

# Blue Notes



## “Pitch Counts?”

In amateur baseball, there are various rule differences from professional baseball. A new set of rules in Baseball Ontario are established for 2008 and are specifically designed to protect our young pitchers.

These are **Pitch Counts**. Umpires also must remember that there are specific rules for (i) trips to the mound and (ii) removal of a pitcher which are unique to Baseball Ontario and the level of play.

When the pitcher has thrown the minimum number of pitches outlined below, they cannot pitch the next calendar day. Upon achieving the maximum count, the pitcher must be removed from the pitching position.

Level	Pitch Count (calendar day)	Trips
Minor & Major Mosquito	More than 45 up to 70 pitches	Unlimited unless it is meant to delay the game, then disallowed; once removed cannot pitch again in that game
Minor & Major Peewee	More than 55 up to 80 pitches	Third trip to the same pitcher/same inning, removal from the pitching position; once removed cannot pitch again in that game
Minor & Major Bantam	More than 65 up to 90 pitches	Second trip - same pitcher/same inning; removal from the pitching position and cannot pitch in that game again
Minor & Major Midget, Women	More than 75 up to 100 pitches	Second trip - same pitcher/same inning; removal from the pitching position and cannot pitch in that game again

### Pitch Count Limits

**Action** – When the maximum limit is reached, the pitcher can finish pitching to the existing batter and then **MUST** be removed from the pitching position. It is the Manager’s Responsibility to remove the pitcher from the pitching position and must not wait for the umpire to check the pitch counts!

**Penalty** – If the manager does not remove the pitcher and the pitch count is exceeded, the game is forfeit! A second violation of this rule will result in the indefinite suspension of the manager.

#### Special Notes:

- 1) When counting pitches, a balk will be considered a pitch if the ball is thrown.
- 2) An official Pitch Count Recorder must be identified by the score keeper and must provide the pitch count to either manager or the umpires.
- 3) It is the Pitch Count Recorder’s responsibility to inform the home plate umpire that the pitch count limit is reached. If Pitch Count Recorder fails in this action, it is still the responsibility of the defensive team’s manager to remove the pitcher.
- 4) A player in-eligible to pitch or removed from pitching can play in another position.

