

September 2011

Parents.....

This notice is to inform you of the NEW BAT RULE for the FORSYTH COUNTY YOUTH BASEBALL & SOFTBALL PROGRAM for 2012 and beyond. The new bat rule is:

5 BASEBALL – 13 BASEBALL: NEW Bats must be marked with BPF 1.15 stamp. Older model small barrel bats (2¼ in.) marked approved for use by Little League, Dixie Youth, Babe Ruth, Pony League or Dizzy Dean will be allowed.

14 BASEBALL: Bats must be either be marked with BPF 1.15 stamp and be no more than -5 weight/length (commonly known as a drop-5 bat) OR marked with a BBCOR .50 stamp and be no more than -3 weight/length (a drop-3 bat).

15+BASEBALL: Bats must be marked with a BBCOR .50 stamp and be no more than -3 weight/length (a drop-3 bat). This conforms to National Federation of High Schools rules.

Softball bats must be an ASA approved and stamped bat.

### **Why do we need this rule?**

Like many of the major youth baseball organizations, FCPRD is concerned that the bats currently being produced are too “hot”, meaning the ball comes off the bat too fast. This is caused by the improved technology of the bat manufacturers. These new bat standards are being adopted to reduce the trampoline effect as the ball leaves the bat thus reducing the energy of the ball. While participation in any athletic event carries some level of risk, FCPRD is attempting to lower the risk of severe injury with this rule. These bat standards will not stop a child from getting hit with a ball but is rather an effort to reduce the force of the ball. The FCPRD athletic staff researched this issue by checking the rules of major youth baseball associations (Little League, USSSA, Triple Crown, and Dixie Youth) and the USA Baseball/Nation Federation of High Schools. We have also discussed this with local retailers, area coaches, representatives from the Georgia Recreation & Parks Association, and Local Booster Club Board Members. We believe this rule is in line with what the major youth baseball associations have in place.

### **What is BPF & BBCOR?**

BPF stands for Bat Performance Factor. It is a measurement of how a ball “rebounds” off the bat, compared to a ball thrown at a stone wall. We are using a BPF of 1.15 in ages 14 & younger. This means the bat has a “rebound” of 15% faster than a ball thrown at a stone wall.

BBCOR stands for Batted Ball Coefficient of Restitution. Basically BBCOR measures how much energy the ball loses at contact with the bat. The NCAA & NFHS want metal & composite bats to perform more like wood bats, so they have adopted this standard.

### **Do I have to buy a new bat?**

No. FCPRD is not mandating that each participant has his/her own bat. However, this issue with the bats has been evolving quickly in the last two years. Bat Manufacturers are striving to meet the demands of the market, and that demand is more bats stamped with the BPF 1.15 and BBCOR .50. If your bat has the proper stamps on it, your bat is good.

If your bat has stamp or mark stating approved for use by Little League, Dixie Youth, Babe Ruth, Pony League or Dizzy Dean it should be fine.

If you are in doubt, check with your Local Booster Club officers for advice.

### **Does this rule cover Travel, All Stars and Summer Tournament Play?**

No. This rule is only for Local Recreation League play. If your child is selected for All Stars/Travel or plays in other tournaments after the Recreation Season is over, the bat your child uses will have to conform to that organization’s rules.

### **CONCLUSION**

FCPRD & its Member Booster Clubs are committed to providing a fun and safe environment for all the youth of Forsyth County. This new bat rule is an attempt to insure participants’ safety. If you have any questions about this rule or any other topic, please contact your Booster Club through their website OR call FCPRD at 770-781-2215.