



Standard Test Method for Measuring the Coefficient of Restitution (COR) of Baseballs and Softballs¹

This standard is issued under the fixed designation F1887; the number immediately following the designation indicates the year of original adoption or, in the case of revision, the year of last revision. A number in parentheses indicates the year of last reapproval. A superscript epsilon (ϵ) indicates an editorial change since the last revision or reapproval.

1. Scope

1.1 This procedure is intended to standardize a method of measuring the coefficient of restitution (COR) of baseballs and softballs.

1.2 This procedure is established to provide a single, repeatable, and uniform test method.

1.3 This procedure is for a ball that is intended for use in the game of baseball or softball.

1.4 The test method is based on ball speed measurements before and after impact with either of two test surfaces: wood or metal.

1.5 The values stated in SI units are to be regarded as the standard. The values given in parentheses are for information only.

1.6 *This standard does not purport to address all of the safety concerns, if any, associated with its use. It is the responsibility of the user of this standard to establish appropriate safety and health practices and determine the applicability of regulatory limitations prior to use.*

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 ASTM Standards:

E177 Practice for Use of the Terms Precision and Bias in ASTM Test Methods

E691 Practice for Conducting an Interlaboratory Study to Determine the Precision of a Test Method

3. Terminology

3.1 Definitions of Terms Specific to This Standard:

3.1.1 *baseball and softball, n*—any ball defined by the rules for the game of baseball or softball.

3.1.2 *coefficient of restitution (COR), n*— a numerical value determined by the exit speed of the ball after contact divided by

the incoming speed of the ball before contact with a massive, rigid, flat wall of either wood or metal.

4. Summary of Test Method

4.1 *Method A*—The strike plate is a rigid metal surface, and ball speed is measured before and after impact with the strike plate.

4.2 *Method B*—The strike plate is a rigid wood surface, and ball speed is measured before and after impact with the strike plate.

5. Significance and Use

5.1 The ball coefficient of restitution is a ball dynamic property of relative velocity change caused by impact with a rigid wall.

5.2 This test method is suitable for obtaining data in research and development, quality control, and classifying balls by liveliness.

5.3 Sports associations can use coefficient of restitution standards in specifications for official baseballs and softballs.

5.4 This same test procedure can be utilized at impact speeds other than that prescribed in this procedure and so noted in any reported test results.

6. Apparatus

6.1 Strike Plate, Method A:

6.1.1 *Material*, 5.08-cm (2-in.) thick steel.

6.1.2 *Size*, 61 by 61 cm (24 by 24 in.).

6.1.3 *Mounting*, secured flush to a massive rigid wall of cinder block or concrete, minimally 20.3-cm (8-in.) thick, and bolted at all four corners sufficiently secure to prevent movement during ball impact.

6.2 Strike Plate, Method B:

6.2.1 *Material*, 10.2-cm (4-in.) thick northern white ash wood with moisture content between 10 and 15 % with a flat smooth surface.

6.2.2 Same as 6.1.2.

6.2.3 Same as 6.1.3.

6.3 *Ball Throwing Device*—A ball throwing device capable of delivering the ball through the electronic speed monitor at

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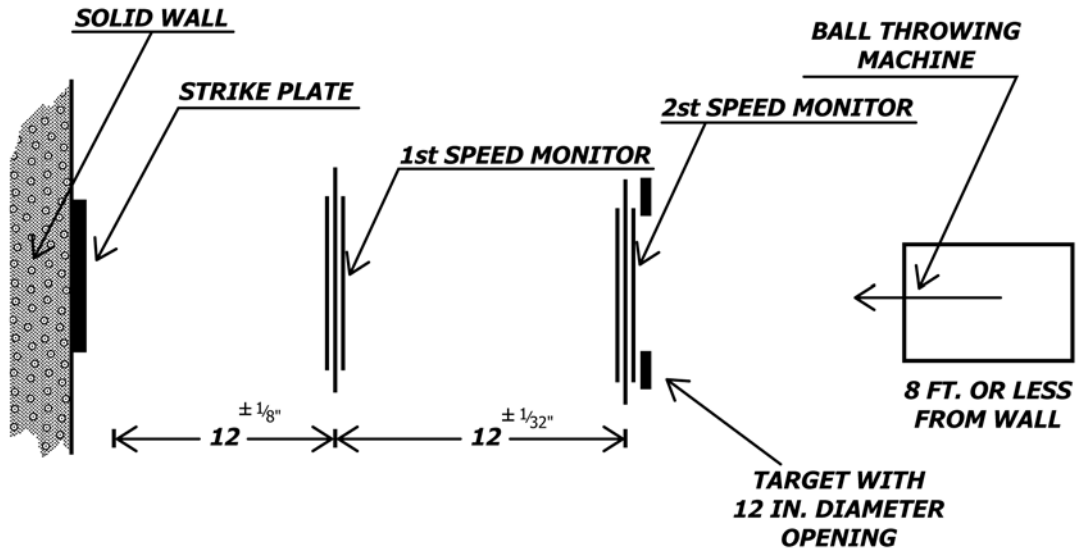


FIG. 1 Test Apparatus

26.82 m/s (60 mph) with a maximum tolerance of ± 0.30 m/s. The machine should be calibrated using the electronic speed monitor.

6.4 *Electronic Speed Monitors*—An electronic ball speed measuring system consisting of two vertical light screens mounted 30.48 cm (12 in.) apart with a tolerance of ± 0.32 cm, and a photoelectric sensor located at each screen that triggers a timing device on ball passage to measure the time for the ball to traverse the distance between the two vertical planes before and after impact with the strike plate. Resolution shall be ± 0.03 m/s.

6.5 *Ball Trajectory Target*—A lightweight target with a 30.48-cm (12-in.) diameter circular opening positioned at the second light screen and centered on the ball line of travel between the throwing device and the center of the strike plate.

7. Preparation of Apparatus

7.1 Mount the strike plate on a rigid wall such that the center is approximately 1.22 cm (4 ft) from the floor. Tighten all mounting bolts before each test. Torque to 81.35 N-m (60 ft-lb) min.

7.2 Position the first speed monitor (light screen) 30.48 \pm 0.32 cm (12 \pm 0.125 in.) from the strike plate (see Fig. 1).

7.3 Position the second speed monitor (light screen) 30.48 \pm 0.079 cm (12 \pm 0.312 in.) from the first speed monitor.

7.4 Position the ball throwing device such that the ball impacts the strike plate within 15.24 cm (6 in.) of the center and on rebound, passes through the 30.48 cm (12 in.) target mounted at the second light screen.

8. Conditioning

8.1 *Ball Conditioning and Test Room Conditions:*

8.1.1 Test balls shall be stored in an environmentally controlled space for at least 14 days immediately before testing.

8.1.2 Temperature is to be maintained at 72 \pm 4°F (22 \pm 2°C).

8.1.3 Relative humidity is to be maintained between 40 and 60 %.

8.1.4 Temperature and relative humidity are to be measured and recorded hourly within $\pm 0.5^\circ\text{F}$ ($\pm 0.3^\circ\text{C}$) and ± 2 % RH over conditioning and test duration.

9. Procedure

9.1 The ball throwing device is set to deliver the ball at 26.82 \pm 0.305 m/s (60 mph). All shots above or below this tolerance range will not be used.

9.2 Each ball is shot at the strike plate a minimum of six times to a maximum of 12 times. A minimum 30-s rest period is required between each shot.

9.3 Only those speed readings for impacts falling within the 6-in. target at the strike plate, within the 12-in. target at the second speed monitor, and thrown within the prescribed speed range will be used in the calculation of COR.

9.4 The average of the six acceptable COR values for each ball is used to determine the ball COR.

9.4.1 Formulae:

$$\text{COR} = V_b/V_a = \frac{1}{6} \left[\frac{V_{b1}}{V_{a1}} + \frac{V_{b2}}{V_{a2}} + \frac{V_{b3}}{V_{a3}} + \frac{V_{b4}}{V_{a4}} + \frac{V_{b5}}{V_{a5}} + \frac{V_{b6}}{V_{a6}} \right] \quad (1)$$

where:

V_a = incoming speed, and
 V_b = exit speed.

10. Report

10.1 Report the following information:

10.1.1 Name of the test facility and test operator,

10.1.2 Test date,

10.1.3 Hourly measurements of test conditions, including:

10.1.3.1 Relative humidity and temperature of the ball conditioning and test room environments,