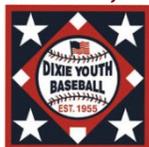


Official Ruling 14-04 Ambidextrous Pitchers

Under MLB rules, the pitcher cannot switch hands during the same batter unless he injures his other hand. The MLB rules do not state but implies switching hands during the same batter would be an illegal pitch. 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. If the bases are occupied, it would be a balk in "O"Zone and a ball in Majors/AAA unless the batter reaches first base on a hit, an error, a base on balls, a hit batter.

This is a rare occurrence in DYB but I will direct DYB umpires to follow the MLB rule administratively if this situation arises in a DYB game. If you have a league requesting guidance on an ambidextrous pitcher, please follow the MLB rule below.

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MLB Rule

8.01(f) (f) A pitcher must indicate visually to the umpire-in-chief, the batter and any runners the hand with which he intends to pitch, which may be done by **wearing his glove on the other hand while touching the pitcher's plate.**

The pitcher is not permitted to pitch with the other hand until the batter is retired, the batter becomes a runner, the inning ends, the batter is substituted for by a pinch-hitter or the pitcher incurs an injury.

In the event a pitcher switches pitching hands during an at-bat because he has suffered an injury, the pitcher may not, for the remainder of the game, pitch with the hand from which he has switched.

The pitcher shall not be given the opportunity to throw any preparatory pitches after switching pitching hands.

Any change of pitching hands must be indicated clearly to the umpire-in-chief.

The NCAA Rules below are similar to MLB rules but allows warnings and is less definitive on some other issues.

NCAA RULE

k. Pitch both right-handed and left-handed to the same batter during a plate appearance (ambidextrous-pitcher rule).

PENALTY—If a pitcher changes pitching hands during a batter's time at bat, the umpire shall:

- (1) Call a balk if a runner(s) is on base;
- (2) Call a ball for an illegal pitch if no runner(s) is on base;
- (3) Warn the pitcher; or
- (4) Eject the pitcher if the offense is repeated.

A.R. 1—When facing a switch hitter, an ambidextrous pitcher shall declare the hand with which to pitch to the hitter.

A.R. 2—If a pinch hitter replaces a batter during a turn at bat, the pitcher may change pitching hands.