BAT DECERTIFICATION

2020 LOUISVILLE SLUGGER META (-3) 2 5/8” 33 IN./30 OZ. BBCOR BASEBALL BAT UPDATE

The NCAA recently conducted additional testing of the previously-certified 33 in./30 oz. Louisville Slugger 2020 Meta (-3) BBCOR baseball bat. The conclusion of this additional testing resulted in the NCAA and the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) removing this specific model from their approved-for-play bat list. At this time, no other sizes of this bat model, or any previous model years of the bat model, have been decertified.

WTLBBMTB32033 - 2020 Louisville Slugger Meta (-3) 2 5/8” BBCOR Baseball Bat - 33 in./30 oz.

This ruling by the NFHS is not cause to check bats before the game begins. The umpires will accept the word of the head coach, that his players are properly equipped.

If the use of one of these bats is brought to our attention during the game, we will impose the penalty for using an illegal bat and restrict the head coach to the bench.

PLAY: With R2 on second and R1 on first, B3 hits a ground ball to F6 who steps on second in time to force out R1, but then throws the ball out of play. R2 advances to third and then scores. B3 advances to second. Before the next pitch, it is brought to the attention of the umpire, that B3 used a 2020 Louisville Slugger META (-3) 33” bat.

RULING: The umpire will give the defense the option of taking the result of the play or having the illegal bat penalty enforced, which would result in B3 being called out and R2 and R1 returning to the base occupied at the time of the pitch. In addition the head coach will be restricted to the bench.
New NFHS Designated Hitter Option:

When the new option (DP/DH) is being used, confusion arises when multiple substitutions and re-entries are made involving the defensive player part of the DP/DH.

To avoid confusion keep a couple of things in mind:

1. All of the starting players and the designation of DH are locked into the lineup and can not be moved to another place in the batting rotation.
2. Defensive positions P, C, 1B... can be maneuvered and exchanged at will. Defensive positions are NOT locked into the lineup. Just make sure you have 9 different defensive players after all substitutions have been reported.
3. The DH part of the DP/DH can never leave the game and re-enter. WHY? When the DH leaves the game someone is replacing him on offense. This eliminates the DP/DH.

Situations:

- Brady is the Pitcher/ DH and tires in the 2nd inning. The coach brings in Kelly to pitch. In the 4th inning Evans replaces Kelly as the pitcher. In the 5th inning, Brown replaces Evans as the pitcher. In the 7th inning Brady returns to play 1st base. All through these substitutions Brady was the DH.
  - **Ruling:** These substitutions are all legal, with Brady remaining as the DH in each instance. Kelly, Evans, and Brown are all out of the game and can not re-enter. Brady will be the 1B/DH. If Brady leaves the game again, he can not participate in the game in any capacity.

- Kelly is the LF/DH. In the 3rd inning, Jones substitutes for Kelly as the Left Fielder. In the 4th inning, Kelly returns as the Left Fielder. In the 5th inning, Armstrong substitutes for Kelly in Left Field. May Kelly remain as the DH?
  - **Ruling:** NO. Kelly, having been removed from the game twice, is no longer eligible to play in any capacity. Armstrong or a substitute must bat for himself.

- Jones is listed as the P/DH in the starting lineup. In the 3rd inning Jones is restricted to the bench for complaining about balls and strikes while pitching. May Jones remain in the game as the DH?
  - **Ruling:** NO, of course not. Although the DP/DH serves two roles, he is still one player.
A courtesy runner is an eligible substitute who can be used to run for the pitcher or catcher. This allows the pitcher and/or catcher to get back on defense more quickly when the half-inning ends.

The courtesy runner remains a regular substitute who can come into the game as a fielder or batter.

**Rules regarding a courtesy runner:**

The same courtesy runner cannot run for the pitcher and the catcher.

A courtesy runner runs for the position, not the player. Thus if a pitcher is moved to the catching position and then gets on base, he must have a different courtesy runner as catcher than he did as pitcher.

Any player who has played in the game cannot be a courtesy runner.

If a player participates as a courtesy runner in a given inning, he cannot go into the game as a batter in the same half inning.

If a player bats for the pitcher or catcher, that player is not allowed a courtesy runner, if he reaches base.

A courtesy runner can be replaced on base by another courtesy runner.

If a player listed as a Pitcher / DH or Catcher / DH bats and gets on base, he is not entitled to have a courtesy runner.

Once replaced by a courtesy runner, the pitcher or catcher cannot go back in and run for the CR in the same half inning, unless the CR is injured and there is no other eligible CR.

If there is a pinch hitter for the Pitcher or catcher and the pinch hitter gets on base, the pinch hitter is NOT eligible to have a courtesy runner, unless the pitcher or catcher replaces the CR at that time.

The courtesy runner must be reported to the umpire. If he does not report, he becomes a substitute.

The plate umpire must record any courtesy runner's participation.