

# 2010-11 Changes

## 1.63 Illegally Batted Ball (Page 24)

A pitch contacted by the batter:

1.63.1 With an **inappropriate bat** (altered, **illegal or nonapproved**).

1.63.2 When any part of either foot is in contact with the plate at the time of bat-ball contact.

1.63.3 When one or both feet are on the ground and entirely outside the lines of the batter's box at the time of bat-ball contact.

## 1.79 Nonapproved Bat (Page 27)

An inappropriate bat that does not **bear** the ASA **2004 certification seal** or is not on the **NCAA 2011 Approved Softball Bat List**.

## 3.3 Bats—Game (Pages 45 and 47)

3.3.1.5 Bats shall bear the permanent ASA 2004 certification seal and be on the **NCAA 2011 Approved Softball Bat List as maintained** on the NCAA ([www.NCAA.org/playingrules](http://www.NCAA.org/playingrules)) and **SUP ArbiterSports** websites indicating compliance with the bat performance standard per the appropriate ASTM testing protocol.

**EFFECT (3.3.1.1 to 3.3.1.8)—If a batter enters the batter's box with an illegal bat, the bat shall be removed from the game (not returned to the dugout), the batter shall be declared out, and base runners shall not advance. If a batter enters the batter's box with an altered bat or a nonapproved bat, or has completed her turn at bat using a nonapproved bat and before the first pitch to the next batter, the penalty for an illegal bat shall be imposed in addition to the batter being ejected from the game. If a nonapproved bat is detected at any other time during the contest, the bat shall be surrendered to the plate umpire.**

**Exception:** In **all** cases, advance is legal on a noncontacted pitch or ball four.

**Any bat discovered through NCAA bat compliance testing to exceed the ASA bat performance standard shall be excluded from use, and the player/team may be subject to penalties imposed by the NCAA (not umpire).**

**In all cases regarding possession or use of an inappropriate bat, the plate umpire shall file an incident report (See Appendix C), with the NCAA softball secretary-rules editor.**

- 3.3.2 Upon arrival to the field, the host coach or school shall provide a printed copy of the **NCAA 2011 Approved Softball Bat List** available on the **NCAA (www.NCAA.org/playingrules)** and **SUP ArbiterSports** websites as amended through communications from the NCAA relating to bats added to or scratched from the list.
- 3.3.3 The umpires shall inspect all bats for legal specifications and an ASA **2004** certification seal. Bats with the seal are legal if listed on the **NCAA 2011 Approved Softball Bat List**. Bats without the ASA 2004 seal **or not on the approved list** shall not be legal for use.
- 3.3.4 Bats deemed inappropriate (altered, illegal or nonapproved) (pregame or during play) shall be removed from the team's possession and secured **by the plate umpire** from either team for the duration of the game.

**Note:** *The definition of a nonapproved bat has changed. (See Rule 1.79.)*

### **3.4 Bats—Warm-Up (Page 48)**

The warm-up bat must weigh not less than 39 ounces and have a minimum barrel diameter of 2 inches. The bat shall be of one-piece construction and shall have a safety grip 10-15 inches from the knob and securely affixed. Attachments to a bat (such as sleeves, donuts and fans) are not allowed in the on-deck circle.

**EFFECT**—The presence of an inappropriate (illegal, nonapproved or altered) bat in the on-deck circle shall result in the equipment's removal from the game (not returned to the dugout), and the player shall be warned. Should the illegal, nonapproved or altered bat reappear in the on-deck circle, the on-deck batter shall be ejected.

*Note: This rule has not changed but the definition of a nonapproved bat has. (See Rule 1.79.)*

## **5.4 Umpires' Duties (Page 63)**

The umpires should report to the field and notify the on-site administrator and home-team coaches of their arrival at least 30 minutes before the start of the game.

5.4.1 Before each game, the umpires shall inspect the bats for grip, size, current ASA certification and any obvious damage. Umpires should make certain that dented, bent, altered or illegal bats are not available for use during the game (that is, not allowed in the dugout). To determine whether a bat with a dent(s) or a flat spot is legal, a bat ring must slide over the barrel without significant force.

**EFFECT**—See Rule 3.3 for illegal, altered or nonapproved bats.

*Note: This rule has not changed but the definition of a nonapproved bat has. (See Rule 1.79.)*

## **11.8 Bat (Page 144)**

11.8.3 **Illegal bat.** A batter shall not take an illegal bat into the batter's box. (See Rules 1.59 and 3.3.)

**EFFECT**—The ball is dead. The batter shall be declared out, and base runners shall return to the base last occupied at the time of the pitch. The bat shall be removed from the game (not returned to the dugout).

**Exception:** Advance is legal on a noncontacted pitch or ball four.

11.8.4 **Nonapproved bat.** A batter shall not take a nonapproved bat into the batter's box. (See Rules 1.79 and 3.3.)

**EFFECT—**The ball is dead. **If the batter is in the batter's box or has completed her turn at bat and before the first pitch to the next batter,** the batter shall be declared out and ejected, and base runners shall return to the base last occupied at the time of the pitch. The bat shall be removed from the game (not returned to the dugout).

*Exception:* Advance is legal on a noncontacted pitch or ball four. **If the nonapproved bat is discovered at any other time during the contest,** the bat shall be surrendered to the plate umpire.

### **11.17 Illegally Batted Ball (Page 152)**

11.17.3 An altered or nonapproved bat is used.

**EFFECT—**The batter shall be declared out and ejected from the game for use of an altered bat or if a nonapproved bat is detected in the batter's box or after the batter has completed her turn at bat and before the first pitch to the next batter. Base runners shall not advance. The bat shall be removed from the game.

*Exception:* Advance is legal on a noncontacted pitch or ball four. **If the nonapproved bat is discovered at any other time during the contest,** the bat shall be surrendered to the plate umpire.

11.17.4 An illegal bat is used.

**EFFECT—**The batter shall be declared out. Base runners shall not advance. The bat shall be removed from the game.

*Exception:* Advance is legal on a noncontacted pitch or ball four.

## 11.24 Batter is Out (Page 157)

The batter is out when:

11.24.3 The batter enters the batter's box with or is discovered using an illegal bat.

**EFFECT—The ball is dead. If a batter enters the batter's box with an illegal bat, the bat shall be removed from the game (not returned to the dugout), the batter shall be declared out, and base runners shall not advance.**

***Exception:* Advance is legal on a noncontacted pitch or ball four.**

11.24.4 The batter enters the batter's box with or is discovered using a non-approved bat.

**EFFECT—The ball is dead. If a batter is in the batter's box or has completed her turn at bat and before the first pitch to the next batter with a nonapproved bat, the bat shall be removed from the game (not returned to the dugout), the batter shall be declared out and ejected, and base runners shall not advance.**

***Exception:* Advance is legal on a noncontacted pitch or ball four. If the nonapproved bat is discovered at any other time during the contest, the bat shall be surrendered to the plate umpire.**

## 15.6 Pregame Responsibilities (Page 247)

Before the start of the game, the umpires shall:

15.6.1 Inspect the bats for grip, size, the ASA 2004 certification seal, inclusion on the NCAA 2010 Approved Softball Bat List and any obvious damage. Umpires should make certain that damaged or inappropriate bats are not available for use during the game (that is, not allowed in the dugout).

**EFFECT—See Rule 3.3 for illegal, altered and nonapproved bat violations.**