



2023 Pitch Clock Rules Reference Card



Clock Start	
First pitch of inning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pitcher w ball ON RUBBER Catcher in box Batter in box
After call of 'Time'	
After Dead Ball	
UMPIRE SIGNALS PLAY	
First pitch of all subsequent ABs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pitcher w ball ON MOUND Catcher in box Batter in box
UMPIRE SIGNALS PLAY	
After each pitch during AB - Ball remains live	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pitcher w ball ON MOUND Catcher in box Batter's actions irrelevant

Timing Requirements		
Between Innings	120 Seconds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> When ALL defensive players have started to leave positions Players must be READY at conclusion of 120 seconds
Batter - During AB	10 seconds	In box and alert to pitcher
Pitcher - During AB	20 seconds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Begin motion to deliver Legal throw to a base Request time/step off w runners on

Penalties			
Offense	Between inn.	Strike added	Charged conference VOIDS penalty
	Pitch Clock	Strike added	Penalty irrevocable

Clock Stop - No Runners On	
Pitcher begins windup	Clock stops, pitch must be delivered or you've got an illegal pitch due to interruption in delivery
From set - begins motion to pitch	
Time out	Time outs only granted for charged conferences or justified reasons

Clock Stop - Runners On	
Pitcher begins windup	Clock stops, pitch must be delivered or you've got an illegal pitch due to interruption in delivery
From set - begins motion to pitch	
Makes a pickoff	Unlimited resets
Step off and tag advancing runner out	Unlimited resets
Step off (feint or new sign)	ONE reset per AB
Defense requests time - no conference	
Defensive Signals	

Penalties			
Defense	Between inn.	Ball added	Charged conference VOIDS penalty
	Pitch Clock	Ball added	Penalty irrevocable
	Runners on, 2 nd reset	Ball added	Penalty irrevocable



2023 Pitch Clock Crew Mechanics



Managing Stopwatch
U3 in 3 and 4 umpire BU in 2 umpire
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stopwatch remains in left hand, putting stopwatch away as pitcher delivers will cause issues with game focus When approaching time limits, stopwatch is raised up to eye level To keep crew on same page w clock, BU should make is obvious when they are starting the clock

Timer Related Signals (from PU to clock operator/U3)	
Start Clock	Play mechanic
Reset Clock	Twirling Signal (Finger Pointed UP)
Charged Reset	Both hands out to side with one finger extended - ensure whole crew is aware
Prepitch Signals	Should be given as early as possible to allow for focus on clock

Communicating with teams about Status of Clock		
Batter slow to enter and be alert in box	PU should both verbally and VISUALLY direct batter to stay on time	U3 will be much more likely to penalize a tardy batter if he has already been warned
No runners - Pitcher steps off	PU should make clear that the clock continues to run	Teams need reminder that NRO step offs mean nothing

Calling Violations
Moving the moment of the violation CLOSER to the delivery of the pitch increases the chance of a violation being assessed and then the pitcher delivering.
To prevent this, U3 should be prepared to LOUDLY call time and stop any action. Also, the other umpires on the field should IMMEDIATELY echo this call and stop any action that has started.

Between Innings Clock		
1 Min Remaining	U3 Signals "ONE" to PU	PU tells defense: "2 more pitches"
30 Seconds Remaining	U3 signals w arm extended overhead	PU tells defense and lead off hitter: "30 seconds left, please be ready"
15 Seconds Remaining	U3 signals w arm extended to side	PU communicates "15 seconds left" to both offense and defense
Clock Expired	U3 signals w thumbs up to PU	<p>Pitcher should be on mound and hitter in circle</p> <p>If not, PU decides if there should be a violation</p>

Granting Time	
Batter requests time	Deny unless offensive conference is requested
Catcher requests time - No runners on	Ask, "would you like a conference?" If no, deny time out
Catcher requests time - Runners on	If reset hasn't been used, grant time out If reset HAS been used, ask, "would you like a conference?"
Justified time	<p>Umpire can always call time if the situation dictates</p> <p>Make it clear that WE are taking the timeout (point at ourselves)</p>



2023 Pregame Checklist



Unsportsmanlike Conduct	
Communicate about brewing situations	Ensure that warnings are clearly understood
PROPS cannot be on field - Team warning	2 nd Offense - Person who brings prop on field is ejected
Celebration is allowed, until it becomes DANGEROUS or DIRECTED at opponents/spectators/officials	This can result in either an individual warning OR a team warning

New Rules	
Pushing runner off a base - runner is safe regardless of intent	This MAY be discussed as part of a crew consult but MAY NOT be reviewed with replay
Deflection of pitched ball by umpire or batter - we SHALL NOT allow this to create any further play - ball is dead and runners return	
FPSR - Inserted a 'common sense' clause that removes the need to call interference on a play where it has ZERO affect on safety or the ability to turn a double play	

Charged Conferences
Everyone tracks visits
Simplify your tracking approach to ensure you can stay focused on the field
As we near the end of a team's allotment of any type of visit, ensure all parties are aware
If a visit happens that isn't signaled by PU, ensure they are aware of it

Umpire System Mechanics
Rotations and Responsibilities
Fair/Foul Responsibilities
Outfield responsibilities
Prepitch communication

Crew Consultations - Do The RIGHT Thing
If you have information, put yourself in a place where your partner sees you
We SHOULD seek to add information to situations where appropriate (swipe tag, dropped ball, boundary decisions, rules etc)
We SHOULDN'T replace one umpire's judgement with another (ball/tag beats runner, ball/strike, etc)
Have the COURAGE to bring information and the HUMILITY to accept it
Changed for 2023 - HBP Consults, base awards after catch/no catch consult

Pitching Regulations		
Pivot foot parallel + Free foot in front of rubber = set	Pitcher may elect to declare they are in the windup w runners on	Declaration should be shared with crew and offense
From the windup position, once the delivery to the plate has begun, a PAUSE is legal, a PUMP is not		
From the set position, once the delivery to the plate has begun, the pitcher may not PAUSE nor PUMP		

Replay
When should we conference before a review?
Who goes to review?
How do we approach viewing plays when conducting on-site review?
What is NOT reviewable? Important to know in baseline/push off situations.
Arguing vs clarifying post review

Miscellaneous
Names of all coaches
Awareness of history between teams
Something you'd like your partners to focus on about your efforts to improve
Positive/confident mindset