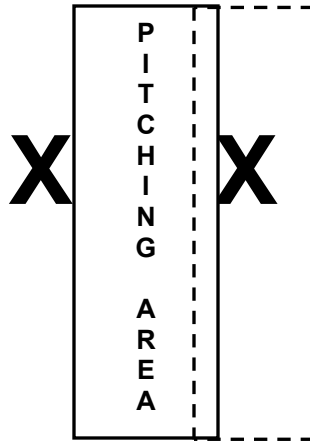


## Protecting The Pitcher Rule

A line drive will be defined as any ball that either hits the pitcher, is caught by the pitcher in a defenseless mode or glances off the pitchers glove or clothing in a defenseless mode. Any ball that strikes the ground first will not be included in this rule interpretation.

### Pitching Position

The USSSA pitching rule allows the pitcher to position him or her self anywhere within or outside of the pitching area provided that one foot is in contact with the pitcher's plate or pitching area. Therefore for the purposes of interpretation of this rule, the Pitching Area will be the area that the pitcher establishes at the time of release. (Example: If the Pitcher releases the pitch with his/her body extended to the right of the defined Pitching Area, the Pitching Area is now to the right of the defined Pitching Area). Any ball hit outside of the newly established Pitching Area will be deemed legal.



### Penalties

- 1st Occurrence (each team) - Dead ball. Batter is out.
- 2nd Occurrence (each team) - Dead ball. Batter is out and ejected from the game.
- 3rd Occurrence (each team) - Dead ball. Forfeiture of game.

### Exceptions

If a line drive is caught by the pitcher, the pitcher still has the opportunity to double off any base runner(s). The play will continue until a normal time out is called by the umpire and then the penalty will be enforced.