

Little League Baseball, Inc
Montana District 1
Pitching Rules and Pitch Count Guidelines
Regular Season and TOC – 2021
Regular Season

The following are the rules for pitchers during the regular season and during the TOC.

1. Any player on a regular season roster may pitch. No limit to number of pitchers 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.*

A player, who played the position of catcher for 3 innings or less and moves to pitcher position, and has delivered 21 or more (15-16 year olds - 31 pitches or more) in the same day, may NOT return to the catcher position on that calendar day. See Rule book for clarification.

2. **Junior or Seniors 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.
3. The manager **MUST** remove the pitcher when the pitcher reaches the limit of his age group, but can remain in the game in another position:

Ages 13-16	95 pitches per day
Ages 11-12	85 pitches per day
Ages 9 -10	75 pitches per day
Ages 7 - 8	50 pitches per day

Exception – If a pitcher reaches the limit imposed for their age bracket while facing a batter, the pitcher may continue to pitch until any of the following conditions occur: 1) the batter reaches base, 2) the batter is put out, or 3) third out is made to complete the half inning. New in 2013: If the pitcher is removed from the mound in the above exception, then the pitch count for days rest will go back to the threshold. Example--John is 14 years old and pitches 52 pitches and retires the batter who was up to bat when the pitch count was 50. If John is then removed as the pitcher, his pitch count for determination of days rest is now 50, not 52, Only 2 days of rest is needed, not 3. See the rule book for a more detailed explanation.

A pitcher who has delivered 41 or more pitches cannot play the position of catcher the rest of the day. Exception-player can finish batter and will pitch count will go back to 40. See above.

UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES SHALL A PLAYER PITCH IN (3) CONSECUTIVE DAYS.

Juniors & Seniors Only

Pitchers Junior League age 14 and under must adhere to the following requirements:

- a. 66 pitches or more in a day - require four (4) calendar days of rest.

- b. 51 to 65 pitches in a day – require three (3) calendar days of rest
- c. 36 to 50 pitches in a day – require two (2) calendar day of rest
- d. 21 to 35 pitches in a day – require one (1) calendar day of rest
- e. Less than 21 pitches in a day – no (0) calendar day of rest

Pitchers Senior League age 15 to 16 must adhere to the following requirements:

- a. 76 pitches or more in a day - require four (4) calendar days of rest
 - b. 61 to 75 pitches in a day – require three (3) calendar days of rest
 - c. 46 to 60 pitches in a day – require two (2) calendar day of rest
 - d. 31 to 45 pitches in a day – require one (1) calendar day of rest
 - e. Less than 31 pitches in a day – no (0) calendar day of rest
4. A pitcher who delivers 41 or more pitches in a game may not move to the position of catcher for the remainder of the day in which they pitch. Any player who has caught for 4 or more innings is not eligible to pitch on that calendar day.
 5. A pitcher may not pitch in more than one game in a day. *Junior and Senior League –A player may be used as a pitcher in up to two games in a day. (Exception: If a player pitched 31 pitches in the first game of the day, that player may not pitch in the second game of that day.) If starts at 30 pitches, he can complete batter and count will revert back to 30 (threshold).*
 6. *A batter is out when a third strike is legally caught by the catcher or the third strike is not caught when first base is occupied before two are out. (Applies to Majors and above, but not for 9-10 Division)*
 7. The official scorekeeper or other league official designed as the official pitch count coordinator will maintain the official record.
 8. The pitch count coordinator MUST provide manager with the current pitch count for any pitcher of record when requested.
 9. It is the responsibility of the manager for knowing when the pitcher must be removed.
 10. The pitch count coordinator should inform the umpire when a pitcher has delivered his maximum limit of pitches for the game.
 11. Pitch count violation can result in a protest of the game in which it occurs.
 12. Senior League – at the beginning of the game, each manager may list on the lineup card a designated hitter to bat throughout the game for a designated player in the regular lineup.
 13. Rule 3.17 – allowing the use of electronic devices in the dugout provided these devices are NOT used for communication. Penalty – if the umpire determines an electronic communication device is used during a game, the penalty is ejection from the game.

Additional Rules for Pitchers in the TOC

All of the above rules apply during the Tournament of Champions except for the following changes:

Pitchers league age 14 and under and playing Majors or Juniors must follow these rules:

Pitch count rules apply for TOC as used in regular season

A pitcher may not pitch in more than one game in a day. *In the Junior Division: A player may be used as a pitcher in up to two games in a day, (Exception: If the player pitched 31 or more pitches in the first game and is not covered under the threshold exception, that player may not pitch in the second game on that day)*

Pitchers league age 13 to 16 playing Seniors must follow these rules:

Pitch count rules apply for TOC as used in regular season.

A pitcher may pitch in more than one game in a day. *In the Senior Division: A player may be used as a pitcher in up to two games in a day, (Exception: If the player pitched 31 or more pitches in the first game and is not covered under the threshold exception, that player may not pitch in the second game on that day)*

Please read tournament rules starting on page 185-190 of rule book.

For all other questions, please review the rule book, and if other questions arise please contact your League Umpire in Chief or President.