



USSSA BASEBALL BAT STANDARDS UPDATED Updated August 15, 2017

USSSA is aware that several youth baseball associations have announced or are planning to announce that they are going to a new wood-like bat (marked with a USA Baseball mark) as the performance standard for bats in their association sanctioned activities beginning January 1, 2018.

USSSA is not currently making changes to its bat performance standard. USSSA has had a formal 1.15 BPF standard for baseball bats used in 14U and below (allowing diameters of up to 2 $\frac{3}{4}$ "") for over 12 years. Under its BPF standard, USSSA Baseball sanctioned events are played at a near perfect competitive balance for defense and offense that has led to continued dramatic growth in USSSA Baseball sanctioned events. In the view of USSSA, a reduced performance bat standard would hurt overall participation in the game.

As an accommodation to our USSSA teams and players who also play in non-USSSA events, however, beginning January 1, 2018 USA Baseball marked bats manufactured by a USSSA authorized manufacturer will be allowed in USSSA play unless the bat creates a competitive distortion (such as being too easily altered) or the bat somehow creates a safety concern.

With over 12 years of insurance and playing history (with more than half a billion at bats and 10 million games played) under its 1.15 BPF performance standard, USSSA is in the unique position of having the historical data to determine the actual accident/injury levels of USSSA Baseball under the 1.15 BPF standard. It is clear from that history that USSSA Baseball is among the safest amateur sports that is played in the United States. Because accidents do happen and a low statistical probability of accidents/injuries does nothing to protect a person that does get injured, the use of protective gear is not only permitted but encouraged for those wishing to have such additional protection in USSSA sanctioned events. In addition, the purchase of personal or team insurance is always a prudent action and is encouraged by USSSA and is made available by USSSA for its participants, coaches, etc. For more information on USSSA standards, risk of injury, protective gear and insurance, please see our [Important USSSA Baseball and Softball Standards, Risk of Injury, Protective Gear and Insurance Announcement](#) last updated on June 1, 2016