

UMAC Softball Bat Testing Protocol/Procedure Before Each Contest

Updated as of January 14, 2022

Training/Education

To ensure consistency of testing protocol, all Upper Midwest Athletic Conference (UMAC) softball game day administrators are required to watch the following video in order to facilitate the bat compression testing: [www.brainshark.com/arbitersports/18SUPBCTutorial](http://www.brainshark.com/arbitersports/18SUPBCTTutorial). Once training of campus bat testers has been completed, including watching of the linked video, each UMAC institution must keep a record of trained individuals from their athletics department and document the date in which training was completed and video was viewed.

- NCAA Softball Bat Testing Compliance Information - https://ncaaorg.s3.amazonaws.com/championships/sports/softball/rules/PRWSB_BatTestingComplianceInfo.pdf

Timing

Bat Compression Testing shall be completed prior to the scheduled time of the first game of the series, and must be conducted in accordance with the timeline below. The location for testing and confirmed timeline must be determined and communicated out by the home team to the visiting team at least 24 hours before game time. A coach or team representative (not a student-athlete) from each team is required to be present during both teams' testing and assist with the testing to expedite the process. In the event a visiting team arrives late, the start time may be delayed to accommodate bat testing.

- Testing Time for Visiting Team – The bat testing for the visiting team will begin 90 minutes prior to the start of the first contest of the day.
- Testing Time for Home Team – The bat testing for the home team will begin immediately following the completion of the testing for the visiting team.

Testing Protocol

1. At each UMAC home institution, the designated game day administrator will conduct bat testing. Testing shall not be conducted in public view. Game day administrators are to be determined by the host institution. Bat testing stickers are to be provided by the host institution and the color of sticker used shall be different than the color used for previous contest or different than color of stickers that are still on the bat from previous contests.
2. Each team must send a coach/team representative (not a student-athlete) with its bats and the most up to date NCAA Approved Baseball Bat List and follow the protocol in Playing Rules Appendices to witness the testing. The team representative shall assemble the bats in order as they appear on the current list, and complete the log sheet with bat models and record daily test results. Such representative must prefill list of bats filled in on form.
3. Bats must be inserted into the machine according to the specifications listed in the manual.
4. A bat tested in multiple spots must pass the test in at least two (2) out of three (3) attempts. For example, if test one passes, the bat is rotated 90 degrees and is tested again. If this test passes, the bat is stickered and is good for use. If test two fails, it is rotated 90 degrees again, and tested. If this third and final check passes, it is good to use and be stickered.
5. Bats passing both tests will receive sticker to be placed on the taper of the bat so that it is easily visible.
6. Only bats with the appropriate sticker are permitted in the dugout during competition.
7. The stickers must remain in place until the games on that date have been completed.
8. In the event of a halted game, if the game resumes on a different date, bats must be tested again.
9. The visiting UMAC team shall travel with their bat testing equipment and will be utilized if the bat testing equipment of the home team is not working properly for any reason.

Procedures for Failed Bats

1. The designated game day administrator will log all failed and damaged bats on the UMAC Baseball or Softball Bat Testing Reporting form. This form should be submitted via email to the UMAC Commissioner no more than 24 hours upon completion of the series.
2. The game day administrator will hold on to a failed bat(s) until completion of the competition that day and return to the head coach or team designee following the conclusion of competition that day.
3. It is the responsibility of the head coach to give the failed bat to their Director of Athletics upon the team's return to campus and the bat should not be utilized again as part of pre-game testing/competition.

