

New City of Santa Cruz Bat Policy

The City has updated its bat guidelines to improve the quality of play, the safety of players, and insure all teams are participating on a level playing field. These new bat rules will eliminate the mid game questions as to the legitimacy of bats. They will also install new and clearer punishments for the use of unsafe or illegal bats.

The first and most notable change is ALL bats will be required to be certified by the City. The bat must be brought in to the office and reviewed by staff. In order to become certified it must pass the following criteria.

1. The bat must be on the approved bat list. If it is not on the approved list and also not on the non-approved list, the bat will be reviewed prior to being approved.
2. The bat must pass through a bat ring to ensure it is not overly dented.
3. The bat must not have a “rattle” or visible cracks.
4. The bat must be able to be fully identified with ASA stamp*, manufacture name & model

All of these guidelines must be met for the bat to receive approval. Once approved a numbered tamper evident sticker will be placed above the grip of the bat on the tapered section of the bat. Only bats with this sticker will be allowed in game play. Umpires, or city staff, can remove the sticker if a bat no longer meets the above listed criteria. In the case where a bat had a sticker but it came off. The bat will be considered illegal and must be brought to the office for re-approval prior to game use.

*Bats made pre 2000 may not have an ASA stamp but may still be legal.

Penalties for using a non-approved bat in a game are as follows.

1. A player entering the batter’s box with a non-approved bat is automatically out. ASA rule book rule 7 section 6d.
2. A player found to have used a non-approved bat after completing their at bat is automatically out, and will be ejected from the game. All runners will return to the bases they were occupying at the time of the last pitch. ASA rule book rule 7 section 6CE
3. Teams will receive a team warning for using a non-approved bat. Further penalties will be awarded to teams violating the bat policies more than once.

The sports office is happy to help teams acquire approved bats. You can do this by referencing the online approved bat list located on the softball webpage at cityofsantacruz.com/softball.

Teams can email the Parks and Recreation office at www.parksandrec@cityofsantacruz.com with questions regarding bats. It is recommend, if you have any questions about a bat being legal, to email prior to purchasing a bat. Please allow time for a response to your inquiry.

Staff certify bats at the field, however do not use a bat until it has been certified with a bat sticker.