



To: NJSIAA Program Review Committee

From: Tony Maselli, Chief Operating Officer

Date: September 11, 2023

RE: Baseball Pitch Count Rule

Background:

Over the past few years, the pitch count tracking system has moved online which has allowed schools to see the pitch count sheets for all games. This visibility has led to an increasing number of violations. The most prevalent violation is the 150 maximum pitches in a five-calendar day period rule. This rule has a “hard” stop for the pitcher while the other daily pitch count rules allow the pitcher to finish the current batter even after reaching the maximum pitches. Several schools have violated the 150-max rule over the past two years which has resulted in many forfeited games.

At the end of season meeting, the baseball committee discussed the increasing trend in violations of 150-max rule. The committee agreed to keep the 150-max rule in place but did approve a proposal that will allow the pitcher to finish the batter upon reaching 150 maximum pitches in five-calendar days. The committee unanimously approved this proposal.

Subsequent to the committee meeting, I met with the NJSIAA Sports Medical Advisory Committee (SMAC) to solicit their feedback since this rule is a player safety rule. The SMAC discussed the proposal and members of the committee felt there are minimal safety concerns with allowing the pitcher to finish the batter once reaching the 150-max. The SMAC unanimously endorsed the proposal.

Proposal:

Beginning with the 2023-24 school year, the pitch count rule will be amended to allow a pitcher to finish the batter upon reaching 150 maximum pitches in five-calendar days.