



2019 Major Rules Change for Softball

The following rules change was approved by the NCAA Softball Rules Committee and the Playing Rules Oversight Panel.

**Note – This rules change will not be reflected in the hardcopy rules book until the 2020 and 2021 version.*

| <u>Rule</u> | <u>Rules Change and Rationale</u> |
|--------------|---|
| Rule 3.3.1.4 | <p>Bats shall bear <u>either</u> the permanent ASA 2004 <u>or the new fastpitch USA Softball</u> certification mark and be on the current NCAA Approved Softball Bat List as maintained on the NCAA and the SUP websites indicating compliance with the bat performance standard per the appropriate ASTM testing protocol.</p> <p>Rationale: With ASA rebranding to USA Softball, USA Softball will introduce a new bat certification mark for adult and Junior Olympic fastpitch as early as the 2019 season. As a result, bats may either continue to be introduced into the market with the ASA 2004 mark or manufacturers may begin to test and stamp models with the new fastpitch USA Softball certification mark as early as the 2019 season. Both the ASA 2004 and the new fastpitch USA Softball certification mark will be permitted for NCAA competition to indicate compliance beginning with the 2019 season. In addition to the ASA 2004 or new fastpitch USA Softball certification mark, bats will still be required to also be on the current NCAA Approved Softball Bat List. Please note this rules recommendation will not require the purchase of new bats as long as current bats are marked with the ASA 2004 certification mark and are on the NCAA Approved Softball Bat List. This rules recommendation is simply adding the new fastpitch USA Softball certification mark as an allowable mark to indicate compliance in addition to the existing ASA 2004 certification mark.</p> |