



## ALTERED SOFTBALL BAT POLICY

NSA Canada will continue to provide stringent test procedures and rules to ensure the safety and integrity of the game of Slo-pitch. Having said that, there are players, coaches and outside agencies who will do their best to get around these rules. The rules were implemented to keep our participants safe and to make this game as safe as it can be. With the word 'SAFETY' in mind, NSA Canada will not tolerate anyone who would, in any manner, put our participants in peril. If any official of NSA Canada suspects that a bat has been altered they have the right to inspect that bat, even if it has been inspected by another official or officials. They will also have the authority to suspend any player found to be in possession of an altered bat.

The offending player(s) will have two choices:

1. The player(s) can allow the NSA Canada representative to inspect the bat and the NSA Canada representative can reach a conclusion as to whether the bat may have been altered or,
2. The player(s) can refuse to allow the representative to inspect the bat and take an immediate Three (3) year suspension from any and all NSA Canada play with no right of appeal.

After allowing the NSA Canada representative to inspect the bat and the NSA Canada representative has decided that the bat may be altered then the player(s) will have the following two (2) additional options:

- A. The player(s) may allow the director to send the bat to the NSA Canada's Head Office, which in turn, NSA Canada will send the bat to the manufacturer for a final determination on whether the bat is altered or,
- B. The player(s) may accept an immediate one (1) year suspension without the right of appeal.

During the time of the examination of the bat by NSA Canada and/or the Manufacturer, the suspected offending player(s) may continue to play pending the findings from the Manufacturer or a final decision of NSA Canada. If the Manufacturer determines that the bat has been altered, NSA Canada may suspend a first time offender no less than one (1) years and no more than three (3) years. The length of the suspension is at the sole discretion of NSA Canada's Head Office. A suspension decision may be appealed to NSA Canada's Head Office in writing or in person. The player(s) may not play in NSA Canada sanctioned events while their suspension is under appeal. A second time offender under this altered bat suspension process will receive a lifetime suspension. If the manufacture determines the bat is illegal for use but it can not be determined that the bat has become illegal by altering or through normal usage the bat will not be returned to the owner it will be destroyed by the manufacture to insure it is no longer used in play.

The responsibility for knowing whether a bat is altered lies solely with the user and/or the owner of the bat. If an individual uses a bat in NSA Canada play or is the owner of a bat that is brought into an NSA Canada game, any suspensions will be imposed without regard to what the individual knew about the bat being altered. **An individual must know that his/her bat is not an altered bat if he/she brings one into an NSA Canada game. If not, the individual can be suspended from any and all NSA Canada activities. The fact that the individual did not know that the bat was altered is not a factor in imposing any suspensions. The question is only whether the bat is altered or not.**

A bat is considered altered when the physical structure of the legal bat has been changed in any way, or when an illegal or non approved bat has been made up in such a way as to appear to be a legal bat. Some examples of altering a bat are, but not limited to, the following: painting a bat, replacing the handle, shaving the handle or barrel, changing the taper in any way (such as by sandpapering), the use of mechanical or manual device to simulate normal wear, applying a solvent to the surface such as fingernail polish remover, removing or replacing the plug in any way other than factory repairs, removing or replacing the knob, changing the knob in any way, removing or adding anything to the inside or outside of the bat other than the legal way to tape the bat as specified and appropriate in the NSA Canada Rule Book.

\*\* Please note, the use of a flare or cone grip does not constitute an altered bat for purposes of this suspension policy but it still makes a bat altered for game play per Rule 3, Section 1, sub-section k of the NSA Canada Rule Book.

A team, player or coach may protest a bat during play so long as they adhere to the restrictions of Rule 11 in the NSA Canada Rule Book. Bats may be protested only during play and only by participants of the game being played. The fee for the protest of a bat is \$400, payable to an NSA Canada representative at the time of the protest. This fee is refundable to the protesting team, player or coach when and if the protest is upheld, less a handling fee of \$50 to cover the expenses of testing and shipping the bat.

