

**Rule 23: Pitching Rules**

**23.01 Number of Pitches and Required Rest**

<b>Division</b>	<b>Spring Season</b>	<b>Single or Summer Season</b>
Mosquito	1-25 pitches = no rest 26-40 pitches = 2 nights rest 41-55 pitches = 3 rights rest 56-65 pitches = 4 rights rest 66-75 pitches = 5 rights rest 75 pitch max for a day	Same as spring numbers.
Pee Wee	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
Bantam	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
Midget	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 (105 for Midget AA) pitches = 3 nights rest

Note #1: There are no maximum total pitch counts for a week (except in Mosquito) or tournament.

Note #2: 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 #3: 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 Bantam AAA pitcher who throws 50 pitches in game one is ineligible to pitch in game two.

Note #4: "If a pitcher has two appearances in the same day his total pitch count for the day is combined for the purpose of rest. Example 1: A Bantam 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 #5: "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, Tuesday night and can pitch when he wakes up on Wednesday morning.

Note #6: A (Mosquito) week begins at 12:01AM on Monday morning and ends at 11:59PM on Sunday night.

### **23.02 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 he requires 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.

### **23.03 Pitching on consecutive days**

Pitchers may not pitch on three consecutive days.

In the Midget division a pitcher may pitch on three consecutive days providing he has not thrown more than 45 pitches combined over the previous two days. Pitchers are not permitted to pitch on four consecutive days.

### **23.04 Pitching and Catching on the same day**

Rule deleted AGM 2009.

### **23.05 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.

### **23.06 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.

### **23.07 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 Championship where the team will be required to follow only the regulations of that governing body.

### **23.08 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 23.01 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.

**23.09 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. 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 and may face supplemental discipline including the forfeiture of games.
- (C) Under no circumstances will umpires be expected to track or enforce pitch count.
- (D) Deleted and replaced with 23.10 – AGM 2010

**23.10 Tracking at Provincial Championships**

- (A) In Provincial Championships the Host Committee shall appoint an adult who is responsible for tracking pitch count.
- (B) The Official Pitch Count Tracker must inform a manager if he is about to use an ineligible pitcher under Rule 22.05.
- (C) The Official Pitch Count Tracker shall either display a running total of each pitcher's pitch count (flip chart) and/or make a public announcement of the pitch count at the end of each inning. A coach may request the current pitch count during an inning if it does not unreasonably delay the game.
- (D) Prior to each game both Managers shall meet with the Official Pitch Count Tracker to determine which pitchers are ineligible to pitch in the game and which pitchers have pitching restrictions (ie. They may be pitched earlier in the day and can throw less than the daily maximum).

- (E) The Host Committee should maintain one “Official Copy” of the pitch count logs that should be signed by each Manager after the game. The Host Committee is encouraged to display and maintain a second copy of the pitch count logs for public view where the tournament results are posted.

Note: Associations are encouraged to adopt this procedure for local tournaments.

## **Rule 24      General Playing Rules**

### **24.01 Slide or Avoid.**

If a play is being made, or is about to be made, it is MANDATORY for players of all age groups to slide or make an effort to avoid a collision at all bases and home plate. Failure to do either will result in an automatic 'out'. The ball is dead and no runner may advance beyond the base that was last legally acquired. An umpire will have the option of ejection if the incident warrants such a measure.

### **24.02 Force Play Slide Rule**

The force-play-slide rule is to ensure the safety of all players by preventing base runners from sliding wide of the base, most often in double play situations, to take out the pivot man who is in a vulnerable position and open to injury. This rule pertains to a force-play situation at any base or home plate, regardless of the number of outs. It does not apply to tag plays. Whether or not the defense could have completed the double play or makes an attempt to complete another play has no bearing on the applicability of this rule.

On any force play, the runner must slide directly into the base (except as described in the exception below). “Directly into a base” means the runner’s entire body (feet, legs, trunk and arms) must stay in a straight line between the bases.

It is permissible for the sliding base runner’s momentum to carry him through the base on the baseline extended (see diagram), provided the slide begins before the base. The runner may not slide to either side of the base and reach in and touch the base with his hand or foot as would be legal at the professional level.

When a runner does not slide directly into the base, the umpire shall rule interference when:

- (i) Any contact occurs between the runner and fielder outside of the straight line between bases or
- (ii) The fielder is forced to avoid contact (by jumping the runner or other means) outside of the straight line between bases

Contact with the fielder is permitted only on a direct slide into the base.

Exception: A runner may slide or run away from a base only if the runner slides or runs in a direction away from the fielder in order to avoid making contact with or altering the play of the fielder. Interference shall not be called.