

Bat Information for Parents

One of the common questions parents have is **“What size bat should I get for my player?”**

The answer will depend on his age, weight and height. We have included a chart for guidance from the Don Mattingly website. In general, the bat should reach the players hip or lower and the player should be able to hold the bat out in front of him, parallel to the ground for 5 to 10 seconds. www.mattinglybaseball.com/choosing_right.html

What does -12 printed on the bat mean?

This is the weight of the bat minus the length. Example: Bat length 28 inches, weight is 16 ounces; $16 - 28 = -12$

As players get older, the drop (weight minus length) should start to get smaller. High school players must use a bat drop of -3 (age 14-15), so it makes sense to have a player age 11 or 12 use a bat drop of -10 to -11. Younger players can use bigger drops. The chart below shows recommended targets

| Age | League | Length | Weight | Drop (weight minus length) |
|-------|----------|------------|----------|----------------------------|
| 5-6 | Tee Ball | 24" to 26" | 14-16 oz | -12 or -13 |
| 6-7 | Jr Minor | 26" to 27" | 14-17 oz | -12 or -14 |
| 7-8 | Minor | 27" to 29" | 14-17 oz | -12 or -13 |
| 9-11 | Jr Major | 28" to 30" | 15-19 oz | -10 or -12 |
| 10-12 | Major | 29" to 31" | 17-30 oz | -10 or -12 |

What does BPF mean?

BPF is Bat Performance Factor in relation to a wooden bat.

Listed below are comments from the Little League website

- More than 10 years ago, the major manufacturers of non-wood bats reached an agreement with Little League to limit their bats to a “Bat Performance Factor” (BPF) of **1.15**. ... The BPF is essentially a measure of a non-wood bat’s performance (how fast the ball exits the bat when hit) in relation to a standard wood bat’s rating of **1.00**. A very good wood bat’s BPF is **1.15**.

- That means today’s best non-wood bats (usually made of aluminum) used in Little League perform statistically the same, in terms of how fast the ball exits the bat, as the best wood bats.

- For the last 10 years, bat manufacturers have only been producing non-wood bats for play in Little League Baseball that do not exceed the 1.15 BPF. Most of these bats are already printed with the BPF of 1.15, but beginning in 2009, all bats used in Little League Baseball must be imprinted with the **BPF of 1.15**.