



VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

MEMORANDUM

February 5, 2010

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TO: Head Baseball Coaches, Conference Administrators and Umpires.

FROM: Jim Paronto, secretary-rules editor
NCAA Baseball Rules Committee

Gene McArtor
National Coordinator of Umpires.

SUBJECT: Illegal Bat Procedures.

The Baseball Rules Committee is distributing this memorandum in order to clarify procedures in the event that an illegal bat is used during competition. Additionally, this communication serves to direct the membership and umpires to the NCAA Website for all information relating to baseball bat certification.

The link to all NCAA bat information is below:

http://www.ncaa.org/wps/portal/ncaahome?WCM_GLOBAL_CONTEXT=/ncaa/ncaa/sports+and+championship/baseball/bat+standards/index.html

1. Illegal Bat Rules. The procedures umpires are to follow are listed in Rule 1-12-c of the NCAA Baseball Rules Book:

If the ball is hit:

“b. For a ball hit with a bat that does not conform ... the batter is out.”

If found during an at-bat:

“When detected after the first pitch (whether the pitch is swung at or not) the batter is declared out and base runners shall not advance.”

If found before the at-bat starts:

“If detected before the first pitch of an at-bat, the bat shall be removed from the game. The batter is not out and is required to use a bat that conforms to the rule.”

N a t i o n a l C o l l e g i a t e A t h l e t i c A s s o c i a t i o n

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- 2. Listing of Legal and Illegal Bats.** The NCAA has compiled a complete listing of certified bats on its Website. The listing includes previously-approved bats that have now been deemed illegal due to the moratorium placed on composite barrel bats. The information is available at the Website listed above.
- 3. Umpire Instructions.** If an illegal bat is detected, umpires are directed to remove the bat from play and place the bat in a secure area away from the offending team, either personally or with the assistance of game management. The bat shall be returned to the offending team, on their request, at the conclusion of the series or in the case of a single game, at that games conclusion.

All umpiring crews are expected to have a full copy of legal and illegal bats in the locker room. In addition, all umpiring crews are expected to have a copy of the illegal bat list available to them on the field during a game for reference in case a bat is challenged as illegal due to having a composite barrel.

Thank you for your attention to this memorandum.

JP/GM:nkb