

Regular Season Pitching Rules – Baseball

This information was taken from the online Little League Rulebook. It was left in similar formatting so we become accustomed to reading the rules the way they are presented. The formatting can be confusing and there is quite a bit of redundancy. Please be ready very carefully when trying to understand pitching rules.

VI – PITCHERS

Pitching Limits:

Pitchers league age 14 and under must adhere to the following rest requirements:

- **If a player pitches 66 or more pitches in a day, four (4) calendar days of rest must be observed.**
- **If a player pitches 51-65 pitches in a day, three (3) calendar days of rest must be observed.**
- **If a player pitches 36-50 pitches in a day, two (2) calendar days of rest must be observed.**
- **If a player pitches 21-35 pitches in a day, one (1) calendar days of rest must be observed.**
- **If a player pitches 1-20 pitches in a day, no (0) calendar day of rest is required.**

(a) Any player on a regular season team may pitch. (NOTE: There is no limit to the number of pitchers a team may use in a game.) Exception: **Any player who has played the position of catcher in four (4) or more innings in a game is not eligible to pitch on that calendar day.**

(b) **A pitcher once removed from the mound cannot return as a pitcher.** ~~Intermediate (50-70), Junior, and Senior League Divisions only: A pitcher remaining in the game, but moving to a different position, can return as a pitcher anytime in the remainder of the game, but only once per game.~~

A player who played the position of catcher for three (3) innings or less, moves to the pitcher position, and delivers 21 pitches or more (15- and 16-year-olds: 31 pitches or more) in the same day, may not return to the catcher position on that calendar day. EXCEPTION: If the pitcher reaches the 20-pitch limit (15- and 16-year-olds: 30-pitch limit) while facing a batter, the pitcher may continue to pitch, and maintain their eligibility to return to the catcher position, until any one of the following conditions occur: (1) that batter reaches base; (2) that batter is retired; or (3) the third out is made to complete the half-inning or the game.

(c) The manager must remove the pitcher when said pitcher reaches the limit for his/her age group as noted below, but the pitcher may remain in the game at another position:

League Age:

~~13-16 – 95 pitches per day~~

11-12 – 85 pitches per day

9-10 – 75 pitches per day

~~7-8 – 50 pitches per day~~

Exception: If a pitcher reaches the limit imposed in Regulation VI (c) for his/her league age while facing a batter, **the pitcher may continue to pitch until any one of the following conditions**

occurs: 1. That batter reaches base; 2. That batter is put out; 3. The third out is made to complete the half-inning. NOTE: If a pitcher reaches 40 pitches while facing a batter, the pitcher may continue to pitch, and maintain their eligibility to play the position of catcher for the remainder of that day, until any one of the following conditions occurs: (1) that batter reaches base; (2) that batter is retired; or (3) the third out is made to complete the half-inning or the game. The pitcher would be allowed to play the catcher position provided that pitcher is moved, removed, or the game is completed before delivering a pitch to another batter. If a player delivers 41 or more pitches, and is not covered under the threshold exception, the player may not play the position of catcher for the remainder of that day.

(d) Pitchers league age 14 and under must adhere to the following rest requirements:

- **If a player pitches 66 or more pitches in a day, four (4) calendar days of rest must be observed.**
- **If a player pitches 51-65 pitches in a day, three (3) calendar days of rest must be observed.**
- **If a player pitches 36-50 pitches in a day, two (2) calendar days of rest must be observed.**
- **If a player pitches 21-35 pitches in a day, one (1) calendar days of rest must be observed.**
- **If a player pitches 1-20 pitches in a day, no (0) calendar day of rest is required.**

Exception: If a pitcher reaches a day(s) of rest threshold while facing a batter, the pitcher may continue to pitch until any one of the following conditions occurs: (1) that batter reaches base; (2) that batter is retired; or (3) the third out is made to complete the half-inning or the game. The pitcher will only be required to observe the calendar day(s) of rest for the threshold he/she reached during that at-bat, provided that pitcher is removed or the game is completed before delivering a pitch to another batter.”

NOTE: If a pitcher reaches 30 pitches while facing a batter in the first game, the pitcher may continue to pitch, and maintain their eligibility to pitch in the second game on that day, until any one of the following conditions occurs: (1) that batter reaches base; (2) that batter is retired; or (3) the third out is made to complete the half-inning or the game. The pitcher would be allowed to pitch in a second game provided that pitcher is moved, removed, or the game is completed before delivering a pitch to another batter. If a player delivers 31 or more pitches in the first game, and is not covered under the threshold exception, the player may not pitch in the second game that day);

~~(d) Pitchers league age 15-16 must adhere to the following rest requirements:~~

- ~~● If a player pitches 76 or more pitches in a day, four (4) calendar days of rest must be observed.~~
- ~~● If a player pitches 61-75 pitches in a day, three (3) calendar days of rest must be observed.~~
- ~~● If a player pitches 46-60 pitches in a day, two (2) calendar days of rest must be observed.~~
- ~~● If a player pitches 31-45 pitches in a day, one (1) calendar days of rest must be observed.~~

~~● If a player pitches 1-30 pitches in a day, no (0) calendar day of rest is required.
Exception: If a pitcher reaches a day(s) of rest threshold while facing a batter, the pitcher may continue to pitch until any one of the following conditions occurs: (1) that batter reaches base; (2) that batter is retired; or (3) the third out is made to complete the half-inning or the game. The pitcher will only be required to observe the calendar day(s) of rest for the threshold he/she reached during that at bat, provided that pitcher is removed or the game is completed before delivering a pitch to another batter.~~

(e) Each league must designate the scorekeeper or another game official as the official pitch count recorder.

(f) The pitch count recorder must provide the current pitch count for any pitcher when requested by either manager or any umpire. However, the manager is responsible for knowing when his/her pitcher must be removed.

(g) The official pitch count recorder should inform the umpire-in-chief when a pitcher has delivered his/her maximum limit of pitches for the game, as noted in Regulation VI (c). The umpire-in-chief will inform the pitcher's manager that the pitcher must be removed in accordance with Regulation VI (c). However, the failure by the pitch count recorder 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.

(h) Violation of any section of this regulation can result in protest of the game in which it occurs. Protest shall be made in accordance with Playing Rule 4.19.

(j) A player who has attained the league age of twelve (12) is not eligible to pitch in the Minor League. (See Regulation V – Selection of Players)

(k) A player may not pitch in more than one game in a day.

NOTES:

1. The withdrawal of an ineligible pitcher after that pitcher is announced, or after a warm-up pitch is delivered, but before that player has pitched a ball to a batter, shall not be considered a violation. Little League officials are urged to take precautions to prevent protests. When a protest situation is imminent, the potential offender should be notified immediately.
2. **Pitches delivered in games declared “Regulation Tie Games” or “Suspended Games” shall be charged against pitcher’s eligibility.**

3. In **suspended games resumed on another day**, the pitchers of record at the time the game was halted may continue to pitch to the extent of their eligibility for that day, provided said pitcher has observed the required days of rest.

Example 1: A league age 12 pitcher delivers 70 pitches in a game on Monday when the game is suspended. The game resumes on the following Thursday. The pitcher is not eligible to pitch in the resumption of the game because he/she has not observed the required days of rest.

Example 2: A league age 12 pitcher delivers 70 pitches in a game on Monday when the game is suspended. The game resumes on Saturday. The pitcher is eligible to pitch up to 85 more pitches in the resumption of the game because he/she has observed the required days of rest.

Example 3: A league age 12 pitcher delivers 70 pitches in a game on Monday when the game is suspended. The game resumes two weeks later. The pitcher is eligible to pitch up to 85 more pitches in the resumption of the game, provided he/she is eligible based on his/her pitching record during the previous four days.

(EXCEPTION: Junior and Senior League: If a pitcher reaches 30 pitches while facing a batter in the first game, the pitcher may continue to pitch, and maintain their eligibility to pitch in the second game on that day, until any one of the following conditions occurs:

(1) that batter reaches base; (2) that batter is retired; or (3) the third out is made to complete the half-inning or the game. The pitcher would be allowed to pitch in a second game provided that pitcher is moved, removed, or the game is completed before delivering a pitch to another batter. If a player delivers 31 or more pitches in the first game, and is not covered under the threshold exception, the player may not pitch in the second game that day).

Note: The use of this regulation negates the concept of the “calendar week” with regard to pitching eligibility.