

SBMSA Pitching Limits

8.00 PITCHING IN THE PEE WEE, BRONCO AND PONY LEAGUES

8.01 **Pitching Limits:** Pitchers in the various kid-pitch leagues must adhere to the rest requirements as per the table below. As an example of how to read the table, if a Pony player pitches 51 to 65 pitches in a day, three (3) calendar days of rest must be observed before he can pitch again.

<u>Pitching Limit (# of pitches)</u>		
<u>Pony and Bronco</u>	<u>Pee Wee AL & Pee Wee NL</u>	<u>Required Rest (days)</u>
66 or more	66 or more	4
51 – 65	51 – 65	3
36 - 50	36 - 50	2
21 - 35	21 - 35	1
20 or less	20 or less	0

- (a) The maximum number of pitches a player may pitch in a day is shown in the table below. When a pitcher reaches the relevant pitch limit for his league while facing a batter, the pitcher may continue to pitch until any one of the following conditions occurs: (i) that batter reaches base, (ii) that batter is put out, or (iii) the third out is made to complete the half-inning. As an example, a Pee Wee AL makes his 75th pitch to a batter, which leaves the batter with a count of 0-2 after such pitch. Although the pitcher has reached his maximum pitch limit, the pitcher may continue to pitch to the batter. After the batter takes three balls, fouls off a ball, and then swings and misses, he is out. With the batter out on the 80th pitch, the pitcher must be removed from the position of pitcher.

<u>Maximum Pitch Limit (# of pitches)</u>	
<u>Pony and Bronco</u>	<u>Pee Wee AL & Pee Wee NL</u>
85	75

- (b) When a player is removed from the pitching position, such player can remain in the game at another position. **Pitcher-to-Catcher rule:** A Pee Wee pitcher who delivers 61 or more pitches in a game cannot play the position of catcher for the remainder of that day. A Bronco or Pony pitcher who delivers 71 or more pitches in a game cannot play the position of catcher for the remainder of that day.
- (c) The home team must designate the scorekeeper or another game official as the official pitch count recorder for both teams. 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 pitcher must be removed.

- (d) The official pitch count recorder should inform the Umpire-In-Chief when a pitcher has delivered his maximum number of allowed pitches for the game. However, 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 responsibility to remove a pitcher when that pitcher is no longer eligible.
- (e) The withdrawal of an ineligible pitcher after that pitcher has been announced or after a warm-up pitch has been delivered, but before that player has pitched a ball to a batter, shall not be considered a violation.

8.02 Pitching Limits in Suspended Games: Pitches delivered in any game suspended for weather or for any other reason shall be charged against that pitcher's daily pitch count and, as such, that pitcher will be subject to the rest requirements of Rule 8.01. In suspended games resumed on a later day, the pitchers of record at the time the game was suspended may continue to pitch to the extent of their eligibility on that later day, provided those pitchers have observed the required days of rest before the later, resumed game day.

- (a) **EXAMPLE 1:** A Bronco pitcher delivers 70 pitches in a game on any day and that game is suspended for any reason. The game resumes 3 days later. The pitcher is not eligible to pitch in the resumption of the game because he has not observed the 4 required days of rest.
- (b) **EXAMPLE 2:** A Pee Wee NL pitcher delivers 70 pitches in a game on any day and that game is suspended for any reason. The game resumes 5 days later. The pitcher is eligible to pitch in the resumption of the game assuming he has observed the 4 required days of rest.
- (c) **EXAMPLE 3:** A Pony pitcher delivers 51 pitches in a game on any day and that game is suspended for any reason. The game resumes 14 days later. The pitcher is eligible to pitch up to 85 more pitches in the resumption of the game, provided he is eligible based on his pitching record during the previous four (4) days.

8.03 Pitching Limit Violations: These pitching limits are to protect young arms. As such, the following rules apply:

- (a) Upon any violation of the rules regarding pitching limitations, the pitcher shall be removed from the game immediately even during a current at bat and must adhere to the required days of rest before being allowed to pitch again. Any such violation will result in automatic forfeiture of the game in which the infraction occurred. There are no appeals of this rule.
- (b) Upon any violation of the pitcher-to-catcher rule, such violation will result in automatic forfeiture of the game in which the infraction occurred. In the special case of an ambidextrous pitcher who, as an example, pitches left-handed and can play the catcher position right-handed, such ambidextrous pitcher is permitted to play catcher after having crossed the pitcher-to-catcher threshold so long as every throw at catcher is done right-handed. If, in our example, one throw at catcher is done left-handed, the game will immediately be ruled a forfeit.
- (c) Upon any violation of the rules regarding pitching and pitching-to-catcher limitations, the head coach of the offending team will receive an automatic warning for the first offense of the year. For a second violation the coach will immediately be ejected from the current

game and also suspended from the team's next game. A third violation will again result in suspension from the current game and next game and additional punishment up to and including being removed as the coach will be voted on by the Board.

- (d) Recognizing that the purpose of these pitching limits are to protect young arms, the Board suggests that Managers review their score book before each game to determine which players are eligible to pitch. Additionally, in the spirit of sportsmanship and recognizing that the purpose of these pitching limits are to protect young arms, the Board hopes that opposing Managers and Board members attending any games will warn a Manager of a potential violation of these rules, but such a warning is not required and the failure to receive a warning will not be an excuse for violating these rules, nor negate any penalties.

8.04 No Pitcher Can Return in Same Game: A pitcher who is withdrawn from the mound, even if he remains in the defensive lineup at another position, shall not be permitted to return to the mound as a pitcher in the same game.

- (a) However, in a suspended game resumed on a later day, pitchers who had been withdrawn from the mound at the time the game was suspended may pitch on that later day, provided those pitchers have observed the required days of rest before the later, resumed game day.