

Office of the Commissioner
MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL



MEMORANDUM

December 5, 2002

Mr. Chris Corso
Sandlot Sticks
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Dear Chris:

Please be advised that effective immediately the regulations to be an authorized supplier of bats for a Major or Minor League player have been modified. The accompanying attachment reviews the new guidelines for both manufacturers that have previously been on the approval list and those that are seeking to become a new supplier of bats. The regulations as described will be strictly enforced. Please review the document in its entirety.

The list of approved manufacturers for the 2003 season will be sent to all Clubs and to the companies identified on the list of approved bat suppliers bulletin, which will be distributed at the conclusion of the approval period. As stated in the "Bat Supplier Regulations" the approval period concludes on February 15, 2003 with all pertinent approval requirements due in our office on or before January 15, 2003.

If you have any questions I can be reached at (212) 931-7869 or by electronic mail at roy.krasik@mlb.com.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Roy H. Krasik".

Roy H. Krasik
Senior Director,
Major League Operations

Major League Baseball Bat Supplier Regulations

The Office of the Commissioner of Baseball and the Major League Clubs and their Minor League affiliates ("Major League Clubs" and "Minor League Clubs," respectively) have interests in promoting competition between Clubs on the field; preserving the traditions of the game of Baseball; ensuring that play on the field is the product of players' skill rather than differences in equipment; improving player and spectator safety; and maintaining the integrity of the game of Baseball. To further those goals, the Office of the Commissioner of Baseball has issued the following regulations:

1. No supplier's bat may be used in Major League or Minor League games, practices and exhibitions ("Professional Play") unless prior approval by the Commissioner's designee is obtained. Permission may be given for all levels, or for a limited number of specified Minor Leagues. Permission may be revoked at any time by the Office of the Commissioner, in its sole discretion, should a supplier alter its product in a manner inconsistent with the Official Baseball Rules or these regulations (as they may be amended from time to time), or should a supplier fail to comply with these regulations (as they may be amended from time to time), all in the sole judgment of the Office of the Commissioner. The Commissioner's designee will grant such approvals for the next championship season during the period beginning with the end of the prior World Series and ending February 15 immediately preceding such championship season (or May 15, in the case of experimental bats approved for specified Minor Leagues whose seasons begin in June).
2. In order to receive such approval, a bat supplier must:
 - A. Show the Commissioner's designee, on or before January 15 immediately preceding the championship season, that at least a total of
 - i. 30 dozen (in the case of all-wood bats); or
 - ii. 10 dozen (in the case of experimental bats for certain levels of Professional Play)bats have been ordered by Major League or Minor League Club equipment managers during each of the prior two championship seasons, subject to the provisional permission described in paragraph 13 below;
 - B. Pay an annual administrative fee of \$10,000 to the Office of the Commissioner of Baseball, which must be received on or before January 15 immediately preceding the championship season. The fee shall give the supplier the right to have its brand exposed on the bats, subject to these regulations, during Professional Play and shall apply against the ongoing monitoring of these bat supplier regulations;
 - C. Supply to the Office of the Commissioner of Baseball, on or before January 15 immediately preceding the championship season, one sample of its most popular model

bat. (A bat supplier seeking approval of experimental bat or bats must also supply to the Office of the Commissioner of Baseball, on or before January 15 immediately preceding the championship season, one sample of each such experimental model.)

- D. Supply any quantity of sample bats to the Office of the Commissioner or its designee, in such lengths, weights and styles as the Commissioner's designee may from time to time request. Such sample bats shall be from the supplier's regular production line and shall be supplied at no cost to the Office of the Commissioner of Baseball or any Major League Club. The Office of the Commissioner shall not request an unreasonable quantity from a supplier. Six samples per model shall not be deemed unreasonable;
 - E. Disclose information about its wood supply, drying process or other manufacturing processes as the Office of the Commissioner may request. The Office of the Commissioner shall not disclose any information proprietary to a bat supplier to any other bat suppliers, except as required by law; and
 - F. Demonstrate compliance with these regulations.
3. Approval for Professional Play does not authorize a bat supplier or any entity or individual to use, absent a separate consent in writing from Major League Baseball Properties, Inc. ("MLBP") and the applicable Club any designations, trademarks (including, but not limited to, Club names, logos or other trademarks) or other markings on or in connection with the bat or its advertisement or promotion, except for the right to include the supplier's brand on the bat in accordance with these regulations and the Official Baseball Rules. For example, no Club name is permitted to be included anywhere on the bat and no reference is permitted to be made to the bat being used by a particular Club. For example, no bat supplier is permitted to state in an advertisement or promotion that the bat is approved, authorized or used by Major League Baseball, the Office of the Commissioner of Baseball or any Major League or Minor League Club.
4. Each approved bat supplier must notify the Office of the Commissioner immediately of any material change or modification:
- A. in the models previously submitted for approval or
 - B. in the supplier's fabrication process.
5. No changed or modified bat model is permitted to be used in Professional Play without the prior approval of the Commissioner's designee.
6. Any bat model to be used in Professional Play must conform to the requirements of Official Baseball Rule 1.10, unless approval for play is given only for a limited number of leagues or classifications.
7. A bat's entire grain from knob to barrel end must be clearly visible.

8. A supplier's name, marks and rings shall to appear in only one area of the bat.
 - A. This area is not to exceed four inches in length or two inches in height, must not start closer than 18 inches from the knob end of the bat and must not be etched unduly deep into the wood.
 - B. If a trademark ring is used as part of the manufacturer's identification, such ring must not exceed 1 inch in length and must start 18 inches from the knob end of the bat.
 - C. The name and mark appearing on the bat must be of the company that manufactures or markets the bat and may not be the name or mark of another company or product.
 - D. A two-color bat must be divided into two sections, each of one solid color. The dividing point between each of the color sections must be 18 inches from the knob end of the bat, or next to the one-inch ring, if applicable.
9. A player name or model number must be placed in a position that will end two inches from the top of the barrel. The area reserved is not to exceed three inches in length or two inches in height, which would include one line for the bat model number (no corporate identification), a second area for the player's name or signature and a bottom line for the Club name, if approval is given pursuant to paragraph 3 above.
10. Club logos, names or bat emblems may not be used without the permission of MLBPA and the applicable Club. If such permission is granted, such marks are permitted to be placed only in one of two areas on the bat, not to exceed four inches in length or two inches in height:
 - A. centered between the manufacturer's identification and the player's name and model number; or
 - B. in an area on the side of the bat opposite from the manufacturer's marks and the player/model number.
11. The only permitted colors are:
 - A. Natural finish
 - B. Brown wood stain
 - C. Black; and
 - D. Half stain (Walker finish).
12. The Office of the Commissioner may, through consultants of its own choosing, test bat samples using whatever methodologies it deems appropriate.

13. A bat supplier may be provisionally approved as a supplier for a period of time specified by the Commissioner's designee if a Major League Club, on or before January 15 immediately preceding the championship season, nominates such supplier for provisional status in writing to the Baseball Operations Department at the Commissioner's Office and such bat supplier complies in all respects with these regulations, with the exception of paragraph 2.A., above.
14. Any bat supplier violating these regulations shall have its approvals revoked. MLBP and/or the Office of the Commissioner of Baseball will take all appropriate legal action in the event of a violation in order to protect the valuable trademark and other rights of the Office of the Commissioner of Baseball, MLBP, the Clubs and other related entities or groups.
15. The Office of the Commissioner of Baseball and/or the Playing Rules Committee reserves the right to revoke a bat supplier authorization at any time, at no cost, expense or liability to any Major League Club, the Office of the Commissioner of Baseball or any other Major League Baseball-related entity or group or any of their respective owners, shareholders, directors, officers, employees, agents, representatives, successors or assigns (collectively "MLB Entities and Individuals").
16. Each bat supplier, by applying for approval under these regulations, agrees to, at its sole expense, indemnify, defend and hold harmless all MLB Entities and Individuals from and against any claims, suits, damages and costs arising from or related to its bats that are approved for use in Professional Play, the use of such bats, and defects or deficiencies in, or the breaking of, such bats. Each bat supplier shall obtain and maintain any and all insurance policies that shall be required by the Office of the Commissioner of Baseball, and shall name each of the MLB Entities and Individuals as additional insureds under such policies. Each policy shall contain cross liability endorsements, provide coverage for the additional insureds on a primary basis, and contain such other terms as the Office of the Commissioner of Baseball shall require from time to time. Each bat supplier shall submit to the Office of the Commissioner of Baseball proof of such insurance on or before January 15 each year.
17. The Office of the Commissioner reserves the right to amend its regulations from time to time, in its sole discretion (including without limitation the development of more specific regulations in regard to the composition and performance of bats), at no cost, expense or liability to any Major League Club, the Office of the Commissioner of Baseball or any other Major League Baseball-related entity or group. An approved bat supplier must, at its sole cost and expense, comply immediately with any such addition or amendment in order for its bats to continue to be authorized for Professional Play.

The undersigned has read the foregoing Major League Baseball Bat Supplier Regulations and agrees to each of them, including, without limitation, the obligations described in paragraph 16.

AGREED (sign here): _____
 Print Name: _____
 Title: _____
 Company: _____

Date: _____

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Official Baseball Rules

2002 Edition



- 1.10(a) The bat shall be a smooth, round stick not more than $\frac{2\frac{3}{4}}$ inches in diameter at the thickest part and not more than 42 inches in length. The bat shall be one piece of solid wood.

NOTE: No laminated or experimental bats shall be used in a professional game (either championship season or exhibition games) until the manufacturer has secured approval from the Rules Committee of his design and methods of manufacture.

- (b) Cupped Bats. An indentation in the end of the bat up to one inch in depth is permitted and may be no wider than two inches and no less than one inch in diameter. The indentation must be curved with no foreign substance added.
- (c) The bat handle, for not more than 18 inches from its end, may be covered or treated with any material or substance to improve the grip. Any such material or substance, which extends past the 18 inch limitation, shall cause the bat to be removed from the game.

NOTE: If the umpire discovers that the bat does not conform to (c) above until a time during or after which the bat has been used in play, it shall not be grounds for declaring the batter out, or ejected from the game.

- (d) No colored bat may be used in a professional game unless approved by the Rules Committee.