

Troubleshooting/Maintenance for Your

First Pitch Pitching Machine

1. **Check the tire pressure** approximately every 3-4 weeks. The tire pressure should be between 17 and 20 psi. Using your machine with low or high pressure can result in inconsistent pitches and damage to the tire.
2. **Adjust the skid plate properly.** The gap between the skid plate and the tire should be approximately $\frac{1}{4}$ " smaller than the height of the ball. This might take some trial and error. If the machine jumps or moves with each pitch, your skid plate might be adjusted too low. If your pitches are inconsistent, not going fast enough or far enough, the skid plate might be adjusted too high. It is important to tighten the skid plate properly so it does not move during use.
3. **Scuff/rough your tire** when your machine is new (or as needed) with a rough grain sand paper (60 grit). This allows the tire to grip the ball and improve pitch consistency. Our machines are shipped with shiny, smooth tires. Rough them up to get a good grip on the ball.
4. **When using real balls**, keep the height of the stitch in mind. The higher the stitches raise off the ball, the more the consistency of the pitch will vary. For maximum consistency, use low stitch or pitching machine balls.
5. **Give the machine recovery time** between dropping balls into the chute. It takes a couple seconds for the motor to wind back up after throwing a pitch.
6. **Keep your tire clean** and free of build-up. Some balls will leave a brown/red stripe on the tire which can affect the consistency of the pitches. It will also build up on the underside of the skid plate. We use a product called Goof-Off or sand paper to remove this build up. A good cleaning will get your tire back to new.
7. **If your Baseline machine is rotating during use**, pull the machine out of the tripod and take a look at the silver shaft. There is a flat spot milled into the shaft – this is where you should tighten the black swivel adjustment knob to lock the machine in place and prevent it from rotating during use.
8. **Do not leave your machine outside;** Keep it dry and clean. Moisture can get into the motor and cause it to rust.