

Handy 2007
Rules Updates Inside!

ASAP news



Continuing the Little League tradition of making it "safer for the kids."

2007 Safety Officer manual is out

Are you ready to make 2007 your league's safest season yet? Over 70 percent of all leagues across the US have implemented a safety program, reducing overall injuries in Little League by 75 percent. That's huge, and the impact ASAP can have for you.

The 2007 Safety Officer Manual on CD is out and can help you and your league reduce the possibility of injuries this season. In addition, this tool helps build a base of future safe planning and raised awareness. Didn't get the 2007 CD packet? Call the ASAP Hotline at 800-811-7443 or email asap@musco.com.

What is safety awareness? At the core, safety awareness is simply helping to increase the chances that on a day-to-day basis kids and adults think about safety and recognize any potentially unsafe situations.

Your safety program should provide information that raises the awareness of safety issues for all facets of your league's functions. Work on repetition and friendly messages (posters, memos, newsletters, emails, bulletin boards, etc.) that will be reminders as you influence the habits of your league.

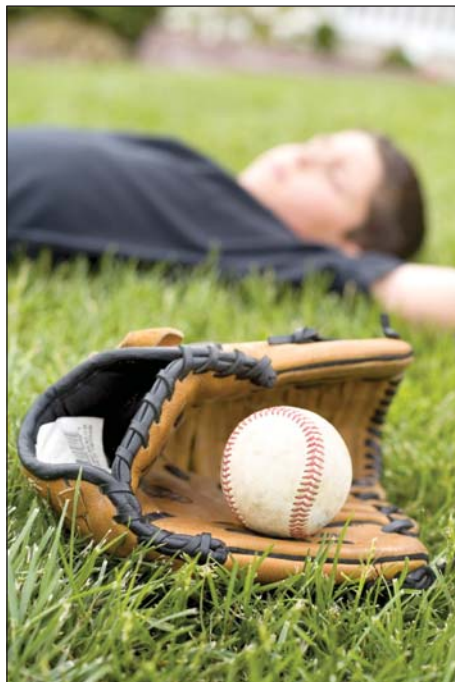
Pre-season Training is Key

Getting your safety program going in the off-season is your best bet to reducing the chance of injuries during the season. Organizing training, both fundamentals and first aid, is critical to creating a mindset of safety awareness in your league. During your training, encourage your trainers to discuss the issues that through years of proper play they likely take for granted, but an inexperienced or poorly trained volunteer may over-look or do improperly.

Don't rely on the training a volunteer receives at work to excuse them from your league's training in first aid. This should be more than a lesson in what bandage to apply or number to call. Giving volunteers the background on procedures the league has for emergency situations should be a critical part of this training, a cornerstone to a prepared corps of volunteers.

You also need to share the expectations the league has for its volunteers on

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If you are new, or your league hasn't created a safety awareness program before, the task may seem daunting. Here is what you need to know to increase safety in your program. Starting with:

- 1) Review your league's Safety Manual and 2007 ASAP CD updates;
- 2) Review facilities for safety using 2007 Facility Survey — look for problems;
- 3) Discuss new safety enhancements;
- 4) Vote on and implement changes to safety program (with board approval);
- 5) Create, distribute new safety manual.

If you are starting a new program, or just want to improve on your safety program, here is how you can begin.

Create Safety Awareness

Safety awareness should start at the grass roots level and build a foundation that your entire league can embrace. It's not about new rules used as a "safety club" on league participants. A good safety plan creates awareness of proper approaches to activities at all levels to reduce the chance of injuries, while inspiring everyone to follow it and suggest improvements.



Regular Season Rule

Hopefully you've already seen or heard about these updates to the rules for 2007, but in case you missed them, ASAP is reprinting them here to give you a convenient place where all the changes are together for training or discussing with coaches and parents. The new Pitch Count regulation is seen as a major improvement in protecting pitchers' arms in Little League. The changes below, adopted Aug. 25, 2006, are noted in red.

BACKGROUND CHECKS

ITEM 1 – All Divisions Regulation I (c) – The League

Each league shall:

9. Conduct an annual background check on all personnel that are required to complete a “Little League Volunteer Application” prior to the applicant assuming his/her duties for the current season. No local league shall permit any person to participate in any manner, whose background check reveals a conviction or guilty plea for any crime involving or against a minor. A local league may prohibit any individual from participating as a volunteer or hired worker, if the league deems the individual unfit to work with minors.

A local league must conduct a nationwide search that contains the applicable government sex offender registry data. (Note: The United States Department of Justice National Sex Offender Public Registry is free and available at www.nsopr.gov. Information on conducting a more thorough

background check at a nominal cost can be found on the Little League website, or at <http://littleleague.choicepoint.com>.)

*Note: **Eighty free complete background checks through ChoicePoint are now available to each league annually from Little League International. For more go to: <http://littleleague.org/common/childprotect/states.asp>***

If no sex offender registries exist in a province or country outside the United States the local league must conduct the more extensive of a country, province or city- wide criminal background check through the appropriate governmental agency unless prohibited by law.

Failure to comply with this regulation may result in the suspension or revocation of tournament privileges and/or the local league's charter by action of the Charter or Tournament Committee in Williamsport. If a local league becomes aware of information, by any means whatsoever, that an individual, including, but not limited to, volunteers, players and hired workers, has been convicted of or pled guilty to

any crime involving or against a minor, the local league must contact the applicable government agency to confirm the accuracy of the information. Upon confirmation of a conviction for, or guilty plea to, a crime against or involving a minor, the local league shall not permit the individual to participate in any manner.

ELIGIBILITY

ITEM 2 – All Divisions Regulation II – League Boundaries

(a) Each league shall determine actual boundaries of the area from WITHIN which it shall select players. Only those participants whose residence is within the boundaries of the league shall be eligible to participate. Residence, for the purposes of this regulation, is defined in “Residence Eligibility Requirements” in the first section of this book (Pages 14-16). **NOTE: Any player who does not reside WITHIN the league's boundaries must have an approved waiver issued by the Charter Committee at Little League International.**

Changes for 2007

Rules, Pitch Count Enhance Player Safety

All waiver requests to the Charter Committee must be submitted in writing by the league president before the start of the league's regular season or June 1 whichever occurs first. Requests must be submitted to the regional office through the district administrator.

These boundaries **MUST** be described in detail **AND** shown on a map when making application for the charter. The local Little League boundaries shall be the boundaries of the Junior/Senior/Big League. Exception noted for Big League district operating in Regulation I.

PITCHERS

ITEM 3 – Baseball Divisions Regulation VI – Pitchers

- a. Any player on a regular season team may pitch. (NOTE: There is no limit to the number of pitchers a team may use in a game.)
- b. Junior, Senior, and Big League Divisions only: A pitcher remaining in the game, but moving to a different position, can return as a pitcher anytime in the remainder of the game, but only once per game.
- c. The manager must remove the pitcher when said pitcher reaches the limit for his/her age group as noted below, but the pitcher may remain in the game at another position:

League Age:

17-18:	105 pitches per day
13-16:	95 pitches per day
11-12:	85 pitches per day

10 and under: 75 pitches per day

Exception: If a pitcher reaches the limit imposed in Regulation VI (c) for his/her league age while facing a batter, the pitcher may continue to pitch until that batter reaches base or is put out. Note 1. Intentional Walk: Before a pitch is delivered to the batter, the catcher must inform the umpire-in-chief that the

defensive team wishes to give the batter an intentional base-on-balls. The umpire-in-chief waves the batter to first base. The ball is dead.

d. Pitchers league age 16 and under must adhere to the following rest requirements:

- If a player pitches 61 or more pitches in a day, three (3) calendar days of rest must be observed.
- If a player pitches 41 – 60 pitches in a day, two (2) calendar days of rest must be observed.
- If a player pitches 21 – 40 pitches in a day, one (1) calendar days of rest must be observed.
- If a player pitches 1 – 20 pitches in a day, no (0) calendar day of rest must be observed.

Pitchers league age 17-18 must adhere to the following rest requirements:

- If a player pitches 76 or more pitches in a day, three (3) calendar days of rest must be observed.
- If a player pitches 51 – 75 pitches in a day, two (2) calendar days of rest must be observed.
- If a player pitches 26 – 50 pitches in a day, one (1) calendar days of rest must be observed.
- If a player pitches 1 – 25 pitches in a day, no (0) calendar day of rest must be observed.

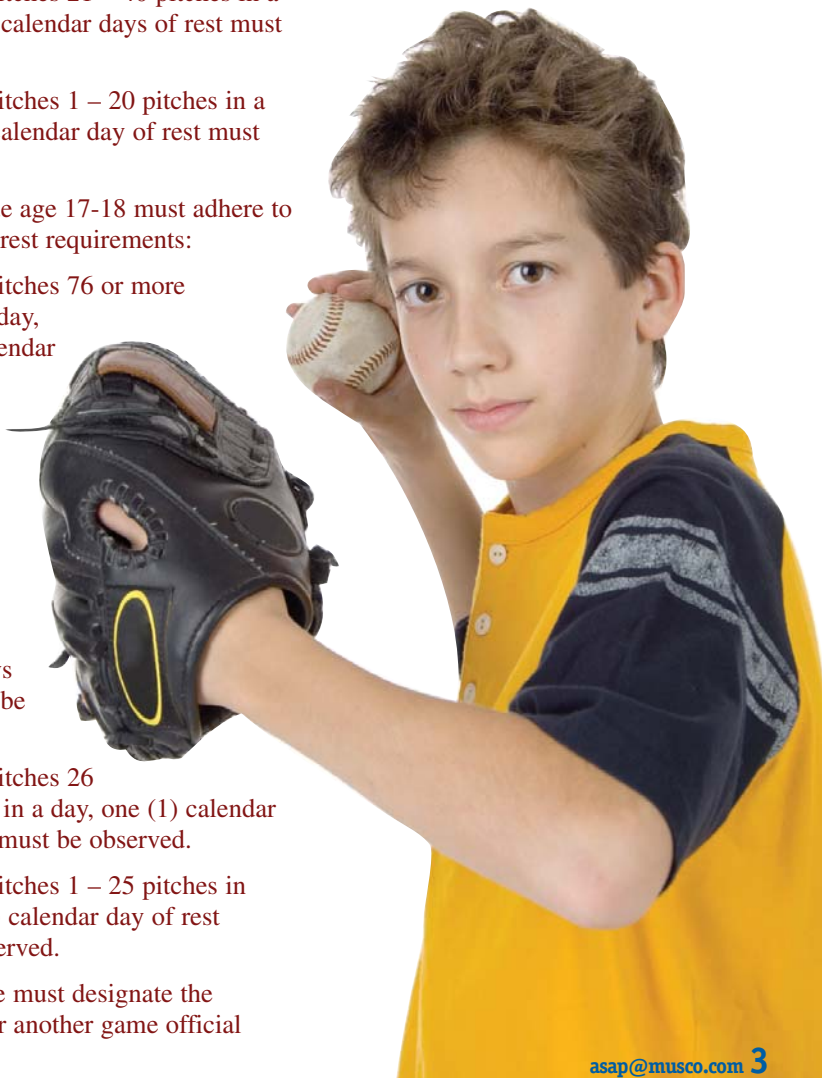
e. Each league must designate the scorekeeper or another game official

as the official pitch count recorder.

f. The pitch count recorder must provide the current pitch count for any pitcher when requested by either manager or any umpire. However, the manager is responsible for knowing when his/her pitcher must be removed.

g. The official pitch count recorder should inform the umpire-in-chief when a pitcher has delivered his/her maximum limit of pitches for the game, as noted in Regulation VI (c).

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Regular Season Rules

Rules, Pitch Count Enhance Player Safety

... continued from page 3

The umpire-in-chief will inform the pitcher's manager that the pitcher must be removed in accordance with Regulation VI (c). However, the failure by the pitch count recorder to notify the umpire-in-chief, and/or the failure of the umpire-in-chief to notify the manager, does not relieve the manager of his/her responsibility to remove a pitcher when that pitcher is no longer eligible.

h. Violation of any section of this regulation can result in protest of the game in which it occurs. Protest shall be made in accordance with Playing Rule 4.19.

i. A player who has attained the league age of twelve (12) is not eligible to pitch in the Minor League.

j. A player may not pitch in more than one game in a day. (Exception: In the Big League Division, a player may be used as a pitcher in up to two games in a day.)

NOTES:

1. The withdrawal of an ineligible pitcher after that pitcher is announced, or after a warm-up pitch is delivered, but before that player has pitched a ball to a batter, shall not be considered a violation. Little League officials are urged to take precautions to prevent protests. When a protest situation is

imminent, the potential offender should be notified immediately.

2. Pitches delivered in games declared "Regulation Tie Games" or "Suspended Games" shall be charged against pitcher's eligibility.

3. In suspended games resumed on another day, the pitchers of record at the time the game was halted may continue to pitch to the extent of their eligibility for that day, provided said pitcher has observed the required days of rest.

Example 1: A league age 12 pitcher delivers 70 pitches in a game on Monday when the game is suspended. The game resumes on the following Thursday. The pitcher is not eligible to pitch in the resumption of the game because he/she has not observed the required three days of rest.

Example 2: A league age 12 pitcher delivers 70 pitches in a game on Monday when the game is suspended. The game resumes on Saturday. The pitcher is eligible to pitch up to 85 more pitches in the resumption of the game because he/she has observed the required three days of rest.

Example 3: A league age 12 pitcher delivers 70 pitches in a game on Monday when the game is suspended. The game resumes two weeks later.

Go Online for Rules and Regulations

If you want printer-compatible files for all the changes to the rules and regulations for 2007, you can download them from Little League's website. The 2007 Little League Official Rule Book will incorporate all these changes for the complete rules.

Changes to the 2007 regular season Rules and Regulations can be downloaded at: http://www.littleleague.org/media/Rule_Changes_09-06.pdf

You can download a PDF copy of the changes to the 2007 Tournament Rules and Guidelines at: http://www.littleleague.org/media/T_Rule_Changes_10-06.pdf

A story on the 2007 regular season pitch count regulation, and how Little League is planning on spreading the word on the best way to implement it can be found at: http://www.littleleague.org/media/pitch_count_10-03-06.asp

A story on the managers from the 2006 Little League Baseball World Series, and their opinions on the 2007 pitch count regulation: http://www.littleleague.org/media/LLBWS_managers_pitch_count_10-02-06.asp



Changes for 2007

The pitcher is eligible to pitch up to 85 more pitches in the resumption of the game, provided he/she is eligible based on his/her pitching record during the previous three days.

Note: The use of this regulation negates the concept of the "calendar week" with regard to pitching eligibility.

SOFTBALL BALLS

ITEM 4 – Softball Divisions

Rule 1.09 – The softball used must meet Little League specifications and standards. The ball shall be not less than 11 $\frac{7}{8}$ " nor more than 12 $\frac{1}{8}$ " in circumference and shall weigh not less than 6 $\frac{1}{4}$ ounces nor more than 7 ounces. Minor League/Tee Ball the ball shall be not less than 10 $\frac{7}{8}$ " nor more than 11 $\frac{1}{8}$ " in circumference and shall weigh not less than 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ ounces nor more than 6 ounces.

BASEBALL BATS

ITEM 5 – Baseball Divisions

Rule 1.10 – The bat must be a baseball bat which meets Little League specifications and standards as noted in this rule. It shall be a smooth, rounded stick and made of wood or of material and color tested and proved acceptable to Little League standards. It shall not be more than thirty-three (33) inches (34 inches for Junior; 36 inches for Big and Senior League) in length, nor more than two and one-quarter (2 $\frac{1}{4}$) inches for Little League, 2 $\frac{3}{4}$ inches for Junior, and 2 $\frac{3}{4}$ for wood 2 $\frac{5}{8}$ non wood for Senior and Big League in diameter, and if wood, not less than fifteen-sixteenth ($\frac{15}{16}$) inches in diameter ($\frac{7}{8}$ inch for bats less than 30") at its smallest part. Bats may be taped or fitted with a sleeve for a distance not exceeding sixteen (16) inches (18 inches for Junior/Senior/Big League Baseball) from the small end.



Senior/Big League baseball a bat shall not weigh, numerically, more than three ounces less than the length (in inches) of the bat (e.g., a 33-inch-long bat cannot be less than 30 ounces).

Note 3: Beginning with the 2009 season, non wood bats used in divisions of Little League (league age 12 years old and younger) shall be printed with a BPF (bat performance factor) of 1.15 or less. Senior and Big League non wood bats shall meet the BESR (Bat Exit Speed Ratio) performance standard, and such bats shall be printed with a permanent certification mark.

TOURNAMENT PLAYER ELIGIBILITY

ITEM 6 – All Divisions (Baseball and Softball)

Big League - Any player League Age 16, 17 or 18 (14, 15, 16, 17, and 18 – Softball), with amateur status, who has been a rostered member for one-half the regular season games (special games may be counted toward this requirement) by the start of Tournament Play in their respective District, with the exception of the high school or college baseball season, on a Big League Baseball Team,

or, any player League Age 16 (14, 15, and 16 – Softball), with amateur status, who has participated as an eligible player in one-half the regular season games as of June 15, with the exception of the middle school, junior high school or high school baseball season, on a Senior League Baseball Team (Junior or Senior Team – Softball).

GAME EJECTION

ITEM 7 – All Divisions

Rule 4.07 – When a manager, coach or player is ejected from a game, they shall leave the field immediately and take no further part in that game. They may not sit in the stands and may not be recalled. A manager or coach ejected from a game must not be present at the game site for the remainder of that game. Any manager, coach or player ejected from a game is suspended for his or her team's next physically played game and may not be in attendance at the game site from which they are suspended.

Tournament Rule C



Incorporating many of the elements of the new "pitch count" rules that were released in August, Little League International has released the significant changes to the Tournament Rules and Guidelines for 2007. Prepare your coaches for the new season.

(The 2007 regulation and rule changes were adopted at the Aug. 25, 2006 meeting of the Little League International Board of Directors and are noted in red.)

"The Tournament Rules regarding pitching and pitch counts in baseball closely follow the regular season regulation, with some modifications," Joe Losch, director of the International Tournament, said. "We have allowed some leeway on pitching consecutive games between tournament levels, and the rest requirements are slightly different. Along with changes incorporated for the regular season, these rules will result in fewer overall pitches during the course of a season by individual pitchers in the baseball divisions of Little League."

Another addition to the Tournament Rules and Guidelines is to provide a penalty of suspension of the manager for violation of the mandatory play rules in those divisions that apply. Formerly, the rule called for forfeiture of the game. However, forfeiture could still be imposed by the Tournament Committee in Williamsport if the violation warrants it.

And finally, wording has been added to the preamble to the Tournament Rules and Guidelines that reiterates the Tournament Committee's ability to deal with instances of unsportsmanlike conduct.

The following paragraph will be added to "Responsibility and Chain of

Pitch Count Safe

Command" in the preamble to the Tournament Rules (between the fourth and fifth paragraphs) in the baseball and softball rule books...

The Tournament Committee also reserves the right to impose any of the above penalties if, in its judgment, any player, manager or coach displays unsportsmanlike conduct during the game, at the game site, or at any event related to the International Tournament. The decision of the Tournament Committee is final and binding.

PITCHING RULES

The following will replace Tournament Rule 4 in its entirety (including Big League as noted below) in the Baseball Rule Book...

4. PITCHING RULES – LITTLE LEAGUE BASEBALL, 9-10 YEAR OLD, 10-11 YEAR OLD DIVISION, JUNIOR LEAGUE AND SENIOR LEAGUE

These rules replace the regular season pitching regulations. Violation of these pitching rules is subject to protest and forfeiture by decree of the Tournament Committee in Williamsport if protested before the umpire(s) leave the playing field.

- a. Any player on a tournament team may pitch. (NOTE: There is no limit to the number of pitchers a tournament team may use in a game.)
- b. A tournament pitcher may not pitch in regular season or Special Games while the team is still participating in the tournament.
- c. Pitchers once removed from the mound may not return as pitchers.

Junior/Senior League: A pitcher remaining in the game, but moving to a different position, can return as a pitcher anytime in the remainder of the game, but only once per game.

Changes for 2007

Equality in Tourney Rules

d. The manager must remove the pitcher when said pitcher reaches the limit for his/her age group as noted below, but the pitcher may remain in the game at another position:

League Age:

13-16:	95 pitches per day
11-12:	85 pitches per day
10 and under:	75 pitches per day

Exception: If a pitcher reaches the limit imposed above for his/her league age while facing a batter, the pitcher may continue to pitch until that batter reaches base or is put out. Note 1: Intentional Walk – Before a pitch is delivered to the batter, the catcher must inform the umpire-in-chief that the defensive team wishes to give the batter an intentional base on balls. The umpire-in-chief waves the batter to first base. The ball is dead.

e. Pitchers league age 16 and under must adhere to the following requirements:

- If a player pitches 46 or more pitches in a day, two (2) calendar days of rest must be observed.
- If a player pitches 21 to 45 pitches in a day, one calendar day of rest must be observed.
- If a player pitches 1 to 20 pitches in a day, no rest is required.

f. A player may not pitch in consecutive games. Exceptions – A player may pitch in consecutive games if:

1. less than 21 pitches were pitched in the previous game, or,
2. the previous game was at another level, and the pitcher has received the required number of days of rest as noted in (e.) above. (Levels are District, Section, State, Division, Region, and World Series.)

g. A player may not pitch in more than one game in a day.

4. PITCHING RULES – BIG LEAGUE BASEBALL

These rules replace the regular season pitching regulations. Violation of these pitching rules is subject to protest and forfeiture by decree of the Tournament Committee in Williamsport if protested before the umpire(s) leave the playing field.

a. Any player on a tournament team may pitch. (NOTE: There is no limit to the number of pitchers a tournament team may use in a game.)

b. A tournament pitcher may not pitch in regular season or Special Games while the team is still participating in the tournament.

c. A pitcher remaining in the game, but moving to a different position, can return as a pitcher anytime in the remainder of the game, but only once per game.

Exception: If a pitcher reaches the limit imposed above for his/her league age while facing a batter, the pitcher may continue to pitch until that batter reaches base or is put out. Note 1: Intentional Walk – Before a pitch is delivered to the batter, the catcher must inform the umpire-in-chief that the defensive team wishes to give the batter an intentional base on balls. The umpire-in-chief waves the batter to first base. The ball is dead.

d. The manager must remove the pitcher when said pitcher reaches the limit for his/her age group as noted below, but the pitcher may remain in the game at another position:
League Age: 16 – 18:
105 pitches per day

e. Pitchers league age 16 and above must adhere to the following requirements:

- If a player pitches 51 or more pitches in a day, two (2) calendar days of rest must be observed.

- If a player pitches 26 to 50 pitches in a day, one calendar day of rest must be observed.

- If a player pitches 1 to 25 pitches in a day, no rest is required.

f. A player may not pitch in consecutive games. Exceptions – A player may pitch in consecutive games if:

1. less than 26 pitches were pitched in the previous game, or,
2. The previous game was at another level, and the pitcher has received the required number of days of rest as noted in (e.) above. (Levels are District, Section, State, Division, Region, and World Series.)

g. A player may not pitch in more than two games in a day.

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'Ask Little League' PITCH Count

The new Pitch Count Regulation enhances pitchers' arm health and safety. Nick Caringi is Little League Baseball® and Softball's director of operations. Nick fielded your questions about the new pitch count regulation in the baseball divisions of Little League.

Brian, a local Little League vice president in Sharon, Pa., asks:

I think the pitch count rule is a great idea, but a bit difficult to track. What have other leagues done to track pitch counts and what have been some of the problems they have faced while using the pitch count rule?

Nick:

Great question Brian. In most cases, the scorekeeper keeps track of the pitches thrown. Since scorekeepers already keep track of the balls and strikes (as a backup to the umpire), the only additional duties will be to mark down the number of foul balls hit with two strikes, and to total up the number of pitches after each inning for each pitcher. In some leagues, a helper was assigned to the scorekeeper to track the pitches on a separate sheet of paper. In some leagues, they had the managers keep track of the number of pitches, and that worked well too. Some leagues found that the base umpire could handle this chore, using a hand-held counter that is available. (Check out the link here: http://www.littleleague.org/media/e_and_s_catalog1_06.asp) Each league will decide for itself which is the best method, but most leagues that used the Pitch Count Pilot Program used the scorekeeper or managers. Over the next few months, Little League will be providing lots of advice (sample tracking sheets, for instance) on how to do it.

Dave, a local Little League manager, coach and webmaster in New Jersey, asks:

Nick, first of all, I love the pitch count program and am all for it. However, many people I have spoken with wish that Little League International would require in the 2007 regular season some

sort of pitching affidavit like the one used for tournaments. After all, if a question of a pitcher's eligibility came up, it was easy enough to review an opponent's scorebook to see how many innings the player pitched. It won't be that easy now trying to count up all the pitches he pitched. What are your thoughts on the subject and what are the chances of this happening?

Nick:

Dave, that's a great suggestion. In the next few months, local Little Leagues will be receiving information on doing just what you suggest. The scorekeeping rules for the baseball divisions of Little League will require the league to maintain a register for the number of pitches, and that will be used to determine eligibility. The local league can come up with a form of its own, or it can use the sample form that we will be providing.

Eric, a local Little League information officer in Springfield, Va., asks:

What do you think is the best way to handle who is actually responsible for counting the pitches? Is it too much to ask of the scorekeeper? Should it fall on the managers? Someone else?

Nick:

Eric, the answer lies within your own league. Some of the leagues that used the Pitch Count Pilot Program in 2005 and 2006 found it best to assign the duty to the scorekeeper. Others assigned it to the managers, but that requires the league to be very trusting of its managers. (It SHOULD be, by the way.) Still others found it easier to simply assign the duty to an assistant to the scorekeeper, who tracks only the pitches. Some even had the base umpire do the counting.

Answers

Alan, a District Administrator in Massillon, Ohio, asks:

With the new pitch count, when you intentionally walk a batter, does this count against your pitch count?

Nick:

Good question Alan. When we released the text of the new pitching regulation last month, it included a provision for intentional walks. You can see the regulation here: http://www.littleleague.org/media/Rule_Changes_09-06.pdf.

Gary, a local Little League president in Clifton Forge, Va., asks:

I like the pitch count rule, but doesn't it allow for a coach to actually have a 12-year-old pitch 170 pitches in a calendar week?

Nick:

Excellent question, Gary. The answer is yes, but the notion of the "calendar week" needs to be disregarded. For example, under the old regulation, a 12-year-old pitcher could have thrown six innings on Friday and, after three days of rest, six more innings on Tuesday. That's 12 innings (and potentially more than 300 pitches!) in a five-day period. Under the new regulation, a 12-year-old pitcher could throw up to 85 pitches on a Monday and, after three days of rest, throw 85 more pitches on Friday – a maximum of 170 pitches. That's also a five-day period, but the pitcher under the new regulation is limited to fewer total pitches. There's NO difference between the two, in terms of the amount of rest. With the new regulation, the "calendar week" is not used.

Steve, a vice president of the Minor Division in a local Little League in Santa Barbara, Calif., asks:

The new rule is really going to put a premium on finding pitchers that can throw strikes in our Minor Division. What suggestions can you recommend to prevent blowouts for those teams that may not have enough pitchers that can throw strikes? It is very demoralizing for an 8- or 9-year-old to lose a baseball game 32-3.

Nick:

Steve, that's a valid point. Your league might want to consider adopting a five-run limit for each half-inning. That ensures a more competitive balance, and keeps the game moving. It also will keep the number of pitches down. Besides, developing more pitchers is a GOOD thing, and this gets more of them in the game. Little League International's umpire-in-chief, Andy Konyar, would tell you that umpires in this division should have a very liberal strike zone. It keeps the game moving!

Chris, a board member and manager in New Iberia, La., asks:

When the new pitch count regulations were written, was there any discussion as to how this new regulation may impact players who are talented hitters? I'd hate to see a tendency for the more talented or hot hitters to get intentionally walked now (especially when a pitcher is nearing his maximum pitch count) because the pitcher will no longer have to throw the customary four pitches.

Nick:

Great question Chris. Yes, this was considered, as it has been in the past



under the old regulation as well. But we can't legislate based on the perceived talent of the hitters. Your board, however, could decide to discipline a manager if it feels he/she is using this ploy to excess.

Manny, a district umpire consultant in Alexandria, Va., asks:

There is no mention in the new Pitch Count Regulation on whether to count pitches delivered in innings that "never happened." For example, a 12-year-old pitcher delivers 24 pitches in the top of the first inning, but then the game is called in the bottom of the first. Is he required to observe one day's rest? Or both opposing pitchers deliver pitches in the sixth inning, but then the outcome of the game reverts back to the end of the fifth under rule 4.11 (d). Do their pitches count towards their totals for the day?

Nick:

Great question Manny. First, pitches delivered in the first inning of a game that does not advance beyond that inning will not be counted. This is the same as in previous years, when that inning was not charged to that pitcher. In answer to your second question, we treat it the same as in previous years, i.e., the pitches do count in that situation.

More answers from Nick on the Pitch Count Regulation can be found at <http://www.littleleague.org/askll/06octsession.asp>

Tournament

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OUTFIELD FENCE DISTANCE

This rule replaces the recommendation for the distance from home plate to the outfield fence on baseball fields (Physical Conditions)...



To host All Star Tournaments, facilities must now have outfield fences meeting set distance criteria to be used, keeping all fields at the same playing size.

Facilities - 1.

b. Outfield fences for the Little League Division must be a maximum of 225 feet from home plate and a minimum of 195 feet (Little League); For 9-10 and 10-11 divisions, a maximum of 225 feet and a minimum of 180 feet; For Junior League, a maximum of 300 feet and a minimum of 250 feet; For Senior League and Big League, a maximum of 420 feet and a minimum of 280 feet.

PENALTIES

The following will replace Tournament Rule 9. c. in its entirety the Baseball and Softball Rule Books...

c. Failure to meet the mandatory play

requirements in this rule is a basis for protest. If one or more players on a roster do not meet this requirement, and if protested before the umpires leave the playing field, it shall result (by action of the Tournament Committee) in the suspension of the team's manager for the next two scheduled tournament games, even if those games are played at the next tournament level.

Additional penalties (up to and including forfeiture of a game and/or disqualification of the team, managers or coaches from further tournament participation) may be imposed if, in the opinion of the Tournament Committee:

1. a manager or coach takes any action that results in making a travesty of the game, causing players to intentionally perform poorly for the purpose of extending or shortening a game, or;
2. a team fails to meet the requirements of this rule more than once during the International Tournament, which begins with District play and ends at the World Series level (State level for 9-10, and 10-11), or;
3. a manager willfully and knowingly disregards the requirements of this rule.

A manager or coach suspended for any reason is not permitted to be at the game site and must not take any part in the game, nor have any communications whatsoever with any persons at the game site. Violation may result, by action of the Tournament Committee, in further suspension, forfeiture of a game and/or disqualification of the team, managers or coaches from further tournament participation.

Safety Officer 2007 manual is out

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player character development, good role modeling and positive reinforcement. Our goal continues to be to provide a quality youth sports experience to develop loyalty, leadership and character through ball playing, not winning at all costs.

Facilities/Conditions

Playing conditions cannot be over-emphasized. From a hole in center field to an edge sticking up on home plate, or from a storm approaching to high heat and humidity, you need to reinforce to your coaches and managers a need for an awareness of the playing conditions. And if the conditions are poor, what they should do. For a new volunteer, this training is likely their only exposure to what the league expects them to do in a given situation.

Remind volunteers that playing a game when conditions are not safe (either

playing surface or weather) is not acceptable. The safety of players, volunteers and spectators should always be our highest concern. To start or finish a game in poor conditions runs the risk of a serious, and preventable, injury.

Equipment

First, make sure all volunteers know what is mandated for equipment, and how to check the safety of it. Cracked helmets? Dented bats? Don't use them. Equipment should be checked before use every time. The new bat ring card from Little League makes checking dents easy: If the card goes over the bat, it's OK; if not, the bat cannot be used.

Dangling throat guards are required on all catcher helmets, no matter the style. Catchers must wear helmets during warm-ups and infield practice. Batters under the Junior League may not use an "on-deck circle." All these rules and more have been mandated to protect players. Make sure your coaches, managers and umpires know and follow all rules.

Safety is a growing issue, and one some volunteers may not have grown up with. While optional equipment isn't required, that doesn't mean it can't be very effective in limiting either the occurrence or severity of injuries a player may experience. Your players could increase their safety by your league simply implementing optional equipment such as face masks for batting helmets, protective cups for male players (not just catchers), elbow, wrist or ankle guards for batters and many others. Let parents know they can supply their child with optional equipment (as long as it meets Little League's standards) even if the league doesn't mandate something.

Activities

Finally, any given activity – from games to practice to preparing fields for play – has safety concerns. Make sure your league addresses these with volunteers and prepares them with proper instruction. Written procedures are best, as they give an easily conveyed message that doesn't vary from telling to telling. This also maintains the information from year to year regardless of league officers changes.

Document anything, such as what fields may be used, what age people (and number) are allowed to operate league equipment and even the procedures for running your concession stand. This all should be not only documented, but reviewed with volunteers and updated as needed. And they should definitely be updated annually.

Documenting your safety plan is the final step. The manual's pages should be provided to the appropriate group(s) so they have the information necessary to keep safety a high priority. And make sure to keep more than one "master" document. More than one league has had to start over from scratch after their safety plan was lost due to a computer melt-down, concession stand fire or personnel change.

Remember, more than one way exists to create a safer environment in your league. Different people will have different views that can be brought together to raise awareness of safety issues. Involve people concerned about building a great league with a safety priority and you will succeed. Have a great 2007!



Scorekeeping Changes for Pitch Counts

Regular Season Rules Changes

2007 rule and regulation changes benefit players.

Tournament Changes

2007 rule and regulation changes enhance safety.

Questions & Answers

Nick Caringi answers questions about new pitch count regulation.

Safety Officer Manual

Build a better safety program this year.

(New scorekeeping procedure for pitch counts — Baseball Only)

Rule 10.22 – Each pitch delivered to a batter shall be counted. (Exception: A pitch declared “no pitch” will not be charged to that pitcher.)

(a) The official scorekeeper’s record of the pitch count shall be the official record. In the absence of an official scorekeeper, the record of the person designated by the local league (or tournament director) to count pitches will be the official record.

(b) The pitches may be counted by a person other than the scorekeeper, but the total pitches for each pitcher must be entered in the scorebook, or in a locally-produced register for this purpose. The scorebook or register will be used to determine the pitching eligibility in a subsequent game or games.

(c) When requested by the manager, the scorekeeper and any other official(s) involved in tallying the pitch count must provide current information on the pitch count for a pitcher currently in the game.

(d) The scorekeeper and any other official(s) involved in tallying the pitch count must inform the umpire-in-chief and manager when the maximum number of pitches has been delivered by a particular pitcher, pursuant to the pitcher’s league age. (See Regulation VI.) However, the failure by such officials to notify the umpire-in-chief and manager does not relieve the manager of the responsibility to remove a pitcher when the limit is reached as required in Regulation VI.

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