

2023 Little League® Pitching Rules

Regulation VI and Rule 8.00 of the Little League® Rule Book governs pitching rules for all Little Leagues® around the globe. This supplemental guide has been drafted to help highlight and clarify many of the rules contained within these regulations. The rules within this supplemental are not comprehensive and the Little League® Rule Book should be consulted for the full list of regulations.

Note: These rules are specific to regular season play. For International Tournament play, consult the Little League® Rule Book for tournament-specific pitching regulations.

Penalty for Pitching Violations

- A violation of any section of Regulation VI can result in a protest of the game in which it occurs. Protests shall be made in accordance with Rule 4.19. – **Regulation VI(h)**
- The withdrawal of an ineligible pitcher after the 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. When a protest situation is imminent, the potential offender should be notified immediately. – **Regulation VI Note 1**
- **Minors & Majors:** When warming up, if a pitcher is discovered to be ineligible, he/she must be removed and the previous pitcher of record may not return. – **Regulation VI Note 1**

Pitching Limits – Regulation VI(c)

League Age	Per Day Pitch Limit
13-16	95
11-12	85
9-10	75
7-8	50

Rest Requirements – Regulation VI(d)

League Age 14 and Under	
66 or More Pitches	4 Calendar Days
51-65 Pitches	3 Calendar Days
36-50 Pitches	2 Calendar Days
21-35 Pitches	1 Calendar Days
1-20 Pitches	0 Calendar Days

League Age 15-16	
76 or More Pitches	4 Calendar Days
61-75 Pitches	3 Calendar Days
46-60 Pitches	2 Calendar Days
31-45 Pitches	1 Calendar Days
1-30 Pitches	0 Calendar Days

Consecutive Day Rule – Regulation VI(d)

Under no circumstances shall a player pitch in three (3) consecutive days.

Finish the Batter – Regulation VI(c) and VI(d)

If a pitcher reaches a limit or rest threshold while facing a batter, the pitcher may continue to pitch until any one of the following conditions occurs: 1) that batter reaches base; 2) that batter is retired; 3) the third out is made to complete the half-inning or the game; or 4) the pitcher is removed from the mound prior to the batter completing his/her at bat.

A pitcher's pitch count for the purposes of day(s) rest threshold is determined by the first pitch thrown to a batter. The pitcher may not start a new batter once the limit imposed in Regulation VI(c) has been met.

Catcher/Pitcher – Regulation VI(a)

- A pitcher that pitches 41 or more pitches in a game cannot play the position of catcher for the remainder of that day. The "Finish the Batter" Threshold Regulation now applies to Pitchers Moving to the Catcher Position if they start their last batter at 40 or less pitches.
- A player that plays the position of catcher in four (4) or more innings in a game is not eligible to pitch on that calendar day. Receiving one pitch to a batter in the fourth inning constitutes having caught four (4) innings. Warm-up pitches do not count, only when the ball is live will pitches count toward innings caught.
- 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. The "Finish the Batter" Threshold Regulation applies to this rule if they start their last batter at 20 or less pitches (30 or less for 15- and 16-year-olds).

Returning to the Mound – Regulation VI(b) & Rule 3.03(c)

- **Minors & Majors:** A pitcher once removed from the mound cannot return as a pitcher. When warming up, if a pitcher is discovered to be ineligible, he/she must be removed and the previous pitcher of record may not return.
- **Intermediate & Seniors:** A pitcher remaining on defense 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.

Double-Headers – Regulation VI(k)

- **Minors, Majors & Intermediate:** A player may not pitch in more than one game in a day.
- **Junior & Seniors:** A player may be used as a pitcher in up to two games in a day if the player pitched 30 or less pitches in the first game. That pitcher begins game 2 at the same pitch count at which he/she ended game 1. The total number of pitches that pitcher may pitch in both games combined is the daily maximum of 95. The "Finish the Batter" Threshold Regulation now applies to this rule if the pitchers starts their last batter in Game 1 at 30 or less pitches.

Warm Ups

- Pitchers will be allowed a maximum of eight (8) warm up pitches or one (1) minute between innings. – **Rule 8.0(3)**
- **Managers or coaches are permitted to warm up a pitcher at any time at home plate or in the bullpen or elsewhere at any time, including in-game warm-up, pre-game warm-up, and in other instances. They may also stand by to observe a pitcher during warm-up in the bullpen. – Rule 3.09**

Mound Visits

- **Majors, Intermediate & Seniors:** A manager or coach may come out once in one inning to visit with the pitcher, but the second time out, the player must be removed as a pitcher. A manager or coach may come out twice in one game to visit with the pitcher, but the third time out, the player must be removed as a pitcher. A pitcher moving to a different position and returning as the pitcher of record shall retain the number of visits from their previous appearance as pitcher. – **Rule 8.06(a) & 8.06(b)**
- **Minors:** A manager or coach may come out twice in one inning to visit with the pitcher, but the third time out, the player must be removed as a pitcher. A manager or coach may come out three time in one game to visit with the pitcher, but the fourth time out, the player must be removed as a pitcher. – **Rule 8.06(a) & 8.06(b)**
- The manager or coach is prohibited from making a third visit while the same batter is at bat. – **Rule 8.06(c)**
- Any **non-injury** related time out to speak with **any** defensive player is charged as a mound visit to the pitcher as is any visit to the mound between innings during the warm up of an existing pitcher – **Rule 8.06(d)**
- When a manager requests timeout to make a pitching change, it shall not be considered a visit to the pitcher provided the manager makes the pitching substitution prior to speaking to any defensive player. – **Rule 8.06 AR**

Intentional Walks

- **All Divisions:** The defensive manager can elect to intentionally walk a batter by announcing such decision to the plate umpire. The request can be prior to or during an at-bat. A player may only be intentionally walked by announcing such decision to the home plate umpire one time during the course of the game. This would not restrict a team from throwing four balls outside of the strike zone to this batter at another time during the game (see next bullet). The appropriate number of “balls” needed based on the count on the batter at the time of the manager’s request to complete the Intentional Walk will be added to the pitch count. – **Rule 6.08(a)(2)**
- If the team is intentionally walking by throwing 4 pitches outside the strike zone, the catcher must start each pitch in the catcher’s box and cannot leave the catcher’s box until the pitch leaves the pitcher’s hand. If the catcher is not in the catcher’s box, it is considered an illegal pitch (Minors/Majors) or balk (Intermediate 50/70, Junior League, Senior League). – **Rule 4.03(a)**

Pitch Signs

- Pitching signs shall be given through the catcher. Coaches cannot provide pitching signs directly to a pitcher – **Rule 8.01**
- The stealing and relaying of signs to alert the batter of pitch selection and/or location is unsportsmanlike behavior. If, in the judgment of the umpire this behavior is occurring, the team manager and those responsible including any player(s) and/or coach(es) shall be warned after the first offense. Those responsible including any player(s), coach(es), and/or manager shall be ejected from the game for a team's subsequent offense. – **Rule 9.01(d)**

Suspended Games

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. – **Regulation VI Note 3**