



**TO:** Athletic/Activity Directors  
Head Baseball Coach

**FROM:** Kevin Merkle, Associate Director

**DATE:** January 10, 2012

**RE:** Baseball Bats

You are reminded that as of January 1, the only bats that are allowed to be used in high school baseball are wood bats (100% wood), or bats which meet the new BBCOR specifications. If not wood, the bats must be permanently marked with the logo shown below. Enclosed in this mailing is additional information on bats that are available through Sports Authority. The new bats are being produced by all of the leading manufacturers and will range in price from \$50 up to \$400 or more.

While this requirement is technically only for the varsity level, you are **very strongly advised** to use **only BBCOR** bats at all levels of play at the 9<sup>th</sup> grade level and above. This is a safety issue and there could be serious liability issues if an injury occurred while using illegal bats.

There is not BBCOR certification for bats that are not -3 (which are bats used at levels below 9<sup>th</sup> grade). Many youth baseball organizations will only allow bats that are wood or that meet a new standard developed by USSSA, which will be indicated by a "1.15 BPF" marking on the bat (see example below). The recommendation is that you use only wood bats, BBCOR bats, or bats with this label for middle school levels and below.

AD's, be sure to share this memo with your head coaches. Coaches please share this information with you players, and parents as well as youth baseball organizations in your community. There are many questions in regard to these changes. Your expertise in this area will be very helpful to players and parents as these new standards are implemented.



Label on -3 bats -- High School Level



Label for bat standards for youth baseball

# 2012 HIGH SCHOOL BAT PERFORMANCE RULE CHANGE

EFFECTIVE 1/1/2012

## NEW RULES/LOGO

All high school aluminum, composite and 2-piece (aluminum/composite) -3 bats must meet BBCOR certification standards and display a BBCOR logo, effective 1/1/2012



(Sample logo, individual manufacturer's BBCOR logos may differ)

## PREVIOUS RULES/LOGOS

Previously approved BESR baseball bats will no longer be legal for high school competition under NFHS\* rules



BESR CERTIFIED

- BESR-ABI bats will not be allowed in competition under NFHS rules starting January 1, 2012.
- As of January 1, 2012 only composite and aluminum bats that meet the new Batted Ball Coefficient of Restitution (BBCOR) performance standard will be allowed in high school competition under NFHS rules.

\*NFHS (National Federation of State High School Associations)

**SPORTS  
AUTHORITY**

# THE GAME HAS CHANGED

BBCOR BATS ARE THE NEW STANDARD, AND SPORTS AUTHORITY HAS PLENTY TO CHOOSE FROM.

## NEW NFHS\* BAT RULE

As of January 1, 2012, BBCOR bats are the new standard for high school baseball. This requires that **aluminum and composite -3 baseball bats meet BBCOR certification standards and display a BBCOR-certified logo.** This new regulation aims to maintain wooden bat-like performance in metal and composite bats.

## SO WHAT'S THIS MEAN?

Basically, BESR-approved high school bats are no longer legal for NFHS competitive play effective January 1, 2012. If you need to replace your bat, look for the BBCOR logo or ask an associate for help.



BBCOR-CERTIFIED BATS ARE AVAILABLE AT YOUR LOCAL SPORTS AUTHORITY



EASTON Hammer



EASTON Typhoon



EASTON Reflex



EASTON Rival



RAWLINGS 5150 ††



LOUISVILLE SLUGGER  
Omaha



EASTON S3 ††



EASTON XL3 ††



DEMARINI Voodoo 2011



EASTON Omen 2011



EASTON XL2 ††



EASTON S2



DEMARINI Voodoo 2012 ††



LOUISVILLE SLUGGER  
Z1000 ††



DEMARINI CF5 ††



EASTON XL1 ††

\* National Federation of State High School Associations  
 †† Not available in all locations  
 All bats shown are weighted -3.  
 Visit [sportsauthority.com/bbcor](http://sportsauthority.com/bbcor) for more information.

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