

# Memo



**Date:** June 5, 2003

**To/A:** Provincial/Territorial Associations

**From/De:** Ron Gallinger, Program Director – National Teams

**RE:** **Official Position Regarding Dented Bats.**

**C.C.** Board of Directors, Bat Suppliers

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A concern was raised on when a dented bat becomes illegal for play.

Although a bat may have a dent, does not necessarily mean that it is illegal. A legal bat is not to exceed 2 1/4 inches in diameter at the largest part of the bat. The standard test for this is whether or not the bat will pass through a bat ring. The bat ring allows a tolerance of 1/32 inch for expansion of a round bat.

The intent of the rule is not to allow a larger hitting surface. If the bat will not pass through the bat ring, the surface is larger than the allowable 2 1/4 inches plus the 1/32 allowable tolerance, and the bat shall be deemed illegal.

Umpires are instructed to check bats before each game. If a bat is questionable, the umpire should check the bat with a bat ring. Umpires who fail to carry a bat ring are negligent in their duties. Softball Canada's philosophy on bats is to do everything possible to keep a legal bat in the game.

All bats must conform to Rule 3, Section 1 of Softball Canada's Rule Book.