

## CYA Softball Parents Guide to Softball Glove Sizes

### What should I do?

For youth fastpitch softball players, they naturally have smaller hands, even as they mature. Players starting off at **ages 4 - 8**, are okay to purchase gloves located in the sports aisles of major market stores. These stores will share gloves below the \$50 range between the glove sizes of 9" to 12". Players **ages 7 and below** should play with glove sizes **9" to 11"**. Players **age 12 and under**, when making catches of **10"**, **11"**, and **12"** softballs it is critical to build a pocket for the ball to sit as it is caught from a player.

**Recommendation:** Ages 12 and below Infielders/Outfielders are to use **11.75"** to **12.5"** fastpitch softball gloves and for Catchers **31.5"** to **33"**.

When searching for gloves, make sure to filter the search down by size and prices around \$120 and below. Just like the market value for cars, housing, and a gallon of milk, inflation has affected sports equipment as well. **Don't factor brand preference until your player reaches past the 12U level of play**, where quality of leather will impact gloves used at the higher age groups due to ball and pace of play. If you have used a glove and do well with it, why change it; simply save it for a later upgrade as your player matures in level of play.

The right glove choice should easily last 3-5 years depending on quality of glove purchase. *Example*; a 10U player with an **11.75"** glove purchase should manage its use through 12U, roughly 3-4 yrs of use until an upgrade will be likely if player continues playing.

Fastpitch gloves come from a wide range of brands, with some common ones that include Marucci, Mizuno, Rawlings, Wilson and more.

### For 2023-24, consider the following gloves:

Marucci Acadia Series ~\$100



Marucci Caddo Series ~\$80



Mizuno Prime Fastpitch~\$120



Mizuno Franchise Series ~\$85



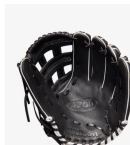
Rawlings R9 Series ~\$130



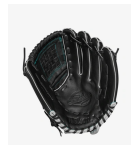
Rawlings Shut Out Series ~\$70



Wilson A700 Series \$90



Wilson A500 Series ~\$75



**Websites can include:** BaseballExpress.com, JustBallGloves.com, BaseballSavings.com, etc.