

Section	Page Number	PREVIOUS	NOW
4.1	37-38	<p>4.1 Equipment Check Institutions are responsible for ensuring that the equipment used in competition meets the prescribed industry standards of safety and legality. Coaches are responsible for ensuring that players are legally equipped and properly attired. If an umpire notices equipment that is defective or obviously illegal or unsafe, it should be brought to the attention of the head coach and acted on it according to the rules.</p> <p>Bat Protocol: What you need to know and what you need to do: Upon arrival at the game site and during the meeting with the on-site administrator, ask if BCT testing will occur, in which case a sample of the identifying sticker/mark should be available to the crew. In the pregame with the crew, review the bat protocol, the steps to follow for inspecting the bats and who will perform what task during the bat checks. Upon entering the field, ask the coaches to provide all bats for inspection that are intended to be used during the game. Each coach shall provide a printed copy of the current NCAA Approved Bat List. All bats in the dugout and on the field shall be highlighted and included in the count for each model on the printed NCAA Approved Bat List. All illegal, non-approved or altered bats need to be removed from the dugout at this time or are in jeopardy of being inspected and surrendered. This includes fungo bats.</p> <p>Steps to follow for inspecting the bats – in order . . . 1. If BCT testing is being done at the site, check for the aforementioned identifying sticker/mark. This can be placed on the knob or the taper of the bat. (If there is no sticker, no need to proceed with the other steps. Pull the bat.) 2. Check that the bat is suitable for play. NO cracks, NO rattles, NO dents and NO wobbles at the connection joint of a multi-piece bat. (If the bat fails here, no need to proceed with the other steps. Pull the bat). 3. Check for the 2004 ASA certification seal. (If no seal exists, no need to proceed with the next step. Pull the bat). 4. Check that the bat is on the current NCAA Approved Bat List. Read from left to right on the list – Manufacturer, Model and Model Name.</p>	<p>4.1 Equipment Check Institutions are responsible for ensuring that the equipment used in competition meets the prescribed industry standards of safety and legality. Coaches are responsible for ensuring that players are legally equipped and properly attired. If an umpire notices equipment that is defective or obviously illegal or unsafe, it should be brought to the attention of the head coach and acted on it according to the rules.</p> <p>Bat Check Protocol: What you need to know and what you need to do: Upon arrival at the game site and during the meeting with the on-site administrator, ask if BCT testing will occur, in which case a sample of the identifying sticker/mark should be available to the crew. In the pregame with the crew, review the bat protocol, the steps to follow for inspecting the bats and who will perform what task during the bat checks. Upon entering the field, ask the coaches to provide all bats for inspection that are intended to be used during the game. Each coach shall provide a printed their team's copy of the current NCAA Approved Softball Bat List. Make sure the dates on each bat list are the same and appear to be current. The Team Name, date and game time need to be entered as well. All bats in the dugout and on the field shall be highlighted and included in the count for each model on the printed NCAA Approved Softball Bat List. All illegal, non-approved or altered bats need to be removed from the dugout at this time or are in jeopardy of being inspected and surrendered. This includes fungo bats. The only exception is approved warm-up bats.</p> <p>Steps to follow for inspecting the bats – in order. The plate umpire will administer the bat list and the base umpires will inspect the bats. 1. If BCT testing is being done at the site, check for the aforementioned identifying sticker/mark. This can be placed on the knob or the taper of the bat. (If there is no sticker, no need to proceed with the other steps. Pull the bat.) 2. Check that the bat is suitable for play. NO cracks, NO rattles, NO dents and NO wobbles at the connection joint of a multi-piece bat. There should be no indication that the bat has been rolled or altered in a way. (If the bat fails here, no need to proceed with the other steps. Pull the bat).</p>

The Model and Model Name must be exact. In addition, verify the count for each model as indicated in the last column on the bat list. This number must be reconciled before the game can begin. (NOTE: Make sure the dates on each bat list are the same and appear to be current.)

If a bat fails on any of the steps above, inform the coach that the bat is being removed from the game and provide a brief reason as to why. Inform the coach that the bat will be returned once the game/series/tournament is over. The plate umpire is responsible for securing any bat pulled from either team for the duration of the game. The plate umpire should label the bat(s) with the team name and reason it's being removed. Once the game is over, the plate umpire must obtain the Manufacturer, Model, Model Name from each bat removed before returning the bat(s) to their respective teams. All the information obtained, plus the team name and reason being pulled, must be included on the Incident Report. The Incident Report (located under the FORMS tab on the Central Hub), should be submitted to the softball secretary-rules editor as soon as possible but no later than 72 hours after the game. One report can be submitted to include all bats removed from both teams.

3. Check for the 2004 ASA certification seal. (If no seal exists, no need to proceed with the next step. Pull the bat).
 4. Check that the bat is on the current NCAA Approved Softball Bat List. Read from left to right on the list – Manufacturer, Model and Model Name. The Model and Model Name on the bat and the model on the list must be exact. In addition, verify the count for each model as indicated in the last column on the bat list. This number must be reconciled before the game can begin.

(NOTE: Make sure the dates on each bat list are the same and appear to be current.)

If a bat fails on any of the steps above, inform the coach that the bat is being removed from the game and provide a brief reason as to why.

Once the inspections are complete, the crew will then verify the number of units entered for each model. If no bats failed inspection and the number is correct, the plate umpire will initial each count, along with the date and the game time. If the number of units is incorrect, inform the head coach to reconcile the count.

If a bat fails inspection, have the plate umpire confirm the reason. The plate umpire will inform the head coach of any bat that is being removed and provide a brief reason as to why. Also inform the head coach that the bat will be returned once the game/series/tournament is over. The plate umpire will then circle and strikethrough the original count on the list and input the current number of units.

Inform the coach that the bat will be returned once the game/series/tournament is over.

Once all the individual model counts are reconciled, write in the total number of inspected bats somewhere on the bat list – along with your initials, date and game time.

NOTE: These counts must be reconciled before a game can begin.

The plate umpire is responsible for securing any bat pulled from either team for the duration of the game. The plate umpire should label the bat(s) with the team name and reason it's being removed. Once the game is over, the plate umpire must obtain the Manufacturer, Model, Model Name from each bat

			removed before returning the bat(s) to their respective teams. All the information obtained, plus the team name and reason being pulled, must be included on the Incident Report. The Incident Report (located under the FORMS tab on the Central Hub), should be submitted to the softball secretary-rules editor as soon as possible but no later than 72 hours after the game. One report can be submitted to include all bats removed from both teams.