



20 June 2008

Sent by email

Dear Softball Bat Wholesalers & Retailers,

Further to recent correspondence, I write in regard to Softball Australia's Bat Policy developed in response to the ISF Bat Certification Policy which comes into effect from 31 August 2008.

Due to limited information being available on which bats will meet the ISF Certification Policy post 31 August 2008 the Softball Australia Board has recently reviewed its' policy. The review has also been conducted in response to feedback received from stakeholders. Softball Australia has now confirmed its' position and the amended policy is outlined in the attached Technical Bulletin.

It is to be noted that for Softball Australia events and competitions the ruling will now be adopted from **31 August 2010 (see attached Technical Bulletin)**. Softball Australia is also recommending that all state/territory and local associations adopt a consistent ruling.

Softball Australia has considered this issue in response to the feedback received, including wholesalers and retailers, and now expects such organisations to respect and support the decision.

One aim of the phased-in approach is to support wholesalers, retailers and individuals who have purchased bats in good faith but would be non-compliant due to the new ruling. However, the Australian market will be severely damaged if Australia was to become a dumping ground for non-compliant stock, or wholesalers attempted to take advantage of the situation by knowingly importing bats which will not comply.

Softball Australia will be extremely disappointed if anyone adopted such a strategy.

It should also be noted that the amended policy will be significantly promoted to all participants in the game to ensure that any bat purchases over the next 2 years are made from an educated point of view (such promotion will be increased significantly if any wholesalers were importing additional non-compliant bats).

If you have any queries on the Technical Bulletin attached please contact Mr Leigh Evans, the National Rules Interpreter leighevans@westnet.com.au, or myself on the number below.

I trust this clarifies Softball Australia's position and I look forward to all stakeholders working together to advance Softball in Australia.

Yours sincerely,

Mark McAllion
Chief Executive Officer



Australian Government
Australian Sports Commission