1. Be one piece, multi-pieces and permanently assembled, or two pieces with interchangeable barrel construction.
 2. Not have exposed rivets, pins, rough or sharp edges or any form of exterior fastener that would present a hazard.
 3. Be free of rattles, dents, burrs, cracks and sharp edges. Bats that are broken, altered or that deface the ball are illegal. Materials inside the bat or treatments/devices used to alter the bat specifications and/or enhance performance are prohibited and render the bat illegal.
- b. Each legal wood, aluminum or composite bat shall have the following components:
 1. Knob. The bat knob shall protrude from the handle. The knob may be molded, lathed, welded or permanently fastened. Devices, attachments or wrappings are permitted except those that cause the knob to become flush with the handle. A one-piece rubber knob and bat grip combination is illegal.
 2. Handle. The bat handle is the area of the bat that begins at, but does not include, the knob and ends where the taper begins.
 3. Barrel. The barrel is the area intended for contact with the pitch. The barrel shall be round, cylindrically symmetric and smooth. The barrel may be aluminum, wood or composite (made of two or more materials). The type of bat (wood, aluminum or composite) shall be determined by the composition of the barrel.
 4. Taper. The taper is an optional transition area which connects the narrower handle to the wider barrel portion of the bat. Its length and material may vary but may not extend more than 18 inches from the base of the knob.
 5. End Cap. The end cap is made of rubber, vinyl, plastic or other approved material. It shall be firmly secured and permanently affixed to the end of the bat so that it cannot be removed by anyone other than the manufacturer, without damaging or destroying it. By definition, a one-piece construction bat does not have an end cap.
- c. Each bat not made of a single piece of wood shall:
 1. Have a safety grip made of cork, tape (no smooth, plastic tape) or commercially manufactured composition material. The grip must extend a minimum of 10 inches, but not more than 18 inches, from the base of the knob. Slippery tape or similar material shall be prohibited. Resin, pine tar or any drying agent to enhance the hold are permitted only on the grip. Molded grips are illegal.
 2. Be 2 and 5/8" or less in diameter at thickest part and 36 inches or less in length.
 3. Not weigh, numerically, more than three ounces less than the length of the bat (e.g. a 33-inch-long bat cannot be less than 30 ounces).
- d. Bats that are not made of a single piece of wood shall meet the Batted Ball Coefficient of Restitution (BBCOR) performance standard, and such bats shall be labeled with a silkscreen or other permanent certification mark. No BBCOR label, sticker or decal will be accepted on any non-wood bat. The certification mark shall be rectangular, a minimum of one inch on each side and located on the barrel of the bat in any contrasting color to read: "BBCOR .50." **Note: The NFHS has been advised that certain manufactures consider alternation, modification and "doctoring" of their bats to be unlawful and subject to civil and, under certain circumstances, criminal action.**

Article 3 – A bat made of a single piece of wood may be roughened or wound with tape not more than 18 inches from the handle end of the bat. No foreign substance may be added to the surface of the bat beyond 18 inches from the end of the handle. Each bat made of a single piece of wood shall be:

- a. 2¾ inches or less in diameter at the thickest part
- b. 36 inches or less in length

Article 4 – Only bats may be used in warming up (including weighted bats used for this purpose) at any location. Only bats and items designed to remain part of the bat, such as weighted bats, batting donuts, and wind-resistant devices are legal at any location.

Article 5 – Bats that are altered from the manufacturer's original design and production, or that do not meet the rule specifications, are illegal (**See 7/4/1a below**). No artificial or intentional means shall be used to control the temperature of the bat. No foreign substance may be inserted into the bat. Bats that are broken, cracked or dented or that deface the ball, i.e., tear the ball, shall be removed without penalty. A bat that continually discolors the ball may be removed from the game with no penalty at the discretion of the umpire.

NFHS Rule 7, Section 4

Article 1 – A batter is also out as in above penalty or when:

- a. The batter enters the batter's box with an illegal bat or is discovered having used an illegal bat. If the infraction is discovered before the next pitch following the turn at bat of the player who used an illegal bat, the defense may take the penalty or the result of the play.