



MEMORANDUM

March 4, 2003

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TO: NCAA Softball Community.

FROM: Dee Abrahamson, secretary-rules editor  
NCAA Softball Rules Committee.

SUBJECT: Bats.

There are three issues regarding bats in collegiate softball games that may be of interest to you. Please read and distribute copies of this letter to umpires and coaches as you see fit.

1. As of the date of this letter, there are 16 models of bats previously produced with the ASA certification seal which have been banned. These models have been shown to exceed the performance standards in random compliance testing. Manufacturers have had the option of recalling these bats, making the necessary adjustments so the bat will not exceed the performance limits and then labeling the bat with an ASA re-certification seal. **In order for a bat on the banned list to be legal for collegiate play, the bat MUST have the ASA re-certification seal.** These seals are usually located on the end cap, taper or barrel of the bat. Coaches with banned bats without the seal should visit the manufacturer's website for information on the recall process. Once the manufacturer concludes its recall, remedies will not be available and the bat will remain unsuitable for all collegiate (NCAA, NJCAA and NAIA) play.

2. There is still some confusion over the exact models that currently appear on the banned bat list.

Coaches and umpires must read the model information stenciled on the bat and not just rely on the larger marketing graphics of the bat. Below are the models that seem to cause the most confusion. The first column indicates the manufacturer, the second has the exact name of the banned bats and the third has the name of bats commonly mistaken to be banned.

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**Bats in the third column are certified and legal for all collegiate play.**

<b>Manufacturer</b>	<b>Banned Bats</b>	<b>Legal (not banned) Bats</b>
DeMarini	Doublewall Classic Doublewall Demolition Doublewall Distance	Doublewall Distance Lite Doublewall Distance Lite w/ Fli
Louisville Slugger	SB103 (a.k.a. Genesis)	Genesis SB34
Miken	Velocit-E Ultra (balanced) Velocit-E Ultra (maxload)	VelocitE Ultra II
Worth	3DX	3DXFP 3DXB 3DXE
Worth	EST5	EST5C EST5E EST5K
Worth	EST23	EST23E
Worth	ESTL	ESTLE

Please note: This is not a complete list of all currently banned bats, it contains only the names of the bats most frequently mistaken to be banned and the applicable banned bat.

**3) Many manufacturers provide a limited warranty and a one-time replacement policy. Dented and defective bats which are returned to the manufacturer may be subsequently replaced at the manufacturer's discretion. When that happens, the manufacturer often engraves or etches in a phrase such as "no return," "replacement," or "demo" to indicate to themselves that this is already a replacement bat (and therefore not eligible for later replacement should it dent or otherwise become defective). The etching is done at the factory and usually positioned on the taper to minimize the chance of contact with the pitch. Although this engraving provides a slightly rough surface, it does NOT render the bat altered nor disqualify the bat from collegiate play.**

DA:nkb