

## **Rule 1.10 – Softball**

The bat must be a softball bat which meets Little League specifications and standards as noted in this rule. It shall be a smooth, rounded stick and made of wood or a material tested and proved acceptable to Little League standards. The bat shall be no more than 33 inches (34 inches for **Junior/Senior League**) in length, not more than two and one-quarter ( $2\frac{1}{4}$ ) inches in diameter, and if wood, not less than fifteen-sixteenth ( $15/16$ ) inches in diameter ( $7/8$  inch for bats less than 30 inches) at its smallest part. Non-wood bats shall be printed with a BPF (bat performance factor) of 1.20. Bats may be taped or fitted with a sleeve for a distance not exceeding 16 inches from the small end. Colored bats are acceptable. A non-wood bat must have a grip of cork, tape or composition material, and must extend a minimum of 10 inches from the small end. Slippery tape or similar material is prohibited.

**An illegal or altered bat must be removed.**

In all divisions, non-wood bat must have a grip of cork, tape, or composition material, and must extend a minimum of 10 inches from the small end. Slippery tape or similar material is prohibited.

**NOTE 1:** The traditional batting donut is not permissible.

**NOTE 2:** The use of pine tar or any other similar adhesive substance is prohibited at all levels of Little League Baseball and Softball. Use of these substances will result in the bat being declared illegal and removed from play.

**NOTE 3:** Non-wood bats may develop dents from time to time. Bats that have cracks or sharp edges, or that cannot pass through the approved Little League bat ring for the appropriate division must be removed from play. The  $2\frac{1}{4}$ -inch bat ring must be used for bats labeled  $2\frac{1}{4}$ . The  $2\frac{5}{8}$ -inch bat ring must be used for bats labeled for  $2\frac{5}{8}$ .

**NOTE 4:** An illegal bat must be removed. Any bat that has been altered shall be removed from play. **PENALTY** – See Rule – 6.06(d).

\* Rule 6.06(d) **A batter is out for illegal action when - (d) The batter enters the batter's box with one or both feet entirely on the ground with an illegal bat** (see bat specifications rule 1.10) or is discovered having used an illegal bat prior to the next player entering the batter's box.

- the batter enters the batter's box with one or both feet entirely on the ground with an illegal bat (see bat specifications Rule 1.10) or is discovered having used an illegal bat prior to the next player entering the batter's box. The ball is dead. Runners must return if they advanced on the play.

A.R. – When an illegal bat is discovered, it **MUST** be removed from the game at that point.

NOTE: If the infraction is discovered before the next player enters the batter's box following the turn at bat of the player who used an illegal bat:

(1) - The manager of the defense may advise the plate umpire of a decision to decline the penalty and accept the play. Such election shall be made immediately at the end of the play.

(2) - For the first violation, the offensive team will lose one eligible adult base coach for the duration of the game.

A.R. – Any of the three adults in the dugout may be used as the one adult base coach at any time during the duration of the game.

(3) - For the second violation, the manager of the team will be ejected from the game. Any subsequent violation will result in the newly designated manager being ejected.