



THE BULLPEN IQ'S MANAGER PLAYBOOK

**7 Pitching Data Points Every Coach Should Track —
and How to Use Them to Win More Games**

Presented by NextPlay Digital Sports | Bullpen IQ — Precision Analytics



A Note Before You Read This

This playbook was not written by a marketing team.

It was written by coaches who spent decades standing in dugouts, managing pitching staffs through long seasons and tight tournament schedules, and making decisions that affected real athletes and real outcomes. We built Bullpen IQ because we lived every problem described in these pages — and we got tired of waiting for someone else to solve them.

What follows are the seven pitching data points we believe every baseball coach should be tracking, why each one matters more than most coaches realize, and how to actually use them to make better decisions during live games.

This is not a product brochure. It is a coaching resource. Use it that way.

And when you are ready to see how Bullpen IQ tracks all seven automatically — starting with your very first game — your 7-day free trial is waiting at the back of this playbook.

— *The NextPlay Digital Sports Coaching Team*

DATA POINT 1

Pitch Count — The Number Every Coach Thinks They Know (But Often Doesn't)

Why It Matters More Than You Think

Pitch count is the most fundamental data point in pitcher management. Every coach knows this. And yet inaccurate pitch counts are one of the most common — and most costly — problems in baseball coaching at every level. It is not a knowledge problem. It is a tracking problem. During a live game, a head coach is simultaneously watching the pitcher's mechanics, reading the opposing hitter's approach, managing the dugout, communicating with the base coaches, and processing dozens of other inputs at once. Keeping an accurate running pitch count while doing all of that is genuinely difficult — and the consequences of getting it wrong range from a poor pitching decision in a close game to a compliance violation that costs a player eligibility at the worst possible moment.

What to Track

A reliable pitch count system needs to capture more than just a running total. To be genuinely useful, your pitch count data should include the total updated after every single pitch — not estimated at the end of the inning. It should track counts by individual pitcher so you know exactly where each arm stands the moment that arm becomes relevant. And it should maintain a cumulative record across multiple games so tournament workload management is based on actual data rather than memory.

How Coaches Use It to Win Games

The most immediate application is the pitching change decision. When you know your starter is at 84 pitches going into the fifth inning — not approximately 80, but exactly 84 — your decision about whether to let him face the top of the order is grounded in real information. For high school coaches managing compliance, accurate real-time tracking is program protection. For travel ball coaches running a pitching staff through a weekend tournament, cumulative pitch count data is what separates smart workload management from arm damage waiting to happen.

■ THE BULLPEN IQ SOLUTION

Bullpen IQ updates your pitch count automatically with every tap. The moment a pitch is recorded — three taps — your count is current. Not at the end of the inning. Immediately. That count carries forward across every game, building a cumulative workload record for every pitcher on your roster accessible any time you need it.



DATA POINT 2

Pitch Sequence Log — What Actually Happened in Every At-Bat

Why It Matters More Than You Think

Ask a coach after a game what pitch sequence their pitcher used against the opposing cleanup hitter in the third inning, and most will give you a general answer. Fastball away, then a breaking ball, then a fastball up in the zone. Something like that. But something like that is not good enough when that same hitter comes up in the seventh inning with the game on the line. The pitch sequence log is the most underutilized data point in amateur baseball coaching — not because coaches do not understand its value, but because capturing it accurately during a live game has always required a level of dedicated attention that most coaching staffs simply do not have the capacity to give.

What to Track

A complete pitch sequence log captures every pitch in every at-bat — pitch type, location, and result — in the order it was thrown. This means you know not just that a hitter struck out, but that he struck out looking at a change-up low and away after two fastballs up in the zone. That sequence is a coaching asset. It tells you what works against this hitter, when it works, and what the setup pitch needs to be to make the out pitch effective.

How Coaches Use It to Win Games

The most powerful application is the second and third at-bat against the same hitter. When your pitcher faced their third baseman in the first inning and got him out on a slider in the dirt after two fastballs up, that sequence is now your starting point for every subsequent at-bat. You are not guessing. You are not asking your assistant what he remembers. You are looking at an exact record of what just worked — and using it to make a better decision the next time that hitter steps in.

■ THE BULLPEN IQ SOLUTION

Every pitch scored in Bullpen IQ is automatically logged as part of that at-bat's complete sequence. By the time the hitter makes an out or reaches base, the full sequence is already recorded — pitch type, location, result, in order. That log is available immediately for the next at-bat against the same hitter, and it carries forward into every subsequent game in your program's history.

DATA POINT 3

Spray Charts — Where the Ball Goes When It Gets Hit

Why It Matters More Than You Think

A spray chart is a visual map of every ball put in play during a game — where it was hit, how hard, and what happened as a result. In professional baseball, spray charts drive defensive positioning decisions made before a hitter ever steps into the box. In high school and travel ball coaching, they are one of the most powerful in-game tools available — and one of the least used, simply because building them manually during a live game has never been practical. When you know that a hitter has pulled three consecutive fastballs to the left side, you have information that changes how your pitcher attacks him and how your defense is positioned.

What to Track

A useful spray chart maps every ball in play by its general location on the field — pull side, center, opposite field — combined with the pitch type and location that produced that contact. Over the course of a game, this data builds a visual picture of where contact is happening and why — giving both the pitching coach and the defensive coach actionable information in real time.

How Coaches Use It to Win Games

The most immediate application is defensive positioning. When your spray chart shows that the opposing cleanup hitter has hit two balls to the right side in his first two at-bats, you have a real-time data point to support shifting your second baseman toward the hole before his third at-bat. That shift is not a gut feeling — it is a data-backed decision made with information that did not exist thirty minutes ago. For travel ball coaches building scouting reports across a tournament weekend, the spray chart from game one becomes your advance scouting report for the next time you face that lineup.

■ THE BULLPEN IQ SOLUTION

Bullpen IQ builds your spray chart automatically with every ball-in-play entry. A nine-tap ball-in-play sequence captures pitch type, location, and where the ball was hit — and the spray chart updates instantly. By the third inning of any game, you already have a visual picture of where contact is happening and what pitches are producing it.

DATA POINT 4

Performance by Count — The Pitching Metric Most Coaches Overlook

Why It Matters More Than You Think

Every at-bat has a count dynamic — the balance of balls and strikes that shifts leverage back and forth between pitcher and hitter with each pitch. Experienced coaches understand this intuitively. What they often lack is the data to see their pitcher's performance patterns within specific counts across a full game or season. A pitcher who dominates in pitcher's counts — 0-2, 1-2 — but struggles significantly in hitter's counts — 2-0, 3-1 — has a specific and addressable problem. Performance by count data makes these patterns visible in a way that intuition alone cannot.

What to Track

Performance by count tracks how your pitcher performs — pitch selection, location, and outcome — within each count combination across an at-bat. The most actionable count situations to track are two-strike performance, which tells you how effective your pitcher is at finishing at-bats; hitter's count performance, which reveals how he responds under pressure; and first-pitch outcomes, which often predict the entire at-bat's trajectory.

How Coaches Use It to Win Games

The most direct application is pitch selection guidance in specific counts. If your data shows that your pitcher's change-up is dramatically more effective in 1-2 counts than in 0-2 counts, you have a specific recommendation to make the next time he gets to that situation. For pitching development conversations, performance-by-count data gives you specificity that generic feedback cannot provide — you can show a pitcher exactly what his results look like in 2-0 versus 0-0 situations, and that specificity makes feedback land differently and stick more effectively.

■ THE BULLPEN IQ SOLUTION

Because Bullpen IQ logs every pitch with its type, location, count, and result, performance-by-count data is generated automatically as you score the game. You do not have to build a separate tracking system. The data is already there — organized, accessible, and ready to use the moment you need it.

DATA POINT 5

Out Pitch Tracking — What Actually Gets Hitters Out

Why It Matters More Than You Think

Every pitcher has pitches that get hitters out more consistently than others. In a general sense, most coaches know what their pitcher's best out pitch is. What they often lack is the specific data to know when that pitch works, against which types of hitters, in which count situations, and at what point in the game it is most effective. Out pitch tracking answers all of those questions — and the answers change how you use your pitcher's arsenal in the at-bats that matter most.

What to Track

Out pitch tracking captures every pitch that results in an out — its type, location, the count it was thrown in, the handedness of the hitter, and where in the game it occurred. Over time, this data builds a precise picture of not just what your pitcher's best out pitch is, but exactly how and when to deploy it for maximum effectiveness.

How Coaches Use It to Win Games

The most immediate application is at-bat planning against hitters your pitcher has already faced. When you know your pitcher has gotten three outs on the slider away against right-handed hitters and zero outs on that pitch against left-handed hitters in today's game, you have specific intelligence to bring to the next matchup. For pitching development, out pitch data reveals which pitches need refinement and which are ready to be trusted in pressure situations.

■ THE BULLPEN IQ SOLUTION

Bullpen IQ logs every out pitch automatically as part of the pitch-by-pitch scoring sequence. Your out pitch data builds itself during the game — organized by pitch type, location, count, and hitter handedness — and is available for review the moment the inning ends.

DATA POINT 6

Workload Management — The Long Game Behind Every Pitching Decision

Why It Matters More Than You Think

Single-game pitch counts tell you where a pitcher stands today. Workload management data tells you where he stands across the entire season — and that longer view is what protects arms, prevents fatigue-related performance declines, and keeps your best pitchers available when the games matter most. A pitcher who threw 95 pitches on Tuesday looks different on Friday than a pitcher who threw 60 on Tuesday — even if his arm feels fine in the warmup. Coaches who manage workload across a full week or a full tournament weekend make better pitching decisions than coaches who manage only the game in front of them.

What to Track

Effective workload management tracks cumulative pitch counts across rolling windows — the last three days, the last seven days, the last two weeks — alongside rest days between outings and performance trends as workload accumulates. This data makes it possible to see fatigue before it shows up in results — which is always better than recognizing it after the damage is done.

How Coaches Use It to Win Games

The primary application is tournament roster management. When you are heading into a Sunday semifinal and trying to decide which arm to start, cumulative workload data from the entire weekend gives you a complete picture of where every pitcher stands. For high school coaches managing a pitching staff through a long regular season and into postseason play, workload tracking across the full season reveals patterns that protect against overuse injuries before they happen.

■ THE BULLPEN IQ SOLUTION

Because Bullpen IQ maintains a complete pitching history for every pitcher in your program, workload data across any time window is always available. Before any game, you can see each pitcher's cumulative counts, rest days, and performance trends — organized clearly and accessible in seconds.

DATA POINT 7

Scouting Reports — Turning Your Own Game Data Into a Competitive Advantage

Why It Matters More Than You Think

The best scouting report on an opposing pitcher or lineup is not something you find online or hear from another coach. It is the data you collected the last time you faced them — pitch sequences that got their best hitters out, spray chart patterns that show where they make contact, performance-by-count tendencies that reveal how their pitcher responds under pressure. Most coaches have this information somewhere in their game history. The challenge is that it is usually buried in scorebooks, partial notes, and memory — none of which are organized in a way that makes them useful as a pre-game preparation tool.

What to Track

An effective scouting report draws from your own game data to capture hitter tendencies — what pitches they hit, where they hit them, and in which count situations they are most dangerous — alongside pitcher tendencies for teams whose pitching you have seen before. This data does not require a dedicated advance scout. It requires accurate game-by-game data collection and a system that makes that data retrievable and usable.

How Coaches Use It to Win Games

The most powerful application is tournament preparation. When your team faces an opponent in a Saturday semifinal that you played against on Friday morning, your Bullpen IQ data from that first game is already your scouting report. You know which hitters made contact on which pitches. You know what their pitcher went to in two-strike counts. Walking into a rematch with that data — organized, accurate, and ready to brief your pitchers — is a different kind of preparation that changes outcomes in close games.

■ THE BULLPEN IQ SOLUTION

Because every game scored in Bullpen IQ is stored in your program's history, scouting report data builds automatically every time you play. The spray charts, sequence logs, and performance-by-count data from every previous matchup against a specific opponent are always accessible — organized and ready to use as your preparation tool the next time you face them.

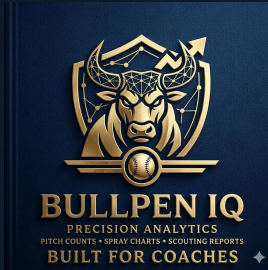


Bringing It All Together

Seven data points. Each one individually valuable. Together, they represent a complete picture of pitching intelligence that changes how you manage your staff, protect your arms, and prepare for the games that define your season.

The coaches who collect this data accurately — and who have it accessible in real time during live games — make better decisions than the coaches who are working from memory, rough counts, and general impressions. That is not a technology argument. It is a coaching argument.

The tools have not always existed to collect all of this data practically during a live game. They do now.



READY TO SEE IT IN ACTION?

Bullpen IQ by NextPlay Digital Sports tracks all seven of these data points automatically — starting with your very first game.

3 taps to score a pitch. 9 taps for ball in play. First game in under 3 minutes.
No tablets. No scrolling. No tech skills required.

Built by coaches with 25+ years of experience who lived every problem in this playbook

—
and decided to build the solution they always wished they had.

■ START YOUR 7-DAY FREE TRIAL

No credit card required. No commitment. Better pitching data starting with your next game.

■ www.nextplaydigitalsports.com/bullpen-iq

Questions Before You Start?

A real coach on our team reads every message and responds personally. No chatbots. No ticket systems. Just coaches talking to coaches.

Email: nextplaydigitalsports@gmail.com

Call or Text: 740.418.2631



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