



# TECHNICAL BULLETIN

June 2008

CHANGES TO ORIGINAL POLICY  
Supersedes TB 2007-1 Ver. 2.2 30/11/07.  
*Note: Changes are in italics*

**Subject: Approved and Non Approved Bats, New Batted Ball Speed (BBS) Test Certification.  
TB2008-1 Version 3.0**

## **Background**

ISF have been certifying bats since 1<sup>st</sup> January 2002. ISF publish a list of “approved bats” – essentially a list of bats that are legal and used for ISF competition and events. Initially, the ISF certification process was based on a mathematical “bat performance factor” (BPF). Certified BPF (approved) bats were labeled with an “ISF BPF 1.20” mark.

ISF currently use a high-speed batted ball test (BBS) using the American Society of Testing and Materials (ASTM) test procedure with a limit of 100 MPH/160.93 KPH.

The Amateur Softball Association (ASA), the peak softball body in the US, has been conducting testing and certification of bats since 2000. ASA use a 98MPH/157.72 KPH BBS test.

ISF have determined and published notice that August 31, 2008 marks the end of the period during which bats that complied with the previous ISF bat performance standard (1.20 BPF) shall be permitted to be used in World Championship and Olympic play and the new BBS standard will be adopted.

*After the 31<sup>st</sup> August 2008 bats certified, and labeled, under the previous ISF BPF 1.2 testing method shall be considered approved if they satisfy the ISF BBS certification process and are tested. Such bats will therefore be listed by ISF as approved bats.*

## **The Australian Scene**

Australia have always followed the ISF certification process and used the ISF approved bat list. The question around legality of bats not on the ISF approved list has always been a contentious one.

There is also a case that not all bats on the market will be used at ISF World Championships, Olympic Games or ISF events, so not all bats on the world market will be put forward by manufacturers to ISF for approval. The ASA publish a list of approved bats widely used through the US, and other countries, in competition which may not appear on the ISF list as previously mentioned above.

Softball Australia has direct responsibility only for the conduct of National Championships and other tournaments it runs. There is, no doubt, a flow-on effect to the State run and other competitions and tournaments.

*However there is some confusion with the current published ISF list as to which bats have passed the current BBS testing and which bats will drop off the ISF approved list on the 1<sup>st</sup> of September 2008.*

#### **Procedure for Use of Softball Bats**

Softball Australia has recently adopted the following policy which is effective immediately.

***a) A bat will be approved for use in Australia if it is listed on the current ISF Certified Bat List.***

***or***

***b) Any bat not listed on the ISF Certified Bat List will be considered approved for use in Australia if it is listed on the ASA Approved Bat List.***

***There will be an interim period where bats that fall outside the BBS certification but complied with the previous BPF 1.2 will be allowed in Australian play until 31/08/2010.***

***After 1/09/2010, a bat will be approved for use in Australian play only if it complies with a) or b) above.***

The compliance with this Technical Bulletin rests with all participants of the game not just the umpires, as the practicality of checking bats with separate lists prior to games at all levels is not feasible.

It is of utmost importance that Players, coaches, parents, team managers, administrators, State and local associations, understand they play an important role in this requirement.

Reference to the following web sites will assist in understanding the procedure and testing process.

[http://www.internationalsoftball.com/english/rules\\_standards/certified\\_bats.asp](http://www.internationalsoftball.com/english/rules_standards/certified_bats.asp)

[http://asasoftball.com/about/certified\\_equipment.asp](http://asasoftball.com/about/certified_equipment.asp)

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