Missouri Valley Conference
Baseball Bat Testing Protocols – 2017 Season

1. Bat testing will take place prior to each Conference baseball series and only bats passing testing will be considered legal for use during the series. Bat testing machines must be calibrated each series.

2. Bat testing shall be conducted by head coaches or their designees with the visiting team bat testing to occur prior to hitting on the day of the first game of the series and the home team bat testing during the visiting team’s hitting session that day. The bat testing schedule may be adjusted by mutual consent.

3. Instructions for use of the G4 baseball bat tester are attached.

The lowest passing scores for each type of bat using the G4 will be as follows:

- Metal bats: 1250 psi
- Composite bats: 1000 psi
- Non-linear (i.e., based on attached letter from NCAA indicating that the bat passes BBCOR at a lower psi level than typical):
  - Rawlings Quattro (composite) – 800 psi

A test will be considered passed or failed as follows:

- If the bat meets or exceeds the passing score threshold on the first test, it will be considered to have passed testing.

- If the bat does not meet the passing score threshold on the first test, it will be rotated 90 degrees (either direction) and tested again. If the bat meets or exceeds the passing score threshold on the second test, it will be considered to have passed testing. If the bat fails to meet the passing score threshold on the second test, the bat will be considered to have failed testing.

4. Each team shall be issued a unique-colored sticker by the Conference office for use both home and away, with the home team’s stickers applied to the visiting team’s approved bats and vice versa. Stickers shall be placed on the taper of approved bats so that they are easily visible.

5. A bat that fails testing will be considered illegal for use during the series.

Confiscated bats will be returned to the visiting team at the conclusion of the series for transportation home; it is the responsibility of the visiting team coach to provide the bats to the institution’s sport administrator. However, such bats shall not be used in any subsequent game.
G4 SSL Baseball Bat Tester
-Testing the barrel compression of a bat-

Step 1—Insert a baseball bat (2-5/8” barrel diameter bat) through the left hand end of the frame until the end of the barrel touches the black cam lever on the right. Be sure to push the black cam lever all the way down and into the frame until it stops and is vertical.

Step 2—Twist the gauge clockwise to apply the preload force of 0 lbs to the bat. As you are preloading, be sure the cam lever stays down, perfectly vertical, and touching the tip of the bat.

Step 3—Pull the cam lever up to the horizontal position until it seats and stops. The force that is read on the gauge is your barrel compression.

Step 4—Release the bat by pushing the cam lever back down to the vertical position, then turn the gauge counterclockwise to release force on bat.

Calibration—If checking calibration of your device, insert the red calibration cylinder just as you would a bat. Be sure to center the cylinder under the anvil. Preload to 0 lbs as usual and pull the cam lever. Your compression should meet the tolerances engraved on the cylinder.
MEMORANDUM

March 16, 2017

VIA EMAIL

TO: Division I Conference Baseball Administrators

FROM: Ben Brownlee
   Assistant Director, NCAA Championships.

SUBJECT: Minimum Barrel Compression for Rawlings Quatro Baseball Bat.

Following the request of member conferences conducting baseball bat barrel compression testing during the regular season, additional information was tested to develop a minimum barrel compression threshold for the Rawlings Quatro baseball bat model.

Information provided by conferences with institutions using the Rawlings Quatro baseball bat and additional testing conducted at the Sports Science Laboratory at Washington State University was considered in creating the recommendation for the minimum barrel compression read permissible for use. Using the portable bat testing device, it is recommended that Rawlings Quatro model baseball bats with a portable compression testing device reading below 800 psi should be considered outside of an acceptable range equivalent your conference policy established minimum 1000 psi barrel compression for metal and composite baseball bat models.

Should you have any questions regarding the compression value, please contact me (bbrownlee@ncca.org) or Jeff Kensrud (jkensrud.ssl@wsu.edu).

BZB

cc: Baseball Rules Committee
   Selected NCAA staff