

Section 4.4 – Arm Smart: Safety Rules Governing the Pitcher

(Does not apply to Senior Men's or Senior Women's)

a) Eligibility

Any player on the team is eligible to pitch, and there are no restrictions on the number of pitchers a team may use in a game.

b) Multiple Appearance in a Day

Pitchers shall be permitted to have two appearances on the same calendar day. If a pitcher requires a rest following their first appearance, the requirement for rest is immediate and the pitcher cannot return to pitch on the same calendar day. For example, a 13U pitcher who throws 40 pitches in game one on Thursday requires one day's rest and cannot pitch in a second game on Thursday or any time on Friday.

Pitchers cannot pitch in three games during the same calendar day.

c) Pitching on Three Consecutive Days

Pitchers may pitch on three consecutive days if the pitcher's combined total pitches during the first two days do not exceed the limits in the table below

<u>Division</u>	<u>Limit</u>
11U	25
13U	30
15U Boys 16U Girls	35
18U Canada Cup Canada Games	40
22U Men's 21U Women's	45

Any rest required under this rule is not immediate and begins the next day. For example, if an 11U pitcher threw 15 pitches on Thursday and 20 pitches in their first game on Friday, the pitcher is ineligible to pitch on Saturday but is eligible to pitch in a second game on Friday.

A pitcher cannot pitch on four consecutive days.

c) Two-Day Maximum Pitch Limits

Pitchers will not be permitted to throw more than the number of pitches shown in the table below, over any two-day period.

<u>Division</u>	<u>Maximum 2 Day Total</u>
11U	75
13U	85
15U Boys 16U Girls	95
18U Canada Cup Canada Games	105
22U Men's 21U Women's	115

For example, a 13U pitcher who throws 20 pitches on Thursday is eligible to pitch on Friday but is limited to a maximum of 65 pitches (85 - 20 = 65)

d) Four-Day Maximum Pitch Limits

Pitchers will not be permitted to throw more than the number of pitches shown in the table below, over any four consecutive day period.

<u>Division</u>	<u>Maximum 2 Day Total</u>
11U	105
13U	120
15U Boys 16U Girls	135
18U Canada Cup Canada Games	150
22U Men's 21U Women's	165

For example, a 13U pitcher who throws 50 pitches on Thursday, and 10 pitches on Saturday is eligible to pitch on Sunday but is limited to a maximum of 60 pitches (120 – 50 – 10 = 60).

e) Rest Requirements

Pitchers must observe the rest requirements shown in the table below.

11U	13U	15U Boys 16U Girls	18U Canada Cup/ Canada Games	22U Men 21U Women	Day's Rest
1-25	1-30	1-35	1-40	1-45	None
26-40	31-45	36-50	41-55	46-60	1 day
41-55	46-60	51-65	56-70	61-75	2 days
56-65	61-75	66-80	71-85	76-90	3 days
66-75	76-85	81-95	86-105	91-115	4 days
75	85	95	105	115	Maximum

f) Ambidextrous Pitchers

Pitches thrown by an ambidextrous pitcher are counted regardless of which arm or combination of arms, the pitches are thrown with.

g) Playing in Different Age Divisions

A pitcher playing in a higher age division, shall be governed by the pitching rules of their actual age division.

For example, a 13U-aged pitcher playing in the 15U division, is subject to the 13U pitching rules.

This section applies to the Senior Men's and Senior Women's Championships, which do not otherwise have pitching rules.

h) Pitching & Catching

Once a player assumes the position of pitcher, they cannot catch for the remainder of the day.

i) Completing a Batter

When a pitcher reaches the maximum number of pitches allowed for a threshold (the number at which an additional day's rest is required) (see Example 1), or the total number of pitches allowed for a day while in the middle of an at-bat (see Example 2), or the pitcher's combined total pitches during the first two days does not exceed the one day's rest threshold (see example 3), the pitcher is allowed to complete the at-bat. The pitcher's pitch count will revert to the previous threshold and that number will be recorded on the pitch count log.

To revert to the previous threshold, the coach must acknowledge that this is the pitcher's last batter before the pitcher crosses the threshold by advising the umpire. The umpire will advise the scorekeeper. Once the coach has made this declaration, the pitcher must be removed at the conclusion of the at-bat.

Example 1, the first threshold at 13U is 30 pitches. The coach may declare "last batter" to the umpire when the pitcher has thrown 29 or 30 pitches. If a pitcher started an at-bat at 27 pitches and finished the at-bat at 33 pitches, the scorekeeper would record 30 pitches.

Example 2, the maximum daily threshold at 13U is 85 pitches. The coach may declare last batter to the umpire when the pitcher has thrown 85 pitches and the pitcher shall be allowed to finish the batter and shall then be removed.

Example 3, the first threshold at 13U is 30 pitches. The pitcher throws 15 pitches on Day 1, and on Day 2, the pitcher throws again, the coach may declare "last batter" to the umpire when the pitcher has thrown 14 or 15 pitches. If the pitcher finishes the at bat with 17 pitches, the scorekeeper would record 15 pitches.

j) Intentional Walks

Only pitches thrown will be included in pitch count totals. Automatic balls during an intentional walk do not count towards pitch count totals.

For example, if with a 2-0 count, a team signals to the umpire that a batter will receive an intentional walk, only the two pitches thrown will be counted for pitch count.

k) Definition of Days

Required Rest shall be defined in "days" starting at 12:01am and ending at 11:59 pm of the next calendar day. If a game continues past 12:01am, those pitches are counted as if they were thrown prior to midnight.

For example, if a 13U pitcher threw 60 pitches on Thursday and requires two days rest, the pitcher is ineligible to pitch on both Friday and Saturday.

l) Returning to Pitch

A pitcher who is removed from the mound during a game shall not be permitted to return to pitch in the same game, even if the pitcher is retained in the game at another position.

Approved ruling: a pitcher who is pinch hit or pinch run for in an offensive inning, may not return as a pitcher when the team takes the field on defense.

m) Penalty

The penalty for any violation of any part of the pitch count rule is the ejection of the

team's Head Coach or Manager. The Head Coach or Manager shall receive an automatic one-game suspension. Should a pitch count rule violation be discovered at the conclusion of a game, the Head Coach or Manager is suspended for one game. b23

At the 21U Women's, Women's, Canada Cup, 18U, 22U, and Men's level any violation of any part of the pitch count rule also results in a forfeit of a game and no financial penalty will be assessed in this situation.

When a pitcher is about to become ineligible, all individuals, including scorekeepers and the opposing team coaches, must raise this point and prevent the pitcher from becoming ineligible by advising the pitcher's Head Coach or Manager.