



Dear Little League Parents and Volunteers,

Receiving a notice that a bat has been decertified, especially in the middle of the season, is challenging, inconvenient, and disappointing for everyone. On Thursday, May 3, USA Baseball informed Little League and other youth organizations about the decertification of the Easton Ghost X 30/20 5/8. We are committed to sharing that information with all of you as soon as we received it. According to the official notice from USA Baseball, "official compliance testing determined that the Ghost X 30/20 exceeds the performance limit set by the USABat Standard. Per the USA Baseball Youth Bat Performance Test Protocol as well as (USA Baseball's) contracts with Easton, these results constitute a non-compliant bat that must be decertified."

For any family or league that is impacted by USA Baseball's decertification of the Easton Ghost X 30/20 5/8, we strongly urge you to [read Easton's release](#), which includes information about how to return your bat to receive a \$500 voucher for Easton.com.

## **How Certification and Decertification Works**

For the USABat Standard, bat manufacturers are required by USA Baseball to have their bats certified by following the protocols set out by the standard. Once a bat is certified, additional compliance testing is done to make sure that the bats remain compliant with that standard. Little League® International has **no role** in bat testing or compliance testing.

Once a bat that is currently in the marketplace and available for purchase fails to meet the performance standard, it is decertified, and pursuant to Rule 1.10, is an illegal bat.

## **What Little League® Parents and Volunteers Need to Know**

Little League does not decide whether a bat meets, doesn't meet, or no longer meets the performance standard. Bats used for Little League play in all divisions must remain

compliant to the applicable bat standards, as explained in the current year's rulebook (Rule 1.10).

Through [LittleLeague.org/BatInfo](http://LittleLeague.org/BatInfo), as well as Little League's social media and email efforts, we are committed to sharing any information about the decertification of bats as soon as possible, so that all our families and volunteers know which bats are permitted and which bats that may have already been sold are no longer approved for play.

## What are the Standards?

There are three bat performance standards that Little League International uses for its various divisions of play:

### **BASEBALL:**

**USABat:** Overseen by USA Baseball and used by most youth baseball organizations, USABat Standard bats must be used at the Little League Baseball® Tee Ball, Coach/Machine Pitch, Minor League, and Major League (Little League) divisions. USABat Standard or BBCOR bats must be used at the Little League Intermediate (50/70) Baseball Division and Junior League Baseball Division. USA Baseball reserves the right to select any USABat product for compliance testing. At that time, the bat is sent to Washington State University for additional testing. If the bat is found to be out of compliance with the standards set forth in the USA Baseball Performance Test Protocol, the bat becomes decertified.

**BBCOR:** BBCOR-approved bats must be used in the Senior League Baseball Division. Either BBCOR or USABat Standard bats must be used at the Little League Intermediate (50/70) Baseball Division and Junior League Baseball Division.

### **SOFTBALL:**

**BPF:** For all divisions of Little League Softball®, all non-wood bats must be printed with a BPF of 1.20.

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Again, we apologize for any inconvenience, and we strongly encourage you to visit [LittleLeague.org/BatInfo](http://LittleLeague.org/BatInfo) for complete information about how bat standards impact all divisions of Little League and resources on which bats are approved for Little League use. For all information pertaining to the USABat Standard, visit [USABat.com](http://USABat.com).

For those parents and leagues who purchased the Easton Ghost X, 30" -10 USA Baseball bat (model #'s YBB18GX10 30/20 & LL18GHX 30/20 Japan model), we, again, encourage you to [read Easton's release](#) and contact them as soon as possible at 1-844-531-7079, or [ghostreturn@easton.com](mailto:ghostreturn@easton.com), to return your bat and receive your \$500 electronic voucher.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "P. Wilson", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Patrick W. Wilson  
Senior Vice President, Little League Baseball and Softball