

What bats are legal for Little League in 2009 ?

NABCLL is providing this guidance to help you buy the proper bat for your player.

Rules for All Divisions

Wooden bats are **legal** in **all** Little League divisions as long as they meet size restrictions.

A bat does **NOT** have to be marked "Little League Approved" to be used in any division in Little League, including Juniors, Seniors, or Big League (big diamond).

A NON-WOOD BAT MUST BE MARKED WITH a BPF (Bat Performance Factor) of 1.15 or less TO BE LEGAL. Almost all new bats are marked with a BPF of 1.15 or less.

Bats are labeled with their "drop"; the difference between their length in inches and their weight in ounces. For example, a 33"/30oz bat is minus-3 (-3), and a 30"/23oz bat is a minus-7 (-7).

Small Diamond 60' (12 and under)

Players 12 and under on the small (60') diamond must use **baseball** bats that are no more than 2-1/4" in diameter, and no longer than 33".

They may **NOT** use "big-barrel" bats (larger than 2 1/4" around)

They may **NOT** use softball bats.

There are **NO** weight drop restrictions on bats used on the **small** diamond.

Tee-ball players do **NOT** have to use a bat labeled "T-ball" or "Tee-ball".

Big Diamond 90' (13+)

It gets a little trickier to figure out which bats are legal for the older kids on the big diamond.

Please note the bat rules are different for **Juniors** (13s) & **Seniors** (14-15s).

NOTE: The NABCLL summer big diamond league also uses these standards. However, the summer CAL and Suburban PONY travel leagues had different restrictions on bats last year: -5 drop max for 13s, -3 drop for 14-15s.

Juniors (13s and 12s who choose to)

What is changed: Reduces the maximum diameter for a bat in the Junior League Baseball division from 2 3/4 inches to 2 5/8 inches. (Maximum diameter for bats in Senior League and Big League remains at 2 5/8 inches.)

In **Juniors** you may use pretty much ANY baseball bat that's 2 5/8" or less, **including** so called "Little-League" 2-1/4" diameter bats. Bats must be no longer than 34" in **Juniors**. Bats can be no larger than 2-5/8" in diameter (that means 2 1/4" and 2 5/8 bats are also legal in **Juniors**).

There are **no** weight restrictions in **Juniors**. So, -3, -5, -7, etc. bats are all legal in **Juniors**.

It is **not** recommended however, that a player use a 2-1/4" bat in Juniors, even if it is legal. At this age players should be moving towards using a heavier bat as they approach high school, where only -3 bats are legal.

Seniors (14-15) and Big League (16-18)

Bats in the **Seniors** (14-15) and **Big League (16-18)** division **must** meet High School standards. They must have **no more** than a **-3** drop.

That is, in Seniors a 32" 29oz (-3) bat is legal, but a 32" 27oz (-5) bat is **not legal**.

Bats can be no longer than 36". **Metal** bats can be no bigger around than 2-5/8". **Wood** bats can be no bigger around than 2-3/4".

METAL CLEATS ARE LEGAL **ONLY** ON THE BIG DIAMOND

- ❖ Metal cleats are only legal on the BIG DIAMOND (90') where the 13 year olds (and some 12s) to 18 year olds play.
- ❖ Metal cleats are **NOT** legal on the SMALL DIAMOND (60') where the 5 to 12 year olds play.