

YOUTH BASEBALL BATS

Product overview:

As a general rule, "lightweight" is desirable in a youth bat.

The Basics:

The manufacturer is using stronger alloys, which achieves thinner walls. Normally, the more expensive bats are lighter and have thinner walls. The measure of weight is referred to as a "drop" (length minus weight ratio). If a bat is 31 inches long and has a weight of 20 oz., it has an 11 ounce drop or "-11".

My son/daughter is at the age where they are growing rapidly, should I buy a bat a little longer and heavier so that they can grow into it? No! It's best not to purchase a bat that is too heavy for your player. Rather than growing into the bat the player will develop habits that will be difficult to correct later on, not to mention poor self esteem because the overly heavy bat keeps the player from successfully hitting the ball.

Why are some little league bats so expensive? The manufacturers are making bats that have thinner walls yet stronger, allowing the bats to have a bigger "drop" (length to weight ratio). As of this year most little league bats are around -9 to -10 drop, up to a maximum of -13.5 drop.

Alloy materials used in baseball bats

- Performance in bats depends on two things (besides the person swinging the bat):
 1. The quality of the alloy used.
 2. Thickness of the bat barrel walls (thinner walls mean more "pop" or trampoline effect off the bat, and thus, better performance).
- The higher the quality of Aluminum used in a bat, the thinner the manufacturer can make the walls because the better quality aluminum is stronger and lighter. A bat with a thinner wall will generate more trampoline effect – giving the ball more "pop" off the bat.

7046, 7050

- 7046 is a very durable, good performing alloy that offers the customer a good value in a quality bat.
- 7046 and 7050 aluminum bats are available from many manufacturers.
- 7046 is the original alloy used by nearly all bat manufacturers and is still used today. All of these alloys outperform and outlast any wood bat in power and durability.
- Good for beginner level little league, recreational softball, price point baseball.

C405

- C405 is an aluminum alloy for the ultimate performance and durability.
- This alloy has one of the highest available tensile strengths on the market today. This higher tensile strength means the bat will be more durable and will retain a higher level of performance over a longer period of time.

Composite Material

- Composite materials made of carbon, glass & Kevlar fibers embedded in a polymer matrix are lighter, stiffer and stronger than aluminum or wood; and are designed to perform and withstand abuse in any weather.

- Allows the bat to flex and snap back to shape for excellent performance, sweet spot and durability.
- Composites, unlike metals, can be designed to have different stiffness and strength in different directions (i.e. bat handles should be stiffer than bat barrels for performance and feel)

What are the bat restrictions for Youth League Baseball?

MBT (Minnesota Baseball Tournaments) which our traveling team plays in has the following restrictions for bat size and weight differential for each age:

10U	All bats must be 2 ¼" unlimited weight differential
11U, 12U, 13U	Bats must be 2 ¼" with no restrictions or must be between 2 ½" and 2 ¾" and have a -10 differential or less (i.e. 30" - 20.0 oz.)
14U, 14/15A	Bats must be 2 ¾" or smaller with a -5 or less differential
15U	Bats must be 2 ⅝" or smaller with a -3 or less differential

What is the largest allowable barrel diameter for a baseball bat used in high school play?

2 5/8" for college and high school

What is a length-to-weight ratio?

This is the difference between the length of the bat and its weight. For example, if a bat is 33" long and weighs 30 ounces, you would subtract 30 from 33 and come up with 3. This bat's length to weight ratio is a -3. Every bat of this model will have a length to weight ratio of minus three.

What is the lightest bat allowed in high school and college baseball?

The maximum ratio is -3 for sanctioned high school and college play. Most recreational leagues for this age group will adopt the same standards.

Why are high school and college bats required to be so much heavier than little league bats?

Little league bats are much lighter than "adult" bats for two primary reasons:

1. A lighter bat allows a youth to develop good bat speed and swing technique without struggling with the added weight; and
2. Since little league pitchers don't throw as hard as adults, manufacturers can make bat walls thinner, and thus, lighter.

Can a bat be used for softball and little league, or little league and adult baseball, or softball and baseball?

No. Each bat is specifically made for each sport or level of play. For instance, a little league bat should not be used for softball. Each bat is labeled on the barrel indicating the type of bat it is (i.e. "Official Little League"). The weight and length are also labeled on the barrel.

Why do manufacturers talk about the wall thickness of their bats? (Some bats even say "ultra-thin walls" on the barrel.)

Thinner walls mean more pop or trampoline effect off the bat and thus, better performance. The higher the quality of aluminum used in a bat, the thinner the manufacturer can make the walls because the better quality aluminum is stronger and lighter. However, this thinness can make bats more sensitive to denting if precautions aren't taken.

Selecting the Correct Youth Baseball Bat

HEIGHT										
WEIGHT	3'0"-3'4"	3'5"-3'8"	3'9"-4'0"	4'1"-4'4"	4'5"-4'8"	4'9"-5'0"	5'1"-5'4"	5'5"-5'8"	5'9"-6'0"	6'1"-over
Under 60 lbs	25"/26"	27"	28"	29"	29"					
61-70 lbs	27"	27"	28"	29"	30"	30"				
71-80 lbs		28"	28"	29"	30"	30"	31"			
81-90 lbs		28"	29"	29"	30"	30"	31"	32"		
91-100 lbs		28"	29"	30"	30"	31"	31"	32"		
101-110 lbs		29"	29"	30"	30"	31"	31"	32"		
111-120 lbs		29"	29"	30"	30"	31"	31"	32"		
121-130 lbs		29"	30"	30"	30"	31"	32"	33"	33"	
131-140 lbs		29"	30"	30"	31"	31"	32"	33"	33"	
141-150 lbs			30"	30"	31"	31"	32"	33"	33"	
151-160 lbs			30"	31"	31"	32"	32"	33"	33"	33"
161-170 lbs				31"	31"	32"	32"	33"	33"	34"
171-180 lbs						32"	33"	33"	34"	34"
Over 180 lbs							33"	33"	34"	34"

The right bat is the one that lets you generate the most bat speed. You can't accomplish this with a bat that is too

long or too heavy. Start with the sizing chart and try bats in that general length range. The bat that feels

"comfortable" & "easy to swing" should be selected.

Most popular length by age:

Age	5-7	8-9	10	11-12	13-14	15-16
Length	24"-26"	26"-28"	28"-29"	30"-31"	31"-32"	32"-33"

YOUTH BASEBALL GLOVES

Youth Gloves

- Range in size between 9" – 12", with 11½" and 12" sizes being used by senior league (older youth) players.
- Outfielders tend to use longer gloves to give the player a larger surface with which to catch the ball.
- Infielder's gloves tend to be shorter in length so that the player can get control of the ball quicker and throw it on to the next player.
- Baseball gloves are available in either fielder or specialty gloves.
- Fielder's gloves are available in two basic styles: the closed back design and the conventional wrist strap design. The closed back styles are becoming increasingly popular – giving players with small hands better control of the glove.
- Specialty gloves include First Baseman's mitt and Catcher's mitt. These gloves are position specific and are designed for the unique demands of these two positions.

Breaking in a Glove

- When breaking in a glove, the customer should spread a light coating of glove oil or mink's foot oil and thoroughly rub it in to soften and shape the glove. If the customer needs to break in the glove quickly, a mallet can be used to loosen the leather and mold the glove into the desired shape.
- Many of today's new gloves use a pre-oiled, already broken softer leather to reduce break-in time. These gloves are comfortable and ready to play right off the shelf, and are growing in popularity.
- Mizuno has developed a power close system to make the glove easier for kids to open and close.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact me or one of the coaching staff and we will be happy to answer them or do our best to find the answer for you.

Thank you and we look forward to a great baseball season!

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