

## BYA Glove Recommendations



A couple things to remember when buying a glove at any age. First, make sure the glove can be opened and closed by the child. New gloves are fun to buy, but are often too stiff for the kid to close. Breaking in a glove can take years so a used glove, already broken in, is a great option (Craig's List, eBay, garage sales, Play it Again Sports, or hand-me-downs, etc.).

Second, just because your child can handle a big glove doesn't mean it's a good idea. Larger gloves allow a young player to rely more on the glove and less on their ability. If your child can make plays using a smaller glove he or she will be an expert when older and can move up to adult size gloves. Little league has a 12" maximum glove size for a reason. Here are some general sizing suggestions for children in the various division. Please understand that each child is different and there may be exceptions.

**Tee-Ball (Ages 3-4):** Generally marked with "Tee-Ball" somewhere on the glove. Sizing 9-10" recommended. Make sure the glove is thin and easy to close, as T-ballers generally don't have the hand strength to close a real leather glove.

**Rookie Baseball (Ages 5-6):** Similar to Tee-Ball, a 10" glove is ideal for this age group making sure that the glove can easily be closed by little hands.

**8U (Ages 7-8):** At this age division, hands are getting a bit stronger. Typical kids from 7-9 would use a 10.5" or 11" glove but larger kids can probably use a 11.5" glove. Even though kids are stronger in training it's also important to find a glove that's easy to close. **At this age, we strongly recommend NOT using a tee-ball glove.**

**10U (Ages 9-10):** For minors it's normal to use a 10.5" to 11.5" glove. Kids this age can sometimes use a 12" glove, however using a slightly smaller glove is better for player development as the player is forced to get down on the ball and play it correctly rather than letting the glove do most of the work.

## BYA Bat Recommendations



**The BYA does not permit bats larger than 2 1/4" in diameter. Please keep this in mind when purchasing any bat.**

Buying a bat is often the most difficult piece of equipment to buy. The worst thing you can do is get a bat that is too heavy for your child. This will slow his/her speed down and often cause the bat to dip early in the swing giving him an upward golf swing. Having a bat too light will rob your child of power, however it's better to error on a lighter bat side.

One rule of thumb is a player should be able to hold the bat out horizontally with one hand for 5-10 seconds. If this isn't possible or even a struggle, do not buy that bat. Generally bigger kids use bigger bats and smaller kids use smaller bats. One other key size mentioned below is "bat drop." Bat drop is the ratio between bat length in inches and bat size in ounces. A 28" bat that weighs 16 ounces has a bat drop of -12. Here are some general guidelines by divisions for buying bats:

**Tee-Ball (Ages 3-4):** The BYA provides soft foam tee-ball bats. There is no need to purchase a tee-ball bat for your child.

**Rookie Baseball (Ages 5-6):** Rookie baseball players can still use their T-ball bat in most cases. 25-27" bats are common, usually with a -12 to -15 drop. A heavy bat here is asking for trouble so keep it light.

**Baseball (Ages 7-8):** In this age group, balls are starting to get hit to the outfield so there is an advantage to having a heavier bat if the child can handle it. Most kids graduate to a 26-30" bat with a drop of -10 to -15. Use the horizontal arm method above before buying a bat.

**Baseball (Ages 9-10):** In this age group, most kids are using 27-31" bats. For weight, you typically see the smaller contact hitters using -13 to -12 bats and the bigger power hitters using -10 to -8 bats.