

IN
THE
MOOD
FOR...



Sluggers

These whack-happy characters will make you feel totally batty

1 BATMAN: ARKHAM KNIGHT

Psychologist, supervillain, antihero, *and* a great slugger, Harley Quinn is a woman of many skills. She's not a fan of *the* Bat, but she's often seen with a bat in games, like in the upcoming *Suicide Squad* and *MultiVersus*. She's also fully playable across her own DLC story and challenges in *Arkham Knight*.

2 PERSONA 4 ARENA

In *Persona 3*, baseball-obsessed Junpei Iori equips himself with different bats for turn-based battles. That's evolved into a whole style of fighting for *Persona 4 Arena*. Knocking his foes to and fro, he works to build up runs, achieving strikes to maximise damage – balls to the walls.

3 HOTLINE MIAMI

Tools of violence litter every top-down gorefest in *Hotline Miami*, but melee weapons are always your friend (much quieter than guns), with the bat being your hero's main weapon of choice. It's got a good swing to it, and you can even straddle downed enemies to give them a bash.

4 THE WARRIORS

Come out and pla-ay! When it comes to all-out urban gang warfare, baseball bats remain reliable. Carried by the Baseball Furies gang (whose leader has a bigger bat made of *three* bats), they're a great weapon to scoop up when you come across them.

5 NO MORE HEROES: HEROES' PARADISE

Using a baseball stadium as her hideout, #2 ranked assassin Bad Girl uses her bat to beat leatherbound victims even between jobs. It's a modest weapon, but can still put Travis through his paces. A love of bats runs in the family; her father, Badman, uses a diamond-encrusted one to hunt Travis in revenge.

6 GTA III

What better represents freedom to play how you want than having a baseball bat you can use to beat up anyone in Liberty City? The only melee weapon other than your fists, *GTA III* made it both a series and genre staple. If your sandbox doesn't allow you to batter who you like, is it even a sandbox?

7 DEAD RISING

Frank West chased his first zombie scoop in a mall seemingly filled with sports shops holding closing-down sales, as baseball bats are littered everywhere. It's become his de facto weapon of choice, great for fending off hordes of shamblers. His bat might break, but there's always another nearby.

8 TEKKEN 7

Not one to fight fair, Negan's baseball bat is wrapped with barbed wire (and named Lucille). He uses it to brutal effect in *The Walking Dead*, and it allows him to keep up with *Tekken*'s superpowered fighters as one of the series' crossover characters, most of his moves utilising Lucille.

9 YAKUZA

When he's not twirling a knife, Goro Majima is often seen dragging a hefty baseball bat around. The first game even sees you battling it out in a batting centre. Becoming playable in *Yakuza 0*, his Slugger Style allows him to pull a bat out of nowhere whenever you want, charging up bone-crunching strikes.

HONOURABLE MENTIONS

MARVEL VS CAPCOM 3

One of sarky Deadpool's special moves sees him grab a slice of the UI and use it as a baseball bat to bludgeon the opponent.

STREETS OF RAGE 4

Plentiful weapons strew these rageful streets, with heavy swinging weapons like the bat being particularly useful.

WORMS

Less about the damage dealt by the whack, and more about where the enemy Worm lands. Get 'em into the water! (You won't regret that.)



Did we miss a home run? Got an In The Mood For idea? Let us know at twitter.com/PLAYgamingmag

