

## 2018 USA Baseball Youth Bat Standard Change

Youth baseball bats will be undergoing some changes for the 2018 seasons. Effective January 1, 2018, USA Baseball will implement a new USA Baseball bat standard. The new method for measuring bat performance in the testing of youth bats will allow youth baseball organizations to reach their goal of wood-like bat performance to preserve the long-term integrity of the game, as well as instill a sense of uniformity among leagues. As the governing body for the sport of baseball in the United States, USA Baseball has instituted this standard in the following national member organizations:

- American Amateur Baseball Congress (AABC)
- Babe Ruth/**Cal Ripken Baseball**
- Dixie Boys Baseball
- Dixie Youth Baseball
- Little League Baseball
- PONY Baseball

Marlton Baseball is a participating member of the Cal Ripken Baseball – a Division of Babe Ruth League, Inc. and therefore a new bat will have to be purchase for legal play in 2018.

To identify officially-sanctioned youth bats, look for the “USA Baseball” licensing mark, located on the taper of the bat. All new bats that bear the below USABat licensing mark **will be permissible** for play in the Cal Ripken league and tournaments of the participating youth baseball organizations.



**LOOK FOR THIS STAMP ON THE HANDLE OF YOUR BAT**



Baseball bats that bear the below USSSA 1.15 BPF Bat licensing mark **will NOT be permissible** for play in the Cal Ripken league and tournaments of the participating youth baseball organizations.



In addition to the new bat standard, 2 5/8" barrel bats will be allowed to be used in competitive play, provided they meet USA Baseball Bat regulations. This new standard change can be confusing at times, but the best way to help ensure a successful and enjoyable season is to stay informed. Click on this link <https://usabat.com/> to see a list of USA Baseball approved youth baseball bats that meet the new USA Baseball's Youth Bat Performance Standard. Youth baseball bats are those bats that typically have a bat length of 27", 28", 29", 30" or 31".

T-ball regulations will not be changing, but these bats will now require the USA Baseball T-ball mark. All new 2018 T-ball bats will include this mark and be legal for play (for a list of approved 2018 Tee Ball Bats click here <https://usabat.com/approved-tee-balls/>); however, if you already bought a T-ball bat without the USA Baseball mark, you can buy a sticker at <https://usabaseballshop.com/collections/accessories/products/usabat-tee-ball-sticker> to make your bat legal for 2018 and beyond. T-ball bats are those bats that typically have a bat length of 24", 25" or 26".

Under USABat standards, USA Baseball will implement the Tee Ball Sticker Program. Through the Tee Ball Sticker Program, parents can order approved stickers to mark T-ball bats that were purchased prior to the implementation of the USABat standard. Click here for more information about the Tee Ball Sticker Program: <https://www.baberuthleague.org/media/301774/USABat%20Tee%20Ball%20Sticker%20Program%20Overview.pdf>.

Click here for a frequently asked Questions about the USABat standard: <https://www.baberuthleague.org/batter-up/articles/new-bat-specification-testing.aspx>.

Click on the below link to learn more about the new regulations taking effect in 2018 that could impact your youth bat buying experience. [http://protips.dickssportinggoods.com/sports-and-activities/baseball/2018-usa-baseball-youth-bat-standard-change?camp=EML:DSG\\_PRM:09092017\\_09092017\\_BaseballUSANewBats:Body\\_ProTips&customerkey=98759797-18&mcid=391520249&hdpid=ec2238fc-eed5-4ac6-8110-0858924875fa](http://protips.dickssportinggoods.com/sports-and-activities/baseball/2018-usa-baseball-youth-bat-standard-change?camp=EML:DSG_PRM:09092017_09092017_BaseballUSANewBats:Body_ProTips&customerkey=98759797-18&mcid=391520249&hdpid=ec2238fc-eed5-4ac6-8110-0858924875fa)

If you would like your child to try the new baseball bat, Extra Innings is hosting a Bat Demo of the 2018 USA baseball bats this Wednesday, November 1st from 6:00 - 8:30 pm. Manufacturing reps from Easton, DeMarini, Louisville Slugger and Axe are scheduled to be there and can help answer your questions about the new USA Baseball bat standard. Extra Innings is located in Mount Laurel at 100 Pike Road , Bldg. C, Mt. Laurel, NJ 08054.



## **BAT DEMO NIGHT**

**Wednesday, November 1, 2017**

**6:00PM-8:30PM**

Come out and test the new 2018 lineup of baseball and softball bats.

Have questions about the new USA bat standard? Get them all answered here!

Easton, Louisville Slugger, DeMarini and Axe bat manufacturer reps all scheduled to be in attendance.

