



# Memorandum

**To:** NFHS Member Association State Baseball Liaisons

**From:** B. Elliot Hopkins, MLD, CAA, NFHS Director of Sports, Sanctioning and Student Services

**Subject:** Compliancy of the Warstic Bonesaber-3 Baseball Bat

**Date:** March 20, 2024

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Recently we have received a considerable amount of communication and questions regarding the Warstic Bonesaber -3 baseball bat. Particularly how the bat's knob is non-traditional and how some of the bat's wrappings violates NFHS Baseball Rule 1-3-2b1 which reads, "Knob – The bat knob shall protrude from the handle. The knob may be molded, lathed, welded or permanently fastened. Wrappings are permitted except those that cause the knob to become flush with the handle. A one-piece rubber knob and bat grip combination is illegal." The Warstic Bonesaber -3 bat currently meets the BBCOR performance standard and is an NFHS compliant non-wood baseball bat for high school varsity competition.

Many of the photos we have received in our office shows that third-party bat wrappings that have been added to the bat have been applied incorrectly which has caused the knob to be flush with the handle, causing the bat to be illegal per NFHS Rules 1-3-5, which states, "Bats that are altered from the manufacturer's original design and production, or that do not meet the rule specifications, are illegal (7-4-1a). No artificial or. . . of the umpire." NFHS Baseball Rule 7-4-1a states, "A batter is out when . . . a. the batter enters the batter's box with an illegal bat (1-3-5) or is discovered having used an illegal bat. If the infraction is discovered before the next pitch following the turn at bat of the player who used an illegal bat, the defense may take the penalty or the result of the play."

We are working with Warstic Sports management and they have committed to help their customers better understand how to correctly rewrap their bats so they are not making their product unintendedly illegal. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact our office. Thank you and have a great baseball season.

BEH/kjr



# Memorandum

**To:** NFHS Member State Association Baseball Liaisons

**From:** B. Elliot Hopkins, MLD, CAA, NFHS Director of Sports, Sanctioning and Student Services

**Subject:** 2<sup>nd</sup> Clarification of the Warstic Bonesaber's -3 Baseball Bat Compliancy w/photos

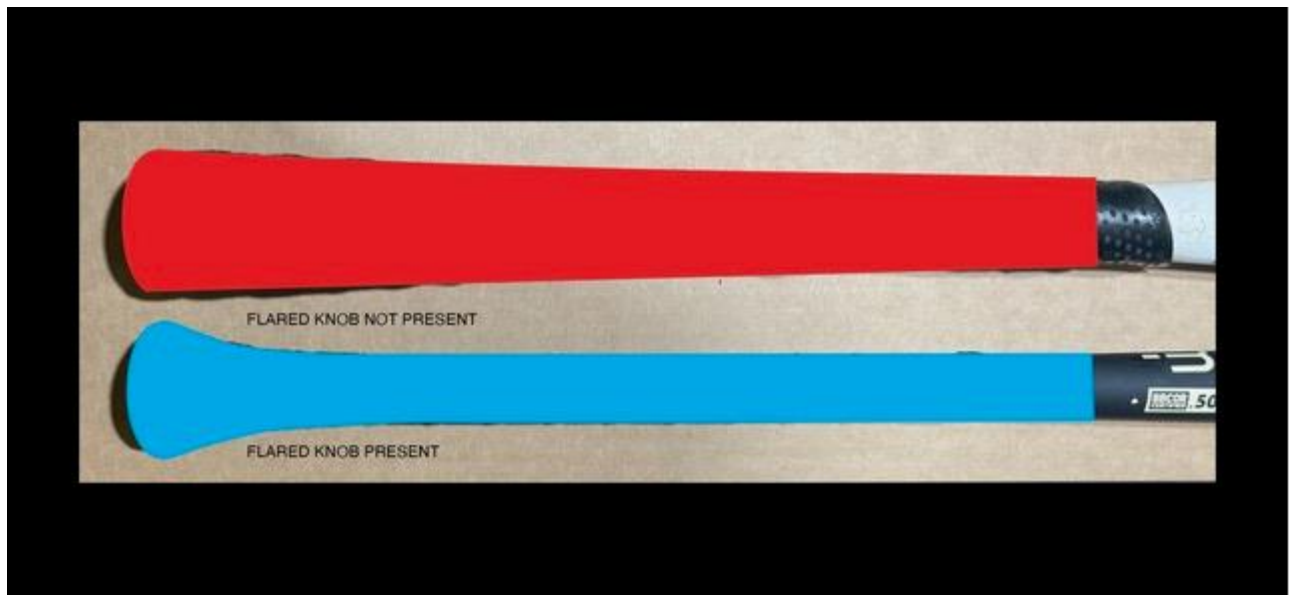
**Date:** March 21, 2024

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Thank you for reaching out to our office and your diligence in wanting to confirm the compliancy of the Warstic Bonesaber -3 non-wood baseball bat. For clarification, the Warstic Bonesaber -3 non-wood baseball bat with the factory handle wrapping is compliant. Please share the following with your member high schools that play baseball. In response to our member state associations asking for images of an incorrectly non-stock wrapped bat, we are placing those images below in this memo. **However, please emphasize to your schools and umpires that the Warstic Bonesaber -3 baseball bat is a compliant non-wood baseball bat for high school varsity competition with factory handle wrapping.** Any baseball bat (wood or non-wood) from any bat manufacturer with a traditional or non-traditional knob is at risk of being rendered non-compliant when it is rewrapped in a manner that the wrapping is over the knob making the knob flush (level with) the handle. A simple solution to correct the non-compliant wrapped bat is to remove the existing wrapping and rewrap the handle.

The image of the red wrapped bat below is an illegal bat because it was rewrapped incorrectly. That wrapping eliminates the taper of the handle/knob so there is no discernable difference. The image of the blue wrapped bat shows a compliant and correctly wrapped bat regardless of the knob shape or bat manufacturer.

Again, we are working with Warstic Sports management and they have committed to help their customers better understand how to correctly rewrap their bats so they are not making their product unintendedly illegal per our rule (7-4-1). If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact our office. Thank you and have a great baseball season



BEH/kjr