

2017 WIAA Pitch Count Rule & Guidelines

WIAA Pitching Limitation Rule: The WIAA Pitch Count rules is based on the number of legal and illegal pitches thrown in a game. The pitch count is based on pitches thrown to the batters during their time at bat. Warm-up pitches allowed before each inning or those warm-ups allowed by the umpire in case of injury or game delay do not count. All NFHS Substitution and Pitching Rules must be followed.

Pitch Definitions:

1 Strikes: Pitches called strikes; fouled pitches; batted pitches in fair territory.

2 Balls: Pitches determined by the umpire as outside the strike zone that batter do not attempt to hit, including hit-by-pitches, and pitches resulting in catcher interference.

Specific rest periods are in place when a pitcher reaches a high threshold of pitches delivered in a day.

All Levels of High School Baseball

MAXIMUM # OF PITCHES ALLOWED PER DAY:

***100 pitches**

*A pitcher will be able to finish the at bat if he throws a 100th pitch in a day.

The rest periods required during the WIAA regular and tournament season are listed below:

- **If a pitcher throws 76 or more pitches in a day, three (3) calendar days of rest must be observed.** *Example: If the pitcher throws more than 76 pitches on Monday, he may not take the mound again until Friday.*
- **If a pitcher throws 50-75 pitches in a day, two (2) calendar days of rest must be observed.** *Example: If the pitcher throws more than 50 pitches on Monday but 75 or fewer on Monday, he may not take the mound again until Thursday.*
- **If a pitcher throws 31-49 pitches in a day, one (1) calendar day of rest must be observed.** *Example: If the pitcher throws more than 31 pitches on Monday but 49 or fewer on Monday, he may not take the mound again until Wednesday.*
- **If a pitcher throws 1-30 pitches in a day, no calendar day of rest is required before pitching again.** *Example: If the pitcher throws 30 pitches or fewer Monday, he may take the mound again the next day.*

The starting time of the game does NOT matter in the calculation of when a pitcher is eligible to pitch again.

A pitcher at the High School Level (All Levels: Varsity, J.V. and Freshmen) who reaches the maximum pitch count limitation of **100 pitches** allowed per day during an inning; they will be afforded the opportunity to **finish pitching to the current batter** before being removed from the game.

DOCUMENTATION

The **Wisconsin Baseball Coaches Association**, in concurrence with the **WIAA**, is providing you with the following documents that are to be used as tools for recording pitch counts.

A **Pitch Count Game Log** of some type / kind must be used by every coach at every level and kept, for the duration of the entire baseball season, in a binder and taken to each and every game during the season so that it can be shared with the opposing coach and the official Pitch Count Recorder.

1 At the beginning of each game, each head coach shares their pitch count binders with the opposing head coach.

2 At the end of each half inning, each head or assistant baseball coach meets with the official Pitch Count Recorder and verifies the number of pitches thrown by the pitcher(s) the previous half inning. Coaches can use the **WBCA Pitch Chart In-Game Recorder**, also provided, to keep track during the game. *This document is not required. Many coaches use Game Changer, I-Score, etc, which can also be used to verify pitches after each half-inning.*

If the pitch counts differ, the following guidelines will be used to determine the accurate pitch count for each pitcher currently in the game:

- If a Pitch Count Recorder is present and two of the three recorders agree, the majority will be considered official.
- If a Pitch Count Recorder is present and none of the three recorders agree the Pitch Count Recorder will be considered official.
- If a Pitch Count Recorder is not present, the home recorder / counter will be considered official.

1 At the end of the game, each head coach, and the official Pitch Count Recorder will sign the Pitch Count Forms for both teams prior to leaving the field.

2 Wissports.net will have an online vehicle available for head varsity coaches to enter their pitcher's pitch counts after each game. *For 2017, it is up to each individual conference if they will use this service. This, or some other web-reporting vehicle, may be eventually required for 2018 season and beyond.*

3 If a pitcher is in violation of the pitching limits, the game will be forfeited to the non-violating team.

We may not like this...

But we don't have a choice. The National Federation, Major League Baseball, USA Baseball, and subsequently the WIAA, passed the new pitching limitations unanimously at their 2016 Annual Meeting. We, the WBCA, are doing the best we can for our membership to make the implementation of these rules as seamless as possible.

We **strongly encourage** each conference to have a baseball coaches meeting prior to the beginning of the season to talk about how each conference will implement the enforcement of these rules.

Disclaimer:

*This document was created by the **WBCA Executive Board Members** to be shared with high school baseball coaches in the state of Wisconsin as a tool to help implement the new **WIAA Pitch Count** rule for all spring and summer baseball teams.