



SYBSA Bat Approval & Enforcement Policy & Procedures - 2011

In late 2010, Little League International placed a moratorium on the use of composite bats that are found to exceed specific performance standards in the Little League Baseball. The maximum performance standard for non-wood bats in the divisions for 12-year-olds and below is a Bat Performance Factor (BPF) of 1.15. Research has found that composite bats, while they may meet the standard when new, can exceed that standard after a break-in process. The moratorium disallows the use of all baseball bats constructed with composite material in its barrel unless a specific model shows in laboratory testing that it will not exceed the standard that is printed on the bat, after the bat is broken in.

There is a process through which manufacturers submit individual models for a possible waiver of the moratorium. Information on the composite baseball bats that have received waivers of the moratorium for the Little League (Majors) Baseball Division and below can be found here (the list is frequently updated as bat manufacturers apply for the waiver):

<http://www.littleleague.org/learn/equipment/approvedcompbatssmall.htm>

Wooden and aluminum metal/alloy bats are not subject to the moratorium. Bats that have only a metal or alloy barrel (and no other material, unless it is in the end cap of the bat), and if it meets the other standards (length, diameter, etc. for the respective division in which it is used) are not subject to the moratorium, regardless of the composition of the handle or the transition to the barrel. A listing of licensed, non-wood/non-composite baseball bats for use in the Little League (Majors) Division and below can be found at the above website.

Little League International has addressed the most common questions in a Frequently-Asked Questions page: <http://www.littleleague.org/media/newsarchive/2010/Sep-Dec/LLBBCompositeBatMoratoriumFAQ.htm>

SYBSA is a chartered member of Little League International and is obligated to recognize the moratorium and restrict the use of non-compliant bats. The adoption of this policy and enforcement of the penalties will ensure that we are compliant with Little League guidelines and will help us maintain a safe playing environment for league participants. Below is the process by which SYBSA plans to implement this policy.

Bat Inspection & Approval Procedure

During preseason and throughout the season, head coaches are responsible for inspecting all player and team bats, determining whether or not they are compliant, based on the most recently published bat lists, and affixing an SYBSA-issued sticker to compliant bats.



Bat Policy Enforcement Procedure

At the start of each AA, AAA, and Major league game, all bats to be used in that game will be lined up along the respective team's dugout fence and the umpire and both head coaches will confirm that all bats are properly stickered. Any bats not stickered will be deemed "Disallowed" for that game. Such "Disallowed" bats must be returned to bat bags and CANNOT be used in that game regardless of whether or not the coach has stickers and bat lists available at the time. If a stickered bat is found to be non-compliant based on the available approved bat lists, it will be "Disallowed".

Bat Policy Violation Procedure

During a game, if a bat being used by a player is recognized as "Disallowed" anytime *during the Player's at-bat* (beginning when the batter enters the batters box and addresses the plate), the batter will immediately be called out. If the bat is recognized as "Disallowed" *after the at-bat has occurred*, the penalty will be the more severe of either the batter being called out and all runners returning to their original, pre at-bat positions, or the result of the play (ex. a double play). No team can advance runners during an at-bat where a "Disallowed" bat is used.

If any team violates the Bat policy twice in a single game, the team will forfeit the game.

The SYBSA Executive Committee will review any situation where an individual team has violated our Composite Bat policy more than 1x during the season. The committee may impose additional sanctions or restrictions on any such team, as it deems necessary to ensure compliance with Little League rules and the safety of all league participants. Such actions can include the dismissal of the responsible coach for that team.

Coaches should be aware that "Disallowed" bats are NOT to be used in practice as this also presents a safety risk.