

AAA Softball Pitching Rules for Spring 2012 Until April 23, 2012, the first two innings of each game will use the pitching machine. The balls will be fed into the pitching machine by the manager (or designated adult representative) of the team at bat. The pitching machine will be set up no closer than the regulation minor league softball rubber (35 feet). For any game where the pitching machine is not available or operating, an adult representative from the offensive team will pitch to their batters. Balls and strikes will be called, but bases will not be awarded for walks or hit batters by machine pitch. In any inning played after the initial 2 innings, players will serve as pitchers, and the usual balls and strikes will be called by the umpires. From and after April 23, 2012, except as provided below, the pitching rules that apply to softball majors shall apply at AAA softball.

Twelve (12) year olds are not permitted to pitch at this level. While the pitching machine is being used, no player may pitch more than half of the number of scheduled innings per week allowed for kid pitching. Therefore, if a team has 2 games scheduled for the week and the first two innings of each game is scheduled for machine pitch, no pitcher may pitch more than 4 innings in that week; provided that, if a game goes beyond 6 innings, for every two additional innings (or applicable portion thereof, e.g., if a game goes fewer than 2 extra innings), a player shall be allowed to pitch one additional inning. Once all games are kid pitched, the rules on innings pitched that apply in Majors softball shall apply. Per LL rules, a single pitch in an inning counts as an inning pitched for this purpose. Per LL rules, a week starts on Sunday and runs through the following Saturday. There are no rest requirements (i.e., restrictions as to consecutive days pitched). Prior to any game, the managers of the teams shall advise each other as to the number of innings already pitched by his or her pitchers (by pitcher) during the week, provided that a failure to do so, unless and until requested by the other manager, shall not be subject to sanction. If and at such time that a violation of the maximum inning per week rule is determined to have occurred, a pitcher who is pitching in excess of the innings permitted shall be removed from the game, but there shall be no other sanction or adjustment as to the results of the game to that point; provided that a violation of the pitching limit rules, if determined to be intentional, shall make the manager subject to disciplinary action.

AA Softball Pitching Rules for Spring 2012 Except as provided below, the following pitching rules shall apply to AA softball for Spring 2012:

Until April 23, 2012, the first four innings of each game will use the pitching machine and thereafter the first 3 innings of each game will use the pitching machine. The balls will be fed into the pitching machine by the manager (or designated adult representative) of the team at bat. The pitching machine will be set up no closer than the regulation minor league softball rubber (35 feet). For any game where the pitching machine is not available or operating, an adult representative from the offensive team will pitch to their batters. Strikes will be called, but bases will not be awarded for walks or hit batters by machine or coach pitch.

When using the pitching machine, the pitch should come to the batter at a rate of speed such that the pitch is “flat”. The pitch should not “loop” in to the batter with an arc.

Following the machine pitch innings, kids will pitch. When kids pitch, the count starts at strike one.

No player shall pitch more than one (1) inning in a game that has three (3) innings pitched by the pitching machine; provided that if a game goes beyond 6 innings, for each 3 innings thereafter (or applicable portion thereof, e.g., if a game goes fewer than 3 extra innings, a player may pitch one additional inning. If there are two (2) or fewer innings of machine pitching, then the rules on innings pitched that apply in AAA softball shall apply. There are no rest requirements. To the extent that players may be permitted to pitch another inning after the 6th inning by virtue of this rule or by application of the AAA rules, that player shall not be prohibited from doing so by virtue of the limitation on the number of innings any player may play the same position.

During the regular season, there will be no walks. If the batter is thrown four (4) balls by the player pitcher, the batter will remain at the plate. The pitcher will assume the position behind the pitching rubber and the manager or coach of the offensive team will continue pitching to the batter. The batter will retain the number of strikes they had from the player pitcher and with the manager/coach pitching will either hit the ball into fair territory or strike out. The Vice President of Softball and/or his/her designee may determine to apply this rule in this paragraph above in the City Series. In all cases, batters still take first base if hit by pitch.



The number of innings pitched by the pitching machine both at AA and AAA will be reevaluated by the Vice President of Softball and/or his/her designee from time to time and modifications, while not anticipated, may occur. If deemed necessary, the one strike rule described above that applies in AA may be added to AAA. It is anticipated that the one strike rule will apply for entire AA season, but may be eliminated if the Vice President of Softball and/or his/her designee determines that it is not necessary. If the pitching is deemed strong enough, the rule prohibiting walks at AA may also be reconsidered as to its application in the City Series. Any of the changes described in this paragraph—none considered likely-- will be made in consultation with the managers at the AA or AAA level, as applicable.