

March, 2020

Dear Softball League Director:

The COVID-19 virus has all of us experiencing unprecedented times. There is much uncertainty regarding daily operations both at work and at home. We understand that it's hard to prepare with so much unknown; yet we all wish for some normalcy during this time. Therefore, we will continue to provide softball information and be hopeful that if/when the time arrives, we are prepared for our leagues and tournaments. Our league director meeting will be held by conference call at **1:30 pm on Thursday, March 26.** Score books are available for pick-up at the MRPA office. We ask that you please call or email MRPA in advance as office hours could be adjusted and we want to be sure that staff is on site if you plan to stop by. Here is some information for the 2020 season:

EQUIPMENT:

Bats: All bats for the 2020 season used in league and tournament play must have the “new” USSSA logo on its tapered end. Approved bats can be found here:

<http://www.ussa.com/sports/Announcements.asp?Sport=17&AA=517>



THE OFFICIAL BAT shall be round in cross section, 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 2¼” inches in diameter 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. The grip shall be not less than ten inches (10”) long, nor extend to touch the taper or barrel of the bat. All key graphics, including USSSA and BPF 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.

A. 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.



B. Construction. The bat may be made in pieces from different materials but must have a closed barrel end, a handle and a taper. The bat may be modular with interchangeable parts, subject to additional safety and tampering requirements as set forth in the standard USSSA Bat Licensing Agreement. The knob portion must be welded or mechanically attached to the bat. Only USSSA approved bats, USSSA approved weighted bats or USSSA approved bat weigh attachments, may be used by the on-deck batter while loosening up on the field.

C. Official Softball. Authorized bat manufacturers shall mark their products with the words “Official Softball.”

D. Other Criteria for Legal USSSA Bats. Bats will be legal for USSSA-sanctioned play only if the bat is manufactured by an approved USSSA bat manufacturer on the USSSA-approved bat manufacturer list (kept by USSSA and published and made available by means including, but not limited to, the USSSA website) and have the new USSSA mark (kept by USSSA and published and made available by means including, but not limited to, the USSSA website)