

A13.01 Arm Care Rules

- a. Unless otherwise stated, all Arm Care rules listed in A12.01 shall be in force throughout the baseball season and shall apply to all league play and tournament play as sanctioned by OBA or any Affiliated Association. *This includes games played outside Ontario and outside Canada, regardless of the tournament's pitch count rules or lack thereof.* Teams attending Baseball Canada National Championships are not required to follow these rules to the extent that they are following arm care rules as outlined by Baseball Canada.
- b. Unless otherwise stated, all Arm Care rules listed in A12.01 shall be enforced at all series 22U and below.
- c. Players not listed on a team's pitch count app prior to the start of the game are ineligible to pitch during that game. Call-up players can be added to the app's roster prior to the first pitch of the game. The Official Pitch Counter for that game is responsible for advising the umpire if a player who is not in the app for that team enters the game to warm up as a pitcher prior to a game-pitch being thrown. If a game-pitch is thrown by an ineligible pitcher, the penalties listed in section A12.02 e. shall apply. An ineligible pitcher shall be removed from the pitching position immediately, but may assume another position other than catcher.
- d. Pitchers shall be limited to the number of pitches thrown in a single day as outlined below. Pitchers are required to rest in accordance with the chart below as determined by the total number of pitches thrown on any one calendar day.

9U*	11U	13U	15U	18U	22U	REST REQUIRED
1-20	1-25	1-30	1-35	1-40	1-45	None
21-35	26-40	31-45	36-50	41-55	46-60	1 Day
36-50	41-55	46-60	51-65	56-70	61-75	2 Days
N/A	56-65	61-75	66-80	71-85	76-90	3 Days
N/A	66-75	76-85	81-95	86-105	91-115	4 Days
50	75	85	95	105	115	Daily Max

- e. **Please see A12.01(n) for 9U player pitching requirements.*
Note: *Please see A12.01(h) for multiple games in any two consecutive days.*
- f. For the purposes calculating days of rest required, the day after game day is considered Day 1 of the rest period. (ie: If an 11U pitcher throws 27 pitches on Friday, they will be next eligible to pitch again on Sunday).
- g. If a game extends beyond midnight into the next calendar day, any pitches thrown thereafter shall be counted toward the pitch count of the day the game started. If, however, the game is suspended for any reason after midnight, when it resumes, any pitches thrown by any pitcher shall be counted toward the new day.
- h. Intentional walks and balks shall count toward the pitcher's pitch count total if a pitch has been thrown.
- i. Players are permitted to pitch in 2 separate games in the same day as long as they do not exceed the maximum number of pitches that requires **no rest** for their age category in the first game of the day. (ie: If an 11U pitcher throws fewer than 25 pitches in the first game, the player may pitch in a second game.) No player is permitted to pitch in more than 2 games in any two-day period regardless of the number of pitches thrown.
- j. No player may exceed the Daily Maximum for their age category in any two-day period. If a player pitches in two games in a day or on two consecutive days, days rest required shall be calculated using the combined total of the number of pitches thrown.
 - i. **Ex1:** *22U player throws 45 pitches on Friday in a tournament (no rest required). That pitcher is permitted to pitch again on Saturday to a maximum of 70 pitches so as not to exceed 115.*
 - ii. **Ex2:** *In the same scenario as Ex1, the total number of pitches thrown are added together to determine days rest. If the player threw 45 pitches on Friday and 70 pitches on Saturday, the pitcher must rest for 4 days and is next eligible to pitch on Thursday.*
- k. Pitchers will be permitted to complete the at-bat of the batter they are facing when their Daily Maximum pitch limit has been reached but must be removed immediately after
 - i. the batter is retired, or
 - ii. the batter becomes a runner, or

- iii. the third out of the inning is made.
- iv. When a pitcher reaches the maximum number of pitches allowed for any days-rest threshold, they may complete the at-bat without affecting their days rest, as long as they do not pitch to another batter. In this situation, the number of pitches corresponding to the threshold will be indicated on the pitching log (not the actual pitch count). The coach or manager must acknowledge this with the umpire prior to the threshold pitch being thrown. The umpire would then notify the official scorekeeper.

PENALTY: If the coach or manager does not inform the umpire prior to the pitcher reaching the threshold, the prescribed days of rest as outlined A12.01(d) will be upheld based on the actual number of pitches thrown.

Example: The 15U threshold for zero days rest is 35 pitches. The pitcher begins the new batter at 32 pitches. Prior to the 35th pitch, the Manager indicates that this shall be the last batter for the pitcher. The pitcher is permitted to complete the current batter and a final pitch count of 35 is recorded.

- l. The total number of pitches thrown by an ambidextrous pitcher shall be charged toward their pitch count regardless of which arm(s), or combination thereof, the pitcher uses to throw.
- m. No player may pitch on three consecutive days unless their total pitch count for the three days does not exceed the number of pitches where no rest is required for that age category. A pitcher may not pitch on 4 consecutive days regardless of pitch count.
- n. Once a player assumes the pitching position, they are no longer eligible to catch for the remainder of the day. Once a player assumes the catcher position, they are no longer eligible to pitch for the remainder of the day.
- o. Any player who is playing in a series higher than their age-appropriate series shall be restricted to the pitch count limitations and required rest periods applicable to the age of the player, provided the following:
 - i. Players aged 8 and under and not permitted to pitch in any circumstance.
 - ii. 9-year-old players who are **called-up** to play on a 10U or 11U team are not permitted to pitch.
 - iii. 9-year-old players who are **rostered** to a 10U or 11U team shall be permitted to pitch with the following limitations:

- 0 Days Rest: 1-20 Pitches
 - 1 Day Rest: 21-35 Pitches
 - 2 Days Rest: 36-50 Pitches
 - Daily Maximum: 50 Pitches
- p. Any player who is playing in a series higher than their age must be identified on the lineup card. Any underage player not identified on the lineup card is ineligible to pitch. Should any such unidentified underage player pitch, the pitcher shall be removed from the pitching position and the Manager ejected.
- q. When a player reaches their Daily Maximum pitch count, the manager or coach may remove the pitcher from the pitching position immediately without penalty, regardless of the number of trips already charged to the pitcher during the inning or at-bat.
- r. For all games except tournament play, the home team shall designate an official pitch counter for their team who shall be responsible for tracking the pitches of both teams.
- s. For all games except tournament play, the Manager (or designate) of the home team shall record the number of pitches thrown for all of both teams' players **within 24 hours** (or before the start of the next game, whichever is earlier) of the game's start time using the OBA Pitch Count Tracker.
- t. For all OBA sanctioned tournament play, (including Provincial Championships, and Elimination Tournaments), the Home team is responsible for capturing the pitch count in the pitch count app **in real-time** (either pitch by pitch or at the end of each inning) during the game. Failure to complete this in real-time will result in the game being forfeited to the Away team. Should the game not be captured in real-time as a result of negligence and it is not realized until after the game, the game will not be forfeited but will result in a one-game suspension for the Head Coach. **Exception:** *where cell service is weak or down and the tournament convenor gives permission, games may be entered post-game within 20 minutes following the end of the game.*

- u. Notwithstanding A12.01(r), in all OBA Tournament play, the tournament host may choose to appoint an official pitch counter for the game at their discretion. If a host chooses this option, and the pitch count is not entered in real-time during the game, the home team will not be penalized. A \$1000 fine will apply to the host.
- v. The official pitch counter must provide the current pitch count upon request by either manager or the umpire.
- w. The official pitch counter shall inform the plate umpire when a pitcher has delivered their Daily Maximum pitch count. The plate umpire shall inform the manager that the pitcher must be removed, (i) immediately if the Daily Maximum threshold has been reached at the end of an at-bat, or (ii) following the completion of the at-bat or inning, subject to A12.01(i).
 - i. **Note:** *Failure by the Official Pitch Counter to inform the plate umpire of a pitcher reaching their Daily Maximum pitch count does not relieve the Manager of their responsibility to know the pitch count and remove the pitcher. **Penalty:** Failure to remove the pitcher with no notification by the Official Pitch Counter will result in the manager's immediate ejection and the pitcher shall be removed from the pitching position immediately and will not be permitted to complete the at-bat. This will be treated as an emergency situation and the incoming pitcher shall receive as many warm-up pitches as the plate umpire deems necessary.*
- x. The Manager of the opposing team will receive notification of the pitch count entry into the system and will have 24 hours from that time to verify or challenge the pitch count from that game.
 - i. *Any challenge of an official pitch count will be forwarded to the Series Chair for resolution.*
 - ii. *The decision of the Series Chair with regard to Pitch Counts shall be final.*

A13.02 Arm Care Penalties

- a. For violation of any Arm Care rules as prescribed in A12.01 (c) to (m),
 - i. The Head Coach is ejected, and the pitcher is immediately removed from the pitching position. The Head Coach shall receive a five (5) game suspension. The game will continue. If the official pitch counter does not make the Head Coach and Umpire aware of the violation until after the game, the Head Coach will still be deemed to be ejected and suspended.

- ii. If a pitcher throws during their mandatory days rest period in violation of A12.01(c), the pitcher’s maximum days rest period will reset to the maximum rest period of 4 days from the date of the appearance constituting the violation.
 - iii. In the event that a player pitches on a required rest day and the violation is not caught until after the game, the player shall be required to rest 4 complete days from the day they last pitched, and the Head Coach will receive an automatic two-game suspension to be served at the next scheduled game of consequence.
 - iv. In any case, if the arm care violation is not caught until after the game, the game will not be retroactively forfeited.
- b. Failure to enter pitch count results within the specified timelines, as set forth in A12.01(q) and (r), will result in the following penalties:
- i. On a team’s first offense of the season, immediate suspension of the Head Coach until the pitch count is entered.
 - ii. On a team’s second (or any subsequent offense), the Head Coach will receive an automatic 5-game suspension.
- c. Any coach or Head Coach whose actions cause a player’s pitch counts to be exceeded or not counted as required by these rules, and that action is not identified until after the game is completed, shall be subject to a suspension of not less than 2 games which may be extended at the discretion of the Series Chair.
- d. If a team has no pitchers eligible to pitch in that game, the game is over and the team forfeits. A final score of 7-0 and 7 defensive innings will be recorded for the winning team.
- e. The following chart shall be used to enforce Arm Care violations:

TEAM VIOLATION	VIOLATION REPORTED	PENALTY
Home Team violates pitch count	In game	Forfeit + 1 game suspension for Head Coach

Home Team violates pitch count	Post-game	No forfeit 2 game suspension for Head Coach
Away Team violates pitch count after notification by Official Pitch Counter to umpire at time of infraction	In game	Forfeit + 1 game suspension for Head Coach
Away Team violates pitch count with NO notification to umpire prior to the time of infraction	In game	No forfeit Head Coach is ejected + 1 game suspension for Head Coach
Away team violates pitch count	Post-game	No forfeit 2 game suspension for Head Coach

IMPORTANT NOTE ON ENFORCEMENT: The intent of these rules is to enforce the pitch count rules and not to promote forfeits. The Home Team is responsible for the pitch count and therefore the duty of responsibility falls upon them to notify the opposing team of a pitcher reaching their pitch count via the plate umpire. Regardless of whether or not the **Home Team Head Coach** delegates the pitch count to someone else, they are ultimately responsible and accountable for the Pitch Count.