

2019 Pony Book - Pitching Rules

D. PINTO 8U™, MUSTANG 10U™, BRONCO 12U™, PONY 14U™, COLT 16U™, PALOMINO 18U™ and THOROBRED 23U™ must use the Pitch Smart chart printed below.

AGE RANGE	DAILY MAX PITCHES	REQUIRED REST (PITCHES)					
		0 DAYS	1 DAY	2 DAYS	3 DAYS	4 DAYS	5 DAYS
7-8	50	1-20	21-35	36-50	N/A	N/A	N/A
9-10	75	1-20	21-35	36-50	51-65	66+	N/A
11-12	85	1-20	21-35	36-50	51-65	66+	N/A
13-14	95	1-20	21-35	36-50	51-65	66+	N/A
15-16	95	1-30	31-45	46-60	61-75	76+	N/A
17-18	105	1-30	31-45	46-60	61-80	81+	N/A
19-22	120	1-30	31-45	46-60	61-80	81-105	106+

- E. When pitching in more than one game on the same calendar day, pitchers may pitch any combination of pitches in those games provided they do not exceed the maximum number of pitches for that calendar day.
- F. Pitchers reaching their maximum number of pitches in a day while pitching to a batter, may finish pitching to that batter before being removed.
- G. Once the umpire-in-chief signals "play" to the pitcher, that pitcher shall become the pitcher of record and their pitch count begin at that point.
- G. A pitcher is charged with the number of pitches in the specific calendar day in which they are pitched, regardless of whether they are local organization league games, the playoff of postponed games or suspended games, tie games, or exhibition games. Rest is calculated as per calendar day.
- H. Any pitcher withdrawn from the mound and/or lineup, or a pitcher who is withdrawn from the mound and stays in the game at another position, shall not be permitted to pitch again in the same game.
- I. If a relief pitcher comes in "cold" the umpire shall allow the pitcher to warm up properly with at least ten warm up pitches.
- J. Pitchers in violation of any of the pitching rules shall be considered ineligible players, subject to penalties outlined in Rule 18- Penalties.
- K. The pitcher named in the batting order turned in prior to the start of the game or any substitute pitcher, shall pitch to the first batter or any substitute batter until such batter is put out or reaches first base, unless the pitcher sustains injury or illness which, in the judgment of the umpire-in-chief, incapacitates him from pitching.
- L. The pitcher may bring their pitching hand in contact with their mouth or lips while in the pitching circle as long as they wipe off their hands or fingers prior to making contact with the pitching rubber. Penalty for violation of this rule is that the umpire will immediately call a ball.
- M. The league should assign an official scorekeeper for each game to track pitch counts. In the absence of an official scorekeeper, the home team book shall be the official record of games statistics including pitch count. PONY recommends the use of an electronic game scoring system.

When a pitcher pitches to his final batter, his official pitch count and number of pitches used to determine days rest will be the first pitch of that final batter.

Here are examples:

Example 1:

John started the game and through 2 full innings has pitched 19 pitches.

If removed from the mound at this point, he would be eligible to pitch the next day because he requires 0 days rest for 1-20 pitches. His official pitch count would be reported as 19.

Example 2:

John started the game and through 2 full innings has pitched 19 pitches.

In the third inning, he faces Frank (Batter #1) who hits a foul ball on the first pitch.

John now has 20 pitches. John may continue to pitch to Frank until he reaches base or is retired (making John's actual pitch count over 20).

If he is removed from the mound after retiring Frank/Frank reaches base, John's reported pitch count should be 20 and he would not be required to observe any days rest.

John's reported pitches is 20, because that is the pitch number of his first pitch to Frank, the last batter faced. He requires 0 days rest.

Example 3:

John started the game and through 2 full innings has pitched 19 pitches.

In the third inning he faces Frank (Batter #1) who hits a foul ball on the first pitch, has a strike on the second pitch, and has a single on the third pitch. John's pitch count is now 22 pitches.

Next John faces Ted (Batter #2) who hits a foul ball, then grounds out on his second ball. His total number of actual pitches is 24.

John's coach then removes him as pitcher.

John's reported pitches is 23, because that was the number of the pitch count as of Ted's (Batter #2) first pitch. John would be required to have 1 day rest because his official pitch count is between 21 and 35.

*Rest is calculated as per calendar day. ERLB is defining calendar day as 24 hours from the START time of the first game pitched for the 2019 season. (This is different than how PONY defines calendar day.)

If you pitched at any time in a game that started at 6 PM on Monday:

- If you need 1 day rest you may pitch at/after 6 PM on Tuesday
- If you need 2 days rest you may pitch at/after 6 PM on Wednesday
- If you need 3 days rest you may pitch at/after 6 PM on Thursday
- If you need 4 days rest you may pitch at/after 6 PM on Friday

*No pitcher shall appear in a game as a pitcher for three consecutive days, regardless of pitch count. (PONY rule)

No pitcher may pitch three (3) consecutive days. So if your pitcher throws 20 pitches in a game Monday and 20 pitches in a game Tuesday he may NOT pitch at all on Wednesday. (This applies to any series of consecutive days.) *