

# Baseball PEI

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## **FAQ in regards to the new Baseball PEI/Baseball Atlantic Arm Smart (Pitch Count) Rules**

- Why are the pitch count rules changing? Why did Baseball PEI adopt Baseball Atlantic's Arm Smart (Pitch Count) rules, instead of the Baseball Canada's Arm Smart (Pitch Count) rules?
  - o For the 2020 season, Baseball Canada has changed its Arm Smart (Pitch Count) rules. To stay (mostly) compliant, Baseball Atlantic adopted Baseball Canada's rule except for one change: have the total number of pitches that are permitted to be thrown over four days in Baseball Canada's rule (as all Baseball Canada Championships are over four days) to be permitted to be thrown over three days (as all Baseball Atlantic Championships are over three days).

The reason Baseball Atlantic adopted three days is that all Baseball Atlantic Championships – and indeed the vast majority of tournaments held in Atlantic Canada – are played over three days, whereas all Baseball Canada Championships are played over four days. Baseball PEI felt that because almost all of our tournaments/events are over two or three days, the Baseball Atlantic pitch count rules make more sense for us as opposed to Baseball Canada's rules.
- What are the differences between the 2020 pitch count rules and the pitch count rules in 2019 and 2018?
  - o There are two major differences. The first is that over two days, a pitcher cannot throw more pitches than the maximum one-day total. For example, at 15U, the maximum number of pitches a pitcher can throw in a day is 95 pitches. So, if a pitcher throws 35 pitches on a Friday – and therefore is eligible to pitch the next day – they would be permitted to throw a maximum of 60 pitches on Saturday (as  $95-35=60$ ). It is no longer permitted that a pitcher at the 15U level could throw 35 pitches on a Friday and then 95 pitches the next day (Saturday).

The second major difference is there a maximum number of pitched allowed to be thrown over three days. At the 11U level, the maximum number of pitches that can be pitched over three days is 105. So, if a pitcher throws 40 pitches on a Friday, they would require one day of rest and be permitted to pitch again on Sunday. On Sunday, they could only pitch a maximum of 65 pitches (as  $105-40=65$ , and a pitcher cannot throw more than 105 pitches between Friday – Sunday). If another pitcher on that same 11U team throws 35 pitches on Friday, they would have to rest on Saturday, and then they would be permitted to throw 70 pitches on Sunday ( $105-35=70$ ).
- Say a pitcher in 13U throws 30 pitches on a Friday. Can that pitcher then throw the maximum – i.e. 85 pitches – on Saturday?
  - o No. In one of the major changes in the pitch count rules, a pitcher cannot throw more than the daily maximum of pitches over two days. So, if a pitcher at 13U throws 30 pitches on a Friday, they are eligible to pitch on Saturday – as they did not exceed the one-day rest threshold – but the maximum number of pitches they could throw on that day is 55 ( $85-30=55$ ). It also should be noted that if that 13U pitcher threw more than 30 pitches on a Friday, let's say he/she threw 40 pitches, the pitcher would not be eligible to pitch until Sunday, as 40 pitches require one day's rest.
- Okay, how does the three-day maximum pitch count total work, in more detail?
  - o Under rules for 15U – which have a maximum of 135 over three days – if a pitcher threw 50 on Friday, he/she would have to rest on Saturday and then could throw a maximum of 85 pitches on Sunday (as that would meet his tournament maximum of 135 pitches).

If you wanted to say to throw a pitcher on a Monday after a tournament, that pitcher could throw 50 pitches on Friday, rest on Saturday, throw 30 pitches on Sunday and then throw 65 pitches on Monday. The 135-pitch maximum is over three days, so from Friday to Sunday in this scenario, the pitcher only threw 80 pitches out of a possible 135. As they had their rest on Saturday and only threw 30 pitches on Sunday, they are eligible to throw up of 65 on Monday (as you can't throw more than the maximum one-day total over two days). Since the three-day scale slides, with 0 pitches thrown on Saturday, it would be legal for a pitcher to throw 30 pitches on Sunday and throw 65 pitches on Monday, for a total of 95 pitches over three days (which is less than 135). Since the pitcher threw 65 pitches on Monday, he/she is not eligible to pitch again until Thursdays (as the 65 pitches thrown on Monday requires two full days' rest). On Thursday, the pitcher could throw 95 as 0 pitches were thrown on Tuesday and Wednesday.
- Let's say a 15U pitcher throws the daily maximum of pitches over two days – he/she throws 35 pitches on Friday and 60 pitches on Saturday. Does that 15U pitcher require two days' rest (for throwing 60 pitches on Saturday) or four days' rest (for throwing 95 pitches over two days)?



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- The 15U pitcher in this example would require two days' rest and would be eligible to pitch again on Tuesday. Even though that pitcher threw 95 pitches, it was over two days, and rest is based on the number of pitches thrown on the second day (60 pitches).
- Is the rule that allows a coach to declare, before a threshold pitch, that the current batter is the final batter his/her pitcher is facing and the pitcher's pitch count will be recorded at that threshold, still in place?
  - Yes. In fact, for the first time, that rule is also a part of Baseball Canada's Arm Smart (Pitch Count) rules. It also applies when a pitcher reaches his/her maximum daily pitch count.
- Can a pitcher pitch in three straight days? Four straight days?
  - A pitcher can pitch in three straight days only if the number of pitches thrown in Day 1 and Day 2 is equal to or less than the one-day rest threshold in the pitch count (11U: 25, 13U: 30, 15U: 35, 18U: 40, 21U: 45). A pitcher cannot pitch in four straight days under any circumstance.
- Can a pitcher still pitch in two games during a day? Three games in one day?
  - A pitcher can pitch in two games in one day only if the pitch count in the first game is equal to or less than the one-day rest threshold in the pitch count. A pitcher cannot pitch in separate games in one day in any circumstance.
- Can a pitcher come into the position of pitcher twice in one game?
  - No. Once a pitcher comes out of the game as the position of pitcher, even if they stay in the defensive lineup in another position, they cannot return to the position of pitcher in that same game.
- Is there a maximum number of pitchers a team can use in one game?
  - No. A team may use as many pitchers in a game as they wish. However, it must be remembered that a player can go into the position of pitcher only once in a game.
- Can a player play both of the positions of pitcher and catcher in the same day?
  - If a player is playing in the position of catcher, he/she may play the position of pitcher afterwards. If a player is playing in the position of pitcher, he/she cannot play the position of catcher for the rest of the day.
- If a pitcher intentionally walks a player, do those pitches count towards his/her pitch count?
  - Only pitches that are physically thrown count in a pitcher's pitch count. If a head coach informs an umpire that an opposition batter will be intentionally walked before any pitches are thrown, no pitches will be charged towards the pitcher's pitch count. If a pitcher throws, for example, two pitches to a batter and then the head coach informs the umpire that the pitcher will throw no more pitches to the batter and the batter will be intentionally walked, the pitcher will be charged two pitches towards his/her pitch count.
- If a 13U player is pitching in a 15U competition, does that player follow 13U pitch counts or 15U pitch counts?
  - In this instance, despite the player participating in a 15U competition, the 13U player would have to follow 13U pitch counts.
- What happens if a pitcher breaks any of the pitch count rules during a game?
  - If a pitcher breaks one of the pitch count rules during a game, he/she is immediately removed from the position of pitcher (or, in a case of a player who has previously pitched during the day has gone into the position of catcher, immediately removed from the position of catcher). The offending team's head coach is immediately ejected from the game and will automatically serve a one-game suspension. If there is evidence that the head coach purposely broke a pitch count rule, or this situation has happened already this summer, the division director has the authority to levy supplemental discipline. If it's discovered after a game that a team broke the pitch count rules, the head coach is automatically suspended one game (and if there is evidence that the head coach purposely broke a pitch count rule, or this situation has happened already this summer, the division director has the authority to levy supplemental discipline). However, the game score/result will still stand.  
Please note that when the use of a pitcher who is ineligible, or is about to become ineligible, is evident, scorekeepers or other officials must notify the manager/head coach of the offending team immediately so that an opportunity for assignment correction may be done immediately to avoid breaking the pitch count rules/further breaking the pitch count rules.
- I still have a question about Arm Smart (Pitch Count) rules that aren't covered here.
  - Contact [baseball@sportpei.pe.ca](mailto:baseball@sportpei.pe.ca) with your question and Baseball PEI will be happy to answer your question.



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## BASEBALL PEI POLICY

### **Arm Smart/Pitch Count Rules in 11U, 13U, 15U, 16U Girls, 18U and 21U**

Rules Governing the Pitcher (Exhibition Play, League Play, Playoffs, Tournaments and Championships)

- (1) Any player on the team is eligible to pitch, and there are no restrictions to the number of pitchers a manager/head coach may use in a game.
- (2) Pitchers shall be permitted to have two (2) appearances in the same calendar day. If a pitcher requires a rest following their first appearance, they cannot return in the same calendar day.
- (3) **If a pitcher meets the requirements to pitch on consecutive days and the pitcher does not go over the first daily threshold during Game 1, they are permitted to have a second (2<sup>nd</sup>) appearance in the same calendar day. Pitchers will not be permitted to exceed the maximum daily allowable number of pitchers in any two-day period**  
**Pitchers cannot pitch in three (3) games during a day.**

**For example: An 11U pitcher throws 20 pitches on Day 1. On Day 2, that pitcher is limited to 55 pitches. A 15U pitcher throws 25 pitches on Day 1. On Day 2, that pitcher is limited to 70 pitches. A 21U pitcher throws 45 pitches on Day 1. On Day 2, that pitcher is limited to 70 pitches.**

**Please note: If an 11U pitcher throws 20 pitches on Day 1 and then 55 pitches on Day 2, that pitcher would require two (2) day's rest, not four (4) day's rest. If a 15U pitcher throws 20 pitches on Day 1 and then 75 pitches on Day 2, that pitcher would require three (3) day's rest, not four (4) day's rest. The pitcher's rest is based on the number of pitches thrown on Day 2, not the combined total of Days 1 and 2.**

- (4) A pitcher cannot pitch three (3) consecutive days unless a pitcher's first two (2) days combined does not exceed:

11U: 25      13U: 30      15U/16U Girls: 35      18U: 40      21U: 45

If a pitcher's Day 1 + Day 2 exceeds figure above for their division, they require at least one (1) day's rest.

- (5) **A pitcher's combined three (3) day pitch count cannot exceed:**

**11U: 105      13U: 120      15U/16U Girls: 135      18U: 150      21U: 165**

- (6) Pitchers and managers shall follow the following guidelines:

11U	13U	15U/16U Girls	18U	21U	Rest required
1-25	1-30	1-35	1-40	1-45	None
26-40	31-45	36-50	41-55	45-60	1 day
41-55	46-60	51-65	56-70	61-75	2 days
56-65	61-75	66-80	71-85	76-90	3 days
66-75	76-85	81-95	86-105	91-115	4 days
75	85	95	105	115	Maximum

- (7) The official scorekeeper will calculate the total pitches thrown for that calendar day and determine the required rest starting the next calendar day. Athletes must not exceed the maximum pitch count total for that day.
- (8) Once a player assumes the position of pitcher, they cannot catch for the remainder of the day.
- (9) **Pitchers will be permitted to finish the batter if his or her maximum pitch limit has been reached for that calendar day.**
  - (a) **When a pitcher reaches the maximum number of pitches allowed for a threshold (see table above), he can complete the at-bat without the penalty on days of rest, as long as he/she does not pitch to another batter. In this situation, the number of pitches corresponding to the threshold reached will be indicated on the pitching log.**  
**The coach or manager needs to acknowledge this to the umpire at this moment prior to the next pitch. The umpire will then notify the scorekeeper.**
  - (b) **When the pitcher reaches the maximum number of pitches allowed (75, 85, 95, 105 and 115 pitches) during a day during a batter's at-bat, he/she is allowed to complete the at-bat and must be replaced following that batter.**
- (10) Only pitches actually thrown will be included in Pitch Count totals. Automatic balls during an intentional walk do not count towards Pitch Count totals.



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For example: if during a count of two (2) balls and no (0) strikes, a team signals to the umpire that the batter will receive an intentional walk, only two (2) pitches will be counted for the Pitch Count.

- (11) Required rest shall be defined in "Days" starting at 12:01 am and ending at 11:59 pm of the next calendar day.
- (12) If a game continues past 12:01 am, those pitches are counted as if pitched prior to midnight. If a game is suspended, when it resumes it is defined as a different day.
- (13) A pitcher who is removed from the mound during a game shall not be permitted to return to pitch in the same game, even if the pitcher is retained in the game at another position.
- (14) Any violation of any part of the Pitch Count rule, the result is the manager/head coach is ejected from the current game and receives an additional game suspension.
- (15) The total number of pitches thrown by an ambidextrous pitcher are counted for the purpose of calculating pitch count, regardless of which arm or combination there-of is throwing.
- (16) When a game is stopped by inclement weather or for any other reason than a mercy rule, that specific game has to resume at the point of stoppage. If Pitcher "A" is the starting pitcher of a game and has a pitch count below the first threshold, Pitcher "A" can then be used as a pitcher again for that particular game but considering he/she will be carrying the number of pitches thrown when the game stopped. This applies for a game that is resumed on the same day or on the next day.

For example, if Pitcher "A" threw 30 pitches at 15U Nationals, he will then be allowed to throw a maximum of 65 pitches when the game resumes. If Pitcher "A" had thrown 36 pitches when the rain started, he/she would not be eligible to pitch if the game is rescheduled for the next day as he/she needs his/her full day of rest. If the game is resumed during the same day, he/she can then come back as a pitcher while carrying his/her pitches.
- (17) A player playing in a division other than their own age group shall pitch based on the pitch count of the lower aged division. For example: a 13U playing at 15U is subject to the 13U rules; an 18U playing at 15U is subject to the 15U rules.
- (18) The manager/head coach may make a second (2<sup>nd</sup>) visit to the mound while the same batter is in an at-bat in order to remove the pitcher.

## **IMPORTANT PITCHING INFORMATION (ALL MINOR DIVISIONS)**

When the use of a pitcher who is ineligible or about to become ineligible is evident, scorekeepers or other officials **MUST** notify the manager/head coach of the offending team so that an opportunity for assignment correction may be immediately affected. In the event that a manager/head coach deliberately overpitches his/her pitcher, the result is the manager/head coach is ejected from the current game and received an additional game suspension.

\*Please note these rules around Arm Smart (Pitch Count) has been passed by the Board of Directors of Baseball PEI on 14 February 2020, and they are the same as the Arm Smart (Pitch Count) rules used by Baseball Atlantic.

