



## Baseball Bat Testing Addendum 2020 Conference Regular Season

NCAA Bat Testing Video: <https://vimeo.com/385805665/392d6fb1a1>

If you do not have a metal bat stop as mentioned in the above linked video (1:54 mark), please contact Bat Testing Solutions at [G4battester@gmail.com](mailto:G4battester@gmail.com) ASAP for your free bat stop.

### GENERAL PRINCIPLES

- Starting in 2020, bats will be tested prior to the first game of a series, a single game and the first game of a doubleheader for all NCAA Division I contests. The policies described herein dictate bat testing protocol and expectations for BIG EAST Conference contests.
  - Please note that multiple games against different opponents at the same neutral site is considered by the NCAA as one event; therefore, bats need only to be tested once prior to the first game of the event, provided all bats are tested in the same way and on the same equipment.
- Bats will be tested once prior to the start of each conference series during the 2020 season for the purpose of ensuring that legal equipment is used in competition.
- Coaches and administrators of Conference institutions are reminded that they are obligated by NCAA Baseball Rules to play with legal equipment and to remove any illegal equipment from play.
- Barrel compression testing (BCT) will be conducted prior to each of the six (6) BIG EAST weekends during the 2020 conference regular season. Testing will occur prior to the first game of each series.
- Each BIG EAST institution is required to use the G4 SSL baseball bat testing machine for the 2020 BIG EAST baseball season. Each institution is responsible for purchasing and maintaining their own equipment. More information on the tester is available at [www.barrelcompression.com](http://www.barrelcompression.com).
- Teams are responsible for creating their own stickers for non-conference bat testing. The Conference office will provide stickers for Conference series. Please do not use Conference series stickers for non-conference games (unless previously authorized by Conference staff).

### BARREL COMPRESSION TESTING EQUIPMENT TO BE USED

The home team's machine is used for testing.

- If the home team does NOT have a working barrel compression testing machine but the visiting team does have a working machine – the visiting team will travel with their machine to the series and the visiting team's machine shall be used for testing.
- If neither the home team nor visiting team has a working BCT machine – the home team will make every attempt to borrow a machine.
- If neither team has a working barrel compression testing machine AND the home team cannot borrow a machine – the home team will notify James Greene at the BIG EAST office and the visiting team's head coach and baseball sport administrator no later than 48 hours prior to the first game of the series. **In this instance, bat testing will not take place.** However, institutions are reminded that all NCAA baseball playing rules (including playing with legal equipment) must be followed.
- It is each team's responsibility to ensure that their barrel compression equipment is in working order. Any issues should be forwarded to the Conference office immediately, and a designee from the team should contact Bat Testing Solutions, LLC, directly to troubleshoot and remedy.



## LOCATION AND TIME OF TESTING

- The home team shall designate the sport administrator, event manager or other administrative designee to oversee the administrative process of the testing (e.g., conducting and overseeing the testing and filling out any necessary documentation).
- The head coach (or one of the full-time assistant coaches or other staff member appointed by the head coach to represent the team) will be responsible for actually testing his/her team's bats (e.g., physically placing the bats in the machines). The home team's administrator will serve as the observer and record the results for both the home and away teams.
- Please note that the sport administrator responsible for overseeing testing **CANNOT** also be the person testing their team's bats.
- **A representative from both teams shall be present for the testing of all bats.**
- Both coaches (or appointed designee(s)) will bring all bats to the testing location.
- The home team administrator is responsible for having the stickers for the appropriate week as provided by the BIG EAST Conference.
- Bat testing must be conducted prior to the scheduled start time of the first game of the series. Testing should take place at a time mutually agreed upon by the two institutions and may take place on the day prior to the first game of the series.
- If bat testing takes place on the first day of a series, it should begin no later than 30 minutes prior to the start of the first batting practice.
- Location of the testing will be determined by the home team and communicated via email (while copying [jgreene@bigeast.com](mailto:jgreene@bigeast.com)) to the visiting team's head coach or designee no later than 48 hours prior to the first game of the series.
- Umpires do not have to be present during testing but should be made aware of when/where testing will take place.
- In the event that both teams cannot agree to a specific time for bat testing other than 30 minutes before the start of batting practice on Day One of the series, bat testing will take place per the following:
  - The team taking batting practice first will have their bats tested starting no later than 30 minutes before their BP;
  - The other team will have their bats tested while the first team is taking BP.
- Testing shall not be conducted in public view or near fans/media.
- Once bat testing for a weekend has been completed, no additional bats may be tested for that series.

## TESTING PROCEDURE

### 1. RING TEST

- A ring test will be conducted to verify the maximum barrel diameter. The bat must pass through a ring that is 1 inch wide and of inside diameter of 2.658 inches.
- Each school should have received a ring when purchasing the bat testing equipment.
- **If the bat does not pass through the ring, the bat is deemed illegal and unacceptable for use. Bats that fail will receive a white sticker with a black "F."**
- If the bat passes through the ring, it proceeds to barrel compression testing.



*There are instances in the ring test when the ring will pass over the hitting area of the bat, but will stop (become lodged) at the very end of the bat. The NCAA has encountered this situation during College World Series testing and allows the bat to be used under certain circumstances. Therefore, the following procedure should be used if the testing ring stops at the end of the bat:*

1. If the ring passes over the hitting area of the bat but stops at the end of the bat, reasonable effort should be made to pull the ring off the barrel end of the bat.
2. If the ring can be pulled off the barrel end of the bat, the bat should proceed to barrel compression testing.
  - a. If the bat passes barrel compression testing, a sticker **should not be placed on the bat at that time**. The bat should be flagged and presented to the umpire crew chief upon their arrival at the stadium 90 minutes before the first game of the series for his inspection to ensure that the end cap of the bat has not been damaged or otherwise altered.
  - b. If, in the sole judgment of the crew chief, the bat is determined to be a legal bat, a sticker should be placed on the bat at that time and may be used in the weekend series.
3. If the ring can't clear the barrel and must be pulled off the handle end of the bat to remove it, the bat fails and is deemed unacceptable for play. In this case, the white sticker with the black "F" should be attached.

## 2. BARREL COMPRESSION TESTING

- Bat tester instruction manual was included with your bat tester. It is critical that these instructions are followed closely to ensure accurate and consistent measurements.

Also, for a video that provides instruction on using the bat testing unit, go to <http://www.barrelcompression.com/videos>.

- 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.
  - 800 psi shall be the lowest passing score for non-linear bats.
    - \*At this time, the Rawlings Quatro and Rawlings Quatro Pro models are currently the only BBCOR non-linear bat.
- Each bat will be tested approximately 6 inches from the end of the barrel. The bat will then be rotated 90 degrees (one-quarter turn) and tested again. This constitutes one complete barrel compression test. The highest score of the two measurements will represent the score for each complete barrel compression test.
- It will be helpful for compression testing to have a flat object, approximately 3/4" to 1" in thickness to lay on the table. The knob of the bat should rest on this object, which will help stabilize it in the compression testing apparatus. This can be a block of wood, a book, etc.
- Each bat will be barrel compression tested twice until it received two pass results or two fail results, whichever comes first.



- If after the first two tests:
  - the bat has two pass results, the bat receives the appropriate sticker and is ready to be used in competition;
  - the bat has two fails, the bat is deemed illegal for play and must be surrendered to the administrator overseeing the testing;
  - the bat has one pass result and one fail result after the second test, the bat will be removed from the machine and inspected for cracks. If none is found, the bat will be inserted into the machine and tested a third and final time.
    - if the bat has a second pass result, the bat will be identified as passed and the sticker affixed.
    - if the bat receives a second failed result, the bat will be deemed unacceptable and surrendered to the administrator overseeing the testing.
- Bats passing both tests will receive a tamper-proof sticker to be placed on the taper of the bat so that it is easily visible. The color will coordinate with the appropriate week of Conference play.
- Bats that fail shall be surrendered to the home administrator for the duration of the series. The bat will be returned to the appropriate team after the conclusion of the final game of the series.
- The home team will provide all stickers for each week (stickers to be provided by the BIG EAST office).
- The stickers should be removed, if possible, after the series has been completed.
- The BIG EAST office will purchase each week's stickers and ship to each baseball sport administrator prior to the start of BIG EAST play.
- At the time of the testing, the home team event manager overseeing the test is responsible for recording **only the failed bats** on the BIG EAST Failed Baseball Bat Test Reporting Form. This document must be filed back to the Conference office by 1 p.m. ET/Noon CT the Monday after the conclusion of that weekend's series. A copy will be made available to the team whose bat(s) failed.

#### REPORTING PROCEDURE

- The home team event manager (or administrative designee) will complete the BIG EAST Baseball Failed Bat Test Reporting Form. The form should be submitted via email no later than 1 p.m. ET/Noon CT Monday after completion of the series to James Greene ([jgreene@bigeast.com](mailto:jgreene@bigeast.com)).

#### PROCEDURES FOR FAILED BATS

- A bat that fails either the ring test or barrel compression testing prior to a series will be deemed illegal and remain in the immediate possession of the home team's event manager or sport administrator until the end of the series.
- The home team's sport administrator, event manager or appointed administrative designee will return a visiting team's illegal bat to the visiting team head coach at the conclusion of the last game of the series.



- The home team's sport administrator will maintain possession of a home team's illegal bat for the duration of the series, and can return it to the coaching staff following the end of the series.
- Bats which fail testing before conference or non-conference series are disqualified from use for that series only. Those bats may be retested for subsequent non-conference and conference games. In the event a bat fails multiple times in a season, it could indicate faulty and potentially dangerous equipment. The team should notify the Conference (who will alert the NCAA) and the bat manufacturer.

#### **PENALTY FOR ILLEGAL BAT**

As a reminder, following is the penalty for use of an illegal bat as listed in the NCAA Baseball Rules:

A bat that has been flattened or altered to improve performance is an illegal bat. If such an illegal bat is detected before the first pitch, the batter shall be called out and the bat shall be removed from the game. If an illegal bat is detected after the first pitch, legal or illegal, the batter shall be declared out, and base runners shall not advance as a result of a batted ball. The bat shall be removed from the contest (Rule 1-12-a&b)

The NCAA has issued the following interpretation for games or series in which bats have been tested:

If a batter brings to the plate a bat with no sticker or an incorrect sticker, the batter shall be called out and the bat shall be removed from the game. If the bat is discovered after the first pitch to have no sticker or an incorrect sticker, the batter shall be called out, the base runners shall not advance because of a batted ball, and the bat shall be removed.

#### **IMPORTANT: FIXTURE CALIBRATION**

It is important to check the calibration of the bat testing fixture before the season and periodically during the season. To check calibration of the device, insert the red calibration cylinder (that came with the tester) just as you would a bat. Be sure to center the cylinder under the anvil. Preload to 0lbs as usual and pull the cam lever. Your compression should meet the tolerances engraved on the cylinder. If the device is not calibrated, contact James Greene in the BIG EAST office.

For a video that provides instruction on checking the calibration of the bat testing fixture, go to <http://www.barrelcompression.com/videos>.

For a list of approved NCAA bats, visit <http://www.mme.wsu-ssl.org/certifiedbaseballbats.aspx>.