

PITCHING RULES

8.00—THE PITCHER

8.01—LEGAL PITCHING DELIVERY

There are two legal pitching positions, the Windup Position and the Set Position, and either position may be used at any time. Pitchers shall take signs from the catcher or from the dugout while standing on the rubber. Pitchers may disengage the rubber after taking their signs but may not step quickly onto the rubber and pitch. This may be judged a quick pitch by the umpire. When the pitcher disengages the rubber, he must drop his hands to his sides. Pitchers will not be allowed to disengage the rubber after taking each sign.

(a) THE WINDUP POSITION

(1) The pitcher shall stand facing the batter, his pivot foot in contact with the pitcher's plate, and the other foot free. From this position any natural movement associated with his delivery of the ball to the batter commits him to the pitch without interruption or alteration. He shall not raise either foot from the ground, except that in his actual delivery of the ball to the batter, he may take one step backward and one step forward with his free foot.

(2) When a pitcher holds the ball with both hands in front of his body, with his pivot foot in contact with the pitcher's plate and his other foot free, he will be considered in the Windup Position.

(3) In the Windup position, a pitcher is permitted to have his "free" foot on the rubber, in front of the rubber, behind the rubber or off the side of the rubber.

(4) From the Windup Position, the pitcher may:

- (i) deliver the ball to the batter, or
- (ii) step and throw to a base in an attempt to pick-off a runner, or
- (iii) disengage the rubber (if he does he must drop his hand to his sides).

In disengaging the rubber the pitcher must step off with his pivot foot and not his free foot first. He may not go into a Set position stance from the Windup stance or from the Windup stance to the Set position stance without disengaging the rubber - if he does it is a balk.

(b) THE SET POSITION

(1) The Set Position shall be indicated by the pitcher when he stands facing the batter with his pivot foot in contact with, and his other foot in front of the pitcher's plate, holding the ball in both hands in front of his body and coming to a complete stop.

(2) From such Set Position he may deliver the ball to the batter, throw to a base or step backward off the pitcher's plate with his pivot foot.

(3) Before assuming the Set position, the pitcher may elect to make any natural preliminary motion such as that known as "the stretch". But if he so elects, he shall come to the Set Position before delivering the ball to the batter. After assuming the Set position, any natural motion associated with his delivery of the ball to the batter commits him to the pitch without alteration or interruption.

(4) Prior to coming to a set position, the pitcher will be allowed to turn his shoulder to check the runner(s) on base and the pitcher shall have one hand on his side: from this position he shall go to his set position without interruption and in one continuous motion.

(5) The pitcher, following his stretch, must (a) hold the ball in both hands in front of his body and (b) come to a complete stop. This must be enforced. Pitchers are constantly attempting to "beat the rule" in their efforts to hold runners on bases and in cases where the pitcher fails to make a complete "stop" called for in the rules, the umpire should immediately call a "Balk". **NOTE:** With no runners on base, the pitcher is not required to come to a complete stop when using the Set position. If, however, in the umpire's judgment, a pitcher delivers the ball in a deliberate effort to catch the batter off guard, this delivery shall be deemed a quick pitch, for which the penalty is a ball.

(6) At any time during the pitcher's preliminary movements and until his natural pitching motion commits him to the pitch, he may throw to any base provided he steps directly toward such base before making the throw. Stepping at a 45-degree angle is acceptable. For instance, stepping directly toward a base is considered acceptable if the pitcher steps at a 45-degree angle between the center of pitcher's plate and between home and first base.

(7) The pitcher shall step "ahead of the throw". A snap throw followed by the step directly toward the base is a balk.

(8) If the pitcher makes an illegal pitch with the bases unoccupied, it shall be called a ball unless the batter reaches first base on a hit, an error, a base on balls, a hit batter or otherwise.

(9) A ball that slips out of a pitcher's hand and crosses the foul line shall be called a ball; otherwise it will be called a no pitch. This would be a balk with men on base.

(10) If the pitcher removes his pivot foot from contact with the pitcher's plate by stepping backward with that foot, he thereby becomes an infielder and if he makes a wild throw from that position, it shall be considered the same as a wild throw by any other infielder. The pitcher, while off the rubber, may throw to any base. If he makes a wild throw, such throw is the throw of an infielder and what follows is governed by the rules covering a ball thrown by a fielder.

8.02—(a) The pitcher shall not -

(1) Bring the pitching hand in contact with his mouth or lips while in the 18 foot circle surrounding the pitching rubber. **EXCEPTION:** The pitcher shall not be allowed to go to the mouth with the hands or fingers if he is not in contact with the pitchers plate without distinctly wiping off his hand or fingers before touching the ball. Before removing a pitcher from the mound, the umpire shall issue a warning to the pitcher involved.

(2) Apply a foreign substance of any kind to the ball;

(3) Spit on the ball, either hand or his glove;

(4) Rub the ball on his glove, person or clothing

(5) Deface the ball in any manner

6) Have on his person, or in his possession any foreign substance;

NOTE: The pitcher, of course, is allowed to rub the ball between his bare hands.

PENALTY: For violation of this part of rule 8.02(a), the umpire shall immediately call the pitch a ball. However, if the pitch is made and a batter reaches first base on a hit, an error, a hit batsman, or otherwise, and no other runner is put out before advancing at least one base, the play shall proceed without reference to the violation. Even though the offense elects to take the play, the violation shall be recognized and the umpire will ask that the pitcher be removed from the mound. In the judgment of the umpire, the pitcher did not intend, by his act, to alter the characteristics of a pitched ball, then the umpire will warn the pitcher in lieu of removing the pitcher from the mound. If the pitcher persists in violating the rules, the umpire shall apply the penalty (remove the pitcher from the mound). The umpire shall be sole judge on whether any portion of this rule has been violated.

* (b) Intentionally delay the game by throwing the ball to players other than the catcher, when the batter is in position, except in an attempt to retire a runner. **PENALTY:** If, after warning by the umpire, such delaying action is repeated, the pitcher shall be ejected from the game.

(c) Intentionally Pitch at the Batter. If, in the umpire's judgment, such a violation occurs, the umpire may elect either to: (i) Expel the pitcher, or the manager and the pitcher, from the game, or (ii) may warn the pitcher and the manager of both teams that another such pitch will result in the immediate expulsion of that pitcher (or a replacement) and the manager. If, in the umpire's judgment, circumstances warrant, both teams may be officially "warned" prior to the game or at any time during the game. To pitch at a batter's head is unsportsmanlike and highly dangerous. It should be and is condemned by everybody. Umpires should act without hesitation in enforcement of this rule.

8.03—When a pitcher takes his position at the beginning of each inning, or when he relieves another pitcher, he shall be permitted to pitch not to exceed eight preparatory pitches to his catcher during which play shall be suspended. A league by its own action may limit the number of preparatory pitches to less than eight preparatory pitches. Such preparatory pitches shall not consume more than one minute of time. If a sudden emergency causes a pitcher to be summoned into the game without any opportunity to warm up, the umpire in chief shall allow him as many pitches as the umpire deems necessary.

8.04—When the bases are unoccupied, the pitcher shall deliver the ball to the batter within 20 seconds after he receives the ball. Each time the pitcher delays the game by violating this rule, the umpire shall call "Ball." The intent of this rule is to avoid unnecessary delays. The umpire shall insist that the catcher return the ball promptly to the pitcher, and that the pitcher take his position on the rubber promptly. Obvious delay by the pitcher should instantly be penalized by the umpire.

8.05—If there is a runner, or runners, it is a balk when -

a) The pitcher, while touching his plate, makes any motion naturally associated with his pitch and fails to make such delivery; If a left-handed or right handed pitcher swings his free foot past the back edge of the pitcher's rubber, he is required to pitch to the batter except to throw to second base on a pick-off play.

b) The pitcher, while touching his plate, feints a throw to first base and fails to complete the throw;

c) The pitcher, while touching his plate, fails to step directly toward a base before throwing to that base; Requires the pitcher, while touching his plate to step directly toward a base before throwing to that base. If a pitcher turns or spins off of his free foot without actually stepping or if he turns his body and throws before stepping, it is a balk.

A pitcher is to step directly toward a base before throwing to that base but does not require him to throw (except to first base only) because he steps. It is possible, with runners on first and third, for the pitcher to step toward third and not throw, merely to bluff the runner back to third; then seeing the runner on first start for second, turn and step toward and throw to first base. This is legal. However, if with runners on first and third, the pitcher, while in contact with the rubber, steps toward third and then immediately and in practically the same motion "wheels" and throws to first base, it is obviously an attempt to deceive the runner at first base, and in such a move it is practically impossible to step directly toward first base before the throw to first, and such a move shall be called a balk. Of course, if the pitcher steps off the rubber and then makes such a move, it is not a balk.

(d) The pitcher, while touching his plate, throws, or feints a throw to an unoccupied base, except for the purpose of making a play;

(e) The pitcher makes an illegal pitch; A quick pitch is an illegal pitch. Umpires will judge a quick pitch as one delivered before the batter is reasonably set in the batter's box. With runners on base the penalty is a balk; with no runners on base, it is a ball. The quick pitch is dangerous and should not be permitted.

- (f) The pitcher delivers the ball to the batter while he is not facing the batter;
- (g) The pitcher makes any motion naturally associated with his pitch while he is not touching the pitcher's plate;
- (h) The pitcher unnecessarily delays the game;
- (i) The pitcher, without having the ball, stands on or astride the pitcher's plate or while off the plate, he feints a pitch;
- (j) The pitcher, after coming to a legal pitching position, removes one hand from the ball other than in an actual pitch, or in throwing to a base;
- (k) The pitcher, while touching his plate, accidentally or intentionally drops the ball;
- (l) The pitcher, while giving an intentional base on balls, pitches when the catcher is not in the catcher's box;
- * (m) The pitcher delivers the pitch from Set Position without coming to a stop.

PENALTY: Majors/AAA/AA Divisions — **NO PENALTY:** Any pitch or any action by the pitcher construed as a balk by the umpire shall be declared a no pitch. The ball is dead and no runner shall advance.

NOTE: Any action by the batter or any member of the offensive team, including the coaches, that, in the opinion of the umpire-in-chief, causes a pitcher to commit an illegal pitch or balk shall result in the pitch being declared a no pitch. The ball shall be dead and no runners shall advance.

* **PENALTY:** "O" Zone Division— The ball is dead immediately. All runners on base shall be entitled to advance one base without liability to be put out.

* **DYB APPROVED RULING:** In cases where a pitcher balks and throws wild, the ball is dead. The runner(s) are advanced in accordance with the "O" Zone balk rule.

DYB APPROVED RULING: A runner who misses the first base to which he is advancing and who is called out on appeal shall be considered as having advanced one base for the purpose of this rule.

Umpires should bear in mind that the purpose of the balk rule is to prevent the pitcher from deliberately deceiving the base runner. If there is doubt in the umpire's mind, the "intent" of the pitcher should govern. However, certain specifics should be borne in mind: (a) Straddling the pitcher's rubber without the ball is to be interpreted as intent to deceive and ruled a balk. (b) With a runner on first base the pitcher may make a complete turn, without hesitating toward first, and throw to second. This is not to be interpreted as throwing to an unoccupied base.

8.06—The following rule governs the visit of the manager or coach to the pitcher or other defensive players:

(a) This rule limits the number of visits a manager or coach may make to any one pitcher or other defensive players in any one inning;

(b) A third visit during the same inning to talk to his defensive players while the same pitcher is on the mound will cause the pitcher's automatic removal from the mound but not the game;

(c) Reserved

(d) Reserved

8.07—**PITCHING REQUIREMENTS (Regular Season Only)**—These pitching restrictions apply only to regular season play. Rule 8.07 is replaced in its entirety for tournament play only by a completely new set of tournament pitching requirements

(See Tournament Rules Section VII). No manager, group of managers, neither district director nor anyone else shall waive any pitching requirement unless specifically stated in the following regulations. The intent of this statement shall be to prohibit a so-called gentlemen's agreement, and any such agreement shall be grounds for protest by any Dixie Youth Baseball official. **NOTE: For the purposes of satisfying any portion of Rule 8.07, the pitching of one (1) pitch shall be counted as the pitching of one (1) inning. [Applies to sections (a) through (d)].**

(a)—A pitcher shall not pitch more than six innings between Monday through the following Sunday night except that in a tie game at the end of six innings or more, a pitcher who has pitched in six consecutive innings in the same game may pitch in a seventh consecutive inning. Under no other condition shall a pitcher pitch in more than six innings in one game. **NOTE:** The pitcher shall be charged only for the innings pitched. If a pitcher does not have to pitch the bottom half of an inning he is NOT charged for that inning.

(b)—A pitcher may pitch in two games in the same day provided he does not pitch more than two innings in the first game and does not pitch more than a total of six innings in both games on the same day.

(c)—A pitcher after pitching in four (4) or more innings in the same game or on the same day shall have a minimum of thirty-six (36) hours rest before becoming eligible to pitch in another game. The rest period shall begin when the pitcher leaves the mound. For the purpose of this rule, the pitching of one pitch shall be counted as the pitching of one inning.

(d) - A pitcher removed from the mound for any reason shall not return to the mound to pitch during the same game.

(e) - Innings pitched in games declared "no contest" shall count. **NOTE:** No innings pitched shall be charged to the pitchers that are listed in the batting order of both teams handed to the official scorer in games forfeited before actual play begins.

(f) - In a single playoff game or a best-of-three series played in a local league series between regular season teams, a pitcher shall not pitch in more than a total of six innings in the playoff game or best-of-three series. Exception: A pitcher who pitches all six innings in a single game may pitch a seventh inning only if the game is tied after he has pitched in six consecutive innings in the same game. This may be a playoff game or a best-of three-series to determine a regular season league champion or a first or second half winner in the event two or more teams

are tied at the end of the season or either half. The six innings per week limitation in 8.07(a) above shall not apply to games played under 8.07(f) and all pitchers shall be eligible to pitch in such playoff games or series provided they have had at least 36 hours rest since pitching in four or more innings in any game. All other local league rules shall apply. The consecutive game rule shall not apply.

(g) - Local leagues that play regular season teams in a double elimination tournament bracket to decide a league championship or for a regular season local league tournament must use Tournament Pitching Rules in Tournament Rule VII. A pitcher shall not pitch in more than a total of thirteen innings in a double elimination tournament. Exception: A pitcher who pitches all six innings in a single game may pitch a seventh inning only if the game is tied after he has pitched in six consecutive innings in the same game. The six innings per week limitation in 8.07(a) above shall not apply to games played under 8.07(g) and all pitchers shall be eligible to pitch in such tournaments provided they have had at least 36 hours rest since pitching in four or more innings in any game. All other local league rules shall apply. The consecutive game rule shall apply.

(h) - Multi- league organizations that play a best-of-three series or a double elimination bracket format for three or more tournament teams to determine the official host team for a District, State or World Series host team must use Tournament Pitching Rules in Tournament Rule VII. The six innings per week limitation in 8.07(a) above shall not apply to games played under 8.07(f) and all pitchers shall be eligible to pitch in such playoff games, series or tournaments provided they have had at least 36 hours rest since pitching in four or more innings in any game. The consecutive game rule shall apply. All other local league rules shall apply.

NOTE: The responsibility for the above rules shall be with the managers of the competing teams. However, when the official scorer has knowledge of an illegal pitcher, the official scorer is directed to notify the defensive teams' manager prior to the pitcher making his first pitch in order to prevent a violation of these pitching rules. After a pitching violation occurs, no one shall call attention to the violation except the opposing manager.

Tournament Pitching Rules

No manager, group of managers, neither district director nor anyone else shall waive any tournament pitching rule unless specifically stated in the following rules. The intent of this statement shall be to prohibit a so-called gentlemen's agreement, and any such agreement shall be grounds for protest by any Dixie Youth Baseball official.

(A)— All players on the tournament team roster shall be eligible to pitch. **NOTE:** Any player warming up a pitcher on the mound, in a bullpen, or elsewhere shall wear a catcher's mask with helmet and throat protector even if the mask has a manufactured extension at the bottom of the mask. **A batting helmet cannot be used to warm up a pitcher.**

(B)—A pitcher shall be charged with an inning pitched for any part of an inning, including a single pitch. A pitcher shall be charged only for the innings pitched. If a pitcher does not have to pitch the bottom half of an inning, he is NOT charged for that inning.

(C)—Innings pitched in games declared no contest shall count.

(D)—In the event a game is conceded according to Rule VIII(A), the innings remaining to be played shall not be charged to the pitchers of both teams.

* (E)—**INNING RESTRICTIONS ON PITCHERS**—Pitchers shall be governed by Rule 3.03(c), Rule 3.05(a) & (b) and Rule 3.08(1) during tournament play and shall adhere to the following restrictions:

*(1) A pitcher shall pitch only thirteen (13) innings in the same tournament. For the purpose of this rule, any combination of innings adding to 13 shall be permitted. **EXCEPTION:** In 12-Team and 16-Team double elimination tournaments ONLY, a pitcher may pitch in up to 15 innings during the tournament.

*(2) A pitcher shall not pitch more than six innings in any one game except that in a tie game at the end of six innings or more, a pitcher who has pitched in six consecutive innings in the same game may pitch in a seventh consecutive inning. In the event he pitches seven (7) consecutive innings, all seven (7) innings are charged against the total innings allotted him for the tournament.

(3) In a championship series decided by a best of three (3) games, a pitcher shall pitch only six innings in the series except that in a tie game at the end of six innings or more, a pitcher, who has pitched in six consecutive innings in the same game, may pitch in a seventh consecutive inning.

(4) A pitcher may pitch in two games in the same day provided he does not pitch more than two innings in the first game and does not pitch more than a total of six innings in the games on the same day. A pitcher who pitches in four (4) or more innings in the same game shall be subject to the 36-hour rest rule in paragraph (G) below.

(5) Multi-league organizations that play a best-of-three series or a double elimination tournament with three or more teams to determine the official host for a District, State or World Series must use Tournament Pitching Rules in Tournament Rule VII.

(F)—**CONSECUTIVE GAME RULE** — A pitcher shall not pitch in consecutive games played by his team in the same tournament if he has pitched in three (3) or more innings of the previous game.

EXCEPTION: In tournaments conducted under the standard N.C.A.A. double elimination bracket or in any tournaments in which three teams remain in competition, each with one defeat, the consecutive game rule shall be waived (into the championship game only) for the team that did not draw the bye. The consecutive game rule remains in effect for the team that did draw the bye. The 36-hour rest rule remains in effect for all pitchers on both teams and shall never be waived for any reason.

NOTE: The only time this exception is in effect is when there are three teams remaining with one loss each and all three teams have played the same number of games. If the exception applies, then the pitchers for the teams that did not draw the bye are not subject to the 2 inning restriction in Tournament Rule VII, Paragraph (E)(4) when the semi-final and the championship game are scheduled as a double-header.

(G)—**36-HOUR REST RULE** — A pitcher after pitching in four (4) or more innings in a game must have a minimum of thirty-six (36) hours rest and satisfy the Consecutive Game Rule before becoming eligible to pitch in another tournament game. The rest period shall begin at the time the pitcher leaves the mound.

EXCEPTION: In a suspended tournament game which is resumed on the next available day, the 36-hour rest period shall begin when the pitcher leaves the mound only if the pitcher threw in four (4) or more innings in the game.

(H)—All pitchers shall be eligible at the beginning of each level of tournament play provided they have had 36 hours of rest after pitching four (4) or more innings in a game. **NOTE:** Where districts are divided in sub-districts, the sub-district and district tournaments shall be considered separate tournaments for the application of these pitching rules.

Example A: The final game of a tournament is completed on Tuesday, and the next tournament begins the following day. Any pitcher who pitched in four or more innings in one game on Tuesday shall not be eligible to pitch on Wednesday even though it is a separate tournament, because he has not had the 36 hours rest.

Example B: A pitcher completes his local league season on Wednesday and is credited with four innings in a game as a pitcher. Tournament play begins the following day. The pitcher shall not be eligible to pitch in the tournament until he has had the 36 hours rest.

SPECIAL NOTE: For the purpose of these pitching rules, every series or tournament qualifying a winner

shall be considered a level of tournament play and the consecutive game rule shall not apply from one level to the next; however, the 36-hour rest rule is in effect. For example, a pitcher pitches the final game of a sub-district tournament. He shall be eligible to pitch the first game of the district tournament, if the 36-hour rest rule is complied with.

(I)—A pitcher may not return to the mound as a pitcher during the same game. **EXCEPTION:** A pitcher who is replaced in the batting order by a pinch hitter or a pinch runner may return to the mound to pitch provided no other pitcher on the same team has thrown a pitch and all other requirements of the substitution rule are enforced.

NOTE: A pitcher removed from the game or line-up for a substitute may return to the game in another defensive position provided all other provisions of substitution rules are observed but may not return to the mound as a pitcher except in accordance with the exception listed in paragraph (I) above.

(J)—A player who is brought in to pitch from another position without benefit of sideline warm-up shall be permitted ten (10) warm-up pitches or two (2) minutes.