

Memo



Date: August 19, 2016
To: Baseball Coaches, Athletic Directors, NMOA Baseball Umpires
From: Dusty Young - NMAA Associate Director, Director of Baseball
Re: NMAA Baseball Bat Regulations

As you are probably well aware, the NMAA Membership voted to mandate the use of wood/composite wood baseball bats at the high school level. Here is some important information regarding these bat regulations.

The NMAA Bylaws state the following in Section 7.12.7:

Only wood or composite wood bats may be used. This rule shall be in effect for ALL levels of high school play.

- A. *Wood Bats – Any single piece wood bat shall be deemed legal as long as it adheres to NFHS standards as listed in the baseball rules book. These standards state that a single piece wood bat must be no more than 36 inches in length with a barrel no more than 2 ¾ inches in diameter.*
- B. *Composite Wood Bats – Composite wood bats shall be deemed legal as long as they adhere to NFHS standards which states that the bat must be BBCOR certified. This certification must be permanently displayed on the bat by way of a BBCOR stamp.*
- C. *BBCOR Certified Metal/Composite Bats – All BBCOR metal/composite bats are illegal for use during NMAA sanctioned high school contests. These bats may, however, be used in practice.*

Per these bylaws, any team traveling to New Mexico to play a high school contest at an NMAA Member School must use wood/composite wood bats. However, just as in the past, the NMAA has decided that a host school may allow for an out of state team to use BBCOR certified metal/composite bats. This should be determined well in advance and game officials should be contacted so that they are aware of the situation upon arrival to the contest. Should the host school allow for the out of state team to use BBCOR certified metal/composite bats, the NMAA member school must still adhere to NMAA bylaws and thus must use wood/composite wood bats.

If an NMAA Member School is traveling outside New Mexico for a high school contest, they must follow the host state association's bylaws regarding bat regulations. Most other states follow NFHS rules regarding bats, which allow for the use of any BBCOR certified bat (metal, composite wood, etc.) or a single piece wood bat. This allows for the NMAA member school to choose what they would like to use when playing outside New Mexico.

It should also be noted that the above bylaws pertain to all levels of HIGH SCHOOL baseball only. Middle school programs must adhere to normal NFHS standards and thus BBCOR certified metal/composite bats can be used. However, if a middle school student is participating at any high school level, this student must use a wood/composite wood bat.

Although BBCOR certified metal/composite bats cannot be used during high school contests, they may be used during practice. The NMAA recommends that all metal/composite bats from past years that are not BBCOR certified should not be used.

If you have any questions regarding the above information, please contact NMAA Director of Baseball Dusty Young at (505) 923-3268 or dusty@nmact.org.