

# Regular Season Pitching Rules - Baseball

## VI - PITCHERS

(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.)

(b) A pitcher once removed from the mound cannot return as a pitcher. **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.

(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 1: A pitcher who delivers 41 or more pitches in a game cannot play the position of catcher for the remainder of that day. Note 2: Any player who has played the position of catcher in four or more innings in a game is not eligible to pitch on that calendar 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.”

**(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.

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

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## ***Regular Season Pitching Rules - Softball***

### ***Regulation VI - PITCHERS***

**(a)** Any player on the team roster may pitch. **EXCEPTION:** A player who has attained a league age of twelve (12) is not eligible to pitch in the Minor League.

**(b) Minors/Little League (Majors):** A player may pitch in a maximum of twelve (12) innings in a day. If a player pitches in seven (7) or more innings in a day, one calendar day of rest is mandatory. Delivery of a single pitch constitutes having pitched in an inning.

#### **LITTLE LEAGUE (MAJORS) AND MINOR LEAGUE EXAMPLE**

If a player pitched in seven (7) or more innings on (Column A), that player can pitch again on (Column B):

**Junior/Senior League:** No pitching restrictions apply.

#### **Column A**

Sunday  
Monday  
Tuesday  
Wednesday  
Thursday  
Friday  
Saturday

#### **Column B**

Tuesday  
Wednesday  
Thursday  
Friday  
Saturday  
Sunday  
Monday

**NOTE:** The local league Board of Directors or District may impose additional pitching limitations during the Regular Season and interleague.

#### **Pitching Restrictions for 12 year olds participating in Majors and Junior League**

For a 12-year-old participating in the Major and Junior League Divisions as permitted under Regulation IV(a), the pitching rules and regulations regarding days of rest that are pertinent to the division in which the pitcher is used will apply to that game. Innings pitched previously in both divisions are taken into account when determining the eligibility of the pitcher for a particular game, with respect to days of rest and number of innings available.

**Example 1** - A player pitches seven innings in a Junior Division game on Sunday. On Monday, she has a scheduled game in the Major Division. She would not be eligible to pitch in that game because the Major Division regulations require her to have one calendar day of rest, as a result of pitching in more than six innings on the previous day.

**Example 2** - A player pitches nine innings in a Major Division game on Sunday. On Monday, she has a scheduled game in the Junior Division, and she would be eligible to pitch in that game because the Junior Division has no pitching restrictions.

**Example 3** - A player pitches in seven innings in a Junior Division game played on Sunday and has a Major Division game later that same day. The player would be limited to five more innings for the Major Division game (for a total of 12 innings in a day in the Major Division).

**(c) Minor/Major:** 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 in the same inning as he/she was removed. A pitcher, withdrawn from the game offensively or defensively for a substitute, may not re-enter the game as a pitcher. Exception: See Rule 3.03(c). **Junior/Senior League:** A pitcher may be withdrawn from the game, offensively or defensively, and return as pitcher only once per inning provided the return does not violate the substitution, visits per pitcher, or mandatory play rule(s).

**(d) Little League (Major) Division/Junior/Senior League:** Not more than five (5) pitchers per team shall be used in one game.

**(e)** 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.

**NOTES:**

4. 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.
5. Innings pitched in games declared "Regulation Tie Games" or "Suspended Games" shall be charged against pitcher's eligibility. **NOTE 1:** In suspended games resumed on a subsequent day, the pitchers of record at the time the game was halted may continue to pitch to the extent of their remaining eligibility for that day.
6. **Minors/Little League (Majors):** If doubleheaders are played, the limitation of twelve (12) innings in a calendar day would apply to each pitcher. A pitcher who pitches in the first game may pitch in the second game provided that pitcher has eligibility remaining.
7. There is no limit to the number of pitchers of a particular league age group on a team that can be used. **EXCEPTION:** A player who has

attained a league age of twelve (12) is not eligible to pitch in the Minor League.