

BASEBALL

I. How to Buy a Bat

There are specific rules regarding bat length, weight, and barrel size for softball and each level of baseball. These rules are provided in the chart below:

Softball	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Barrel size – 2 1/4" maximum• Weight Differential – no maximum• Length – 34"
Little League/Dixie Youth	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Barrel size – 2 1/4" maximum• Weight Differential – no maximum• Length – 32"
Senior League	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Barrel size – 2 3/4" maximum• Weight Differential – no maximum• Length – 32"
High School/College	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Barrel size – 2 3/4" maximum• Weight Differential – 5 oz. or less than length• Length – 34"

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A.) How to Fit a Bat

Determine level of play:

- Are you looking for a softball, baseball or little league bat?
- You must use the proper size for your level or participation
- All bats are marked with length, weight, and barrel diameter size
- In addition, the bats that Thunder carries are marked with either baseball, softball, or little league/Dixie youth

For a youth:

- Child must hold the bat by the handle straight in front of him/her with arm fully extended
- Child should comfortably be able to hold the bat steadily in this manner for 30 seconds
- If child cannot hold steadily, try a lighter weight or shorter length (if the bat is too heavy, the child will not be able to swing quick enough to hit well!)



Maximum bat speed is your goal when choosing a bat. Sizing charts are the best way to determine which bat is right for you. Use the charts below as a general guideline for determining Bat Length.

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

Age	Length
5-7	24"-28"
8-9	27"-29"
10	28"-30"
11-12	30"-31"
13-14	31"-32"
15-16	32"-33"

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B. Bat Materials

1. **Aluminum Alloys**– The most common aluminum alloys on the market are:

a. SC500 Scandium:

Scandium allows bat walls to be made even stronger and thinner than before. In the bats that Thunder carries, this alloy is combined with a carbon graphite core to support and add durability to the bat's walls. This means better feel, response, durability, and a larger sweet spot.

b. C405 Plus:

Exclusively manufactured by Louisville Slugger. This alloy offers the highest tensile strength for the maximum in performance and durability. Higher tensile strength means the bat is not just more durable, but will remain a higher level of performance over a longer period of time.

** DOES THUNDER SELL THIS MATERIAL BAT??**

2. **Wood Bats**

Wood bats are heavier and denser than aluminum bats. Most are made from northern white ash from New York and Pennsylvania. The closer the grains on the bat, means the harder the wood. As a general rule, thicker handled bats are for line drive hitters and thinner handles are for power hitters. There is about a 4" sweet spot on the wood bat, which is a significantly less are than an aluminum bat.

3. **Other Bat Technologies**

a. End Load or Game Load Bats

Many softball bats have been balanced with a weight at the very end of the barrel. This concentrates the weight at the end of the bat, which results in:

1. A larger sweet spot
2. Expanded hitting area
3. More trampoline effect
4. Improved performance

b. Full Barrel or Max Barrel

Full barrel is a patented Louisville slugger feature that increases the hitting zone on 2 ¾" baseball bats by extending the diameter all the way to the end of the bat. This results in:

1. A larger sweet spot
2. Expanded hitting area
3. Improved performance

c. Sting Stop

Sting stop is a lightweight composite material located in the knob of the bat. Its function is to reduce the vibration felt when the bat makes contact with the ball. This results in:

1. A more comfortable bat
2. Improved performance

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II. How to Buy Glove

AGE	SIZE
6 & Under	9.5 - 10"
4 - 7	10 - 10.75"
7 - 9	11 - 11.5"
9+	11.5 - 12.5"
Softball	12.5+

A.) How to Fit a Glove

TAKE THE YOUTH TEST:

- Child puts on glove and holds it out in front of him/herself with palm facing up.
- It must go on the hand and stay on the hand (if you can easily dislodge the glove by putting a finger in the web and pulling down, then the glove is too big.)
- The glove should not flop around if a ball is tossed into it (if it does, this also means that the glove is too big!)
- Child must be able to easily open and close the glove
- If the glove passes these steps, it a fit!

ADULTS:

- Choosing a glove is a very personal decision. Try on many styles to determine which feels the best to you.