

Baseball Equipment for T-Ball at HPL

Fielding Glove: Each player should have his own fielding glove. A catcher’s mitt is not used in T-Ball. Gloves are sized in half-inch increments from 9 to 13 inches. Generally, players starting out in T-Ball will be most comfortable with a 9 to 10 inch glove. Bigger is not better, the glove should fit comfortably. At this level the player is just getting used to wearing a glove and it’ll take a while for him/her to start actually using it. New T-Ball gloves are not generally easy to open and close but older gloves that are “broken-in” are. A new glove that is the least expensive can be *very* stiff and difficult to use while the more expensive ones are typically softer and easier to use and “break-in”. Prices for these gloves typically range from about \$20 to \$60.

Bat: If you have a bat (that’s the right size) and you don’t mind it being shared, please bring it to all practices and games. Selecting the right bat is tricky business. First time players often want to use the biggest bat they can swing but in general smaller younger players prefer smaller lighter bats while larger older players prefer larger heavier bats. In selecting the right bat, the idea is to pick one that will provide the maximum bat speed at the point of ball contact. In general this means that you want a long light bat. A bat is too heavy for you if you can’t hold it straight out, with a straight arm, parallel to the ground for at least 10 seconds. An 18-ounce bat might be only 25 inches long or it might be as long as 30 inches. The 30 inch bat would be made of a much lighter and much more expensive alloy and so would cost considerably more. Youth bats (with a maximum 2.25” barrel) cost anywhere from \$20 to \$200. For the beginning T-Ball player, go cheap as you won’t get a good return for spending more. I actually found a good bat once on clearance sale for \$2.50! But this time of year you won’t find many sales. Here’s a chart that will help you determine where to start.

WEIGHT	HEIGHT									
	3'-3'4"	3'5"-3'8"	3'9"-4'	4'-4'4"	4'5"-4'8"	4'9"-5'	5'1"-5'4"	5'5"-5'8"	5'9"-6'	6'1"-over
Under 60 Lbs	25"/26"	27"	28"	29"	29"					
61 - 70	27"	27"	28"	29"	30"	30"				
71 - 80		28"	28"	29"	30"	30"	31"			
91 - 100		28"	29"	29"	30"	30"	31"	32"		
101 - 110		28"	29"	30"	30"	31"	31"	32"		
111 - 120		29"	29"	30"	30"	31"	31"	32"		
121 - 130		29"	29"	30"	30"	31"	31"	32"		
131 - 140		29"	30"	30"	30"	31"	32"	33"	33"	
141 - 150		29"	30"	30"	31"	31"	32"	33"	33"	
151 - 160			30"	30"	31"	31"	32"	33"	33"	
161 - 170			30"	31"	31"	32"	32"	33"	33"	33"
171 - 180				31"	31"	32"	32"	33"	33"	34"
over 180						32"	33"	33"	34"	34"

MOST POPULAR LENGTH BY AGE						
AGE	5-7	8-9	10	11-12	13-14	15-16
LENGTH	24"-26"	26"-28"	28"-29"	30"-31"	31"-32"	32"-33"

Batting Glove(s): These aren't necessary at this level and I don't recommend them for T-Ball players. They won't help and they will cause game delays as the player attempts to put them on and take them off. If you must, they can be found almost anywhere for about \$10 to \$30. Just make sure that they fit well and are comfortable.

Batting Helmet: We have some helmets for team use but most players like to bring their own. A player bringing his own helmet should be aware that it will likely be used by some of his teammates. Helmets can be found almost anywhere for about \$20. It must be NOCSAE approved and should fit well and be comfortable. This is usually not the one-size-fits-all kind. **There can be NO modification of the helmet and that includes painting and decals.**

Cleats: Cleats are not needed at this level and I don't recommend that you go buy a new pair yet. If you have some that fit well and are comfortable that's okay but they won't help at this level. When you are ready to purchase a pair, they range in price from about \$15 to \$65. They should be *baseball* cleats and *must* fit well and be comfortable or else they will certainly be a hindrance rather than a help. **Metal cleats are NOT allowed in Little League.**