

SOFTBALL LETTER 2

ITEM 1

THE FOLLOWING IS DIRECTLY FROM NYSSO:

NYSSO has been inundated with questions regarding the Easton Ghost bats. Why people are treating these bats any different than any other bat is beyond our comprehension. A bat is either legal or not legal. To be legal it must meet certain requirements. One of those requirements is to have a proper ASA/USA certification. They are legal or not legal based on requirements. Train your umpires what to look for (the requirements are spelled out in the book). Do a thorough bat inspection. Don't allow illegal or improper equipment. LOOK FOR THE PROPER MARKINGS, SEE BELOW. if the bat has the proper markings, THEN check to make sure it is not on the banned bat list. If it doesn't have the proper markings, you remove the bat.



See the attachment for the banned bat list.

ITEM 2

Use of gorilla gold grip towel has been deemed legal for use in USA softball

Foreign Substance/Protective Wraps

Rule 6 Section 6 (Fast Pitch/Modified Pitch), Foreign Substance / Protective Wraps

"Under the supervision and control of the umpire, powder resin and / or an approved drying agent that is included on the list published by USA Softball may be used by the pitcher."

USA Softball APPROVED FOREIGN SUBSTANCE / PROTECTIVE WRAPS



Gorilla Gold Grip Enhancer

ITEM 3

The following was taken from the USA softball website. March plays and clarifications.

Fast Pitch Pitching Rule:

We often receive questions on the pitching rule for fast pitch pitchers. These questions range

from how long the hands must come together, whether the foot can be off the ground, the foot

placement and movement of the foot on the pitcher's plate. The question of the foot on the

pitcher's plate is what we would like to discuss in this posting:

One pitching style is for the pitcher to start with their pivot foot near the back of the pitching

plate and move that foot forward as they start their pitching motion maintaining contact with the pitching plate prior to the step. Another pitcher may put a little bit of the pivot foot on the top of the pitcher's plate and move forward as they start the pitching motion maintaining contact with the pitcher's plate until the step forward. Another will place the heel of the pivot foot against the front of pitcher's plate and maintain contact with the pitcher's plate prior to the forward step.

Once the non-pivot foot is moved forward the pitcher may roll their pivot foot or come up on the ball of the pivot foot essentially losing contact with the pitcher's plate but keeping their original foot position prior to the step forward by the non-pivot foot. All of these are legal in USA Softball.

The biggest question comes up when they place their pivot foot against the front of the pitcher's plate and do not slide the foot forward and they are still considered to have pushed from the pitcher's plate. The broad answer is yes, if they do not slide the foot forward and maintain the original foot position they started with.

There are pitching motions that have the pitcher start with the heel of the pivot foot against the pitcher's plate. Then without sliding their pivot forward or backwards, they roll onto the ball of their pivot foot and push off the ground in front of the pitcher's plate. This motion is legal and within the USA Softball Rules. The pitcher started the pitch, in this case a female pitcher, with both feet in contact with the pitcher's plate, Rule 6A Section 1C2. The pitcher brought their hands together once

and separated them to start the pitch, Rule 6A Section 2. The pitcher takes one step with the non-pivot foot forward, Rule 6A Section 3I. The question now comes in, is pushing from the ground violate Rule 6A, Section 3I Pushing off with the pivot foot from a place other than the pitcher's plate is illegal.

The intent of this section of the rule is that the pitcher does not slide or step forward to a point where their foot could no longer touch the pitching plate prior to the start of the pitch, thus creating a different starting position from the original foot position. When we watch pitcher's pitch, very seldom do any actually push from the pitcher plate. They push from the ground regardless of where the foot started on the pitcher's plate. Even though a pitcher may raise to the ball of their foot or turn their foot to push from the ball of their foot, their original foot position (distance from the pitching plate) remained the same and this pitching motion is legal.

Could the wording of our rule be a little better, possibly, but if we understand the intent of the rule and the pitching motion, applying our book of rules makes sense. As long as a pitcher maintains contact with the pitcher's plate through the start of the pitch and does not slide or step forward maintaining the original foot position, the pitcher is legal.