GUIDE TO BATS WITH THE 2012 RULE CHANGES

PART A

A-1. Is the bat 42 inches or less in length? If no, the bat is not allowed for use in Pony Baseball. If yes, continue to No. A-2.

A-2. Is the bat more than two and five-eighths inches in diameter at the thickest part ? If yes, the bat is not allowed for use in Pony Baseball. If no, continue to Part B.

PART B

B-1. Is this a 2-1/4 inch barrel non-wood bat? If no, go to Part C. If yes, continue with question B-2. If no, continue to Part C.

B-2. Was the bat manufactured before January 2012? If yes, go to question B-3. If no, go to questions B-4.

B-3. Is the bat stamped with a Bat Performance Factor (BPF) of 1.15 or less? If no, the bat is not allowed for use in Pony Baseball. If yes, the bat is certified for use in Pony Baseball.

B-4. Is the bat stamped "approved for play in PONY Baseball," and stamped with "BPF 1.15" and the year manufactured? If no, the bat is not allowed for use in Pony Baseball. If yes, the bat is certified for use in Pony Baseball.

PART C

C-1. Is the bat a minus three (-3) bat? If yes, go to Question C-2. If no, the bat is certified for use in Pony Baseball.

C-2. Is the bat a "smooth implement?" (See FAQ on assessing whether a bat is a smooth implement.) If no, the bat is not allowed for use in Pony Baseball. If yes, continue to question C-3.

C-3. Is the bat made of wood? If no, continue to question C-4. If yes, the bat is allowed for use in Pony Baseball.

C-4. Is the bat labeled as BBCOR approved with a length-to-weight difference of 0.50 or less? If no, the bat is not allowed for use in Pony Baseball. If yes, the bat is approved for use in Pony Baseball.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Question: What does minus 3 or drop 3 bat mean?

Answer: This refers to the length to weight ratio of the bat. If the length of a bat is 34 inches and it is a minus 5 (-5) or "drop 5" bat, then the weight of the bat is 29 ounces.

Question: What is BPF?

Answer: BPF stands for Bat Performance Factor. BPF represents the elastic properties of the bat. A BPF of 1.15 indicates that the bat will perform at a rate of 115% to a similarly sized wooden bat.

Question: What does it mean that a bat must be a "smooth implement?"

Answer: The new rules require that certain bats be "a smooth implement." The easiest way to assess whether a bat is a smooth implement is to run your hand down the bat. If you can feel a bump, it is not a smooth implement. Certain bats, like the DeMarini Voodoo and Vendetta, Nike Aerofuse and CX-2 are two-piece bats with the barrel overlaid onto the handle. If you run your hand down them, you will feel the bump. If these were -3 bats, they would not be approved for Pony Baseball. There are other two-piece bats, such as the Louisville Slugger J-2 and Exogrid 2, Easton Stealth and the SV-12 that have a smooth connection and thus would be approved for use in Pony Baseball.

Question: What is BBCOR?

Answer: BBCOR is the Bat Ball Coefficient of Restitution. In short, the BBCOR measures the "trampoline effect" of the ball and the bat. Think of it as the "bounciness" of the ball and the bat. The BBCOR standard ignores bat swing speed and regulates the collision efficiency of the bat indirectly. If you divide the coefficient of restitution out of the BBCOR, this produces the BPF, which represents the elastic properties of the bat alone.

Question: Why did Pony Baseball implement these rule changes?

Answer: The rule changes are born out of safety concerns. As technology has progressed, bat performance has increased. While there is always an inherent risk of injury in any athletic endeavor, the goal is to decrease the risk of injury due to increased exit speeds of a batted ball as it leaves the bat. Under the old standards, know as Ball Exit Speed Ratio (BESR), a batted ball could reach the pitcher is less than .375 seconds. Under the new standards, 1st and 3rd basemen and pitchers have more reaction time to a batted ball. The new standards help assure that the performance of non-wood bats are more aligned with the performance of wooden

bats.

Question: What is a composite bat and are composite bats allowed in Pony Baseball?

Answer: A composite bat has an aluminum exterior with a woven graphite core on the inside. As long as the composite bat meets the length, diameter and BBCOR or BPF requirements listed in the rules, composite bats are allowed in Pony Baseball.