

What constitutes a pitch for the purposes of the pitch count?

For the purposes of the pitch count, the count shall be increased by one for every legal or illegal pitch thrown by the pitcher. For clarification, two conditions must be met in order for a thrown ball to be counted toward the pitch count:

1. The ball must be leave the pitcher's hand in the direction of the batter for the purposes of being put into play;
2. The result of the throw is one of the following;
 - a. A call of ball;
 - b. A call of strike;
 - c. A batted ball;
 - d. Any call in which the batter is awarded first base;
 - e. Any call in which any member of the offense is called out;
 - f. A call of balk or illegal pitch

With this in mind, here are some possible game scenarios and rulings as to whether these add to the pitch count:

1. Situation: Thrown ball results in batter being hit by pitch
Ruling: Pitch counts since result of throw was batter being awarded first.
2. Situation: While R1 attempts to steal second, pitcher balks and then throws to 1st base.
Ruling: Pitch does not count since ball was not thrown in the batter's direction
3. Situation: Just prior to the beginning of the delivery, the batter requests and is granted time-out. The pitcher completes the throw to the catcher.
Ruling: Since the thrown ball never resulted in a play, this does not count toward the pitch count. The pitcher should not be expected to hold the ball as the deceleration is more damaging than the throw.
4. Situation: Pitcher begins his throw and batter illegally steps out of the box. The umpire calls a strike for illegal action on the batter.
Ruling: Pitch counts since the throw resulted in a called strike.
5. Situation: Pitcher balks, immediately followed by a pitch.
Ruling: Pitch counts, even though thrown ball was dead by rule.
6. Situation: Pitch caught by catcher, batter interferes with attempted pick-off at second.
Ruling: Pitch counts since result of play was an out on the offense.
7. Situation: Catcher interferes with batter's attempt to hit the ball to where ball cannot be put into play.
Ruling: Pitch counts since batter is awarded first base
8. Situation: During pitcher's throw, umpire identifies a hazard on the field and calls "time"
Ruling: Pitch does not count, since no result of throw criteria were met