



## 2013-14 IHSAA Softball Equipment

The following information pertains to the National Federation rules regarding softball equipment for the 2013-14 season.

### **Ball Compression (NFHS Rule 1-3-3)**

The ball compression for fast pitch softballs cannot exceed 375 lbs. All balls shall be marked with the COR (.47) and Compression (375lbs) by the manufacturer.

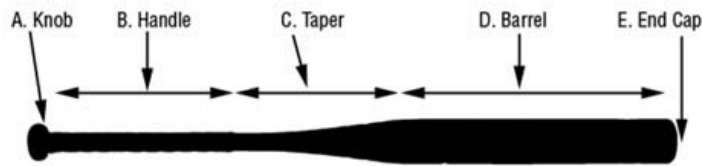
### **Bats (NFHS Rule 1-5)**

**ART. 1 . . .** The bat shall:

- a. Be one piece, multi-pieces and permanently assembled, or two pieces with interchangeable barrel construction.
- b. Not have exposed rivets, pins, rough or sharp edges or any form of exterior fastener that would present a hazard.
- c. 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 (e.g., shaving, rolling or artificially warming the bat barrel) are prohibited and render the bat illegal.
- d. Meet the 2004 ASA Bat Performance Standard, bear either the 2000 or 2004 certification mark (see the "Figure") and not be listed on the ASA non-approved bat list as found on [www.asasoftball.com](http://www.asasoftball.com). Bat barrels made entirely of wood are permitted and need not bear an ASA mark, but shall not exceed 2¼ inches in diameter.

**ART. 2 . . .** The bat shall consist of the following components:

- a. Knob. The knob may be molded, lathed, welded or permanently fastened. Devices, attachments or wrappings that cause the knob to become flush with the handle are permitted. The knob may be covered with grip tape. A one-piece rubber knob and bat grip combination is illegal.
- b. Handle/Grip. The bat handle is the area of the bat that begins at, but does not include the knob and ends where the taper begins to increase in diameter. The handle shall have a round or oval cross-section. The grip shall extend a minimum of 10 inches, but not more than 15 inches, from the end of the bat. A safety grip shall be made of cork, tape (no smooth, plastic tape) or composition material (commercially manufactured). Resin, pine tar or spray substances to enhance the hold are permitted on the grip only.
- c. Taper. The taper is the transition area which connects the narrower handle to the wider barrel portion of the bat. The taper shall have a solid surface and shall have a conical shape. Its length and material may vary.
- d. Barrel. The barrel is the area intended for contact with the pitch; it shall be round and smooth.
- e. 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. A one-piece construction bat will not have an end cap.



**Illegal Equipment**

Any bat containing holes in the taper is not approved for NFHS play. These bats might not be listed on the ASA non-approved bat list.

**Example**



An extra knob or choke up device attached to the bat handle/grip, or taper, renders the bat illegal.

Example:



Bat Jack is illegal



**Batting Helmets (NFHS Rule 1-6-1, 1-6-6)**

A batting helmet with a permanently affixed NOCSAE stamp and legible exterior warning label is mandatory for each batter, on-deck batter, players/students in the coaches box, runners and retired runners. The exterior warning label may be affixed to the outside of the helmet, which includes both sides of the bill, in either sticker form or embossed (at the point of manufacturer). Batting helmets shall be equipped with a NOCSAE-approved face protector. The phrase, "Meets NOCSAE Standard" must be permanently affixed to the face protector.

**WARNING**

**DO NOT USE THIS HELMET IF THE SHELL IS CRACKED OR DEFORMED; OR IF THE INTERIOR PADDING IS DETERIORATED. SEVERE HEAD OR NECK INJURY, INCLUDING PARALYSIS OR DEATH MAY OCCUR TO YOU DESPITE USING THIS HELMET. NO HELMET CAN PREVENT ALL HEAD INJURIES OR ANY NECK INJURIES A PLAYER MIGHT RECEIVE WHILE PARTICIPATING IN BASEBALL OR SOFTBALL.**

**Catcher Headgear (NFHS Rule 1-7-1)**

The catcher shall wear a catcher's helmet and mask combination that meets the NOCSAE standard. The helmet shall bear the permanent NOCSAE seal. A throat protector that is part of or attached to the mask shall extend far enough to adequately protect the throat. An attached throat protector shall be commercially manufactured, properly attached, unaltered and worn properly.

**Shoes (NFHS Rule 3-2-11)**

Shoes are required equipment. All players must wear shoes with plastic, nylon, canvas, leather or similar synthetic material uppers. The soles may be smooth, have soft or hard rubber cleats or rectangular metal spikes. Metal cleats must not extend in excess of  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch from the sole and shall not be round. Shoes with detachable rubber or metal cleats that screw into the sole of the shoes are permitted.