Bat Regulations

Baseball equipment is addressed within **national playing rules** written and governed by the National Federation of High Schools (the “NFHS”). All rules are reviewed annually by a “Rules Committee” made up of member state organizations (like the OHSAA). I would encourage you to read about the **process** of rule-making/changing by reading the document at:  [http://www.ohsaa.org/Portals/0/SchoolResources/memos/adr/2016-17/ADR2-5.pdf](http://www.ohsaa.org/Portals/0/SchoolResources/memos/adr/2016-17/ADR2-5.pdf)

The NFHS relies on the testing mechanisms in place by the NCAA and bases its bat regulations on the testing and certifications done by the NCAA. Bat regulations for Junior High are the same as those for High School and with the exception of a few bats that are ‘decertified’, are actually quite simple.

**Bat Regulations**

Bats must NOW be marked with the **“BBCOR” certification mark**. This standard, known as the “batted ball Coefficient of Restitution” is the only standard permitted and recognized. This is covered in detail in all Rules Interpretation meetings.

- The **“BBCOR mark”** is the ONLY standard permitted for Non-Wood Bats (there are some bats that may have BOTH markings and if so…they ARE Legal as long as the BBCOR marking is on the bat.
  - Rules require it to be MINIMUM of ONE inch on each side
  - Rules require it to be on the BARREL of bat
  - Rules require mark to be contrasting color to bat
  - Rules require the BBCOR mark to be contrasting color to bat

Wood bats ARE LEGAL.

To be classified as a “wood bat”, the bat must be a SINGLE SOLID PIECE OF WOOD.

If the bat is NOT a solid wood bat, it must meet all the requirements of the BBCOR certification…including the ‘mark’.

**Examples of Non-Wood Bats:**
- Bamboo Bats
- Bats with Metal Handles and Wood Barrels

**Bat Tampering** continues to be addressed in the Rule Changes and Points of Emphasis... It is ILLEGAL and actually a FEDERAL CRIME. **BAT WARMERS** or Warming of the bat with any artificial device is considered ILLEGAL as well.

**DECERTIFIED BATS**

Despite the BBCOR certification mark, certain practices led the NFHS to **DECERTIFY** a few bats. It is not necessary to get into the process of this, however, it is important to note that the following bats have been **DECERTIFIED** and will not be permitted for use:

- Reebok Vector TLS 33 inch length
- Marucci Cat 5, 33” length
- Reebok Vector TLS 32” length*

  *Added to the decertified list on August 14, 2013

Use of any of the above listed bats during OHSAA contests is subject to the penalties outlined in Rules 4-1-3b and 7-4-1a of the NFHS Rules Book.