

## Senior 3/4 American/National Division Specific Rules

### **Sr. 3/4 A: Maximum Innings Pitched**

1. In the **Senior 3 A/N** Divisions, pitchers may pitch a maximum of 3 innings in a game or 4 innings in a 24-hour period.
2. One pitch to a batter in an inning constitutes an inning pitched by that pitcher. Innings pitched do not have to be consecutive.

### **Sr. 3/4 B: Coach replaces pitcher after Ball 4 in the NATIONAL DIVISION. The coach does not replace the pitcher in the AMERICAN division.** The opponents coach should come onto the field and pitch until it's hit.

Players keep the same pitch count and will stay at bat until they strike out or complete a hit. Pitches from the coach can be deemed unhittable from the umpire, this will not count towards the count.

Coach Pitchers must remain in the dugout unless they are pitching and must be ready to enter the field immediately when the player pitcher has thrown four balls. The umpire will stop play to allow for the coach pitcher to enter the playing field and take their position on the mound. No warm up pitches will be allowed,. If the coach is not ready and the umpire feels this is a delay of game, the batter will be called out.

The coach must be on the pitcher's plate when delivering the pitch.

The player pitcher is to remain on the field off to the side of the coach pitcher and is to receive all balls thrown back from the catcher or thrown in from the fielders. The ball is still considered a live ball and if the coach pitcher receives the ball, they would be called for interference. When a coach pitcher intentionally interferes with a batted ball, thrown ball, or defensive team's opportunity to make a play on another runner, the ball is dead and the runner closest to home is out. Other runners, if any, must return to the last base legally touched at the time of the interference.

If a batted ball strikes the coach pitcher, it is considered a dead ball and the batter is awarded first base and all other runners advance one base.

### **Sr. 3/4 C:** A manager is only allowed one **visit to the mound** per pitcher per inning. A pitcher must be replaced on the second visit to the mound in an inning. A visit to a pitcher while he is warming up on the mound prior to the first batter of the inning constitutes a visit. It is not considered a visit to check on a potential injury situation.

### **Sr. 3/4 D:** The only **types of pitches** that may be thrown are fastballs and changeups. The umpire can disqualify a pitcher from further pitching in that game for intentional junk pitches such as curveballs, sliders, knuckleballs, etc.

### **Sr. 3/4 E: Hit Batters** - If a pitcher hits a total of 3 batters in any game, that pitcher will be removed from pitching for the rest of that game. If an umpire rules that a pitcher intentionally hits or flagrantly attempts to hit a batter, that pitcher will be removed

from playing for the rest of that game, and J staff will be notified by the umpire. Two such occurrences of intentionally trying to hit a batter by the same pitcher could result in permanent suspension of pitching privileges. If the ball is in the strike zone when it touches the batter, it shall be called a strike, whether or not the batter tries to avoid the ball. A batter who, in the umpires' judgement, intentionally tries to be hit by a pitch will not be awarded first base and the umpire will call the pitch a ball or a strike based on location. NOTE: A pitched ball that strikes the ground first and then hits a batter is still considered to have hit the batter and he/she is awarded first base.

**Sr. 3/4 F:** Umpires shall allow pitchers up to **five on field warm-up pitches** before an inning and for new pitchers entering the game during an inning. Pitchers replacing an injured pitcher shall be given up to 8 warm-up pitches.

**Sr. 3/4 G:** **Bunting** is allowed in these divisions.

**Sr. 3/4 H:** **A foul tip** (a ball which hits the bat and is caught by the catcher before touching the ground without going higher than the batter's head) is a live ball and remains in play. Runners attempting to steal on a foul tip may advance or be put out but do not have to return to their original base before advancing. A ball that hits the bat and then the ground before being caught by the catcher is a foul ball which is a dead ball.

**Sr. 3/4 I:** The **infield fly rule** will not apply in the **NATIONAL** DIVISION, but will in the **AMERICAN** Division.

**Sr. 3/4 J:** **The dropped 3<sup>rd</sup> strike rule** is not in effect for either of these divisions.

**Sr. 3/4 K:** **Lead offs and base stealing:**

1. There are no leadoffs in the National division, there are leadoffs in the American division.
2. There are no steals in the National division, there are steals in the American division, **but only once it crosses the plate.**

**Sr. 3/4 L:** Only **in the American division** can players advance on a wild pitch or passed ball. **Runners cannot steal home** on a pitch or on a wild pitch/passed ball in the National or American division

**Sr. 3/4 M:** Delay of game must be avoided by the catcher frequently walking the ball out to the pitcher or the pitcher frequently walking in to receive the ball from the catcher.

**Sr. 3/4 N Balks –**

1. There are no balks in the **Senior 3 A/N Divisions**. However, coaches are still encouraged to teach proper pitching mechanics.

The balk rule (8.05 of the rules of Major League Baseball) is complex and technical, with 13 different actions that constitute a balk. A pitcher may be charged with a balk if, with a runner or runners on base, he:

- a. Starts his pitching motion without completing the pitch;
- b. While standing on the rubber, fakes a throw to first base (this includes turning of the shoulder towards first without completing the move and throw);
- c. While standing on the rubber, throws to a base without stepping directly toward that base;
- d. While standing on the rubber, throws or fakes a throw to an unoccupied base, unless a runner is running toward that base;
- e. Pitches from the set position without coming to a complete stop.
- f. Makes an illegal pitch, including a quick pitch;
- g. Pitches while not facing the batter;
- h. Makes any part of his pitching motion while not touching the pitching rubber;
- i. Unnecessarily delays the game;
- j. Stands on or astride the pitching rubber without the ball;
- k. After assuming the windup or set position, removes one hand from the ball except in the course of making a pitch or throw to a base;
- l. Drops the ball while standing on the pitching rubber;
- m. Pitches while the catcher is not in the catcher's box

**Sr. 3/4 O: Intentional walks** are not allowed in the SR 3/4 divisions.

**Sr. 3/4 P: Bases on overthrow** – 1 base/OT for both the American and National Division.