



DIXIE BOYS BASEBALL PITCH COUNT QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

Dixie Boys Baseball, Inc. recognizes that the adopted pitching regulation (pitch count) will require some adjustment for our leagues. In an effort to assist the leagues, we offer these commonly asked questions. The pitch count regulation is found in the 2008-09 Official Playing Rules for Dixie Boys Baseball, Inc., and is also available at the Dixie Boys website www.dixie.org/boys

1. Why has Dixie Boys Baseball, Inc. changed the pitching regulation?

Medical and research professionals in the field of sports medicine have determined that the actual number of pitches thrown (i.e., pitch count) is a much more effective method to regulate pitching in youth baseball. The extensive research of USA Baseball and ASMI showed alarming increases in serious injuries to youth pitchers. The number of pitches thrown was the most significant contributor to arm problems. The rule changes implemented for the 2008-09 baseball season shows our willingness to institute changes based on safety concerns.

2. Is the pitching regulation mandatory for both league and tournament play?

Yes. The pitching rules for local league play and tournament play slightly differ due to the condensed nature of tournament play as opposed to local league play. The intent of Rules 8:90- 8:94 as found in the local league pitching regulation were approved to help prevent arm injuries and to eliminate the possibility of a team winning a league championship using only one pitcher. These rules also force a manager to develop other players' pitching talents. Specific pitch count limits for each game were developed based on the age of the participant.

3. How will a league determine who is responsible for counting the pitches?

Each league will be responsible for determining the person that is responsible for counting pitches. One official pitch count should be designated to avoid confusion.

In most leagues, the responsibility of the pitch count will rest with the official scorekeeper. In the case of the official scorer, he or she would only need to record the number of additional pitches thrown beyond the ball and strike counts. Included in the totals would be the number of batted foul balls that are hit with two strikes. Each pitcher's pitch count is computed by adding the number of balls and strikes, the number of foul balls hit with two strikes, and the number of fair batted balls.

Some leagues may choose to track every pitch on a Dixie Boys Baseball designed form. Leagues also can use any of the pitch counting tools that are now available commercially.

4. What is the penalty for violating the pitch count regulation in local and tournament play?

The penalty as found in the official pitching regulations (Rule 8:96) actually remains the same for both league and tournament play. The significant change is the modification from an innings based regulation to the pitch count regulation.

5. What are the pitch count limitations for a game or on the same day?

Dixie Boys Baseball divisions (age 13-14) regulations, limit a pitcher to 95 pitches in the same game or on the same day. Dixie Majors divisions (age 15-19) regulations, limit a pitcher to 105 pitches in the same game or on the same day. An exception is granted for a pitcher that reaches the pitch count while facing a batter. A pitcher may continue to pitch until the batter reaches base safely or is put out. Above regulations are for both league and tournament play.



6. What are the rest rules under the pitch count regulations? Do the regulations differ from league to tournament play and if so in what manner?

Local League and tournament rest rules do differ in application; however both are based on 30 or 40 hour rest requirements. **Note:** A pitch regulation chart will be provided upon request.

Players on a regular season team may pitch in any game during the regular season subject to limitations. (30/40 Hour Rule) **Regular Season Pitching Regulation (Rule 8:94)**

- (a) A pitcher after having thrown more than 60 pitches in one game or on the same day shall have a minimum of forty (40) hours rest before becoming eligible to pitch in another game. The rest period begins when the pitcher leaves the mound.
- (b) A pitcher after having thrown more than 30 but less than 61 pitches in the same game or on the same day shall have a minimum of thirty (30) hours rest before becoming eligible to pitch in another game. The rest period begins when the pitcher leaves the mound.

Players on a tournament team may pitch in any game during tournament play subject to limitations. (30/40 Hour Rule) **Tournament Pitching Regulation (Rule 8:94)**

- (a) A pitcher after having thrown more than 45 pitches but less than 76 pitches in the same game shall have a minimum of thirty (30) hours rest before becoming eligible to pitch in another game. A pitcher having thrown in excess of 75 pitches in a game is subject to a forty (40) hours rest period. The rest period begins when the pitcher leaves the mound.
- (b) A pitcher may pitch in two games on the same day provided he throws less than 46 pitches in the first game and does not throw more than total pitches as allowed (8.90). A pitcher who throws more than 45 pitches but less than 76 pitches is subject to a 30 hour rest rule.

7. Can the same pitcher throw in consecutive games?

Yes; depending on the number of pitches thrown and the hours of rest, the same pitcher could pitch in consecutive games in both local league and tournament play.

8. If a pitcher is pitching a perfect game or no hitter and reaches the maximum pitch count allowance; does the pitcher have to be removed as the pitcher, or can he/she continue until the perfect game or no hitter is lost?

Any pitcher, without regard to effectiveness, must be removed when the limit is reached.

9. Are warm up pitches tallied as part of the pitch count for the pitcher?

No. Warm up pitches are not tallied for purpose of counting the number of pitches thrown.

10. Can intentional walk be issued without pitches being added as part of pitch count total?

No. The pitcher is required to throw the necessary pitches to issue an intentional walk.

11. If a starting pitcher has completed a regulation seven inning game, and the score is tied, will that pitcher be permitted to pitch into the eighth inning and beyond.

Yes. There is no limit to the number of innings a pitcher can pitch in a day. A limit is placed on the number of pitches only!

12. Will local leagues have the ability to provide feedback to Dixie Boys Baseball regarding the pitch count regulation?

Leagues are strongly encouraged to provide feedback through our state officials as well as the Dixie Boys National Office. A complete directory of Dixie Officials can be found on our website.