



VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

MEMORANDUM

June 6, 2012

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TO: Head Baseball Coaches, Conference Commissioners, Compliance Officers and Coordinators of Umpires.

FROM: Jeff Hurd, chair
Baseball Rules Committee

SUBJECT: Decertification of Marucci CAT-5² and Black bats.

This memo serves as the NCAA's official notice of the decertification of the Marucci CAT-5² 34-inch and Black 33-inch and 34-inch models. **Effective immediately, these bats will not be allowed for use in any NCAA baseball competition.**

For ease of reference, photos of the bats are below:



The NCAA originally notified Marucci of this decertification in April, at which time Marucci filed suit against the NCAA. A temporary restraining order preventing the decertification of the bats was issued immediately and the district court ordered the proceedings to be kept under seal. On June 5, the district court unsealed the case and dissolved the temporary restraining order against the NCAA, thus permitting the NCAA to proceed with the decertifying of the bats.

This was the second time Marucci was notified of one of their bats being decertified. In February, the Marucci Cat-5² 33-inch model was found to be out of compliance and was decertified at that time.

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Team representatives are asked to check your team's stock of bats and withhold these bats if your team is in possession of any. Conference administrators are asked to share this information with your umpires as well. If any of these bats are attempted to be used during competition, it should be considered an illegal bat and subject to NCAA Baseball Rule 1-12-b, (see the penalty section for procedures).

In 2011, the NCAA implemented a baseball bat testing standard called the Baseball Bat Coefficient of Restitution (BBCOR) measurement. The decision to implement the standard was rooted in preserving the integrity of the game and ensuring the safety of student-athletes – as some non-wood bats hit the ball significantly faster and farther than wood bats, they can create a significant competitive advantage and also put players at greater risk of injury. The NCAA certifies only those non-wood bats that perform like their wood counterparts to be eligible for competition for this reason. All bats are tested prior to and throughout the baseball season to ensure they are within the BBCOR standards. If a group of a specific model of bats (three or more bats tested) are found to fail the compliance test, they are decertified and removed from use in NCAA competition.

For any questions on this decision, please contact Ty Halpin (Playing Rules, thalpin@ncaa.org) or Cameron Schuh (Public and Media Relations, cschuh@ncaa.org) at the NCAA. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

TYH:clm

cc: Mr. Gene McArtor
Baseball Rules Committee
Selected NCAA Staff Members