

BASIC PITCHING STRATEGY - SUMMARY

Being a pitcher means more than just knowing how to throw the ball. Success depends on knowledge of the game, skill as a pitcher and then applying these two factors to best advantage in competition. Making **FULL** use of **ALL** your abilities will increase your effectiveness as a pitcher and your value to the team. Here are some ideas that can help you win games.

BASIC SUCCESS FORMULA

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| 4 Strategy Rules | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Throw the 1st pitch for a strike. 2. Get 2 strikes in the first 3 pitches. 3. Use waste pitches to work count to 2 - 2 4. Throw best pitch at batter's weakness. |
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GENERAL STRATEGY

- plan pitching strategy with catcher.
- advise team mates about strategy against key batters
- know which hitters like to "take" first pitch.
- never cross the catcher.
- use speed changes to keep batter guessing.
- pitch to edges of the strike zone.
- don't be afraid to pitch tight.
- avoid full counts early in game.
- throw pitch-out **OUTSIDE** at shoulders.
- use all parts of strike zone.
- use your **BEST PITCH** for strikes.

CONTROL THE HITTER

- study the best hitters - learn their weaknesses.
- try to make batter hit **YOUR** pitch.
- generally, with runners on base, pitch low.
- make batter hit **ahead** of runners.
- pitch **high** (rise or curve) in bunt situations.
- when in doubt, pitch **low and outside**.
- don't hesitate to give intentional walk if situation demands - discuss with coach.