

## Visits to the Mound

by: Todd Williams

I think that most of you know that, as a coach, you're allowed to make one visit to the mound per inning to your pitcher, and on the second visit, you're required to remove that pitcher from the game. The only exception to this rule is when the same batter is still at bat, in which case, you're not allowed to make a second visit.

Do you know what constitutes the conclusion of that visit?

Here's the situation...

The manager goes to the mound for the second time in the inning, and substitutes the first baseman for the pitcher. The first baseman goes to the dugout and swaps his first baseman's glove for an infielder's glove. While he's doing that, the manager walks over to the home plate umpire to notify them of the pitching change.

The manager then walks back to the mound and talks with the new pitcher as he takes his warm-up pitches.

Question: Should the manager be charged with a visit to the new pitcher?

The answer is YES, the manager SHOULD be charged with a visit.

Technically, the manager has concluded their visit when they leave the mound (the 18-foot circle around the mound). However, if they never leave the mound, they are allowed to talk with the new pitcher without being charged (since they never concluded their initial visit).

Most umpires will allow the manager to walk about the field during the time out for a pitching change, including going to the mound a second time to talk with the new pitcher, without charging them with a visit to the new pitcher. However, they would be completely within the rules to do so.