



### *Baseball Bat Testing Protocol Addendum*

1. Each institution is required to purchase and maintain in working order a G4 SSL bat testing machine and testing ring. It is the responsibility of the home team to provide a working BCT machine and ring tester at each League series and test the calibration of the machine prior to each use.
2. The League Office will provide each institution with bat stickers to be used for the season.
3. Bats will be tested prior to each League series. No new bats can be introduced to the series after bat testing has been completed.
4. The home team shall designate a sport administrator or event manager who has been educated on the testing process to execute the bat testing. It does not have to be the same person for every series. Information and instruction can be found at [www.barrelcompression.com](http://www.barrelcompression.com). Coaches and Directors of Baseball Operations are not allowed to be designated the event manager or bat testing official.
5. The participating teams will be scheduled to have their bats tested 30 minutes prior to their scheduled batting practice. Teams not taking batting practice are still required to bring their bats for testing at this time.
6. Both coaches or appointed designees will bring all bats to the testing location and completed Bat Testing Reporting Form. The testing location should not be conducted in public view or near fans and/or media.
7. Bats with visible cracks and/or dents will not be tested and are not permitted for use during the series.
8. To pass a ring test, bats must pass through a ring that is 1 inch long and of inside diameter of 2.658 inches. The ring cannot be forced down the bat, if the ring does not fit by gravity alone, it is a failed bat. Bats that pass ring testing proceed to barrel compression testing, while bats failing a ring test are surrendered and not returned for use.
9. In order to pass compression testing on the G4 SSL fixture, 1250 psi shall be the lowest passing score for metal bats, 1000 psi shall be the lowest passing score for composite bats, and 800 psi shall be the lowest passing score for nonlinear bats.
10. Each bat will be barrel compression tested twice until it receives two pass results or two fail results, whichever comes first. Bats passing both tests receive a tamper proof stick affixed to the taper of the bat. Bats receiving one pass, one fail result will visually be inspected for cracks or dents and if none are found, tested for a third and final time. If the third test produces a pass result, the bat will receive its sticker. If the bat receives a failed result, it will be surrendered to the administrator conducting testing.
11. If a bat testing sticker becomes dislodged during the series competition, the event manager should be notified and the bat must be retested before used again.
12. The Event Manager shall complete the bat testing form and submit completed forms no later than Monday after the completion of the series to the League Office.
13. A failed bat is considered illegal and will remain in the possession of the designated home administrator until the end of the series for visiting teams and permanently for home teams. Bats will be returned at the conclusion of the last game of the series. Visiting team head coaches are responsible for surrendering illegal bats to respective baseball administrators upon return to campus. Failed bats are not permitted in future games.
14. Umpires are notified of the bat testing process. Therefore, a bat that comes to plate without a sticker will be deemed illegal by the umpire under NCAA playing rules.
15. Stickers should be removed at the conclusion of each series.

## *Additional FAQs*

*Can bats be tested the night prior to the series?*

All bats must be tested together. Coaches and administrators may mutually agree to test bats the night before. If testing is conducted the night before, all bats must remain in possession of the event manager until the series begins.

*Are both teams represented during bat testing of home and visiting bats?*

Both coaches/designees, who present the bats and testing forms, may be present during the testing.

*When a bat is removed from play who is notified?*

The head coach is responsible for their team's equipment. The event manager will keep all failed bats until the conclusion of the series. Upon conclusion of the series, failed bats should be surrendered to the team's sport administrator. Completed bat testing forms will be submitted to Ricky Babcock on the Monday following the conclusion of the series.

*Is there an appeal or retesting process?*

No there is not an appeal process. The testing process is designed to fairly review each bat tested. All bats must pass the ring test first to ensure they are the correct diameter. If a bat passes the ring test it moves onto the compression test. A bat must pass the compression test twice to be certified for a series.

*Where should we place the bat testing sticker?*

The sticker should be placed on the taper of the handle, near the 18" mark so it is visible to the umpire and not hidden by tape or pine tar. Stickers may be placed over the previous week's sticker.

*I can't get a preload because my bat barrel is too small and the silver anvils won't touch the bat barrel.*

Some bats have a long taper that extends into the barrel. In the unlikely case that this happens you should pull the bat out away from the stopper approximately one inch or until you begin to have contact with the silver anvils again. Then follow the compression test as normal.

*How do I distinguish between aluminum and composite barrel bats?*

The focus should be the material in the barrel of the bat, not the taper/handle. Note: a metal bat can have a composite taper or handle. This would still be a "metal" bat since you are testing the barrel. Typically the barrel material is listed on the bat. However, you can also check <http://www.mme.wsu-ssl.org/certifiedbaseballbats.aspx> Once on the page, search for your bat model number and then look to the columns on the right to see its barrel material.

*What do I do with leftover stickers?*

Remaining stickers at the end of the season should be mailed back to The Summit League office or returned at the league tournament.