

THE DATE YOU NEED

If you play high school baseball, you need a BBCOR bat by:

JAN. 1, 2012



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ANSWERS FROM THE BAT EXPERTS

What changed?

The move to the new BBCOR standard from BESR is to insure every bat will perform more like a wood bat. This is a strategic move to keep the integrity of the game intact and insure the game is safe and enjoyable for all.

Here are the biggest changes BBCOR has made to bat performance:

- 1) Current designs seem to have made the sweet spot on most bats much tighter and less forgiving than a BESR bat allowed, making it much more like a wood bat.
- 2) The barrel weights have generally increased because of thickening materials and/or dampening technologies, which tend to make the bats a little more end heavy, thus slowing down the swing speed.
- 3) The energy transfer to the ball has diminished, thus impacting distance unless the swing speed is increased to compensate.

Select the right bat

Your hitting POWER is a result of a combination of MASS in the barrel, and the SWING SPEED of the bat. $MASS + SWING SPEED = POWER$. So when choosing the best bat for your next season, consider the following to insure you get the best results:

MAKING OUT THE LINEUP: A BAT-BUYING GUIDE

Design:

- A) One-piece B) Two-piece C) Hybrid

Study tip: Two-piece bats are more flexible, reducing vibration and making the bat's sweet spot larger. One-piece bats are more rigid and harder. Hybrid bats are a compromise between the two.

Handle:

- A) Alloy B) Composite

Study tip: An alloy handle is generally stiffer than a composite handle. Composite provides more of a whip action through the hitting zone.

Handle Flex:

- A) Regular B) Stiff

Study tip: The regular flex handle is most common. Stiffer handles benefit a stronger swing.

Barrel:

- A) Alloy B) Composite

Study tip: Composite bats allow for a longer barrel and

1) Upgrade the quality of your bat to improve the quality of your at bats. This is more important than ever before with the new BBCOR standard.

2) Drop down in bat size to drop weight for better bat speed, if needed. Some bats are now available in half-sizes, which can be all you need to get the edge back.

3) Consider a balanced bat over an end-loaded bat. The swing speed of a balanced bat is greater and will offset less mass in the barrel. If your usual bat seems too heavy, and you don't want to give up length, look for a more balanced model to keep your speed high.

4) Composite vs. alloy is a personal preference. There is no right or wrong answer. Composites allow for longer hitting areas at the higher performance. They also allow for a longer length of the barrel to increase the balance. Alloys are a more traditional feeling bat and allow added technologies to other parts of the bat while staying at a value price.

5) Consider the handle stiffness. A stiffer handle is the choice for the power hitter, as it keeps the barrel from dragging too much and losing power. A contact-type hitter would want a more flexible handle so it will work for them.

larger sweet spot. Composite bats typically perform better than most alloys, but a good alloy will perform better out of the wrapper.

Barrel Load:

- A) Balanced B) Endloaded

Study tip: An endloaded bat has a higher balance point than a balanced bat - meaning the weight is shifted more to the end of the barrel, increasing the mass. This can give a hitter more power. A balanced bat, however, can help a hitter increase his swing speed.

Knob:

- A) Traditional B) Small C) Axe D) Tapered

Study tip: Knob size is a personal preference, whereas the axe knobs are meant to give hitters more leverage.

Grip:

- A) Tapered B) Padded C) Thin

Study tip: Tapered grips are the standard—the grip gradually enlarges closer to the knob.



HEADQUARTERS