

## **Bat Rules Effective January 1, 2018**

To all Powhatan Little League members/players –

In August 2015 Little League International adopted USA Baseball's new bat standard, believing it's important for the long-term success of the game. This bat standard was developed by a USA Baseball committee of scientific experts. At that time, they determined the new bat standard will be in effect starting January 1, 2018.

In preparation for the upcoming Spring Season for Powhatan Little League, all members/players need to know that the new USA Baseball Bat Standard is effective starting January 1, 2018, and all bats in the Tee Ball, Coach Pitch, Minors, Majors, and Juniors Divisions must comply with this standard. The Seniors Division bats must comply with the BBCOR standard.

The following is language provided by Little League International, and the 2018 Bat Rules everyone must comply with. There are also links with additional information, including a list of bats that currently meet the USA Baseball Bat Standard. **For those in Coach Pitch, keep in mind you are part of the Minors Division and must comply with those rules.**

Before reading the rules, it would help to know which Division you will be playing in. Use the League Age Chart on our website ([League Age Chart | Powhatan Little League](#)) to determine your League Age for the 2018 Spring Season. The age rules for each Division are as follows:

Instructional Tee Ball – League Age 4 and first time League Age 5

Advanced Tee Ball – Returning League Age 5 and League Age 6

Coach Pitch (uses Minors rules) – League Ages 7-8

Minors – League Ages 8-10

Majors – League Ages 10-12

Juniors – League Ages 13-14

Seniors – League Ages 13-16

Where the age ranges overlap, please consider the player's skills and abilities when choosing whether to play in the lower Division or the higher Division.

## **USABat Standard Effective January 1, 2018**

As of January 1, 2018, the new [USA Baseball Bat Standard](#) will be implemented. Little League-approved baseball bats that are approved for use for the 2017 season ***will no longer be acceptable for use in any Little League game or activity*** starting on January 1, 2018. For more information on the USABat standard and a complete list of bats approved through the USABat Standard, [visit usabat.com](#).

Beginning with the 2018 season, non-wood and laminated baseball bats used in the Little League Baseball (Majors) and below, Intermediate (50/70) Division, and Junior League Baseball divisions, as well as the Little League Challenger Divisions, shall bear the USA Baseball logo signifying that the bat meets the USABat - USA Baseball's Youth Bat Performance Standard. All BPF - 1.15 bats will be prohibited beginning with the 2018 season. Additionally, starting in 2018, the bat diameter shall not exceed 2-5/8 inches for these divisions of play.

Little League® International has assembled an online resource page dedicated to baseball bat information, that includes the latest bat information, current Little League Baseball rules and regulations governing bats, definition of terms, the moratorium on the use of composite bats, and a series of frequently asked questions, with answers and licensed bat lists. Additional information is available at [LittleLeague.org/BatInfo](#).

## 2018 Bat Rules

### Rule 1.10 - Baseball

The bat must be a baseball bat which meets the USA Baseball Bat standard (USABat) as adopted by Little League. It shall be a smooth, rounded stick, and made of wood or of material and color tested and proved acceptable to the USA Baseball Bat standard (USABat).

**Beginning with the 2018 season, non-wood and laminated bats used in the Little League (Majors) and below, Intermediate (50-70) Division, Junior League divisions, and Challenger division shall bear the USA Baseball logo signifying that the bat meets the USABat – USA Baseball's Youth Bat Performance Standard. All BPF – 1.15 bats will be prohibited beginning with the 2018 season. Additionally, starting in 2018, the bat diameter shall not exceed 2<sup>5</sup>/<sub>8</sub> inches for these divisions of play. Additional information is available at [LittleLeague.org/batinfo](http://LittleLeague.org/batinfo).**

#### **Tee Ball:**

Under the USABat standard, certified Tee Ball bats (26" and shorter) will feature the USA Baseball mark and text which reads ONLY FOR USE WITH APPROVED TEE BALLS. All Tee Ball bats must feature the USA Baseball mark and accompanying text. Tee Ball bats that were produced and/or purchased prior to the implementation of the new standard can be certified using an Approved Tee Ball Sticker via the USA Baseball Tee Ball Sticker Program ([USABaseballShop.com](http://USABaseballShop.com)) beginning September 1, 2017.

#### **Coach Pitch/Minor/Major Divisions:**

It shall not be more than 33 inches in length; nor more than 2<sup>5</sup>/<sub>8</sub> inches in diameter, and if wood, not less than fifteen-sixteenths (15/16) inches in diameter (7/8 inch for bats less than 30") at its smallest part. Wood bats taped or fitted with a sleeve may not exceed sixteen (16) inches from the small end.

**NOTE:** Solid one-piece wood barrel bats do not require a USA Baseball logo.

#### **Intermediate (50-70) Division and Junior League:**

It shall not be more than 34" inches in length; nor more than  $2\frac{5}{8}$  inches in diameter, and if wood, not less than fifteen-sixteenths ( $\frac{15}{16}$ ) inches in diameter ( $\frac{7}{8}$  inch for bats less than 30") at its smallest part. Wood bats taped or fitted with a sleeve may not exceed eighteen (18) inches from the small end.

**NOTE:** Solid one-piece wood barrel bats do not require a USA Baseball logo.

### **Senior League:**

It shall not be more than 36 inches in length, nor more than  $2\frac{5}{8}$  inches in diameter, and if wood, not less than fifteen-sixteenths ( $\frac{15}{16}$ ) inches in diameter ( $\frac{7}{8}$  inch for bats less than 30") at its smallest part. Wood bats taped or fitted with a sleeve may not exceed eighteen (18) inches from the small end. The bat shall not weigh, numerically, more than three ounces less than the length of the bat (e.g., a 33-inch-long bat cannot weigh less than 30 ounces). All bats not made of a single piece of wood shall meet the Batted Ball Coefficient of Restitution (BBCOR) performance standard, and such bats shall be so labeled with a silkscreen or other permanent certification mark. The certification mark shall be rectangular, a minimum of a half-inch on each side and located on the barrel of the bat in any contrasting color. Aluminum/alloy and composite bats shall be marked as to their material makeup being aluminum/alloy or composite. This marking shall be silkscreen or other permanent certification mark, a minimum of one-half-inch on each side, and located on the barrel of the bat in any contrasting color.

**NOTE:** In all divisions, 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.

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

**NOTE:** Tee Ball bats maybe used in the Challenger Divisions. Under the USABat standard, certified Tee Ball bats (26" and shorter) will feature the USA Baseball mark and text which reads ONLY FOR USE WITH APPROVED TEE BALLS. All Tee Ball bats must feature the USA Baseball mark and accompanying text. Tee Ball bats that were produced and/or purchased prior to the implementation of the new standard can be certified using an Approved Tee Ball Sticker via the USA Baseball Tee Ball Sticker Program (USABaseballShop.com) beginning September 1, 2017.

**NOTE:** 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:** An illegal bat must be removed. Any bat that has been altered shall be removed from play.