

2018 NYO BASEBALL BAT STANDARDS

(Updated: November 2017)

Starting January 1, 2018, a new bat standard (USABat) is being introduced and utilized by a number of organizations. Other organizations will continue to use the USSSA 1.15 bat standard which has been in place for all of youth baseball (including at NYO Baseball) since 2011. For 2018 (Spring and Fall), NYO Baseball will allow the use of the USSSA bats that fall under our current rules as well as bats that conform to the new USABat standards. This will prevent a situation where all 1500 players in our program are forced to go out and buy a brand new bat.

What does this mean? For all leagues from **Shetland Red through Majors**, bats must be either (i) 2 1/4" barrel size carrying the USSSA 1.15bpf certification stamp or (ii) the new 2 5/8" barrel carrying the new USABaseball stamp (there are also less abundant 2 1/4" USABats which will also be allowed). The new 2 5/8" USABat bats are now in stores and this will likely coincide with the phase out of the sale of 2 1/4" USSSA 1.15bpf bats. However, players in these leagues will continue to be able to use either the 2 1/4" USSSA 1.15 bats or the new USABats. The stamps can be viewed below:



For the **Bronco and Pony leagues**, players will be allowed to use (i) the current 2 1/4" USSSA 1.15 bats, (ii) the current 2 5/8" or 2 3/4" USSSA 1.15 bats with a maximum drop of -10 for Pony and -12 for Bronco (except as noted below) (iii) the new 2 5/8" USABats (any drop is allowed). FYI, a bat's drop is a comparison between its length and weight or (iv) any BBCOR certified bat (these are bats with a maximum drop 3 and are typically used in high school and by some middle school teams).

Exception: Per the ban imposed in the spring 2017 season for the Bronco and Pony leagues, we will continue to ban the 2017 Demarini 2 5/8" drop 8 and 2 3/4" drop 10 CF Zen bats (for those who still have one of these bats, Demarini was offering an exchange or refund policy).

Special note regarding **Pony and school ball**: The majority of our Pony players also play on their school teams in the Dunwoody Senior Baseball (DSB) middle school leagues. Please note that these leagues will be moving much closer to the high school standards as kids transition to the 60/90 field and high school rules. You can view the DSB bat rules using this link: <http://dunwoodyseniorbaseball.com/#439141> We would strongly encourage Pony players to

start using either the USABat or a BBCOR bat to make the transition to middle school and eventually high school baseball much smoother.

Can my child use the same bat he/she used in 2017 in the 2018 season? Yes, so long as they were swinging a legal bat in 2017. Please see the chart below to help you with the specifications going forward. If you have any questions, please reach out to us at baseball@nyosports.com

BARREL SIZE	BAT CERTIFICATION STANDARD	CAN I USE AT NYO?
2 1/4"	USSSA 1.15bpf or USA Bat (new standard)	Yes, all leagues
2 5/8"	USABat (new standard)	Yes, all leagues
2 5/8"	USSSA 1.15bpf	Bronco or Pony only, drop 10 max for Pony, drop 12 max for Bronco, no banned Demarini
2 5/8"	BBCOR (drop 3 bats)	Yes, all leagues, only recommended for Pony American
2 3/4"	USSSA 1.15bpf	Bronco or Pony only, drop 10 max for Pony, drop 12 max for Bronco, no banned Demarini

The future: We will continue to monitor both the evolution of the new USABat bats and the standards adopted by the myriad of sanctioning youth baseball bodies who are currently split between the two bat standards. It is very likely that we will adopt one standard or the other for the 2019 season and moving forward as we expect to see a trend develop in some direction.

Special note regarding Summer Baseball: As many of you know, NYO sponsors between over 20 summer teams for ages 7 through 14 with all players picked for these teams out of our regular season spring leagues. These teams play from late May through late June to early July. Some of these teams play straight travel baseball, some play so called Dizzy Dean style tournaments against all star teams from other parks and some play a hybrid schedule. While nothing is in stone at this point, we expect that most travel tournaments will also both the USSSA 1.15 bats and the USABats and the Dizzy Dean style tournaments will only allow the USABats. All of that could change, but players on those teams may want to own or have access to both types of bats.