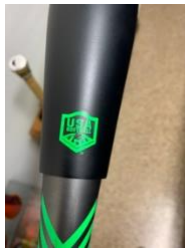


## How to pick a bat for Festival Softball Leagues.

You may hear members talk about using “hot” bats. They are referring to senior bats. Each bat manufacturer submits their bats for certification by the sanctioning body the bat is intended for. Bats with a Bat Performance Factor (BPF) of 1.21 are senior bats. Most other slow-pitch softball sanctioning bodies limit their BPF to 1.20.

**BPF explained:** the bat performance factor measures the rebound capacity of a bat in relation to a solid wall. A BPF of 1 would bounce off the bat the same as it would off a solid wall. So, a BPF of 1.21 means the ball would bounce off the bat the same as a wall plus 21%. The higher the BPF, the more additional energy directed into the batted ball and the further it will travel.

SCF Softball club allows both 1.21 BPF and 1.20 BPF bats. Bats are clearly marked with their rating near the handle. USA (formerly ASA) and USSSA are the most common 1.20 BPF certifications. 1.21 bats will have the SSUSA stamp. While a 1% BPF difference seems insignificant, it makes a substantial impact for the average hitter with the 1.21 bat clearly outperforming the 1.20 bat.



1.20 BPF



1.20 BPF



1.21 BPF

We also limit higher skilled players to the 1.20 bat when playing against lower skilled players. This means some players may need both a 1.21 and a 1.20 bat depending on which leagues they chose to play.

There are a number of websites that sell senior bats. It's recommended to check multiple vendors for the best pricing. Many sites will have sales on certain bats. Also, bats are sold at many sporting-goods stores but you will likely pay full price. Many players buy their bats at SSUSA Tournaments which usually offer discount pricing.

[Directsports.com](http://Directsports.com)

[Baseballmonkey.com](http://Baseballmonkey.com)

[Batsunlimited.com](http://Batsunlimited.com)

[Onyxsoftballbats.com](http://Onyxsoftballbats.com)

[Justbats.com](http://Justbats.com)

[Elitesportsusa.net](http://Elitesportsusa.net)

[Miken.rawlings.com](http://Miken.rawlings.com)

For new members, the Softball Club has bats available to try out. These bats see a lot of use so you should consider buying your own bat as soon as you find one you like.