

ARTICLE 150
BASEBALL

1500. PITCHING LIMITATION RULE – 30 OUTS

Sections shall adopt the following baseball pitching limitation rule: 30 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., rainout, power failure, etc.) shall count toward 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 (1) 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.

1501. PITCHING LIMITATION RULE – PITCH COUNT

In addition to Bylaw 1500 above, 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.

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 protests 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 completion 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 towards the totals?*

ANSWER: Yes.

(Approved January 2017 Federated Council)

1502. OFFICIAL NATIONAL FEDERATION AUTHENTICATION MARK

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

(Revised to include lacrosse November 2000 Federated Council/Editorial May 2023)

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

1503. PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT

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)

<>1504. REGIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

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

NOTE: Sections still determine their own criteria for placement and seeding of schools within their own local playoff system.

(Approved May 2001 Federated Council/Revised 2002 Executive Committee/Revised February 2005 Federated Council/Revised May 2008 Federated Council/Revised May 2012 Federated Council/Revised May 2014 Federated Council/Revised October 2015 Federated Council/Revised April 2017 Federated Council)

<>1504.1 All baseball games in the CIF Southern Section will be played under National Federation baseball rules unless otherwise provided herein.

<>#1505. STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

A State Championship will be held following the CIF Regional Championship. The Regional Champions will compete for the State Championship. (Approved Federated Council April 2026)

<>#1506. SCRIMMAGES

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, and spectators are not urged to attend. (See Question following Bylaw 220.8 for definition.) Schools are permitted two interscholastic scrimmages which may not be held prior to February 8 and must be held prior to the team's first interscholastic contest (non-league, tournament, or league).

<>#1507. STARTING DATES FOR INTERSCHOLASTIC CONTESTS

No interscholastic contest (non-league, tournament or league) may be scheduled prior to February 8.

#1508. MAXIMUM TEAM CONTESTS

A baseball team will be permitted to play no more than 28 games during the season, including tournaments, but excluding CIF Southern Section, CIF State playoffs, Section Foundation or Scholarship Games or League culminating tournament.

#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.

<>#1509. END OF COMPETITION

All competition must end on or before Thursday, April 29.

QUESITON: Are contest(s) at any level allowed after the submission of league entries?

ANSWER: No, once the league entries have been submitted no other contest(s) are allowed to be played. See last allowable contest date on the sports calendar.

#1510. OUTSIDE COMPETITION BY AN INDIVIDUAL

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.)

#1511. BASEBALL SEPARATE AND DISTINCT FROM SOFTBALL

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.

#1512. GAME TIME LIMIT/NIGHT GAME TIME LIMIT

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.

#1513. COACHES IN UNIFORM

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.

#1514. SPORTSMANSHIP

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.

#1515. COUNTING A TIE GAME

A regulation *called* game with a tie score shall be counted as $\frac{1}{2}$ game won and $\frac{1}{2}$ game lost for each team. This rule will apply to all contests and leagues may not waive this rule.

#1516. PLAYOFFS

Refer to Article 35 (Playoffs) for information regarding playoff information. (Specific information will be contained in playoff information bulletins.)

#1516.1 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.

#1516.2 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.)