

Choosing an Advanced Floorball Stick

You've been playing for awhile now and you're ready to move on to a new stick. You've gotten down the basics of which side to hold the stick on, and you've thought long and hard about what you like and what you don't like about your old stick. This guide will go into specific options to keep in mind.

1) Brand

Everyone has a favorite brand. Each brand offers unique features exclusive to their image such as shaft modifications and lines of blades. For example, you'll only find the Q series in **Salming**, **Fat Pipe** has their patented grip, and **Oxdog** is the only company that offers a stick balance system. It's important to go over all the features that each brand boasts and choose which ones complement your unique playing style.

2) Blade

Chances are your first blade isn't cutting it anymore. Beginner sticks usually come with a very large pre-hook. More advanced players generally prefer less curve. Curvature is measured from the heel of the blade to the toe. Keep in mind that a flatter blade is better for passing, while a curved blade is better for shooting.

Cavity is the curvature of the blade from top to bottom. Blades with lots of cavity give you better ball control but may impact the speed for your dribble.

SALMING

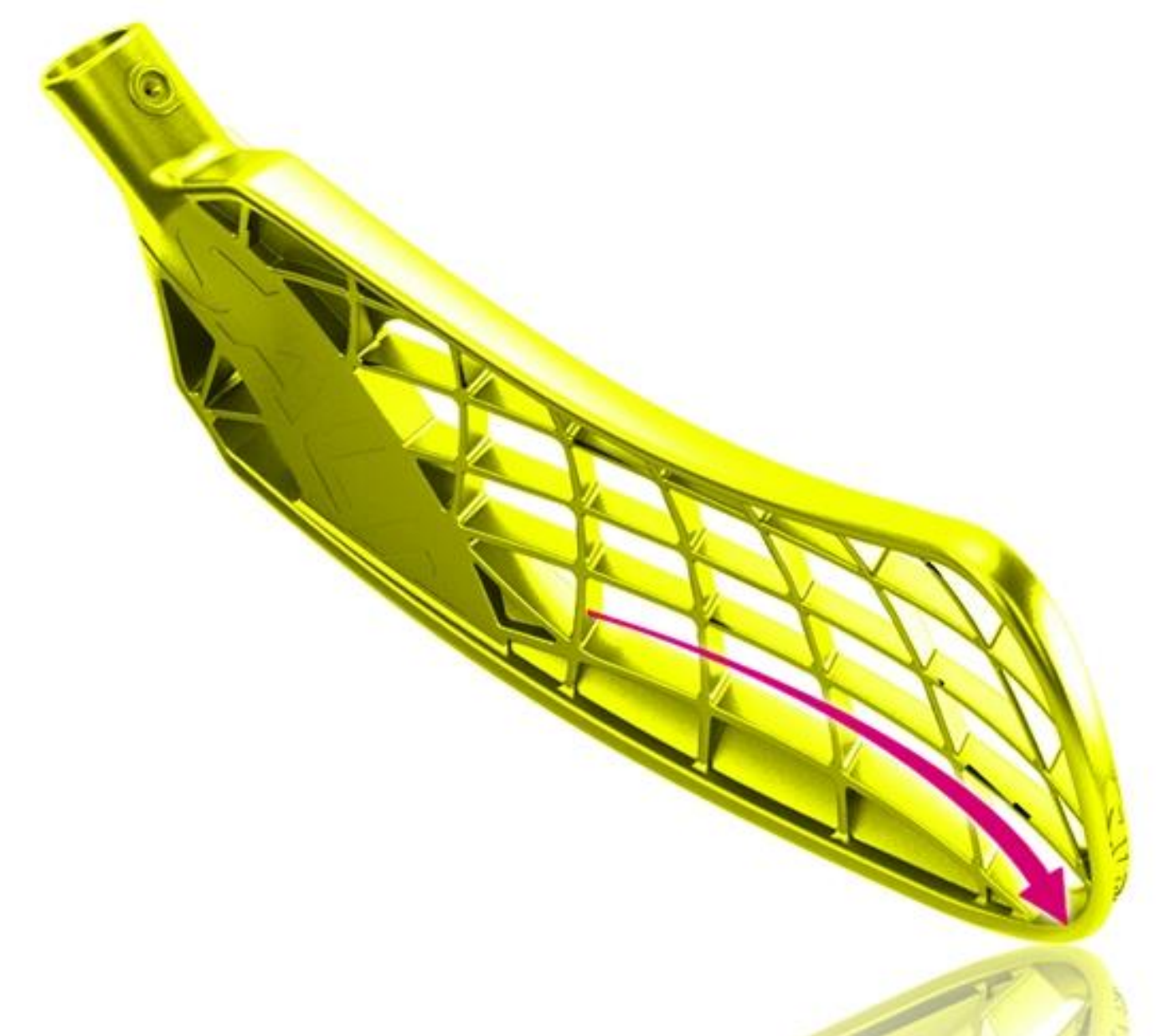


BLADE TYPE

There are numerous different types of floorball blades available varying in shape and stiffness. A **stiffer** blade will increase shot power while a **soft** one will help with ball control and feeling the ball. Usually blades are designed with a "ball pocket" to help control the ball. Better blades will come pre-curved for either left or right shooting players. A player will often **curve the blade** to fit his or her style of play, but remember not to curve it too much or your stick will be deemed illegal!



Deeper vertical cavity provides increased ball control

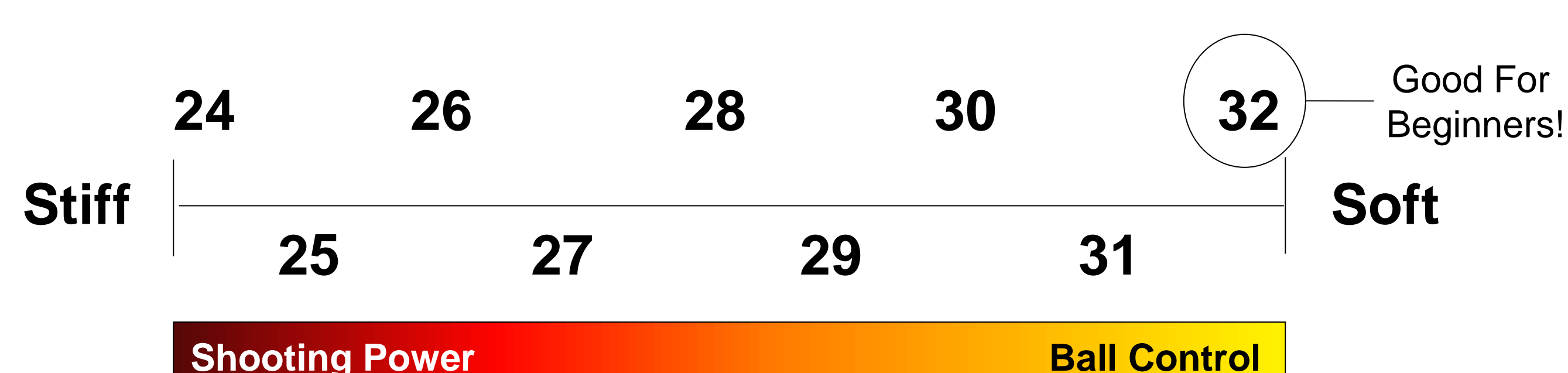


More curve means harder shots

3) SHAFT STIFFNESS OR FLEX

The shaft stiffness, or flex, is another important factor. The lower the number, the stiffer the shaft of the stick.

Competitive players prefer a stiffer stick shaft for harder and more accurate shots. To determine the right flex for you, consider that the more you weigh and the harder your shot, the stiffer the shaft of your stick should be. Lighter players with a lighter shot should use a stick with more flex. While a stiffer flex is great for shots, a **softer shaft is better for stick handling.** More advanced players prefer a stiffer flex, usually 29 or lower.



4) GRIP SHAPE & TYPE

Round and Oval grip shapes are common in floorball. Your choice of grip shape is strictly **your personal preference**. Higher-end sticks come with more advanced grips that repel moisture and provide different types of "feel". You can select grips for more or less "tackiness" and "cushion."



Round Grip vs Oval Grip