



## Important Rule Changes for Bat Standards (Updated August 2017)

USA Baseball, the national governing body for the sport of baseball in the U.S. in conjunction with participating national member organizations announced the decision to adopt a new bat standard that will take effect January 1, 2018. We at PBL want to be sure you are aware of the rule change and help answer your questions.

### Here's what you need to know

For starters, the new USA Baseball bats (USABat) will establish a wood-like standard that will help baseball organizations like PBL make the game of baseball more uniform at the youth level and ensure the long-term integrity and safety of the game for all players.

Informed by the research of leading scientists on the USA Baseball Bat Study Committee, USA Baseball has concluded that recent advancements in science, engineering, technology, and the materials available to fabricate non-wood bats, now allow the manufacturers to construct youth bats that can perform at a wood-like level through the entire range of lengths and weights of youth bats.

The rule change does not go into effect until **January 1, 2018**, so all current youth baseball bats will continue to be legal for play at PBL for the Fall 2017 season. This applies to Little League, Babe Ruth, Cal Ripken, PONY, Dixie and AABC leagues across the country.

As of December 31, 2017, all bats regardless of brand that are marked with **Approved For Play in Dixie Youth Baseball** or have the **1.15 BPF** stamp will no longer be legal for play. Your child will not be able to play at PBL with one of these bats in our Spring 2018 season.

Any changes in bat sizes for PBL? Yes! The new USA Baseball bats will be available in both 2-1/4" and 2-5/8" diameter barrels. Both barrel sizes will be eligible for use at PBL in 2018. The larger 2-3/4" barrels will not have the appropriate USA marking and will not be allowed at PBL.

How will you know which bat to buy? Bats must bear the USABat licensing mark (listed below) to be permissible for play at PBL in 2018. It is the intention of all bat manufactures to make the new bats available for purchase beginning in September 2017, in sufficient time for the Spring 2018 season.



### Bat eligibility at PBL in 2018

To summarize, all players at PBL will need to have a 2-1/4" or 2-5/8" barrel bat with the USABat licensing mark stamped above the grip of the bat starting in 2018. All other bats with either **Approved For Play in Dixie Youth Baseball** or **1.15 BPF** currently stamped on the bat will not be allowed for play at PBL in 2018. The new bat sizes will apply for all divisions at PBL.

If you have any questions about the new bat standards or bat eligibility at PBL, contact a PBL board member.