

## Parents/Player FAQs Pertaining to the New USA Bat Rules

### **Q: What are the key takeaways regarding these new youth USA Baseball bat rules?**

In order to maintain the integrity of youth baseball, the USABat Standard will create wood-like performance in youth bats while allowing younger players to use light-weight bats that could not be achieved with wood bats.

AABC, Babe Ruth / Cal Ripken, Dixie, Little League, and PONY will all be affected by the USABat rule change, but USSSA will not. Currently, USSSA Baseball will allow the use of a bat that carries the new USABat stamp (as long as barrel diameter, drop weight, material specifications, etc. match the specific division's requirements).

AAU will vote on whether or not to adopt the USABat Standard in the Fall.

USABat will not have a drop weight limit.

USA Baseball will allow the use of 2 5/8" big barrel bats for all age levels.

### **Q: Which bats are approved for Cal Ripken and Little League play?**

All bats with the USA Baseball logo are approved for Cal Ripken and Little League play.



### **Q: What does the “drop” mean when talking about a bat?**

The drop is the difference between the length of the bat in inches and the weight of the bat in ounces. Example: A 30" bat that weighs 20 oz. is a drop 10 aka (-10). You will see bats listed as Easton Ghost X Bat (-10) or Easton Ghost X Hyperlite (-11). The higher the number (drop), the lighter the bat.

### **Q: What size bat is right for my child?**

Size and weight of the bat matter. These are the most important factors, because it allows players to work on their hitting mechanics, batting stance, and swing speed.

Regarding weight, most youth bats up to 2017 featured a length to weight ratio (or, drop) between minus 10 and minus 13.5. The new USA Bat rules have no drop weight limit and there are now options to use drop 8 and drop 5 bats.

It's recommended to select a bat that's easiest to control, but the greater mass a bat has, the easier it is to drive the ball with some power behind it. If you are unsure, try to speak to a coach or a local baseball facility that can assist you in selecting the correct size bat.

This sizing chart is an approximation of what size baseball bat your youth player may need.

WEIGHT (pounds)	HEIGHT (in feet & inches)										
	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" +	
	<60	26"	27"	28"	29"	29"	29"	29"	30"	31"	31"
	61-71	27"	27"	28"	29"	30"	30"	30"	31"	31"	31"
	71-80	27"	28"	28"	29"	30"	30"	31"	31"	31"	32"
	81-90	27"	28"	29"	29"	30"	30"	31"	32"	32"	32"
	91-100	27"	28"	29"	30"	30"	31"	31"	32"	32"	32"
	101-110	28"	29"	29"	30"	30"	31"	31"	32"	32"	32"
	111-120	28"	29"	29"	30"	30"	31"	31"	32"	32"	33"
	121-130	28"	29"	29"	30"	30"	31"	32"	33"	33"	33"
	131-140	28"	29"	30"	30"	31"	31"	32"	33"	33"	33"
	141-150	28"	29"	30"	31"	31"	31"	32"	33"	33"	33"
	151-160	29"	29"	30"	31"	31"	32"	32"	33"	33"	34"
	161-170	29"	29"	30"	31"	31"	32"	32"	33"	33"	34"
	171-180	29"	29"	30"	31"	31"	32"	33"	33"	33"	34"
180+	30"	30"	31"	31"	32"	32"	33"	33"	34"	34"	

### Q: Does a particular bat come in a certain length?

All the bats listed on the handout you received from the league or coach or on the website have all the available sizes listed. For example, the Easton Beast X Hybrid 2 5/8 Barrel Youth Baseball Bat (-10) does not come in a 28". It starts at 29" and goes through 32". The Easton GHOST X 2 5/8 Hyperlite Barrel Youth Baseball Bat (-11) is available in a 27" to 31" but not a 32".

### Q: What makes one bat different from another?

**Material:** USA Bats have a mix of Composite and Alloy (Aluminum). There are 2-Piece composite bats, 2-Piece composite/alloy bats and 1-Piece alloy bats. Typically your full, composite bats are more expensive.

**Barrel Size:** USA Bats are available in both 2 ¼ and 2 ½. Most bats with a drop 5 to a drop 11 are 2 ½. Bats with a drop 12 or higher are 2 ¼.

**Drop:** USA bats come in drops from -5 to -13.5. The higher the drop the lighter the bat.

### Q: Is it okay to purchase a bat an inch longer that my child will grow into in the next year or two?

If your child plays on a competitive travel team, it is recommended that you purchase a bat that is sized correctly for your child now. It is important to have the correct size bat to build proper mechanics. We want your child to enjoy the game. Please consider that there will be 2018 bats deeply discounted at the end of next season. August/September is a great time period to pick up a used or discounted bat from the previous season.