
BAT POLICY FOR HISTORIC BASE BALL GREENFIELD VILLAGE VINTAGE BASE BALL

As of August 1, 2006 Greenfield Village will not permit the use of modern wooden bats, regardless of how well disguised, sanded, altered and/or painted, for use in vintage Base Ball games in Greenfield Village. Only 19th century style bats as described in Section 2 *Haney's Base Ball Book of Reference for 1867* will be permitted for use at The Henry Ford for vintage Base Ball games.

Sec. 2. The bat must be round, and must not exceed two and a half inches in diameter in the thickest part. It must be made of wood, and may be of any length to suit the striker.

Included in this ban are 'Powerized', 'Pro-Stock', cupped barrel, and all other contemporary or modern bats. Many of these bats create increased batted ball speeds uncharacteristic of vintage base ball. Furthermore, in an era of gloveless defensive fielding, this "advantage" increases the chances of injury to players and/or spectators which is not the spirit of the original game. Injuries occur enough sans the use of modern striking equipment.

An inspection of a club's bats will be made by the umpire, in consultation by the participating club's captains prior to the game. However, the final decision of bat use for said match will be at the sole discretion of the umpire who has been empowered and supported by The Henry Ford. Use of a bat during a match deemed unusable by the umpire will result in that club's forfeiture of the match.

If the players of your club currently use a bat in question, it is suggested that they get used to, and practice with, a faithful and authentic reproduced bat of the era. There will be no exceptions to this policy and will be strictly enforced. If a bat is 2.5 inches, but because of the finish/varnish it does not slide through a gauge, it is acceptable if it meets all other requirements.

The Phoenix Bat Company makes and carries a line of 19th century style of bats that you can reference or use. The Phoenix Bat Company can be found at <http://www.phoenixbats.com/19cenbasbalb.html>

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