



New USA Bat Standards

Effective January 1, 2018 ALL non-wood 2 5/8 bats and 2¼ bats used in Dixie Youth Baseball must meet new performance standards established by USA Baseball, the national governing body of amateur baseball in the United States. The new bats will be available for purchase in September 2017.

Any bats with the BPF 1.15 stamp will **NOT** be allowed in league and/or tournament play beginning in 2018.

Beginning in 2018, legal bats will **NOT** show the "Approved for play in Dixie Youth Baseball" insignia. The following stamp will be shown about 1 to 2 inches above the grip of the bat:



Frequently Asked Questions

• **Which national member organizations are implementing this new standard?**

- At this time, in alphabetical order:
 - American Amateur Baseball Congress (AABC)
 - Amateur Athletic Union (AAU)
 - Babe Ruth Baseball/Cal Ripken Baseball
 - **Dixie Youth Baseball, Inc.**
 - Little League Baseball
 - PONY Baseball

• **Will there be an immediate change?**

NO. There will **NOT** be an immediate change to Dixie Youth Baseball, Inc. bat rules. All bats currently accepted for play in Dixie Youth Baseball leagues and tournaments remain legal through December 31, 2017.

- **Is my current bat good for league and tournament play?**

YES. Current league approved bats can be used through December 31, 2017.

- **Is safety the reason for the change?**

NO. Youth baseball continues to be one of the safest of all sports for youth participants.

- **Why the change to a wood-like standard?**

All member organizations believe that a wood-like performance standard will best provide for the long-term integrity of the game.

- **Why not just use wood bats?**

- Wood is a scarce resource. USA Baseball has concluded that recent advancements in science, engineering, technology and materials available to fabricate non-wood bats, now allow the manufacturers to construct youth bats that perform at a wood-like level through the entire range of lengths and weights of youth bats.
- The new standard will NOT have a drop-weight limit, so young players can use bats made with lightweight materials.

- **How will bats change?**

The bat performance factor (BPF) will not be used after December 31, 2017. The new measurement will be similar to the NCAA (college) and NFHS (high school) standard and use the batted ball coefficient of restitution (BBCOR) from a bat-ball impact.

- The BPF 1.15 will change to a BBCOR of .53.
 - This will reduce the speed of the exit speed (the pop or jump) of the ball off the bat
 - In an MLB comparison this will, on average, reduce the carry of the ball about 5%
 - The 'sweet spot' will be smaller

- **How will bats remain the same?**

In many ways the bats will stay as they are now.

- The Dixie Youth Baseball, Inc. rules governing bats will not change, i.e. minimum and maximum bat length, gripping material or barrel sizes.
- The weight to length drop will not change. In high school and college there is a limit of -3 of weight to length drop. Dixie Youth still has no restrictions on weight to length drop.
- Composite, aluminum or alloy bats are still legal, if they meet the new standards and bear the USA BASEBALL insignia
- Wood bats are exempt from the new standards