



NEW PITCH COUNT RULES

REGULAR SEASON PITCH COUNT RULES

Rule 8.07 – Page 69-70 - Replace paragraph 8.07 in its entirety to read:

8.07–**PITCHING** Limitations (Regular Season Only)—These pitching restrictions apply only to regular season play.

Pitch Counts

Rule 8.07 is replaced in its entirety for tournament play only by a completely new set of tournament pitching requirements (See Tournament Rules Section VII). Protecting youth pitchers arms is extremely important and the following pitching restrictions are designed to minimize or prevent serious arm injuries to youth players.

All players on a regular season team may pitch in any game during the regular season subject to the following limitations:

Pitch Count Limitations

- (1) A **League Age 9 or 10** pitcher shall not throw more than 75 pitches in the same game or on the same day.
Exception: If the pitcher reaches the pitch count limit while facing a batter, he may continue to pitch until the batter reaches base safely or is put out.
- (2) A **League Age 11 or 12** pitcher shall not throw more than 85 pitches in the same game or on the same day.
Exception: If the pitcher reaches the pitch count limit while facing a batter, he may continue to pitch until the batter reaches base safely or is put out.
- (3) All pitchers in local league play must adhere to the following pitch count rest requirements:

<u>League Age</u>	<u>No Rest</u>	<u>1 Day</u>	<u>2 Days</u>	<u>3 Days</u>
09 -12	1-30	31-45	46-65	66+

NOTE: There are no exceptions to the rest period pitch count thresholds.

Innings Limitations

- (4) A pitcher shall not pitch more than **six innings in the calendar week** between from 12:01 a.m. Monday to 12:00 midnight the following Sunday. For the purposes of satisfying any portion of Rule 8.07(a), the pitching of one (1) pitch shall be counted as the pitching of one inning.
- (5) The pitcher shall be charged only for the innings pitched. If a pitcher does not have to pitch the bottom half of an inning he is NOT charged for that inning. No innings pitched shall be charged to the pitchers that are listed in the batting order of both teams handed to the official scorer in games forfeited before actual play begins.
- (6) A pitcher removed from the mound for any reason shall not return to the mound to pitch during the same game.
Exception: A pitcher who delivers 41 or more pitches in a game cannot play the position of catcher for the remainder of the game. Any player who has played the position of catcher in four or more innings in a game is not eligible to pitch in that game.
- (7) Local leagues that play regular season teams in a double elimination tournament bracket to decide a league championship or for a regular season local league tournament must use Tournament Pitching Rules in Tournament Rule VII.

Official Pitch Count Record

- (8) The local league must designate the scorekeeper or another game official as the official pitch count statistician for each game. The pitch count statistician shall record all pitches including strikes, balls, foul tips and any pitches delivered to the catcher ruled a "no pitch" by the umpire. **The official pitch count statistician's pitch count is the official pitch count and cannot be protested.**
- (9) The pitch count statistician must provide the current pitch count for any pitcher when requested by either manager or any umpire. However, the manager has the ultimate responsibility for knowing his pitcher's pitch count at all times and when his/her pitcher must be removed to meet the rest requirements above.
- (10) The official pitch count statistician shall inform the umpire-in-chief when a pitcher has delivered his/her maximum limit of pitches for the game, as noted above. The umpire-in-chief will inform the pitcher's manager that the pitcher must be removed after the current batter reaches base safely or is put out. However, the failure by the pitch count statistician to notify the umpire-in-chief, and/or the failure of the umpire-in-chief to notify the manager, does not relieve the manager of his/her responsibility to remove a pitcher when that pitcher is no longer eligible.
- (11) **Protests of an Illegal Pitcher and Penalty shall be handled pursuant to Rule 3.03(c).** Note: If the pitcher reached his pitch count daily maximum on a previous batter, the pitcher must be removed immediately upon discovery.

TOURNAMENT PITCH COUNT RULES

Tournament Rule VII - **PITCHING Restrictions/Limitations (Tournament Only)**—These tournament pitching rules completely replace the pitching restrictions and limitations used in regular season play. Protecting youth pitchers arms is extremely important and the following pitching restrictions and mandatory pitcher rest requirements are designed to minimize or prevent serious arm injuries to youth players.

Pitcher Substitutions/Restrictions

- (A) All players on the tournament team roster may pitch in any tournament (bracket or pool play) game.
- (B) All pitchers shall be eligible at the beginning of each level of tournament play provided they have had the required number of hours of rest as noted below since their last tournament game in the previous tournament.
- (C) Pitchers shall be governed by the substitution provisions of Rule 3.03(c), Rule 3.05(a) & (b) and Rule 3.08(1) during tournament play. A pitcher may not return to the mound as a pitcher during the same game. **EXCEPTION:** A pitcher who is replaced in the batting order by a substitute runner or substitute batter may return to the mound to pitch provided no other pitcher on the same team has thrown a pitch and all other requirements of the substitution rules are enforced.
- (D) A pitcher removed from the game or line-up for a substitute may remain in the game in another defensive position provided all other provisions of the substitution rules. **Exception:** A pitcher who delivers 41 or more pitches in a game cannot play the position of catcher for the remainder of the game. Any player who has played the position of catcher in four or more innings in a game is not eligible to pitch in that game.
- (E) A player who is brought in to pitch from another position without benefit of sideline warmup shall be permitted ten (10) warmup pitches or two (2) minutes.
- (F) Any player warming up a pitcher on the mound, in a bullpen, or elsewhere shall wear a catcher's mask with helmet and throat protector even if the mask has a manufactured extension at the bottom of the mask. **A batting helmet cannot be used to warm up a pitcher.**

Pitch Count Limitations

- (G) There are no limitations on the number of innings a pitcher may pitch in a tournament (bracket or pool play) game subject to the following pitch count limitations:
 - (1) A **League Age 10 and under** pitcher shall not throw more than 75 pitches in the same game or on the same day. **Exception:** If the pitcher reaches the maximum pitch count limit while facing a batter, he may continue to pitch until the batter reaches base safely or is put out.
 - (2) A **League Age 11 or 12** pitcher shall not throw more than 85 pitches in the same game or on the same day. **Exception:** If the pitcher reaches the maximum pitch count limit while facing a batter, he may continue to pitch until the batter reaches base safely or is put out.
 - (3) All pitchers must adhere to the following pitch count rest requirements before pitching in another tournament game:

Tournament Pitching Rest Requirements

No Rest	36 Hours	48 Hours
1-40	41-65	66+

NOTE: There are no exceptions to the rest period pitch count thresholds.

- (4) In a game suspended by darkness, weather, or other causes and resumed the following calendar day, the pitcher of record at the time the game was halted may continue to the extent of his/her eligibility, provided he/she delivered 40 or less pitches.
- (5) These pitch count limitations will also apply to all games played to determine a district, state or World Series tournament host team or to determine any runner-up teams advancing to the next level of tournament play.
- (6) A pitcher shall be allowed to pitch in two or more games on the same day provided he/she does not throw more than 40 pitches in any one game nor more 75 pitches (League Age 10 and Under) or 85 pitches (League Age 11 or 12).

Official Pitch Count Record

- (H) The Tournament Director must designate the scorekeeper or another game official as the official pitch count statistician for each game. The pitch count statistician shall record all pitches including strikes, balls, foul tips and any pitches delivered to the catcher ruled a "no pitch" by the umpire. **The official pitch count statistician's pitch count is the official pitch count and cannot be protested.**
- (I) The pitch count statistician must provide the current pitch count for any pitcher when requested by either manager or any umpire. However, the manager has the ultimate responsibility for knowing his pitcher's pitch count at all times and when his/her pitcher must be removed to meet the rest requirements above.
- (J) The official pitch count statistician shall inform the umpire-in-chief when a pitcher has delivered his/her maximum limit of pitches for the game, as noted above. The umpire-in-chief will inform the pitcher's manager that the pitcher must be removed after the current batter reaches base safely or is put out. However, the failure by the pitch count statistician to notify the umpire-in-chief, and/or the failure of the umpire-in- chief to notify the manager, does not relieve the manager of his/her responsibility to remove a pitcher when that pitcher is no longer eligible.
- (K) **Protests of an Illegal Pitcher and Penalty shall be handled pursuant to Tournament Rule XII(G).** **Note:** If the pitcher reached his pitch count daily maximum on a previous batter, the pitcher must be removed immediately upon discovery.