

REVISED Bat Restrictions EFFECTIVE SEPTEMBER 1, 2017: Updated for the 2018 Season

Coaches and Parents:

We apologize for the confusion on this bat issue. Obviously, it has been confusing for all Leagues, Tournaments, Affiliations, teams, players and parents.

The Midwest Ohio Baseball League has always supported the decisions coming out of USA Baseball as the governing body of all baseball in the USA. **It was our understanding that player safety was one of the primary reasons for the new USA bat restrictions.**

And, while it is true that the USA bats will be "more wood-like", and thus, less rebounding (and thus safer from a standpoint that a ball batted with same velocity will reach a pitcher more slowly with the new USA bat rather than the current 1.15 BPF, we have discovered that USA baseball has said that "safety is not the reason for the change."

From the USA baseball website:

Is safety the reason for the change?

No. Youth baseball continues to be one of the safest of all sports for youth participants.

AS WE NOW UNDERSTAND THAT SAFETY (WHICH WE THOUGHT TO BE THE PRIMARY REASON FOR THE CHANGE) IS NOT THE REASON FOR THE CHANGE, WE HAVE MODIFIED OUR BAT RESTRICTIONS FOR 2018 AND 2019.

For the 2018 Midwest Ohio Baseball Season:

- Bats - The Official Bat shall be round in cross section of the barrel and taper, straight in length and measure not more than 34 inches long, including tape or other grip additions to the bat, shall have a knob at the end of its handle, and not more than 2- 1/4 inches in diameter for small barrel bats and not more than 2 and 3/4 inches for big barrel bats at its largest part. Its weight shall not exceed 31-ounces, including tape or grip addition to the bat. The bat shall have a grip of tape or some other material to facilitate holding the bat during the batter's swing (not mandatory on wooden bats). **All key graphics, including USSSA and BPF 1.15 markings, must be permanent and cannot be applied as decals or by any other method that would allow the key graphics to be easily removed or added to the bat.**

- Material. THE BAT may be made of hard wood of one piece, or laminated from sections of hard wood bonded together with adhesive in such a way that the grain directions of all the pieces are essentially parallel to the length of the bat. THE BAT may also be made of aluminum or other metals, fiberglass, graphite or composite materials.

For 15-18u only BBCOR certified for NFHS use, wood composite which is BBCOR certified or one piece wood bats will be legal for 2012 and beyond.

For 14 and Under: There will be no changes except to allow the USA Bats in addition to those with the 1.15BPF or USSSA bats with permanent markings made by the manufacturer.

The Midwest Ohio Baseball League will allow both the new USA, USSSA and the 1.15 BPF bats with permanent markings made by the manufacturer for 2018.

- **14u AND BELOW, for Midwest Ohio Baseball League play, there will be no mandatory bat drop AS LONG AS THE BAT HAS THE USA, USSSA OR BPF 1.15 PERMANENT MARKINGS FROM THE MANUFACTURER. It is strongly suggested, but is not mandatory, in order to assist players in making the jump to -3 BBCOR at 15 and above, to encourage those players capable of swinging -5 or -8 to do so at 13-14u.**

- **14U AND BELOW, For Midwest Ohio Baseball League play, A BIG BARREL BAT (no more than 2 3/4 inches diameter and no more than 34 inches in length) MUST HAVE THE NEW USA,**

USSSA or BPF 1.15 MARK ON ITS TAPER, OR ("USA, USSSA and BPF 1.15 marks and other graphics of the bat must be applied permanently and must be applied by the manufacturer. No stickers or decals are allowed and no one may add graphics to a bat once manufactured. Use of a bat with graphics not applied by the manufacturer will be use of an altered bat and subject to suspension under the National Federation and USSSA Altered Bat rules.

These are our league rules effective for the 2018 season.

Bottom line Considerations:

1. Some tournaments will have their own rules so check with them before you enter.
2. IF you are considering purchasing a bat today, which you intend to use for multiple years, we do not have very reliable information for you. The safest bet would be to go with the USA model but until we get a unified stance on bat rules, we will not be able to advise you with any certainty.
3. Bats are not to be tampered with by rolling or otherwise altering them. There is a complete article on the website about rolling bats.

We wish that there was total agreement among all affiliations on this issue as that would simplify all of our lives.

For the 2019 Midwest Ohio Baseball Season:

Unless, and until, there are substantive changes, such as a unified bat rule position, we will likely leave the 2018 rules in place. We reserve the right to modify league rules as the future positions regarding bat change.

We apologize for this revision, but we believe that since there is no safety issue, there is no reason to complicate our teams, players, parents and coaches lives while increasing (potentially) there costs to play by requiring a new bat this year.

Wade Westfall, President

Gregg Beemer, Baseball Operations