



# Blue Flame Ultimate Pitching Machine

Item LG0111



## Quick Start Guide to Using the Pitching Machine

The pitching machine can be a process to learn with if this is your first year coaching, but once you get the hang of how it operates it becomes quite easy to adjust and operate. It even provides the opportunity to help with outfield practice by throwing fly balls as well as ground balls for infield practice. You can find the complete user manual on the coaches website for In-House Softball.



This guide will walk you through the adjustment steps for throwing each pitch as a strike at the appropriate speed for each level.



## Determining the Speed

Something to remember is that for all of our 1<sup>st</sup> graders this is the first time they are experiencing the pitching machine. It also may also be the first time for some 4th graders if they are new players or new to P.L.A.Y. Because of this and because we want everyone to have a positive experience in our program we have set these guidelines for the speed of our pitches.

Please consult the In-House Rulebook as to speed setting for each age level and change to speeds throughout the season.

SPEED (MPH)	MICRO ADJUST		RELEASE HOOK		POWER LEVER		DISTANCE (FEET)
	MINUS	PLUS	MINUS	PLUS	MINUS	PLUS	
44	3	1	4	4	11	11	40-54
42	3	1	4	4	10	10	40-50
40	3	1	4	4	9	9	40-50
38	3	1	4	4	8	8	40-50
36	3	1	4	4	7	7	35-40
34	3	1	4	4	6	6	35-40
32	3	1	4	4	5	5	30-40
30	3	1	4	4	4	4	30-40
28	3	1	3	3	4	4	30-35
26	3	1	3	3	3	3	30-35
24	4	2	3	3	2	2	25-30
22	4	2	3	3	1	1	20-30
20	5	3	2	2	1	1	20-25
18	5	3	1	1	1	1	20-25

This Chart is found on the top of the pitching machine

## What is the Micro Adjust?



This is the micro adjust

The micro adjust controls the height of the pitch. The ball rests up against it. For all softball speeds it is set to 1 which is the furthest hole from the handle, or the closed hole to the batter. The bolt that the ball rests against will further adjust the height of the pitch. By turning that bolt to the right it will make it shorter therefore lowering the pitch. By turning it left it will make the bolt longer which will raise the pitch.

This may need to be adjusted slightly as you pitch to each batter depending on their height, however you should not need to move the entire piece, it should remain in the same position for the entire game.



## The Release Block



The release block is the handle that you pull to release the pitch. The setting for this piece is 4 for all three pitching speeds. 1 starts at the top so this piece should be kept in the second hole from the bottom.

This piece will hold the swing arm down while you place the ball. Once you are ready to pitch the ball you will pull back on the handle and that will cause the spring to release, the arm to swing forward and the pitch to throw forward.

## Power Level

This is the piece you step on to engage the spring. You will need to step down on this piece before pulling back on the handle or the arm will not swing forward. Once the pitch has been thrown you may remove your foot to reset the machine. This will also be the piece you adjust to change the pitch speed.

