

Rule 24: Pitching Rules

24.01 Number of Pitches and Required Rest

Division	Spring Season	Single or Summer Season
10U & 11U	1-25 Pitches = No Rest 26-40 Pitches = 2 Night Rest 41-55 Pitches = 3 Nights Rest 56-65 Pitches = 4 Nights Rest 66-75 Pitches = 5 Nights Rest	Same as spring numbers.
13U	1-35 pitches = no rest 36-55 pitches = 2 nights rest 56-75 pitches = 3 nights rest	1-45 pitches = no rest 46-70 pitches = 2 nights rest 71-85 pitches = 3 nights rest
15U	1-35 pitches = no rest 36-65 pitches = 2 nights rest 66-85 pitches = 3 nights rest	1-45 pitches = no rest 46-75 pitches = 2 nights rest 76-95 pitches = 3 nights rest
18U	1-45 pitches = no rest 46-65 pitches = 2 nights rest 66-100 pitches = 3 nights rest	1-50 pitches = no rest 51-75 pitches = 2 nights rest 76-115 pitches = 3 nights rest (105 for 18U AA)

Note #1: Pitches thrown in warm-up, bullpen, or ruled no pitch by the umpire because time was called prior to the pitch or thrown when ruled no pitch due to a balk do not count towards pitch count.

Note #2: Pitch count is recorded after each game. A pitcher who requires rest after the first game of the day cannot pitch in the second game. Example: A 15U AAA pitcher who throws 50 pitches in game one is ineligible to pitch in game two.

Note #3: "If a pitcher has two appearances in the same day his/her total pitch count for the day is combined for the purpose of rest." For a pitcher to be eligible in the second game, they must pitch less than the minimum number before rest is required. Example #1: A 15U AAA pitcher throws 46 pitches in game one – the pitcher would not be eligible to pitch in game two. Example #2: A 15U AAA pitcher who throws 30 pitches in game one and 40 pitches in game two has thrown 70 pitches for the day and requires 2 nights rest.

Note #4: "The following is a definition of a night's rest. Example: Pitcher requires three nights rest after throwing a 1PM game on a Sunday. Pitcher rests Sunday night, Monday night, and Tuesday night and can pitch when they wake up on Wednesday morning.

Note #5 The total number of pitches thrown by an ambidextrous pitcher are counted for the purpose of calculating pitch count, regardless of which arm or combination there-of is throwing.

24.02 Exceeding Limits to Finish Batter

A pitcher is permitted to exceed the maximum limit (for a day) to complete pitching to a batter.

Note #1: Example #1: Pitcher starts a hitter at 43 pitches. At the end of the hitter the pitcher has thrown 47 pitches and the pitcher is removed. The pitcher's pitch count is recorded as 47 and they require two nights rest. Example 2: Pitcher starts a hitter at 93 pitches. At the end of the hitter the pitcher has thrown 97 pitches. The pitcher must be removed, and his pitch count is recorded as 95.

24.03 Pitching on Consecutive Days

Pitchers are not permitted to pitch on four (4) consecutive days. A player can only pitch

on a third (3rd) consecutive day if ALL the following conditions are met.

- (i) Games are during Spring Tournaments, Summer, Single Seasons or Provincials
- (ii) Their total pitch count on the 2 previous days does not exceed Spring “no rest” limit during Spring and does not exceed the Single Season or Summer Season “no rest” limit for their Division as defined under Rule 24.01.

Example: A 13U pitcher may only pitch on a 3rd day if their combined total for days 1 and 2 does not exceed 35 pitches.

24.04 Pitching and Catching on the same day

Pitching and catching on the same day is permitted at all age divisions in league and championship play between BCMBA teams unless a tournament is a Western or National hosted in BC, in which case the current Canadian Baseball Rule applies.

24.05 Suspended Games

If a game is suspended the pitchers rest would be determined based on the number of pitches thrown to that point and recorded for that day. If a pitcher is ineligible to pitch at the beginning of a game, that is suspended after the first pitch, the pitcher remains ineligible to pitch in that game when it is completed at a later date.

Approved Rulings:

- (A) 13U summer pitcher throws 70 pitches on Thursday. Friday’s game is rained out (prior to the first pitch) and rescheduled for Saturday. Pitcher is now eligible to pitch in Saturday’s makeup game.
- (B) 13U pitcher throws 70 pitches on Thursday. Friday’s game is suspended (after the first pitch) and is completed on Saturday. Pitcher is not eligible to pitch in Saturday’s continued game because they were not eligible to pitch when the game began.
- (C) 13U summer pitcher throws 70 pitches on Thursday and the game is suspended and completed on Friday. The pitcher’s 70 pitches are recorded on their Thursday pitch count. Pitcher is not eligible to pitch when the game is continued on Friday because they now require two night’s rest. If the game was completed on Saturday, the pitcher would be eligible to continue to pitch to their maximum pitch count for a day (15 more pitches). The pitches thrown in the completion of Saturday’s game would be recorded on the pitcher’s Saturday pitch count.
- (D) 13U summer pitcher throws 20 pitches in the first game on Saturday. Their second game on Saturday is suspended. When the game is completed the pitcher could only throw a maximum of 65 pitches because based on their morning, 65 pitches is all they could have thrown when the game began. Also, the pitcher must be eligible to pitch when the game is completed based on their previous day’s pitch count.

Note: These examples all use 13U summer numbers but can be applied to any division using the appropriate numbers

24.06 Pitcher Removed

A pitcher may not pitch twice in the same game. A pitcher who is removed for a pinch hitter or pinch runner during an offensive inning is considered to have been removed from the game as a pitcher for the purpose of this rule. A coach will be permitted to make a second trip to their pitcher during the same batter (if the pitcher’s pitch count is approaching the minimum rest requirement) to make a pitching change.

24.07 Rules Always in Effect

BCMBA pitching rules are always in effect for all BCMBA teams at all times regardless of whether or not the event is sanctioned by the BCMBA, BCMBA pitching rules will not be in effect for any team participating in a Western or National or other tournament where the team will be required to follow only the regulations of that governing body.

24.08 Penalty for Violations

(A) **Maximum Pitch Count Violation**

If a pitcher is about to exceed his/her maximum pitch count for the day the opposing manager and/or official scorekeeper and/or tournament director must inform the pitcher's manager before the violation occurs. If a violation is discovered after it occurs the pitcher is simply removed from the mound and no further penalty will be invoked.

(B) **Rest Rule Violation**

If a pitcher pitches without proper rest as defined in Rule 24.01 the game will be forfeited to the opposing team. Such a violation may be protested by the opposing team up to 48 hours after the game upon the discovery of the violation. At a Provincial Championship, the violation must be protested at the time it occurs.

(C) **No Eligible Players Available to Pitch**

If a team does not have any player available to pitch at any point during a game due to Pitch Count and/or Rest Rule, the game shall be forfeited to the non-offending team.

Approved Ruling:

If the violation is discovered while the ineligible pitcher is pitching, the pitcher will be removed from the mound and his manager ejected and suspended. If the violation is discovered after the ineligible pitcher has finished pitching the manager will be ejected and suspended. Games will never be forfeited at provincial championships due to any pitch count violation because the violation should have been discovered before it occurred.

24.09 Enforcement and Tracking

- (A) Managers will be responsible for tracking the pitch count of their pitchers and may assign this duty to their scorekeeper, assistant coach, etc., however it is ultimately the manager's responsibility to ensure pitch count is followed.
- (B) Each team is responsible for maintaining a log of pitches thrown by their pitchers on the form provided by BC Minor Baseball. A team may request to view their opposition's pitch count log prior to a game. A manager failing to maintain an accurate log may be reported to BC Minor Baseball and may face supplemental discipline including the forfeiture of games.
- (C) Under no circumstances will umpires be expected to track or enforce pitch count.