

MBS Bat Standards

November 2018



METUCHEN BASEBALL & SOFTBALL

New Standard Summary



- USA Baseball announced a new bat standard for most youth leagues including Babe Ruth Baseball/Cal Ripken Baseball effective January 1, 2018.
- USA Baseball bat standard will allow youth baseball organizations in the United States to reach their goal of establishing a wood-like standard, a standard that will provide for the long-term integrity of the game.
- Bats compliant with the new youth standard will be clearly marked with a label from USA Baseball.

- Per conversation with Vice President of marketing at Babe Ruth / Cal Ripken Baseball, all bats must perform under the maximum rating throughout the life of the bat.
- In the past Metuchen Baseball has not allowed composite bats during recreational play due to safety concerns.
- Most bats on the market are big barrel bats. Metuchen Baseball has never allowed big barrel bats until the Junior's division, presumably due to concerns about safety and/or weight distribution.
- Per review of the approved bat list using 30" and 31" bats as an example, there are only two bats that are not big barrel bats (2 1/4"). There are 36 approved 30" big barrel bats (2 5/8").

Exemptions



- The standard impacts Tee Ball. Under the USABat standard, certified tee ball bats will feature the USA Baseball mark and text which reads ONLY FOR USE WITH APPROVED TEE BALLS.
- [The USA Baseball Tee Ball Sticker Program](#) is an initiative designed to allow for the continued use of tee ball bats that were manufactured prior to the implementation of the new USABat standard.
- This program will allow individuals and families to purchase approved stickers marked with the USA Baseball logo and language which reads: ONLY FOR USE WITH APPROVED TEE BALLS. Stickers will be available for purchase online for \$2 each via USABaseballShop.com beginning September 1, 2017.
- Softball is not impacted by the rule change.
- Wood bats are exempt from the rule change.

Summary & Recommendation



Summary

- As a member of Babe Ruth/Cal Ripken baseball Metuchen Baseball must adopt the USABat standards effective 1/1/18.
- All bats must perform under the maximum performance standards which is designed to create a wood-like standard.
- Most of the bats on the market are big barrel (2 5/8")

Recommendation

- Allow big barrel bats approved by the USABat Standard or wood bats for all seasons of all baseball divisions. Out of an abundance of caution, continue to disallow full composite bats in our recreation league for safety. Allow full composite bats for travel or tournament play.