MANDATORY PITCH COUNT RULES 2021

Definition of Terms

The *Pitch Limit* is the absolute number of pitches a pitcher can throw in a given appearance and should not be exceeded**. EXCEPTION**: If the pitcher reaches the limit imposed for his / her league age while facing a batter, the pitcher may continue until any one of the conditions occurs: 1) That batter reaches base; 2) That batter is put out; 3) The third out is made to complete the half inning.

The pitch limit for the Minors Division is 55 Pitches.

The pitch limit for the Majors Division is 65 Pitches.

*Pitch-Catch Rule* means a pitcher who delivers 41 or more pitches in a game cannot play the position of catcher for the remainder of that day. Any player who has played the position of catcher in four or more innings in a game is not eligible to pitch on that calendar day.

Pitch Count Rules

Pitchers must receive varying days of rest depending on the number of pitches thrown in a particular game. See chart below. The first day of rest is the day following the game and so-on. *For example, a pitcher that pitches the maximum number of pitches, in either division, on a Tuesday, must rest on Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday. He or she is then eligible to pitch again on Sunday.*

**Note:** During the regular season, HLL will use the below Minor’s and Major’s rest requirements, no exceptions. For playoffs, and in the interest of scheduling flexibility, the HLL board may elect to use the below LL International official rest requirements. However, at no time, will the actual pitch count maximums be adjusted.

**Note:** In games suspended for darkness or rain, the same rest rules apply.

*No breaking balls* (curveballs, sliders, cutters, screwballs, etc) may be thrown.

Penalty

Any team who transgresses the pitch count rules will be subject to a forfeit of the game upon review by league officials.

Minor’s HLL Rest Requirements

1-20 pitches = 1 day

21-30 pitches = 3 days

31-55 pitches = 4 days

Major’s HLL Rest Requirements

1-20 pitches = 1 days

21-30 pitches = 2 days

31-45 pitches = 3 days

46-65 pitches = 4 days

LL International Official Rest Requirements

1-20 pitches = 0 days

21-35 pitches = 1 day

36-50 pitches = 2 days

50-65 pitches = 3 days

**Under no circumstances can a player pitch in 3 consecutive games during the regular season. This is inconclusive of cancelled games. This has nothing to do with player safety. This rule is in effect to ensure league balance and player opportunity.**

Coaches from both teams should keep pitch counts and meet and verify after every half inning. Pitch counts should be recorded.

Coaches should meet before each game and discuss who is not eligible to pitch. Recorded information in the scorebooks should be on hand as verification.