

Effective January 1, 2018, Little League, PONY, Babe Ruth/Cal Ripken and Dixie will require all bats to have the new USABat approval. The USABat standard will create wood-like performance in youth bats while allowing younger players to use light-weight bats that could not be achieved with wood bats. The USABat Standard is based on the coefficient of restitution (BBCOR) from a bat-ball impact. USABat bats differ from conventional BBCOR bats since they will not have a drop weight limit (the drop is the difference between the length of the bat and the weight in ounces). BBCOR bats for high school and some 14U leagues must be drop -3. All USABats are 2 5/8" diameter (big barrel) bats at all age levels (including Pinto), similar to BBCOR which is also 2-5/8"

At the October Baseball Committee meeting, bat standards for the 2019 Spring were discussed in depth. After these discussions, and with consultation of other local leagues, such as Moraga and Piedmont, and following the trend of tournament hosts, such as TPR and NCTB, OBA will allow either bat standard to be used in house league play for the 2019 spring season. It is unknown at this time if the USSSA standard will continue to be allowed past the 2019 season. For parents purchasing new bats looking for more than one season of use, they would be advised to strongly consider the new USABat standard, versus the USSSA standard. The general trend of youth baseball is the wood like performance of the USABats.

For the 2019 spring house league season, the exact permitted bats specifications are:

- Pinto players may use USSSA BPF 1.15 bats with maximum barrel diameter of 2-1/4" or USABat bat with maximum barrel diameter of 2-5/8". T-Ball bats are not allowed in Pinto
- Mustang and Bronco house players may use USSSA BPF 1.15 or USABat bats with maximum barrel diameter of 2-5/8".
- Mustang and Bronco 680 may use USSSA BPF 1.15 bats with max barrel diameter of 2-5/8". **
- Pony 13U 680 players may use USSSA BPF 1.15 bats with max barrel diameter of 2-5/8". **
- Pony 14U 680 players must use BBCOR or wood bats.
- Pony house players may use USSSA BPF 1.15 bats with maximum barrel diameter of 2-5/8"* or USABat bat with maximum barrel diameter of 2-5/8". Pony players would be advised to use a maximum drop of -8 for 13U and -5 for 14U, although not a requirement.

**The 680 League does allow 2-3/4" barrels, but they are alone in that size. It would not make sense for a player to have a 2-3/4" bat considering that it is not allowed in any other baseball forums. The 680 league is expected to allow the use of USABat bats for Bronco, but this approval will not be confirmed until the November league meeting.

For more info on bats check out:

<http://www.justbats.com/bat-resource-guide/usabat-standard/>

<http://www.easton.com/new-youth-usa-bat-standard-faqs>

http://web.usabaseball.com/article.jsp?ymd=20150807&content_id=141742668

OBA's page for guidance on bats:

<http://www.obabaseball.com/page/show/416324-guidance-on-bats>

Historically, OBA has been a PONY affiliate, but with recent changes to the PONY National rules (including age cutoffs and Mustang specific rules) OBA has not renewed their charter with PONY. While OBA will continue to be considered a Pony league in principle, OBA does not have Pony membership. And, as a result, OBA is not bound by PONY National rules. The tournaments that OBA's summer all-star teams participate in do not have a requirement for teams to come from PONY recognized leagues. OBA will continue to participate in All-World, TPR and other tournaments, allowing the use of both USSSA and USABat bats.