

2010 Playing Rule Changes with Comments as of 11/18/09

Rule 3, Section 1D Safety Grip: Covers the handle region of the bat. The safety grip shall not be less than 10 inches and not more than 15 inches. There shall be no exposed metal in the 10 – 15 inch area. The safety grip may be a molded finger formed grip as long as it is permanently attached to the bat, or attached with safety tape. Resin, pine tar or spray substances are permissible on the safety grip only. Any tape applied to the safety grip must be a continuous spiral. A bat having a flare or cone shaped grip attached is legal.

Comments: Eliminates the extra tape issue and allows cone and flare grips.

Rule 3, Section 1E Taper: The transition area between the handle and the barrel. The taper shall have a generally conical shape. It starts where the barrel decreases in size and ends where the handle diameter becomes constant. The taper shall be free of burs, dents, cracks, sharp edges, and audible rattles and show no signs of excessive wear.

Comments: Adds a definition of a taper to the rule book and helps the bat manufacturers with their designs.

Rule 3, Section 1F Barrel: The region of the bat from the end of the taper to the end cap, not including the end cap. The barrel region shall be round within 0.50 inches.

Comments: Better defines the barrel of the bat.

Rule 3, Section 1G End Cap: The cap placed at the barrel end of the bat. The end cap shall be permanently affixed to the bat to prevent alterations to the interior of the bat. It shall be affixed so that it cannot be removed by anyone other than the manufacturer without damaging or destroying the end cap or barrel.

Comments: Adds a better definition of an end cap.

Rule 3, Section 1H Altered Bat: The official bat shall not be an altered bat. The distribution of weight and length of the bat shall remain fixed at the time of manufacturing and may not be altered in any way thereafter, except otherwise specifically provided in Rule 3, Section 1 or as specifically approved by the ASA. Inserting material inside the bat, or painting a bat other than the top for identification purposes are examples of altering a bat. Laser marking for ID purposes is not considered an altered bat. Engraving ID marking on the barrel end of a metal bat is considered an altered bat. Approved bats shall not be rolled, shaved or modified to change their characteristics from that produced by the manufacturer and shall be considered an altered bat.

Comments: Clarification of an altered bat.