



Pitching Eligibility and Rests

To protect the arms of young players, and in keeping with Little League regulations regarding baseball, RPLL implements a Pitch Count program (Baseball Official Regulations and Playing Rules, Regulation VI). Rather than limit pitching eligibility by number of innings pitched, the Pitch Count program defines the amount of rest needed based on the number of actual pitches thrown. This not only helps protect players from overuse injuries, it further highlights the need for throwing accuracy at all levels of baseball.

Regulation VI – Pitching

- A. Any player on a regular season team may pitch. **Exception:** The catcher is prohibited from pitching if he/she caught in any part of (4) four or more innings per calendar day. This prohibits a player who has played the position of catcher in any part of four innings in a game from being used as a pitcher at any time on that calendar day. This applies to all baseball divisions, and will apply to the International Tournament, as well.

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.

- B. 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:

Little League ages 13 – 14	95 pitches per day (a 15-year-old may not pitch in the Juniors Division)
Little League ages 11 – 12	85 pitches per day
Little League ages 9 – 10	75 pitches per day
Little League ages 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 occur:

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.

C. **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.

Note: While rule C stipulates that a pitcher may continue to pitch to the current batter when hitting their pitch count limit, this doesn't impact the rest requirements. Ex. An 8-year-old pitcher hits pitch number 50 when facing a batter. The pitcher may finish that batter taking him to above 50 pitches. That pitcher now must rest three (3) calendar days, not the two (2) days indicated by their 50-pitch max pitch count.

- D. Each league must designate the scorekeeper or another game official as the official pitch count recorder.
- E. 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.
- F. 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.
- G. 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.
- H. 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)

- I. 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.

RPLL LOCAL RULE: ALL pitch count rules apply to all games played, including interleague games with teams outside of RPLL. However, interleague games do not count for RPLL standings.

RPLL LOCAL RULE: Any Violation of the established pitching eligibility and rest rules must be reported to the league President within 24 hours of the violation being discovered. Violation of these pitching rules will result in the manager being suspended for the next scheduled game - NO EXCEPTIONS. If a second violation occurs or it is determined by the league President that any of the violations were intentional, the manager and/or coaches may be subject to further disciplinary actions as determined by the Executive Board.