

Quick Guide to Bat Inspection SMSUA May 2012

It has come to our attention that some of our members need a refresher on how to perform a bat check. Here's a "Quick Guide" and a list of places to go for more information. **It is required that you check bats before every game.**

How to perform a bat inspection:

1. Check that each bat has the ASA Certified Stamp: 2000 or 2004. If the bat doesn't have the stamp they can't use it – unless you think the bat was manufactured before the year 2000 (this would be rare).



2. Physically run your hand down the length of the bat and check for burrs (chips that go deeper than just chipping of the paint), dents, and sharp edges. **If you find any of these – don't let them use the bat.**
3. Visually check for cracks – they often appear at the taper of the bat but can be anywhere. **If you see cracks – don't let them use the bat.**
4. Shake the bat. **If you hear a rattle – don't let them use the bat.**
5. Check the end cap (if the bat has one) twist it a little to make sure it is permanently attached and has not been altered. **If it is loose or looks like it has been removed – don't let them use the bat.**
6. **FOR REDMOND/BOTHELL SLOWPITCH LEAGUES ONLY:** Contact Mike Rabin at m.rabin@comcast.net if you have to remove a bat with a quick report of how the process went. This is especially important if you encounter problems or pushback from the teams.

It is strongly encouraged that each member goes to the ASA website at: softball.org, click on certified equipment then click on the red "GO" button next to "Bats" underneath the first paragraph. This will lead you to a short description of what to look for as well as access to the non-approved bats. It is strongly advised you print this list out and carry it with you.

By following these simple procedures, you will help keep the players safe and not give a team an advantage over their competition.