



MHSAA Baseball Pitch Count Limitations

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ's)

1. What happens when a pitcher moves between the varsity and JV team?

The number of counted pitches for a pitcher “go” with that individual if the student plays on multiple team levels (varsity, JV, freshmen) during a period of days. For example, if a pitcher throws 77 counted pitches on Monday for the varsity team and moves to the JV team on Wednesday, that pitcher is ineligible to pitch for JV team (or any team for that matter) on Wednesday due to his required 3 days of rest following his 77 pitches on Monday. The first day this pitcher could again pitch for any team would be on Friday.

2. What happens if a pitcher starts an at-bat with 102 counted pitches? Does he have to leave the game once he throws his 105th pitch?

If a pitcher would reach the maximum of 105 while facing a batter (but started the at-bat with less than 105), the pitcher may continue to pitch until any one of the following conditions occur:

- a. That batter reaches base.
- b. That batter is put out.
- c. The third out of the inning is made (pick off, caught stealing, etc).

3. How does the rule work if a school has a pitcher that is ambidextrous?

If a pitcher is ambidextrous, the pitch count limitations apply to the individual pitcher, not to the individual arm.

4. Can a pitcher be moved to shortstop and then return to the mound two innings later? Can a pitcher throw in both games of a doubleheader or multiple games in a tournament on a Saturday?

A pitcher that remains in the game but moves to a different defensive position may again pitch in that game if allowed by the pitch count limitation, substitution and charged conference rules. A pitcher may throw in multiple games on a calendar day but all pitches thrown on that day must be added together in establishing that pitcher's daily number of pitches.

5. Once a pitcher reaches 105 pitches in a game, can the player continue to play at another position or is the player “done for the day”?

Yes, the player can continue to play at another position. Once a pitcher reaches the maximum number of allowed daily pitches, the pitcher may play one of the eight other defensive positions with no limitation.

6. Do the pitches thrown “count” if rain, darkness or other events halt or suspend a game? Are the pitches counted if it is not a regulation game?

If a game is started and then halted, suspended or not completed due to darkness, weather or any other reason, all counted pitches must be included on the Pitching Record Form (PRF) even if the interrupted game will not be made-up or completed. A counted pitch thrown in any game situation (regulation game, suspended game, halted game, game started but abandoned) must be recorded on the PRF for purposes of this rule.

7. Are pitches thrown in a scrimmage or practice counted on the PRF for purposes of this rule?

No. Only regulation pitches thrown in a game are counted and recorded on the PRF. Remember that all regulation pitches that are thrown to a batter that result in a ball, strike (called or swinging), foul ball or fair batted ball put into play are considered a “counted pitch” for purposes of this rule. An illegal pitch, a pitch that follows a balk or timeout being called, warm-up pitches, throws when playing a batted or thrown ball and pick-off throws to a base are NOT counted under this rule.

8. How will teams report to each other during the course of the game regarding the number of pitches thrown? How will disputes be settled?

The base coach that is moving to their position in front of the opposing team’s bench/dugout will inform the opposing coach of the number of pitches thrown in the previous half inning. This method will be used in assuring that both teams are on the “same page” in terms of the number of pitches thrown by each pitcher. If the counts differ, the team who is tracking their pitcher will be considered the official count. Umpires will not become involved in any pitch count dispute between the two teams/coaches other than to facilitate the conversation.

9. Is this process any different for games played in the MHSAA tournament series (District-Finals)?

At all MHSAA tournament sites, the tournament manager must appoint a “pitch count recorder”. If the counts differ at any MHSAA tournament site, the following will be used to determine the pitch count:

- If two of the three agree (pitch count recorder and one team), the majority will be considered official.
- If none of the three agree (pitch count recorder and both teams), the pitch count recorder will be considered official.

The MHSAA tournament process should be similar to the regular season in that the base coach that is moving to their position in front of the opposing team’s bench/dugout will inform the opposing coach and pitch count recorder (who should be placed near the backstop) of the number of pitches thrown in the previous half inning. Umpires will not become involved in any pitch count dispute between the two teams/coaches and pitch count recorder other than to facilitate communication between the parties at any MHSAA tournament site.

10. How will teams track the number of pitches thrown in each game? What are the pregame responsibilities for both coaches/teams? What must happen after each game?

Each school's team (varsity, JV and freshmen) must keep a season-long log of pitches thrown on the MHSAA Pitching Record Form (PRF). This log must be available for presentation at the pre-game plate meeting if requested by the opposing coach. Following each game, the PRF must be presented to the opposing coach for verification and a signature is required following the game or last game of the doubleheader. Each line-up card **MUST** include a list of any pitcher that is ineligible to pitch that day due to a required day of rest.

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MHSAA High School (Grades 9-12) Baseball Pitch Count Limitations

Maximum Daily Pitches- 105	Required Rest
76-105 Pitches	3 Days of Rest
51-75 Pitches	2 Days of Rest
26-50 Pitches	1 Day of Rest
25 Pitches or Less	No Required Days of Rest

Definitions & Key Terms:

Day of Rest: A calendar day in which a student does not participate in any game on that day as a pitcher (starter or relief pitcher).

Counted Pitch: All regulation pitches that are thrown to a batter that result in a ball, strike (called or swinging), foul ball or fair batted ball put into play are considered a “counted pitch” for purposes of this rule. An illegal pitch, a pitch that follows a balk or timeout being called, warm-up pitches, throws when playing a batted or thrown ball and pick-off throws to a base are NOT counted under this rule.

Daily Pitches: These are all the counted pitches that are thrown on any given calendar day. If a pitcher participates in multiple games of a doubleheader or tournament on a given calendar day, those counted pitches must be added together in establishing that pitcher’s daily number of pitches.



MHSAA Middle School / Junior High (Grades 6-8) Baseball Pitch Count Limitations

Maximum Daily Pitches- 75	Required Rest
51-75	3 Days of Rest
26-50	2 Days of Rest
25 Pitches or Less	1 Day of Rest

Definitions & Key Terms:

Day of Rest: A calendar day in which a student does not participate in any game on that day as a pitcher (starter or relief pitcher).

Counted Pitch: All regulation pitches that are thrown to a batter that result in a ball, strike (called or swinging), foul ball or fair batted ball put into play are considered a “counted pitch” for purposes of this rule. An illegal pitch, a pitch that follows a balk or timeout being called, warm-up pitches, throws when playing a batted or thrown ball and pick-off throws to a base are NOT counted under this rule.

Daily Pitches: These are all the counted pitches that are thrown on any given calendar day. If a pitcher participates in multiple games of a doubleheader or tournament on a given calendar day, those counted pitches must be added together in establishing that pitcher’s daily number of pitches.

