

TRANSFORMING PITCH COUNT COMPLIANCE

DANVERS AMERICAN LITTLE
LEAGUE USES CHANGEUP TO
AUTOMATE PITCH TRACKING
AND TO HELP PROTECT
PITCHERS FROM OVERUSE

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CHANGEUP

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



Danvers American Little League (DALL) sought a technology solution to streamline and expedite the process of tracking compliance with pitch count regulations to help ensure the health and safety of its young participants.

By selecting ChangeUp as its pitching safety and performance management system, DALL automated the process of reporting pitch counts, saving coaches and the league's Player Agent from the administrative burden of manually tracking pitch counts, while also enabling pitching sessions for other baseball programs to be considered when determining pitcher availability.

ABOUT DANVERS AMERICAN

One of two competitive Little League programs in Danvers, Massachusetts, Danvers American Little League is one of the oldest members of District 15 - Massachusetts Little League.

Rich with tradition, DALL consistently has more than 300 boys and girls between the ages of 4-12 playing baseball on an annual basis across six divisions and three seasons. Historically its teams have been among the most competitive in the area in interleague and/or post-season play.

Many participants in the DALL program also compete in tuition-based programs while playing Little League and many go on to play in High School and beyond.





CHALLENGES & OBJECTIVES

- Real-time availability reporting
 - Managing pitching availability via traditional paper pitch count forms creates excessive administrative overhead. Generating and distributing availability reports can be tedious and time-consuming. And, those responsible for administering and implementing player safety protocols are often left chasing coaches to submit game records after the fact.
 - Delays in the start of seasons due to COVID-19 resulted in compressed schedules. With the need to fit games into a short timeframe, the need for real-time pitch reporting and rest calculations became even more critical.
- 100% usage, making league-wide availability reporting possible.
- In deciding to leverage a pitching safety and performance management system, DALL needed a solution that provided:
 - Real-time, automated availability tracking and compliance reporting based on Little League and Pitch Smart pitch count rules
 - Ease of use
 - Visual cues warning coaches in advance of pitching milestones
 - The ability to capture and account for all pitching activity (regardless of team or league) for players competing on multiple teams at once
 - Retention of historical pitching data for safety and training purposes



*The customer service was excellent!
The ChangeUp team could not have been more
helpful during this crazy season."*

SOLUTION



By selecting ChangeUp as its league-wide pitch management platform, Danvers American was immediately able to overcome each of the challenges the league faced in accurately and comprehensively tracking pitch loads and rest requirements. ChangeUp's easy-to-use mobile application enabled coaches (or their designees) to:

- Track pitch counts against Little League rules in real-time
- Make strategic decisions about pitching assignments and changes based on upcoming scheduled games and opponent pitcher availability
- Ensure that pitch counts were in sync across both dugouts using ChangeUp's real-time reconciliation capabilities - diffusing disputes over counts before they arose

ChangeUp's player-centric model provided much-needed visibility into the workload of multi-team athletes, addressing the complicated challenge of tracking availability and ensuring the appropriate amount of rest for pitchers that play for multiple baseball organizations.

ChangeUp's centralized, automated reporting capabilities eliminated the administrative burden that DALL coaches and league administrators had historically faced in manually tracking and reporting availability of pitchers based on Little League pitch count rules, ensuring that interested parties across the league had up to date information at their fingertips at all times.

Finally, every player who threw a pitch during a DALL game this summer now has a performance analytics profile within the ChangeUp platform consisting of every pitching session and associated coach evaluations focused on safety, durability, effectiveness, and other key performance metrics. ChangeUp's player-centric approach enables these profiles to continue to expand and evolve over time as players' careers progress, providing coaches, players, and others (including scouts and medical personnel, if authorized) with a detailed picture of each pitcher's trends and tendencies between any two points in time or across an entire career. This data can be used to help coaches best deploy their pitchers and to develop in-season and off-season training regimens to help players reach their potentials, as well as by players and scouts to aid in recruiting processes.

RESULTS



ChangeUp's comprehensive, real-time pitch tracking capabilities took subjectivity out of determining player rest requirements. With one "source of truth" on the topic, disputes over pitch counts were minimized and administrative overhead was eliminated, allowing coaches to focus on working with the kids.

DALL's concerns about rolling out a new technology platform to coaches were quickly overcome, as both the setup and the learning curve were easy and the ChangeUp team was readily available to answer questions and ensure that things ran smoothly. While ChangeUp is currently limited to iOS devices, the few coaches without iPhones or iPads were able to input their pitch counts after games concluded.

Coaches and league administrators also noted that ChangeUp's online Knowledge Base was a great resource to learn tips and tricks about the features of ChangeUp.



Danvers American Little League finally has a pitching management system that provides transparency regarding availability and rest in real-time.

Our Safety Officer and Player Agents couldn't be happier as they know that pitch count rules are being observed and the reporting is automated, and we were able to achieve our goal of 100% usage and league-wide availability reporting."

*- Chris Dembowski
VP of Field Operations
Danvers American Little League*

WHAT'S NEXT?



Having already experienced benefits from being on the ChangeUp platform, Danvers American Little League is excited about its ongoing partnership with ChangeUp, and looks forward to helping to influence and shape future enhancements and features as the solution continues to evolve.

To learn more about Danvers American Little League, please visit www.danversamerican.org.

ABOUT CHANGEUP

ChangeUp is the simple, easy-to-use pitching safety and performance management mobile platform that tracks players' careers as opposed to individual seasons. ChangeUp's player-centric focus enables all pitching sessions performed by a player, regardless of the team that she/he is representing at the time, to be considered when determining availability for any team that she/he is a member of. Simply stated, days of rest tied to a performance for one team, whether required or simply recommended, are reflected in availability for all other teams that the player is affiliated with, providing the much-needed transparency into pitching workloads demanded by today's multi-team, multi-season athletes.

Pitch count rules and rest regulations are an important part of keeping players safe and healthy, yet are standardized by age or level of play. Every athlete is different and has unique performance capabilities and training needs. ChangeUp contains a powerful analytics engine driven by an ever-expanding and continuously refined collection of personalized performance assessments that provides a detailed picture of a pitcher's trends and tendencies between any two points in time or across an entire career. The ChangeUp Analytics platform, when combined with historical pitch loads, existing rules and visual cues, empowers coaches to best position pitchers for success and to avoid injuries from overuse while also providing powerful information to aid in recruiting as well as in the development of in-season and off-season training regimens to help players reach their potentials.

To learn more about ChangeUp please contact us:

CONTACT US