

Baseball Equipment List

Below is a list of required baseball equipment as well as some optional items.

Baseball can feel like an equipment heavy sport, but in its purest pick-up/backyard form you only need a glove, a ball, and a bat. As an organized sport playing under PONY Baseball rules, we do need a little more, like a helmet, a cup (older age groups), and some cleats. We need to be safe while we're having fun!

Most players will have all their own equipment so they can practice at home. And if you search around a bit, you can find most of the equipment at reasonable prices. There is no need to spend tons of money on the newest, fanciest equipment. Some baseball equipment, like gloves, can be BETTER when they are good and broken in. There are also several websites with a variety of deals - baseballexpress.com, justbats.com, and justballgloves.com, epicsports.com to name a few.

Required Equipment

Glove - The most important aspect of the glove is being well broken in with a decent pocket. We recommend getting a bigger glove than you think, even for young players. Make sure the glove is well broken in or conditioned, so the player can squeeze it. If you are planning to buy a brand-new glove, make sure to set aside time to condition the glove before the start of the season.

JustGloves.com has a good [baseball glove size chart](#) to help you pick the right sized glove.

Catcher's mitt - Except for a catcher's mitt, specialized position gloves (like a first baseman's glove or outfielder's glove) are not required in PONY baseball.

Starting in the Mustang (10U) division, catchers are required to use a catcher's mitt.

Cleats

Cleats are recommended for Shetland divisions and above. Rubber-soled or rubber-cleated shoes are permitted.

Metal cleats are prohibited for all divisions except Pony 14U. No Metal Cleat in 12U and under!! We have artificial mounds and can cause excessive damage to and for safety of the younger age groups.

Bat

With the exception of -3 BBCOR bats, all bats must have the USA Bat licensing stamp on it to be used in PONY baseball.

You can read the detailed bat rules [here](#).

USA Bat Stamp Approved for Pony Baseball and PYBSA below:



-3 BBCOR are Allowed, HAS TO BE -3 BBCOR. Should only be used in 12U age groups and above for safety reasons.



USA Tee Ball bats must be used in the Foal (4U) and Shetland (6U) divisions during the regular season. IT HAS TO HAVE THE WORDS T-BALL and the USA STAMP ON THE BAT, so make sure of that!!

Regular USA Stamped baseball bats must be used starting in the Pinto (8U) division and above.

When selecting a bat, pay attention to

1. the weight of the bat
2. the length of the bat
3. the barrel diameter of the bat

Bat Weight

2 5/8" is the maximum barrel size allowed on a USA Bat and most players will want those big barrel bats.

For the youngest players, you may want to go as light as possible, but as the kids approach Pinto age, they should be ready to swing a 27" bat or bigger (typically 17oz or more). There are very few bats shorter than 27" that are legal in Pinto baseball.

The key is to have a bat that a player can consistently swing level. If a bat is too heavy, the barrel will drop, and it will be harder for the player to make consistent contact. Baseball Express has a pretty good [bat sizing chart](#).

Batting Helmet

Each player is required to have their own baseball batting helmet. The helmet needs to be a proper baseball helmet (not a helmet repurposed from another sport). The use of face masks and jaw guards on protective head gear is not required, but it is recommended for additional safety, especially in our older divisions with live pitching (Pinto and above). Many players like to personalize their helmets with stickers.

Face masks and jaw guards must be factory installed.

Cup

A protective cup is required for all male players starting at Mustang (10U) division and above. Female players are not required to wear a protective cup.

Uniform

PYBSA will provide each player with a team jersey and hat. Players are responsible for purchasing their own pants, belts, and socks. Please hold off on purchasing baseball pants, belt, and socks until team names and uniform colors have been determined. Your head coach will be in touch a few weeks before the season starts with details about the uniform colors and recommended style/color for pants, belt, and socks.

Optional Equipment

Backpack

Baseball backpacks and bags are entirely optional but can be very useful. It's a great way for players to keep their baseball gear organized, both at home and in the dugout. Most baseball backpacks will have a sleeve for a bat, room for a helmet, a separate pocket for cleats, and a hook to allow the backpacks to be hung on a chain link fence.

Batting Gloves

Batting gloves are completely a personal choice. At the younger levels they are just a fun accessory, so the players can look like the pros! Youth playing in Mustang and above divisions may find wearing batting gloves can help increase the quality of their grip on the bat.

Catcher's Gear

Catcher's gear consists of a catcher's mitt, helmet (with throat guard if needed), leg guards, and chest protector. PYBSA maintains one set of catcher's gear for each team in 10U and above divisions. By Mustang most catchers are purchasing their own gear due to differences in player size, brand preferences, and role specialization. 8U and younger get specialized equipment bag assigned by PYBSA to the Head Coach of the team to use during the season.

Eye Black

Eye black is used to reduce the amount of glare from sunlight. Kids love the way it looks and that's really why they wear it.

Elbow Guard

One of the more common injuries sustained on the baseball diamond is getting hit on the elbow during an at-bat. And it can hurt. But an elbow guard can help. Worn over the joint, elbow guards offer hard-shell coverage to the area and disperse energy upon impact. With the exception of the upper divisions, most pitchers are not throwing hard enough to inflict more than mild bruising with their pitches.

Local stores where you can purchase baseball equipment

- Dick's Sporting Goods – PYBSA Appreciation Weekend – Feb 16th – Feb 18th 2024 – Alliance Location – Coupons are available on PYBSA website
- Academy Sports & Outdoors
- Epic Sports (online)
- Baseball Savings (online)

Please let us know if you have any questions about the equipment by emailing your child's division player agent. You can find a list of emails on our [board of directors page](#).

