

Kyle

[My Page](#)  
[Edit](#)



WeightWatchers' Contributor

# Sports Stack

[Edit]

You have no requests  
9 new notifications

[My Blog](#)  
[Write a Blog post](#)  
[My Posts](#)  
[My Message Boards](#)

### My tokens

Sent by [communityteam](#) 77 days ago  
**Welcome!**  
[See more](#)  
[Send a token to a Friend](#)

### My status updates

**kylestack**  
Tell people what you are doing right now

#### Edit

[pedrog263](#) Have a great weekend On Program, WW Friends! I think I might have a burger this weekend.  
9/24/10 07:32 PM

[sydney321](#) Can't post - going nuts!  
9/22/10 02:35 PM

[pedrog263](#) Got Homework To Do!  
9/21/10 06:59 PM  
[See more](#)

### What my Friends are up to

[pedrog263](#) wrote on [pedrog263's blog](#).

[pedrog263](#) wrote on [pedrog263's blog](#).

[pedrog263](#) wrote on [pedrog263's blog](#).  
[See more](#)

## MLB's Bat Problem

[Edit](#), [Remove](#)

Written by [kylestack](#) on 09/24/2010 10:27:24 AM

The issue with maple bats and the danger presented when they break was a hot topic in 2008. Major League Baseball took the issue seriously at the time, but public pressure to solve the problem waned last year. A recent incident at a Chicago Cubs game last weekend pulled the issue back into the forefront of public concern.

With the Cubs at bat last Sunday against the Florida Marlins, Cubs outfielder Tyler Colvin stepped off third base and towards home plate during the second inning when teammate Welington Castillo cracked a hit to deep left field. Castillo was swinging a maple bat, which can split into two big chunks. After contact with the pitch, one end of Castillo's bat flew towards Colvin, who was looking behind him to left field to ensure the ball landed in fair territory. That's when the piece of the bat stabbed him in the chest, just above his heart.

Fortunately, the bat didn't stick in his skin but Colvin had to immediately leave the game. He was then treated for minimal external bleeding and used a chest tube to prevent a collapsed lung. It's an inevitable incident, given the frequent nature of broken bats in MLB

More than 2,200 bats broke in the Majors during the final 2½ months of the '08 campaign. Some of them even hit fans in the stands, causing a variety of injuries. One fan at a Dodgers game in 2008 had her jaw broken by a shard from a broken maple bat and required surgery for the injury. She struggled with her recovery and subsequent medical bills from the incident. A New York Mets fan sued the team after suffering facial fractures and broken teeth from getting hit with a broken maple bat three years ago.

MLB began making changes in 2008 by setting guidelines which eliminated several types of highly breakable maple bats. The maximum diameter of the barrel was lowered from 2.75 inches to 2.61 inches, while the minimum bat handle size by roughly 1/50th of an inch.

Ash bats, which are seen as safer because they split into smaller shards, can't be the lone source for bats; there aren't enough ash trees to provide the supply MLB needs. It might be unrealistic to eliminate maple bats entirely. After all, every sport carries a certain amount of risk with it. Baseball has been around for 150-plus years, and it's made it to this point without a consistently high rash of spectator or player injuries from broken bats.

Composite bats aren't the answer because the rate at which balls would accelerate off those is far greater than wooden bats; that would create new problems for potential player injury. The best MLB can do now is to reduce the size of wooden bats. Install netting higher and perhaps further down each base line. Caution players throughout the season they need to maintain awareness of flying bat shards at any time. MLB needs to show that player and fan safety is paramount.

**Categories:** [Health](#), [Sports](#), [Work](#)

[Report this post](#)

[Share](#)

### Leave a comment:

[see all](#)