



## Things to Consider When Purchasing Slowpitch Softball Bats

**Before buying the best slowpitch softball bats, you should consider a few important features that will help you in finding the perfect bat.** These features include the barrel size, the hold or grip of the bat, its taper, its weight, length, material and finally whether or not the bat is approved for asa or usssa.

### Barrel Size

When we consider the **barrel size**, we take into account the barrel diameter, the part of the bat that comes in contact with the pitch. This part is smooth and curvy.

Slowpitch softball bats generally have a diameter of 2 ¼ inches and its length varies from 12-14 inches. Shorter size is typically for strong hitting whereas larger is for speed hitting. You should select whatever size you are comfortable with. We recommend you to give a bat a few swings and experience how it feels before purchasing it.

### Grip

When we talk about the **grip or the handle of the slowpitch softball bats**, we are actually considering the area between its knob and taper. The grip should be in a range between 10-15 inches. Typically the grip is covered in rubber or leather or synthetic leather.

Rubber is a better shock absorbent whereas leather or synthetic leather offers a firm grip. Certain sprays can be used on the handle to increase the grip of the bat.

### Bat Taper

**Taper is that part of the bat that connects handle with the barrel.** It is a smooth transitional area. Its usual length or diameter is 31/32nds of an inch. Narrower taper is suitable for those players who like to swing their wrists to a greater extent.

## Weight

When it comes to choosing the best slowpitch softball bats, weight plays a crucial role. Ranging from 26oz to 30oz a large variety of these bats is available in the market. Common bat weights are 26oz, 27oz, 28oz and 30oz. Bats with a weight of 29oz are seldom found.

**There are 2 types of weight distribution in these softball bats, balanced and endloaded model.** In the balance one the weight is evenly distributed throughout the bat while as the name suggests in the endloaded model more weight is towards the end of the bat. If you choose a heavy bat, you get to play with more power and you ultimately get larger hits. On the other hand with a lighter bat in hand you get greater speed.

Generally, we advise you to not go for a bat that is very heavy as you might not be able to produce the right speed.

## Length

Manufacturers generally produce these slowpitch softball bats with a length of 34 inch. So there isn't much to choose from when it comes to the length of these bats.

## Material

A wide of variety of materials are used to manufacture these softball bats including **aluminum, composite, alloy or wood**. Your budget plays an important role when it comes to choosing the right material.

**Composite material bats are recommended and loved by their users.** They are usually manufactured by combining carbon fiber, graphite and fiberglass (might include Kevlar as well). They have a tendency to break in time which makes them less durable but overall they are sturdy. Additionally they are expensive.

**Wood softball bats are also commonly known.** These bats use Ash, Maple, Bamboo, or Composite Wood for the construction of the bats.

**Bamboo bats are considered to be the strongest and the most durable ones.** Ash bats are softer and offer greater flexibility but are not that durable. Maple bats on the other hand are stiff and preferred by big hitting batters.

Bats made out of alloy (aluminum) or metals are strong, lightweight and durable. They do not break and are less in cost as compared to composite one. There is a chance that your alloy bat might sting your hands because of the carbon fiber.

There is also an option that is a combination of an alloy barrel and a handle made out of composite material. This type of bat is also known as a two-piece design. It offers more flexibility and less vibration.