



## **BAT POLICY –Jenkinsville Men’s Softball Leagues**

While there has been much debate about whether or not illegal bats have been used in the past and what is the best means to ensure they are not used in the future, at the Captain’s meeting on February 13<sup>th</sup> the overwhelming consensus, from those in attendance, was to test bats rather than to issue use of ONLY league owned bats.

With that in mind, a bat testing policy has been established for the Department’s Jenkinsville Men’s Softball leagues. In developing this Bat Policy, we spoke with no less than 8 different men’s softball leagues both inside and outside of NY State. We have compiled their suggestions and while research indicates that bat testing is not an exact science and that the bat compression testing # is not the “be all and end all” in certifying bats for use, BUT for our purposes and until there is a better method to use, the certification # given to us by ASA for each bat within their LEGAL listing, will be used to Certify a bat or to NOT Certify a bat. IF YOUR BAT IS ABOVE THE ACCEPTED # BY ASA, YOUR BAT IS OK TO USE, IF IT IS BELOW THAT #, YOUR BAT WILL NOT BE CERTIFIED FOR USE – SIMPLE!!! NOTE- a bat that is certified as OK in April/May can retest as NOT OK 5 or 6 weeks later. Bats do become “conditioned” or “broken in” as their use increases.

**TESTING:** All bats must be tested PRIOR to the start of the season in order to be used in the Queensbury Parks & Recreation Softball Leagues (QPR). **EACH TEAM WILL BE ABLE TO CERTIFY UP TO 10 BATS – NO MORE THAN 10 BATS.** All certified bats will receive a QPR certification sticker during the bat testing process. Bats that have not been certified cannot be used. **If a ball player BRINGS a non-certified bat up to the plate:** – First Offense will be a called out, Second Offense will be immediate suspension from game + a 1 game suspension, Third Offense will be a 10 game suspension. Umpires will look for certification stickers before each at bat – **it is the ball player’s responsibility to ensure he has a certified bat in his hands BEFORE stepping into the batter’s box.** Ball players must show their bat to the umpire to ensure a legal bat is present – player refusal will result in a called out (see above).

### **TESTING FREQUENCY:**

1. All bats must be tested a minimum of twice per season. Bats will be tested prior to the season based on the assigned dates of Saturday, April 18 (see bottom of page #2 for times). Bats will also be retested on a random basis prior to the playoffs.
2. A bat will be tested randomly when called for by a league coordinator or an umpire for ANY REASON. Refusal to submit to a test request will result in immediate ejection from game plus 1 additional game. Bat will not be allowed for use until retested.
3. A bat will be automatically tested if an umpire or pitcher is injured by a line drive, direct hit which, in the judgment of the umpires, was unavoidable.
4. Opposing teams or players CANNOT call for a bat to be tested.



**STANDARD TESTING P.S.I:** ASA calls for most bats to test at 1,450 p.s.i or higher. A bat testing lower than 1,450 p.s.i will be deemed a “hot bat” and illegal for use in the QPR Leagues. A bat previously testing OK and certified for play can later test at a lower p.s.i as the bat becomes “conditioned” or tampered with. Either way, that bat will be decertified and pulled from use.

***Exceptions*** – ASA allows for certain “non-linear” bats to have lower p.s.i than the standard 1,450 p.s.i. ASA has provided a list of all acceptable bats with their p.s.i. If your bat does not appear on this ASA accepted, non-linear bat list - your bat is NOT eligible for testing and will not be certified.

**INSPECTION PROCESS:** Ball players complete a short form to “register” their bat, the bat’s barrel will be checked for splits, cracks, burrs, endcaps, etc. - bat is pressure tested, certification sticker is placed above the handle grip. Cost to test up to 10 bats is included in each team’s league fee.

**HOW MANY BATS CAN A TEAM HAVE:** Each team can certify up to 10 bats and 10 BATS ONLY!! If for any reason a team has a bat decertified or removed from play – a replacement bat can be tested and certified as a replacement – subject to a \$5 fee. If you play on multiple teams and want to use your bat that has already been certified – that bat counts against your 10 bat per team limit. **A TEAM CAPTAIN OR REPRESENTATIVES WILL BRING EACH TEAM’S 10 BATS TO JENKINSVILLE FOR TESTING (SEE SCHEDULE BELOW). TESTING WILL BE DONE FOR EACH TEAM, ONE AT A TIME** – but as a group. Captains – talk with your players; organize how you will collect the 10 bats and come to Jenkinsville for testing.

**BAT CERTIFICATION STICKERS:** Each bat that is tested to be acceptable and certified, will receive a sticker placed at the top of the handle grip. That sticker is proof of initial certification – if the sticker peels, is removed or otherwise becomes damaged, the bat will be pulled from play until it is retested (no fee to retest). These are special stickers that are tamper proof and will show when tampered with. It matters NOT how a sticker becomes damaged – a retest will be required if the league coordinators or the umpire calls for it. We will be using a specially designed sticker that will hold up to rigorous use, but will delaminate if tampered with.

**BATS REGISTERED TO A PLAYER & TEAM:** All bats will be registered to a ball player and a team – that ball player is 100% responsible for his bat – the Captain is responsible for making sure only their team registered bats are used. A master list of all registered and certified bats will be kept at the fields. If there is a question about a bat or its owner, detailed information will be available.

**BAT TESTING SCHEDULE – 2020:**

**SATURDAY, APRIL 18<sup>th</sup> – Jenkinsville Fields**

- ALL A League Teams: 9 am – Noon
- ALL B League Teams: 1:00 – 4:00 pm