

Athletic Directors and Baseball Coaches:

Effective immediately, most composite bats will be **illegal** for the upcoming baseball season. Any composite bat that has a BESR embossed logo and has passed the ABI (Accelerated Break-In) testing are listed on our web-site under baseball ([list of approved bats](#)). Only these composite bats listed on our web-site with a BESR embossed logo, and any BBCOR (Batted Ball Coefficient of Restitution) embossed logoed bat, any all aluminum bats or any wood bat will be permitted for use in the 2011 baseball season. **Starting in 2012 only metal bats with an embossed BBCOR logo will be permitted.** A composite bat is a bat that consists of more than one piece.

Any head coach at the level of competition being played is **responsible for making sure all bats being used by his team are legal**. If a player is going to use one of the approved composite bats listed on our home page under baseball, you must download the approved composite bat list, highlight the bat(s) being used by any player on any 9-12 team and carry this highlighted list with you to each contest. We would recommend putting this highlighted list in a plastic sleeve in order to protect it. Understand this bat list **must be downloaded, highlighted and carried by every head baseball coach 9-12** on your coaching staff if they are using any of the approved composite bats. **This rule is for the 2011 season only due to the fact that in 2012 all legal bats will be required to be embossed with the BBCOR logo.**

Approximately 10 minutes prior to game time the umpires will inspect bats for cracks, dents, flat spots, loose end caps, etc. Coaches will verify at the pre-game conference held at home plate that good sportsmanship will be displayed throughout the game, all players are legally equipped, jewelry is off and that all bats meet NFHS rule code. If an illegal bat is discovered once the contest begins, the illegal bat rule will apply.

If an illegal bat is discovered while the batter is in the batter's box (the batter is declared out immediately) or once the ball has been put in play and before the next pitch the defense has one of the following choices, 1) take the result of the play 2) declare the batter out and all runners return to the bases they occupied before the batted ball was put in play.

Coach Ejection: As a result of a player using an illegal bat the head coach at the level of competition being played will be EJECTED. This does NOT fall under our regular ejection policy which would require the head coach at the level of competition played to take the Fundamentals of Coaching Class, "Teaching and Modeling Behavior," but would require the Head Coach at the level of competition to vacate the premises for the remainder of the contest in progress.

The head coach at the level of competition being played, who is ejected due to the use of an illegal bat by one of his players, will be required to leave the confines of the playing field for the remainder of that game. **There shall be no communication** between the head coach and the dugout personnel via cell phone, texting or any other communication until this game has concluded.

If an illegal bat is discovered in the first game of the day, the coach will be allowed to coach any additional games played that day, unless an illegal bat is discovered being used again in another contest that day. The EJECTION does not fall under our normal ejection policy. The ejection does not need to be reported by the school nor is the coach required to sit out any additional contests, except for the contest where the illegal bat is discovered. **Umpires are advised to report any illegal bat situations to the IHSA office, so we can communicate with the Athletic Director of the violating school, that this is a "Safety" Issue.** Athletic Directors and Coaches this is an integrity situation and the Iowa High School Athletic Association appreciates your cooperation regarding this safety concern.

Athletic Directors and Coaches: **Any illegal bat is NOT to be used in practice.** This National Federation rule is for the safety of all your players, so please abide by this rule and do not permit any illegal bats to be used in any school practice session 9-12. **This includes any hitting practice in or outside the batting cage.**