

PITCH COUNT – FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

- 1. Is it necessary to have an adult as the person tracking the number of pitches?**

No – while the preference is to have an adult do this, during the regular season a student can be assigned to this task. Each team must have a designated pitch count recorder for each game. Beginning with section play this person shall be an adult. An Ass't Coach may fill this responsibility – it is not necessary to hire someone for this position.

- 2. If a player pitches on Tuesday and only throws 45 pitches, they may come back on one day of rest. Does that mean that they are eligible to pitch again on Wednesday if there is at least 24 hours since the last time they pitched?**

NO – a day of rest starts with the next calendar day. They could pitch again any time on Thursday.

- 3. A 10th grade player pitches in a sophomore or JV game on Monday. According to the pitch count policy for lower levels, if he throws 70 pitches he must then rest for three days, but a varsity pitcher with 70 pitches only needs two days of rest. When can he pitch again if he next pitches at the Varsity level?**

The player must complete the required amount of rest for the level at which he pitched before pitching at another level. This player could to pitch at any level on Friday.

- 4. A 9th grade player pitches for our C-Squad which is made up of only 9th graders and we only play teams with 9th graders (or below). What pitch count is used for this player?**

There is not a pitch count for players who only play at the 9th grade level and below and never play with or against students in grades 10-12. However, they should be on a pitch count that is not more than what is used for lower levels, and an even more restrictive policy should be considered.

- 5. Do I have to record the pitch counts of this 9th grade player on the MSHSL web site?**

No, that is not required, but you may do so.

- 6. Do coaches at the Sophomore or JV levels need to use the paper form to keep track of pitches of both teams during a game?**

Yes, pitches must be tracked for all games in which students in grades 10, 11 or 12 compete.

- 7. For these games, do I have to record the pitch counts on the MSHSL web site?**

Yes – pitches must be tracked for all pitchers who play with or against students in grades 10-12.

8. May pitchers who are on a day of rest participate in practice?

Yes – they may throw on an off day and may participate in practice, but care should be taken. The day immediately after pitching a player should throw very little and concentrate on conditioning. They could throw more on day two and do a bull-pen on day three. There are no policies that govern what a player has to do on a rest day or what they can do at practice.

9. When I must take a pitcher out of a game is his replacement limited to eight warm-up pitches?

Yes, unless there is an injury they are only allotted the 8 pitches. Those already in the game should be relatively loose, and those coming off the bench should be warming up in the bull pen. Coaches must plan ahead to make sure that the relief pitcher is ready to go.

10. When I take a pitcher out of the game due to the pitch count policy may he stay in the game and play another position?

Yes, this is no different than in the past. He just may not pitch any more that day.

11. If I forget to record the pitch counts after a game what should I do? What will happen?

You should go to the web site and enter the numbers as soon as possible. If there is not a report or discovery of this error, there will not be any consequences. When discovered prior to the numbers being posted, there will be a warning on the first offense. A censure on the second, one game suspension on the third and a four-game suspension if there are further violations.

12. If a pitcher hits the maximum of 105 with a 2 and 2 count on the batter he may finish that batter. If he ends up with 108 pitches how should that be recorded on the pitch count log?

On the paper form that logs the pitches for each inning, the total should show 108 and a notation can be made that he finished a batter after hitting the maximum. On the web site 105 should be listed, since he did not violate the policy.

13. What happens when I leave a pitcher in the game too long?

Your Athletic/Activities Director must file a violation report with the MSHSL office. The pitcher is an ineligible player and the game is forfeited. You will be censured by the MSHSL Board of Directors on the first offense. On a second offense, there will again be a censure and a one game suspension; third offense a censure and a four-game suspension.

14. What happens if I am censured by the Board of Directors – what does that mean?

The censure is basically a reprimand. You will be copied on a letter that is sent to your Athletic Director when the offense occurs noting that there will be a censure. After the Board meeting when the censure takes place you will receive a second letter, and copies will be sent to the AD, Principal and Superintendent.

15. Where do I go to report the pitch counts on the MSHSL website?

The link will be available on your Coaches Clipboard and we will also email you a link. You can bookmark the site and will be able to access it from a mobile device.

16. How do I look at the pitch counts for other teams?

Once on the Pitch Count on-line page, there will be a link near the top that will allow you to view the pitch count from any other team.

17. Do we have to keep the pitch counts for our opponents? Can't we just trust them to get it right?

No, both teams are to keep the count and those counts are to be compared after each half inning to verify totals. Totals must then be verified at the end of the game, with each coach signing the form for each team

18. If my starting pitcher is at 102 pitches as they start another batter, and they finish that batter with a total of 108 pitches, how is that recorded?

On the paper form used to record pitches for each game, 108 should be recorded as the total, with a note indicating that the extra three pitches were thrown while finishing a batter, after reaching the pitch count limit. On the website, the max of 105 should be reported, as this is not a violation.

19. I want to be sure that my pitcher can come back after one day of rest, so he may not throw more than 50 pitches. Does that mean I must take him out before he finishes pitching to a batter so that he does not go over 50 pitches?

NO – the pitcher may finish that batter. On the paper form record the total number of pitches thrown and indicate that the number of extra pitches that were needed to finish a batter. On the online form only 50 pitches should be recorded as that is the amount that will be used to determine the amount of rest before the pitcher is eligible to pitch. This is one reason why it is important to fill out the paper form for each game and have both coaches sign off on the form.

20. If we are only allowed to have 20 players on our roster on the website for post season play do we still put JV players on the website as well and mark them as non-varsity or lower level players so they can be identified by the JV coach when going on the site to add pitch totals?

Yes – you must enter all of your players who will be playing on a team that includes 10-12 graders or will play against teams with those in grades 10-12. The web-site allows you to enter as many names as you would like on your roster. You can then “check” those that are members of your official squad, prior to the post-season.

21. Do we count pick-off attempts or warm-up throws, as pitches?

NO – only pitches/throws to a batter count toward the pitch count

22. Do we record pitch counts for scrimmages?

NO – while the pitch count policy should be followed for scrimmages, only pitch counts from games shall be recorded.

23. We played a double-header yesterday. How is the pitch count information recorded on the chart?

The pitch count policy refers to days, not games. The limit on the number of pitches thrown is a daily limit and those pitches could happen over the course of two games. The total number of pitches thrown by each pitcher for the entire day must be recorded on the form. You must have a separate paper form for each game.

24. Can a coach use an electronic device such as a phone or a tablet to record pitch counts while in the coach's box?

While electronic devices may be used to record pitch counts, keep score, etc., the NFHF Rules do not allow the use of electronic devices in the coach's box. Coaches may not have any object with them in the coach's box, other than a stopwatch, and/or a hard copy the rule book or scorebook.

25. When I attempt to enter the pitch counts for lower level players, their names do not appear, and I am unable to add their names to the form.

For names to appear on the Pitch Count form, the names must be on your roster, which is entered on the Administrative side of the MSHSL website. You should list all of your players on the roster. Prior to the Section Tournament you can determine who is on the Official Squad. You do not have to identify your official squad at this time. You A. D. can assist you in entering that information if you are not sure how to do that.