

Product Frequently Asked Questions

Baseball / Softball

What does “FR” mean for baseball gloves?

“FR” stands for “Full Right” meaning the glove will go on your right hand which is ideal for left-handed throwers.

Can I make a customized baseball glove?

There is no option to customize a baseball glove at this time.

Basketball

What is the recommended inflation level for a basketball?

7 to 9 PSI (pounds per square inch)

What does PSI mean?

PSI means Pounds per Square Inch.

Why should I not inflate a ball over the intended PSI?

Over-inflation may damage the integrity of the ball and it will not perform to standards. Extreme over-inflation can cause the ball to explode, which may result in severe injury.

What is a composite or composite leather cover?

A manmade material that usually takes on the look and feel of real leather and requires little to no break-in period like real leather does.

How do I break in my leather basketball?

You break in a leather basketball by playing with it. There are no product or machinery needed. Skin, sweat, and simply playing with the basketball will break in the leather over time to the point where it is game ready.

Which ball is best for outdoor courts?

A rubber or durable composite leather cover is ideal for outdoor courts. Our outdoor and indoor/outdoor basketballs are marked as such on the ball itself.

Does Spalding® offer a latex-free basketball?

We do not offer a latex-free basketball.

What does size 5, size 6, and size 7 mean in regards to basketballs and which one is best for me?

Size 5 is designed for youth players up to age 9. The ball has a circumference of 27.5" and weighs approximately 18oz.

Size 6 is the official size of all women's leagues and also serves as the appropriate size for youth player's ages of 9 to 12. The ball has a circumference of 28.5" and weighs approximately 20oz.

Size 7 is designed for all male players, 13 years and above. The ball has a circumference of 29.5" and weighs 22oz.

What is the difference between the TF-1000 Classic and the TF-1000 Legacy?

The TF-1000 Classic is built with a similar look and feel of past models and is made with a high durability standard. The TF-1000 Legacy adheres to current in-game demands with its advanced moisture management technology and is ideal for regulation game play at the high school and collegiate level rather than it being an everyday ball.

How is a basketball made?

Although we do it the best, the process of how a basketball is made is not SPALDING® exclusive information. You can find that information in articles and videos found on numerous websites if you do an internet search for that information.

Can I make a customized basketball?

There is no option to customize a single basketball. If you would like to place a large bulk order of a customized basketball or accessory, please view our SPALDING® Premiums (link to SPALDING® Premiums pdf file) catalog to see samples and get contact information for ordering.

Basketball Systems

Do you recommend filling the base of a portable basketball system with sand or water?

We recommend filling the base with either sand or water. If you are using sand, please refer to your owner's manual for the proper amount to be used with your system.

In-ground – There is a three digit number on the front of the backboard, to the right of the rim. This set of numbers will identify your system.

Portable – The model number will consist of two sets of numbers. The first set of numbers will be a two digit number located on the base. This two digit number will be located near the fill hole where you put the water or sand. The second set of numbers will be a three digit number located on the front of the backboard, to the right of the rim. The base number coupled with the backboard number will be your model number. “Example 72_351 – 72351”

Do I need to bury my in-ground pole below the frost line?

The hole depth shown in your owner’s manual is the minimum allowed. Depending on location, a deeper hole may be required. Consult your local building inspector and/or building codes for the depth of frost line. Please note a deeper hole requires additional concrete.

Why doesn’t my rim sit flush with my glass backboard?

Our tempered glass backboards come with preinstalled steel spacers and a foam pad. These are used to separate the rim from the glass backboard and prevent the backboard from shattering. You should have 1/8 to ¼ inch gap between the backboard and rim when properly installed.

Can I convert my portable system to in-ground?

Some portables can be converted to an in-ground system depending on the mounting of the backboard. This would require purchasing an in-ground pole system. This is because in-ground systems and portable systems use different pole kits. The only parts you would use from the portable system would be the rim and backboard.

Can I convert an in-ground system to a portable?

No. Unfortunately, it is not possible to convert an in-ground system into a portable.

How do I take the poles apart?

Our poles are designed to stay together permanently once assembled.

If my system develops rust, what should I do?

Check your pole system regularly for signs of corrosion (rust, pitting, chipping) and repaint with exterior enamel paint. If rust has penetrated through the steel anywhere, or if you have any questions about whether or not that has happened, **do not use the system anymore. Contact us immediately for instructions.**

Will your “break away” rims support a player hanging on the rim?

This is specifically warned against in your manual and on your pole sticker. Do not hang on the rim or net. Our backboards and rims are not designed to support a player hanging from the rim or net. Failure to observe this warning may cause bodily injury and/or property damage.

How can I winterize my basketball system?

Unless sand is used, during sub-freezing weather add 2 gallons of non-toxic antifreeze, or drain the water completely. (Do not use salt, it would be corrosive to your base.)

Where can I purchase non-toxic antifreeze?

Your local hardware store should carry non-toxic antifreeze.

Does the sand have to go inside the base or can I put weight on the top of the base?

The sand will have to go inside your base. Adding weight to the top can crush or crack the base causing the system to become unstable.

Is it ok to fabricate anything on or to my system?

Any fabrication or modification to your system will void your limited warranty.

How can I prevent my portable system from being blown over?

If you are expecting inclement weather, place system in the storage position and/or in an area protected from the wind and free from personal property and/or overhead wires.

The threads of my bolt will fit through the holes in my bracket but the non-threaded part will not, what should I do?

To ensure optimal play of the backboard system, a close tolerance fit between the elevator components and hardware is required. Test-fit large bolts into large holes of elevator tubes, backboard brackets, and triangle plates. Carefully rock them in a circular motion to ream out any excess paint from holes if necessary.

Football

How are footballs sized and which one is best for me?

Footballs are offered in four sizes:

- Full or Varsity is for ages 14 and up.
- Youth is for ages 12-14
- Junior is for ages 10-12
- Pee Wee is for ages 9 and under

NEVERFLAT[®]

Can one add air to a NEVERFLAT[®] ball?

Yes. After one year, if your NEVERFLAT[®] is in need of air, simply remove the valve cover and inflate with a pump. Return the valve cover to the valve area after inflation.

Soccer

What is the recommended sizing and PSI (pounds per square inch) for soccer balls?

Size 5 - 10 PSI - 13 years and up

Size 4 - 10 PSI - 9-12 years

Size 3 - 4-5 PSI - 8 years and under

Volleyball

What is the intended inflation level for a volleyball?

4 to 5 PSI (pounds per square inch)