



To: NJSIAA Program Review Committee

From: Tony Maselli, Chief Operating Officer

Date: February 21, 2023

RE: NJSIAA Baseball Pitch Count Procedure

NJSIAA staff propose the following clarifications to the baseball pitch count procedure for the regular season and the state tournament.

The purpose of this clarification is to make it clear that protests regarding the pitch count are not permitted after the game is complete. All pitch count protests must be handled at the end of each half inning and once the first pitch is thrown for the beginning of the following half inning, the pitch count becomes final.

The old procedure stated that pitch counts must be verified after every half inning and once the umpires leave the confines of the field, the pitch counts are final. This jeopardizes the consistency of the pitch count. This new procedure will eliminate any confusion and will force the coaches to take a more active role regarding the pitch count. The new procedure below is separated into three categories starting with opening day to the final championship. This will leave no ambiguity to this procedure.

Pitch Count Recording Procedure

Regular season

During the regular season, each school shall designate a pitch counter for their team. This person can be a coach, manager, or team-designated pitch counter. The home team's pitch counter will also be designated as the "Official Pitch Counter." The official pitch counter will count pitches for both schools.

Pitch counts **must** be verified with representatives of both teams **after each half-inning**. If both teams agree on a pitch number, that number shall be recorded as the official pitch count. If one team disagrees on a pitch count, the official pitch counter's number shall be recorded. Once the first pitch is thrown for the next half inning, there can be no protests or appeals to the pitch count.

The official pitch counter shall inform both coaches and the plate umpire when a pitcher reaches their maximum pitch count threshold. Coaches are responsible for their pitcher's pitch count at all times. The home team shall report the home and visitor pitch counts on the nj.com website within 24 hours of the game's conclusion.

State Tournament Rounds 1, 2, 3 & Sectional Finals

During these state tournament rounds, each school shall designate a pitch counter for their team. In addition, the home team must supply an “Official **Adult** Pitch Counter” who shall not be part of the coaching staff or team manager. The official pitch counter should be dressed in apparel that is considered neutral during the state tournament. The official pitch counter shall be situated in an area near the backstop and equally accessible to both teams. The official pitch counter will count pitches for both schools.

Pitch counts **must** be verified with representatives of both teams **after each half-inning**. If both teams agree on a pitch number, that number shall be recorded as the official pitch count. If one or both teams disagree on a pitch count, the official pitch counter’s number shall be recorded. Once the first pitch is thrown for the next half inning, there can be no protests or appeals to the pitch count.

The official pitch counter shall inform both coaches and the plate umpire when a pitcher reaches their maximum pitch count threshold. Coaches are responsible for their pitcher’s pitch count at all times. The home team shall report the home and visitor pitch counts on the nj.com website within 24 hours of the game’s conclusion.

State Tournament Semifinals (public only) & State Finals

During these state tournament rounds, each school shall designate a pitch counter for their team. The NJSIAA will supply the “Official Adult Pitch Counter.”

Pitch counts **must** be verified with representatives of both teams **after each half-inning**. If both teams agree on a pitch number, that number shall be recorded as the official pitch count. If one or both teams disagree on a pitch count, the official pitch counter’s number shall be recorded. Once the first pitch is thrown for the next half inning, there can be no protests or appeals to the pitch count.

The official pitch counter shall inform both coaches and the plate umpire when a pitcher reaches their maximum pitch count threshold. Coaches are responsible for their pitcher’s pitch count at all times. The home team shall report the home and visitor pitch counts on the nj.com website within 24 hours of the game’s conclusion.