

**ARTICLE 150  
BASEBALL**

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**1500. PITCHING LIMITATION RULE**

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CIF Sections shall adopt the following baseball pitching limitation rule:

**Thirty outs and/or three (3) appearances in a calendar week through the season.**

- A. The calendar week begins on Monday.
- B. Innings pitched in a no game; i.e., rain out, power failure, etc., shall count towards the total.
- C. If the 30th out involves a double or triple play, the team will not be penalized.
- D. An appearance is defined as a pitcher pitching at least one pitch. If a pitcher is removed from the mound to another position or to the dugout and later returns to pitch in the same game, the pitcher will be charged with a second appearance.
- E. Any violation constitutes a forfeit of the contest.

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**1501. PITCHING LIMITATION RULE – PITCH COUNT**

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In addition to 1500 above the CIF Sections shall adopt the following baseball pitching limitation rule with respect to pitch count and required days of rest:

Pitch count limits and required rest:

Level	Maximum Contest Pitch Limit	0 Days Rest Required	1 Day Rest Required	2 Days Rest Required	3 Days Rest Required
Varsity	110 Pitches	1-30 Pitches	31-50 Pitches	51-75 Pitches	76+ Pitches
Freshman; F/S; JV	90 Pitches	1-30 Pitches	31-50 Pitches	51-75 Pitches	76+ Pitches

- A. A pitcher may finish the current batter if the Maximum Contest Pitch Limit is reached during that at-bat.
- B. Pitches thrown and appearances made in a no game (i.e., rainout, power failure, etc.) shall count toward the totals.
- C. At the end of each half inning, the head coaches will confirm and both team score books will record the pitch count for all pitchers who threw a pitch in that half inning. In the case of a discrepancy, the home score book is considered the official score book.
- D. Each school must keep a record of all pitches thrown by each of their players in each game and make this available to their respective Section Office upon request.
- E. Any violation constitutes a forfeit of the contest.

Questions & Answers

**Question: If a pitch count mechanism is used that is visible to both teams, do the coaches still need to confirm the pitch count every half inning?**

**Answer: No.** If the mechanism (i.e. scoreboard add-on, flip chart behind home plate, etc.) can be seen by both teams, the coaches may use that as verification of the pitch count.

**Question: How is a day of rest defined?**

**Answer: A day of rest is defined as a calendar day.** For example, if a pitcher throws 76 or more pitches in a Monday game thus requiring three- days rest before being allowed to pitch again, those days of rest would be Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday allowing that pitcher to pitch again on Friday.

**Question: If a pitcher exceeds the maximum number of allowable pitches with respect to the required days of rest while finishing a batter, how are the required number of rest days calculated?**

**Answer: The required days of rest is determined by the actual number of pitches thrown.** For example, if a pitcher starts a batter with 48 pitches, finishes the batter with 53 pitches and is then removed from the game, that pitcher would be required to rest for two days before making another appearance.

**Question: What, if any role, do the umpires play in the confirmation and recording of the pitch count after each half inning?**

**Answer: The umpires are asked to ensure that the teams are exchanging the required information but the actual recording of the pitch count is up to the head coach from each school.**

**Question: If an intentional walk is issued to the batter and no pitches are delivered to home plate, are those pitches counted towards the pitcher's total number?**

**Answer: No.** Those pitches would not count towards the pitcher's total number

**Question: In the case of balk, when does a pitch count towards the pitcher's total number?**

**Answer: A pitch would only count if the ball is delivered to the batter.**

**Question: If a batter is awarded timeout by the umpire but the pitcher still delivers the ball to the batter, does that pitch count towards the pitcher's total number?**

**Answer: No.** That pitch would not count towards the pitcher's total number.

**Question: Does the Pitch Count reset each Monday like the 30 Out Rule?**

**Answer: No.** While the 30 Out Rule will reset each Monday, the Pitch Count Rule will not. For example, if a pitcher throws 76+ pitches in a game on Saturday, they would have to rest on Sunday, Monday and Tuesday before being eligible to pitch again on Wednesday.

**Question: May the same pitcher appear in two different games on the same day?**

**Answer: Yes.** However, they may only do so if they threw 30 pitches or less in the first game and are not required to rest. Also, they may not throw more than 110 pitches total for the day.

**Question: What is the protest protocol for a possible violation of the pitch count Bylaw?**

**Answer: A school wishing to protest should follow the normal protocol of immediately informing the umpire that it is playing the game under protest. The contest will continue and the protest will be forwarded to the local league and/or CIF Section Office for review depending on the protocols in place for handling protocols in that Section.**

**Question: Does the above protocol preclude the Section from assessing a forfeiture for a violation of the pitch count Bylaw that is brought to them after the competition of the contest?**

**Answer: No.** The above protocol simply outlines how a dispute is to be handled during a contest.

**Question: Do pitches thrown and appearances made in an incomplete inning during a suspended game count toward the totals?**

**Answer: Yes.**

(Approved January 2017 Federated Council)

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#### **1502 OFFICIALS NATIONAL FEDERATION AUTHENTICATION MARK**

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Only balls with the National Federation authentication mark shall be used in the sports of baseball, basketball, field hockey, football, lacrosse, soccer, softball, volleyball and water polo.

(Revised to include Lacrosse November 2000 Federated Council)

**1502.1 All baseball games in the CIF Southern Section will be played under National Federation rules unless otherwise provided herein.**

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#### **1503. PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT**

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It is required that adult base coaches wear a protective helmet. Play will not continue until compliance with this rule is met. It is recommended that the helmet meet NOCSAE standards.

**NOTE: NFHS rules govern use of protective equipment by a player/student. (Approved January 2015 Federated Council)**

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#### **<>1504. REGIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS**

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A Regional Championship will be held following the completion of the CIF Section playoffs. The CIF Seeding Committee will determine the divisional placement if the Section entries for their respective regional tournament.

**(Approved January 2020 Federated Council)**

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#### **<>1505. SCRIMMAGES**

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An interscholastic scrimmage in baseball is a training session between a minimum of two and a maximum of three schools where no score is kept, free substitution and time-outs are permitted, spectators are not urged to attend, and officials are not paid. (See Question following Bylaw 220.8 for definition.) Schools are permitted one interscholastic scrimmage which may not be held prior to March 19 and must be held prior to the team's first interscholastic contest (non-league, tournament, or league).

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**#1506. TOURNAMENTS**

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A team may not be entered in more than three tournaments.

#1506.1 For each tournament, a team will be charged two games toward the allowable maximum number of contests.

**QUESTION:** Can a school enter two teams in the same tournament at the same level (i.e. varsity "A" and varsity "B")?

**ANSWER:** If a school chooses to split a single team into two teams in the same tournament at the same level they will be charged one allotted tournament for each team entered. If a school enters a varsity "A" and a varsity "B" team, they will be charged for two (2) of the allowable three (3) tournaments for the season.

#1506.2 All tournaments, regardless of the number of teams participating, are allowed a maximum of 5 games while still counting as 2 of your allowable contests.

#1506.3 Tournament managers are responsible for notifying participating schools of the number of games and/or teams participating in the tournament.

NOTE: Two contests could be played in the SAME TOURNAMENT only, but not two games in two different tournaments (see Bylaw 1513).

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**<>1507. STARTING DATES FOR INTERSCHOLASTIC CONTESTS**

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No interscholastic contest (non-league, tournament or league) may be scheduled prior to March 19.

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**#1508. MAXIMUM TEAM CONTESTS**

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A baseball team will be permitted to play no more than 20 games during the season, including tournaments, but excluding CIF Southern Section playoffs.

#1508.1 FACULTY: Each team will be permitted to play one game with the faculty which will not count toward the allowable number of contests.

#1508.2 ALUMNI: Each team will be permitted to play one Alumni contest, which will not count toward the allowable number of contests.

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**#1509. DOUBLEHEADER**

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A school may select any two non-league games and play each as a doubleheader. Each of these doubleheaders would count as one of the 20 allowable contests.

#1509.1 Both games of the doubleheader must be between the same two schools.

#1509.2 The maximum amount of time between games shall be no more than 35 minutes.

NOTE: If schools play a league doubleheader contest, it will count as 2 contests.

**QUESTION:** May a school play more than two doubleheaders during a season?

**ANSWER:** Yes, with CIF-SS office approval. However, each doubleheader after the allowable two would count as single contests charged against your allowable 20 in a season.

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**<>1510. END OF COMPETITION**

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All league competition for entries must end on or before Friday, May 28. Schools may compete until May 29 for non-league contests.

**QUESTION:** Will contest(s) played after the completion of league play and/or submission of league entries impact seeding or rankings?

**ANSWER:** No, once the league entries have been submitted a school will be seeded and ranked based on a team's results as of May 28.

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**1511. OUTSIDE COMPETITION BY AN INDIVIDUAL**

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*During Individual's Season of Sport*—A member of a high school baseball team may not, during his or her season of sport, compete for an outside team in the sport of baseball. A season of sport is defined as that period which begins with student's first interscholastic competition (non-league, tournament or league game) and ends with that student's last interscholastic contest (non-league, tournament or CIF Southern Section playoff). (See Bylaw 504.)

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**1512. LEVEL OF COMPETITION**

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Refer to Blue Book Bylaw 1226 for specific information on Level of Competition.

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**1513. MAXIMUM ATHLETIC CONTESTS IN ONE DAY**

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Refer to Blue Book Bylaw 1227 for specific information on Maximum Contests in one day.

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**1514. SCHOOL ATTENDANCE**

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Refer to Blue Book Bylaw 1228 for specific information on standards for School Attendance

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**1515. BASEBALL SEPARATE AND DISTINCT FROM SOFTBALL**

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The sport of baseball is considered to be separate and distinct from the sport of softball and competition by a school baseball player on an outside softball team during the individual's baseball season is permissible. Slow-pitch is considered to be softball.

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**1516. GAME TIME LIMIT/NIGHT GAME TIME LIMIT**

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In all non-varsity contests, no new inning will start after two and one-half hours have elapsed from the start of a regulation game (five innings or four and one-half innings with the host team ahead in the score).

In any night baseball game, no inning will be permitted to start after 11:30 p.m., with the exception of the CIF Southern Section championship game.

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**1517. COACHES IN UNIFORM**

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No adult coach or player may coach from the first or third base coaching box who is not in uniform. Students must be eligible to be in coaching boxes.

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**1518. SPORTSMANSHIP**

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Contrary to certain aspects of professional baseball, the players and coaches on CIF Southern Section baseball team are expected to accept the umpires' decisions and to refrain from unsportsmanlike gestures and remarks to opposing players and umpires. It is the direct responsibility of the coach to control such unsportsmanlike actions and remarks on the part of his players or bench. In the event the coach does not accept this responsibility; the umpire shall have the right to remove the offender from the scene of the contest.

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**1519. COUNTING A TIE GAME**

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A regulation *called* game with a tie score shall be counted as ½ game won and ½ game lost for each team. This rule will apply to all contests and leagues may not waive this rule.

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**<>1520. PLAYER CONDUCT**

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Refer to Blue Book Bylaw 1224 for specific information on Player Conduct.

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**<>1521. COACH EJECTION**

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Refer to Blue Book Bylaw 125.1 and 1225 for specific information on Coach Ejection.

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**#1522. SUNDAY RESTRICTION**

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Refer to Blue Book Bylaw 1229 for specific information on Sunday Restriction.

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**#1523. NOISEMAKERS PROHIBITED**

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Refer to Blue Book Bylaw 1230 for specific information on Noisemakers.

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**#1524. PLAYOFFS**

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Refer to Article 33 (Playoffs) for information regarding playoff information. (Specific information will be contained in playoff information bulletins.)

1524.1 Prior to each playoff contest, the coach of the host team will type out the ground rules on a card and will present a copy to both umpires and the opposing coach.

1524.2 Teams entered in the baseball playoffs will not be permitted to take batting practice on the day of a playoff game prior to the commencement of the contest or during the contest. (See playoff bulletin for definition of batting practice.)