

# Henderson County Parks & Recreation

## Softball Bat Policy

- The use of illegal, altered or hazardous bats is a serious safety concern and shall not be allowed for use in Henderson County Parks & Recreation Softball Leagues. Making alterations to bats is clearly an inappropriate attempt to gain an unfair advantage. Our goal of providing a safe, recreational environment for players, umpires, coaches and fans incorporates softball bat standards that were developed to prevent possible serious and life-threatening injuries, as well as promote a more level playing field.
- All softball bats used in HCPRD softball league will be inspected and authorized prior to use. An approved bat will be identified with a HCPRD sticker. Bats will be tested on an annual basis and prior to start of softball league season. Softball bats that do not have an approval sticker will not be allowed in any HCPRD league, division or tournament.
- Bat compression testing will be available on designated days, as well as, throughout the softball season. Please see the field supervisor or umpire in chief to have a bat tested. Please allow yourself plenty of time before your scheduled game to have a bat approved for play. Bats that fail the test will not receive a sticker and not allowed for play! Umpires have been instructed to inspect bats before & during games looking for approved sticker.
- Bats will be requested for testing when:
  1. Starting the new HCPRD 2016 season
  2. When an umpire/player is injured by an un-defendable ball
  3. An opposing manager notifies umpire he wants to pay the \$50 protest fee to have bat tested
  4. HCPRD reserves the right to spot check leagues throughout the season
- What happens next:
  1. The owner/user of bat that has injured a player/umpire he will be asked to relinquish the bat for testing. If the owner/user refuses, he will receive an automatic 1 calendar year suspension from HCPRD league play, no appeals
  2. Bats that fail compression test SIGNIFICANTLY owner/user will be required to give up the bat and sent for manufacture testing. If you refuse, you will be subject to a mandatory 1 calendar year suspension from HCPRD league play, no appeals
  3. In the event that a bat fails compression test, by protest or spot check, after approval sticker has been placed the player in possession will be called out, bat removed and player and coach ejected from that day's games. Player will also receive a 3 game suspension. Repeat violations will result in lengthy suspensions imposed by HCPRD
- Injuries sustained as a direct result of a player using an unapproved or altered bat may also result in personal liability exposure to that player.