

To: CIAC Member Schools
From: CIAC Baseball Committee
Date: November 2, 2017
Re: Modification of the Pitching Limitation Rule

Rationale: *The CIAC Baseball committee has reviewed the data collected with last year's pitch counts and have made the following modifications to the Connecticut CIAC Pitching Limitation Rule.*

1. **CIAC Pitching Limitation Rule** – This Rule applies to a pitcher regardless of the level at which he is pitching (***includes Freshman JV and Varsity and regular season, league and state championship playoffs***) and is based on the number of legal pitches thrown in a game/day. The pitch count is based on pitches thrown to the batters during their time at bat. Warm-up pitches allowed before each inning and 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.
 - If a pitcher throws 1-25 pitches in a day, no calendar day of rest is required before pitching again.
 - If a pitcher throws 26-50 pitches in a day, one (1) calendar day of rest must be observed.
 - If a pitcher throws 51-75 pitches in a day, two (2) calendar days of rest must be observed.
 - If a pitcher throws 76-110 pitches in a day, three (3) calendar days of rest must be observed.
 - ***There is a Maximum of 110 pitches per game or in any one day;***

If a pitcher reaches the 110 pitch limit while facing a batter, the pitcher may continue to pitch until one of the following occurs.

- ***The batter reaches base,***
- ***That batter is retired, or***
- ***The third out is recorded to complete that half-inning or game.***

Note: A calendar day means that if a pitcher throws 76 pitches on Tuesday, that player may not pitch again until Saturday. If they throw 25 pitches on Tuesday, the player may pitch again on the next day which is Wednesday. The starting time of the game does not matter in the calculation of when a pitcher is eligible to pitch again.

2. ***Inning by Inning Pitch Count Verification*** – *It is the responsibility of the 2 opposing coaches to confirm each other's pitch count at the end of each half inning for games at all levels of play.*
3. ***Post-game Pitch Count Certification*** – *At the conclusion of the game the 2 opposing coaches need to verify pitch counts for all pitchers used and certify the pitches thrown by signing each other's verification form for games at all levels of play. Any discrepancy will defer to the home team verification form count. (the CIAC Pitch Count Form can be found at - <http://casci.ac/2784>)*
4. ***Post-game reporting*** – *within 24 hours from the conclusion of a game at any level of play each coach will enter the pitches thrown on the CIAC website reporting form for each athlete who pitched at that level. This will now be available for viewing by CIAC member schools.*
5. **Line Up Card** - Prior to each game the coach will list the name(s) on the back of the lineup card of any pitcher who is unavailable to pitch that day as determined by the CIAC Pitching Limitation Rule.
6. **Mechanism for Counting Pitches** – Each school is required to develop a mechanism for accurately counting pitches for their own team ***as well as counting pitches for their opponents at all levels of play.***
7. **CIAC Pitching Limitation Rule Penalty** – The pitch count is based on legal pitches thrown in a game /day and the corresponding day(s) of required rest or pitching to an additional batter(s) once they have reached the maximum pitch limitation. The use of an ineligible pitcher, one who has violated this rule, shall result in the forfeiture of the game in which the ineligible pitcher participated.

CIAC PITCHING LIMITATION RULE Q & A

1. Q- How do we define a legal pitch?

- A legal pitch is any pitch thrown in a game that results in a ball, a strike (called or swinging), or a fair or foul batted ball.
- Illegal pitches, warm-up pitches, throws following any play, pick offs, and throws during or following a “balk” are NOT counted as “pitches” for the purpose of this rule.

2. Q- Does the pitch count need to be kept by an adult?

- Each school and head coach is responsible for determining the process by which pitches will be counted. As long as the result is accurate, the count can be kept by anyone. However, the head coach is ultimately responsible for certifying and reporting accurate pitch counts.

3. Q- How will pitch counts be reported?

- ALL pitch counts (at all levels – Varsity, Sophomore, Freshman) must be reported “online” on a game by game basis immediately after the game, or within 24 hours from the conclusion of the game.

4. Q- How does each team know who is ineligible to pitch on game day?

- At the home plate conference, prior to the game, each coach will list the name(s) on the back of the lineup card of any players that are ineligible to pitch that day.
- In addition, coaches can view the on line submissions of their opponent and view the pitch counts, if they want to determine the information in advance.

5. Q- Are pitch counts cumulative if a pitcher appears in more than one game in a day?

- Yes - They are cumulative and the pitch count that must be recorded is the total number of legal pitches thrown that day.
- Pitch counts also accumulate if a pitcher appears at different levels (Fr, JV, Varsity) on the same day.

6. Q- How will pitch counts be “verified” during a game?

- At the conclusion of each half-inning, each teams coach or their designee will verify the number of pitches thrown with the opposing coach.
- Verification should also be made whenever a pitching change is made.

7. Q- How will pitch count discrepancies be settled?

- Discrepancies will be settled before the next half inning begins. If the coaches cannot reach a common conclusion, the home team scorebook (pitch count) will prevail.

8. Q- How will pitch counts be certified at the conclusion of the game?

- The 2 opposing coaches will verify pitch counts for all pitchers used in the game at all levels of play (Varsity, Sophomore, Freshman), and certify the totals by signing the other teams “Pitcher Verification” form.
- If there is an unresolvable discrepancy with the pitch counts, the home team pitch count will prevail.(Note: The CIAC Pitch Verification Form will be made available and included with the tournament packet)

9. Q- Are Umpires required to count or verify pitches or settle a dispute relative to the pitch count?

- No - Pitch counts and their verification and certification are the responsibility of each school and their respective head coach.
- It is not the role of the umpire to adjudicate pitch count disputes.

10. Q- If a game is stopped and a winner cannot be determined, how will that affect the pitch counts?

- A legal pitch thrown is always a pitch counted.
- If a game is halted for any reason BEFORE it is considered to be "regulation" (NO GAME), pitch counts must be counted, verified and reported.
- A game that is halted for any reason AFTER it becomes "regulation" and a winner cannot be determined (SUSPENDED GAME), pitch counts must be verified and reported.
- Any pitcher who throws 26 or more pitches in a suspended game cannot pitch the next day.

11. Q- When a pitcher reaches a "threshold" (OTHER THAN the MAX 110 pitches) can that pitcher finish that batter without exceeding the actual threshold?

- NO- As soon as a threshold is reached (OTHER THAN 110) the pitcher can be removed or additional pitches will be counted toward the NEXT threshold.
- EXCEPTION: A pitcher who reaches the 110 pitch threshold is permitted to finish the batter they are facing without penalty until one of the following occurs: the batter reaches base; that batter is retired; or the third out is recorded to complete that half-inning or game.

12. Q- What is the penalty if a pitcher exceeds any threshold or fails to observe the required days of rest?

- Once a violation is reported to the CIAC, it becomes an eligibility issue and will be handled like all other eligibility violations.
- There are NO circumstances when the umpires declare a FORFEIT at the game site for any alleged violation.
- If confirmed to be a violation by the CIAC the game will result in a forfeit.

13. Q- Who is responsible for discovery of a violation to the pitching limitation rule and when must it be reported?

- A violation can be reported by either school and must be reported to the CIAC immediately after the violation is discovered.

14. Q- Can a pitcher be removed to another defensive position and then return to pitch?

- YES - As long as there are no other restrictions in the NFHS RULE BOOK that will preclude him from returning to the pitching position, but the pitch count continues to accumulate each time a pitcher returns to pitch.

15. Q- How do the pitch count regulations apply to an ambidextrous pitcher?

- If a pitcher is ambidextrous the pitch count limitations apply to each pitcher; not to each arm.