

- 8.04.A** An Intentional Walk may be issued upon announcement from either the pitcher or catcher. The four (4) pitches need not be thrown.
- 8.04.B** At any time, the offensive team may use a courtesy runner for the pitcher and catcher of record the previous inning on defense. The courtesy runner must be a player not presently in the line-up. If no players not presently in the line-up are available, the courtesy runner shall be the player making the last batted out.
Rule 8.04.B Comment: The re-entry status of the courtesy runner, pitcher, and catcher shall not be affected by this rule. If at any time, a courtesy runner is determined to be ineligible, a proper replacement pursuant to these rules (if available) will be used without penalty.
- 8.04.C** Whenever a tag play is evident, a runner must slide or seek to avoid contact with the fielder and / or catcher. Attempting to jump, leap, or dive over the fielder and / or catcher is not interpreted as seeking to avoid contact. Malicious contact shall supersede all obstruction penalties.
Rule 8.04.C Penalty: The runner shall be called out and may be ejected from the game at the umpire's discretion.
Rule 8.04.C Comment: When enforcing this rule, the umpire should judge the runner's intent. If the umpire feels that the contact was unintentional, then the runner should only be declared out. If the umpire feels that the contact was intentional and / or malicious, then the runner should be declared out and ejected.

8.05 The Pitcher –

- 8.05.A** Leagues and tournaments shall adopt the following rules pertaining to the visit of the manager or a coach to the pitcher. This rule limits the number of visits a manager or a coach may make to any pitcher in any one (1) inning;
8.05.A.1 A second (2nd) visit to the same pitcher in the same inning will cause this pitcher's automatic removal from the pitching position;
8.05.A.2 The manager or a coach is prohibited from making a second (2nd) visit to the mound while the same batter is at bat, but
8.05.A.3 If a pinch-hitter is substituted for this batter, the manager or a coach may make a second (2nd) visit to the mound, but must remove the pitcher. A manager or a coach is considered to have concluded his visit to the mound when he leaves the eighteen (18) foot circle surrounding the pitcher's rubber.
- 8.05.B** A player removed from the pitching position (starting pitcher or subsequent relief pitcher) may not return to the pitching position for the remainder of the game. The defensive team may correct this rules infraction at any time by substituting a legal pitcher without penalty. If an illegal pitcher is permitted to pitch, any pitch or play that results is legal. The rule violation should be caught by the umpire or the offensive team and immediately corrected.
Rule 8.05.B Comment: If the violating pitcher has legal innings remaining, the violation is deemed an improper substitution and is corrected without penalty.
Rule 8.05.B Penalty: If the violating pitcher has no legal innings remaining, it's deemed a pitching limitations violation pursuant to USSSA Rule 8.05.C.7.

8.05.C(Chart 8.05.C-1) The end of the day for the pitching limitation rules is the time of day or night when the ballpark is shutdown and the teams go home for the night break. Games that for any reason extend past midnight (12:00 AM) or start late at night, past midnight (12:00 AM) and are completed before the teams take the night break, will count as being played on the scheduled day. A game not completed before the night break pursuant to USSSA Rules 8.03.C.1(a) & 8.03.C.2(a), shall be a suspended game. Suspended games, when resumed (the next day or another day), shall count as being played on two different days. The outs recorded during the portion of the game played prior to suspension shall count as being played on the regularly scheduled day and the outs recorded during the portion of the game played once resumed, shall count as being played on the resumed day.

8.05.C.1 ONE DAY MAXIMUM TO PITCH THE

THE NEXT DAY: The maximum number of innings a player can legally pitch in one (1) day and still pitch the next day.

Rule 8.05.C.1 Example: In the 7U – 14U age divisions, a player may legally pitch a maximum of three (3) innings in one (1) day and still legally pitch the next day. If the player pitches three and one-third (3 1/3) or more innings in one (1) day, the player can not legally pitch the next day.

AGE DIVISION	ONE DAY MAXIMUM TO PITCH THE NEXT DAY	ONE DAY MAXIMUM	THREE DAY MAXIMUM
7U – 12U	3	6	8
13U – 14U	3	7	8
15U – 18U	UNLIMITED	UNLIMITED	UNLIMITED

Chart 8.05.C-1

- 8.05.C.2 ONE DAY MAXIMUM:** The maximum number of innings a player can legally pitch in one (1) day.
Rule 8.05.C.2 Example: In the 7U – 12U age divisions, a player may legally pitch a maximum of six (6) innings in one (1) day. The player would be ineligible to pitch the next day. Similarly, in the 13U – 14U age divisions, a player may legally pitch a maximum of seven (7) innings in one (1) day. The player would be ineligible to legally pitch the next day.
- 8.05.C.3 THREE DAY MAXIMUM:** The maximum number of innings a player can legally pitch in three (3) consecutive days.
Rule 8.05.C.3 Example: In the 7U – 14U age divisions, a player may legally pitch a maximum of eight (8) innings in three (3) consecutive days. This is to be interpreted as a player may legally pitch any combination of innings to equal eight (8) innings in two (2) days as long as the player doesn't pitch more than three (3) innings the first (1st) day. Similarly, as a player may legally pitch any combination of innings to equal eight (8) innings in three (3) days as long as the player doesn't pitch more than three (3) innings the first (1st) or second (2nd) days.
- 8.05.C.4 MANDATORY DAYS OF REST;**
8.05.C.4(a) A player that pitches more than three (3) innings in one day **MUST** rest the next day.
8.05.C.4(b) A player that pitches eight (8) innings in two (2) consecutive days **MUST** rest the next day.

- 8.08.C.4(c)** A player that pitches eight (8) innings in three (3) consecutive days **MUST** rest the next day.
- 8.08.C.4(d)** A player that pitches three (3) consecutive days (regardless of total quantity of innings pitched) **MUST** rest the next day.
- 8.05.C.5** For all cumulative totals in this rule, one (1) out equals one-third (1/3) of an inning, two (2) outs equals two-thirds (2/3) of an inning and three (3) outs equals one (1) full inning. A pitcher that pitches in a game and records no outs is not charged with any innings pitched.
- 8.05.C.6** Outs recorded during a game that ends in forfeit shall count towards a pitchers' innings limits.
- 8.05.C.7** For purposes of pitching limitations rules, a pitcher is in violation of the rule if he records any out above the legal pitching limits pursuant to these rules.
Rule 8.05.C.7 Exception: Exceeding the maximum innings allowed in the case of a double or triple play shall not be counted against the pitcher.
Rule 8.05.C.7 Penalty: It shall be the responsibility of each team manager to challenge pitching violations by notifying the Umpire-in-Chief and then filing a Protest with the League / Tournament Director. A protest may be filed at any point after the pitcher in violation records an out beyond his legal limit **AND** while the pitcher in violation is in the game and in the pitching position. If such violation is the last recorded out of the game, the protest **MUST** be filed prior to the umpires and the protesting team leaving the field of play. Any violation of USSSA Rules 8.05.C.1 – 8.05.C.7 shall result in immediate forfeiture of the game. If such violation occurs during Pool-Play, the team in violation of the rule may not advance to the championship bracket regardless of record.
- 8.05.D** **General Statement Concerning Balks:** Umpires should bear in mind that the purpose of the balk rule is to prevent the pitcher from deliberately deceiving the base runner. If there is doubt in the umpire's mind, the "intent" of the pitcher should govern. However, certain specifics should be borne in mind: (A) Straddling the pitcher's rubber without the ball is to be interpreted as intent to deceive and ruled a balk. (B) With a runner on first (1st) base, the pitcher may make a complete turn, without hesitating toward first (1st) base and throw to second (2nd) base. This is not to be interpreted as throwing to an unoccupied base. (C) In age divisions 9U & 10U, pitchers should be allowed some leniency in regards to balks. Pitchers should be called for all major violations and warned for minor violations that do not affect the outcome of a play. (D) In age divisions 11U – 18U, balks shall be strictly enforced without warning.
- 8.06** Coach Pitch Specific Rules –
- 8.06.A** Fair Ball Arc: There shall be a twenty (20) foot arc drawn from first (1st) baseline to third (3rd) baseline in front of home plate. A batted ball must go past this line to be a fair ball.
- 8.06.B** Safety Arc: There shall be a thirty (30) foot arc drawn from first (1st) baseline to third (3rd) baseline in front of home plate. Infielders must stay behind this line until the ball is hit.
- 8.06.C** Pitching Circle: There shall be a ten (10) foot diameter circle with the front edge set at forty-two (42) feet from the rear point of home plate.
- 8.06.D** Pitcher's Line: There shall be a line drawn from the pitcher's circle to the fair ball arc.
8.06.D.1 The pitching coach shall keep one foot on or straddle the pitcher's line.
8.06.D.2 The pitching coach shall not verbally or physically coach while in the pitching position
8.06.D.3 The pitching coach shall position himself as not to be an obstruction to the defensive team on any possible play once the ball has been hit.
Rule 8.06.D Penalty: If a coach violates this rule after the ball is pitched, obstruction will be called.
Rule 8.06.D Additional Penalty: If a coach violates this rule before the ball is pitched, First Offense: Warning; Second Offense: Removal of coach as the pitcher for the remainder of the game.
- 8.06.E** The catcher shall receive the pitch in the catcher's box in a normal baseball manner. If in the umpire's judgment, the catcher is not receiving the ball in a normal baseball manner, there will be a warning issued. If the act continues after the warning, the offending teams' manager will be ejected.
- 8.06.F** Ten (10) defensive players shall play in the field with four (4) outfielders. The fourth (4th) outfielder shall not assume an infield position. All outfielders shall stay behind the baselines.
- 8.06.G** The defensive player listed as pitcher shall not leave the pitching circle until the ball is hit.
Rule 8.06.G Penalty: The play continues. After the play has ended, the offensive team has the option of taking the result of the play or no-pitch.
Rule 8.06.G Additional Penalty: First Offense: Warning; Second Offense: Removal of player from the pitching position for the remainder of the game.
- 8.06.H** Defensive coaches shall not be allowed on the field of play and shall coach from the dugout.
- 8.06.I** The Infield Fly Rule shall not be in effect at any time.
- 8.06.J** The batting order shall constitute all present players on the team roster at the beginning of the game. Late arrivals shall be inserted at the bottom of the batting order. All players on the roster shall bat before returning to the top of the batting order.
8.06.J.1 Teams may start a game with eight (8) players. The ninth (9th) & tenth (10th) positions in the batting order will be declared an out each turn at bat.
Rule 8.06.J.1 Approved Ruling: A ninth (9th) & tenth (10th) player and all subsequent players may be added to the bottom of the batting line-up as soon as they become available.
- 8.06.K** Teams may use free substitution on defense but the batting order shall remain the same.
- 8.06.L** Bunting shall not be allowed.
- 8.06.M** The batter shall receive a maximum of six (6) pitches or three (3) swinging strikes.
Rule 8.06.M Comment: A batter that has received less than six (6) pitches and has a count of two (2) swinging strikes shall have his turn at bat extended on foul balls up to the six (6) pitch limit.
- 8.06.N** A player may only be Intentionally Walked once per game by announcement from the defensive team.