



BAT CONFISCATION PROCESS

BACKGROUND

According to Article 310 N 06 of the USA Softball Code, The National Championship UIC, Assistant UIC, or Tournament staff shall have the right to remove any and all equipment not meeting the requirements of USA Softball Playing Rule 3, including bats and helmets through testing, pregame inspection or during the game. Removed equipment shall be marked properly with the name of the team and/or player and not returned until after the team's final game of the tournament. The equipment is to be securely stored by the tournament committee until returned to the team and/or player.

According to Article 310 N 07 of the USA Softball Code, Any person discovered using a non approved bat shall be ejected from the game and are subject to further action by the protest committee.

According to Article 310 N 08 of the USA Softball Code, Any person discovered in possession of an altered bat at or near the facility or grounds of a softball competition in which such equipment is not permitted to be used shall be subject to discipline pursuant to Article 305. USA Softball shall have the right to take possession of a bat that is, in the sole discretion of the official, reasonably suspected to be an altered bat. In the event the suspected altered bat is tested and determined to be an altered bat, then the person shall surrender ownership of the altered bat to USA Softball; otherwise a bat of equal or greater value, or a monetary equivalent, in the sole discretion of USA Softball, shall be returned to the owner of the subject bat. A team that is discovered to have within its possession or control an altered bat may be suspended from further tournament competition.

The USA Softball National Headquarters recommends that you follow the guidelines below if an altered bat is suspected in USA Softball Championship Play or local league play if you have wording in your local code that mimics what's written above:

1. Convene a meeting of the tournament protest committee, unless otherwise constituted, the tournament protest committee shall normally include the tournament director, USA Softball Representative and/or other members as agreed upon by the tournament director and/or the USA Softball Representative. The Tournament Protest Committee shall have jurisdiction to decide questions of forfeiture or suspension from that tournament or to which a decision (except one of an umpire's judgment) in tournament play be appealed. The decision of such Committee shall be final.
2. If it's agreed upon by the tournament committee that the bat in question is reasonably suspected to be altered, then the tournament committee should convene a meeting with the player who has the suspected altered bat with a copy of the local rules (and USA Softball Code if it's Championship Play) that are applicable to the situation.
3. Once that bat has been taken into the tournament committee's possession, an incident report should be immediately completed that contains information such as the following (sample attached):
 - Player Name, Address, and Contact Information
 - Type of bat including manufacturer, brand name and model name/number
 - Date, time and location where the bat was removed from competition
 - Details of why the bat was confiscated
 - Appropriate signature of bat owner and team manager and contact information
4. Upon completion of the incident report, the suspected bat and a copy of the report should be shipped to USA Softball National Office (2801 NE 50th St., OklahomaCity, OK 73111) to the following for further technical investigation.
 - NOTE: The bat will likely be destroyed by USA Softball's lab upon technical evaluation.
5. Please allow a minimum of 4 weeks for a report back from USA Softball's testing lab.
6. If the bat is confirmed to be altered, USA Softball will inform you in writing and your local rules should trigger the appropriate suspension. At the national level, the player is suspended for a period of two years and the team may face further sanctions.
 - NOTE: We also encourage you to publicize this suspension through a written press release and post it on your local association's website and distribute this information to surrounding softball associations.
7. If that bat is not altered, a bat of similar or greater value should be returned to the player as soon as practical.
 - NOTE: It will be the financial responsibility of the USA Softball local association to replace any bat that is forwarded to USA Softball Headquarters for testing and subsequently destroyed in the process if it's not considered part of USA Softball Championship Play.