BASEBALL GLOVES

- Sizing Chart -
Use the chart below as a general guideline for determining glove size.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Glove Size</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5-6</td>
<td>General</td>
<td>10 to 10 1/2 (youth model)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7-8</td>
<td>General</td>
<td>10 1/2 to 11 (youth model)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9-12</td>
<td>General</td>
<td>11 to 11 1/2 (youth model)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13+</td>
<td>Infield</td>
<td>11 to 11 1/2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13+</td>
<td>Outfield</td>
<td>12 to 12 1/2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Glove Buying Information -

Glove Quality
Higher quality baseball gloves and mitts are usually distinguished by higher grade leather, better construction and better design. These work together to produce a glove or mitt that is durable and helps the ball into and out of the pocket. The highest quality gloves are usually made of heavy leather that will need some time to break-in and typically do not have palm pads or Velcro adjustments.

Glove Break In
Most manufacturers agree that a glove oil or leather conditioner cream should be used as long as it does not contain silicon. Most manufacturers recommend not using anything that requires a microwave or an oven.

Gloves vs. Mitts
The main difference between baseball gloves and mitts is that gloves have fingers and mitts don't. Mitts tend to do a better job of controlling balls that don't hit in the pocket and can aid scooping ground balls and short hops. First base and Catcher are the only positions allowed to use mitts.

Female Gloves
Baseball gloves and mitts that are specified as women's or female are usually designed with narrower finger stalls and smaller wrist openings to provide a better fit.

Youth Gloves
Youth baseball gloves and mitts typically are designed to be easy to break-in and will sometimes have a notch in the heel to help the glove break-in correctly. These gloves are usually designed with smaller finger and wrist openings to better fit smaller hands, and often have oversized pockets to aid youngsters learning how to catch.

First Base Mitts
Most first base mitts are designed for baseball use and are 12 to 12 1/2 inches. First base mitts have a thin but stiff pad that runs around the circumference of the mitt and little or no padding in the palm or finger area. Larger baseball first base mitts can be effectively used by softball players. Some manufactures will make softball specific first base mitts.
These are usually 13 inches or larger and are not very common. Many softball first basemen use a 13 to 14 inch softball outfield glove at first base.

**Catcher's Mitts**
Baseball catcher's mitts usually have a very thick pad around the circumference of the mitt and thick padding in the palm and finger area and a small pocket.

**Open vs. Closed Web**
For most positions, an open web vs a closed web is a matter of personal preference. Open web gloves tend to trap the ball a little better than closed web gloves. Closed web gloves tend to get the ball out of the pocket a little quicker. First and Third base players tend to prefer open web gloves. Middle infielders tend to want closed web gloves to help get the ball out of the glove quickly. Pitchers usually want closed web gloves so they can hide the ball easier.

**Conventional Back vs. Closed Back**
Conventional (open) vs. closed back is mainly a matter of style and personal preference. Conventional back gloves tend to be a little lighter and can fit a bit tighter in the wrist. Some closed back gloves have straps with Velcro that allow you to adjust how tight or loose the glove fits.

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**Glove Buying Tips**

**Glove Prices**
A good glove does not have to be expensive. There are gloves that will give many seasons of satisfactory service for under $75. You can pay more, but more money does not necessarily mean a better, more serviceable glove. There are expensive gloves ($100-$200+) which may last one or two seasons, and there are inexpensive baseball gloves that can last for ten years or more with routine maintenance.

The more expensive gloves do tend to use better (often heavier) leather than less expensive gloves. All things being equal, with careful maintenance, the higher quality glove should last longer. The question is "is the more expensive glove worth the price"?

**Glove Sizes**
Select a glove for the position you will be playing most often. Use the chart at the top of this page as a general guideline for determining glove size. A glove should feel fairly snug when adjusted. Check to make sure the glove adjusts to your hand. Allow room for batting glove if you wear one. Except for pitchers, most players should wear a batting glove inside their fielders glove. The batting glove will absorb most of the sweat from your hands, thus protecting the lining of your glove. Change the batting glove when it gets wet or rotted.

**Glove Quality**
The leather should be fairly sturdy. A stiffer glove will have to be broken in, but once done; the glove will be serviceable for many seasons. The softer "pre-broken" gloves feel great, but many of them wear out very quickly and may be difficult or impossible to
repair. The leather in the pre-broken gloves is usually thinner and therefore weaker than that in a sturdier glove. The thinner, softer leathers tend to show signs of stress at the lacing holes in the web and fingers after a few months of continuous play.

**BASEBALL BATS**

Use the charts below as a general guideline for determining Bat Length. Baseball Bats Sizing Chart

Use the charts below as a general guideline for determining Bat Weight.

Little League (8-10 yrs)
Player Height  Bat Weight
48-50"  16-17 oz.
51-54"  17-18 oz.
55-59"  18-19 oz.
60+"    19-20 oz.

Youth League (11-12 yrs)
Player Weight Bat Weight
70-80 lbs.  18-19 oz.
81-100 lbs. 19-20 oz.
101-120 lbs. 20-21 oz.
121-140 lbs. 21-22 oz.
141+ lbs.  22-23 oz.