

PITCHER PROTECTION RULE

The umpire shall automatically apply a “Dead Ball Out” ruling when a dangerously hit (not routine play) batted ball is hit up the middle within the width of the Pitchers Plate (plus 12 inches on each side and up to a height of 8ft from the ground, essentially within an arm’s length of a person who reaches to either side or reaches up). This rule applies to line drives and sharply hit short hops (based on umpires best judgement). The dead ball out occurs whether the ball hits the pitcher or not. This rule applies whether the pitcher elects to pitch from the Pitcher’s Plate or up to 10 feet behind the rubber.

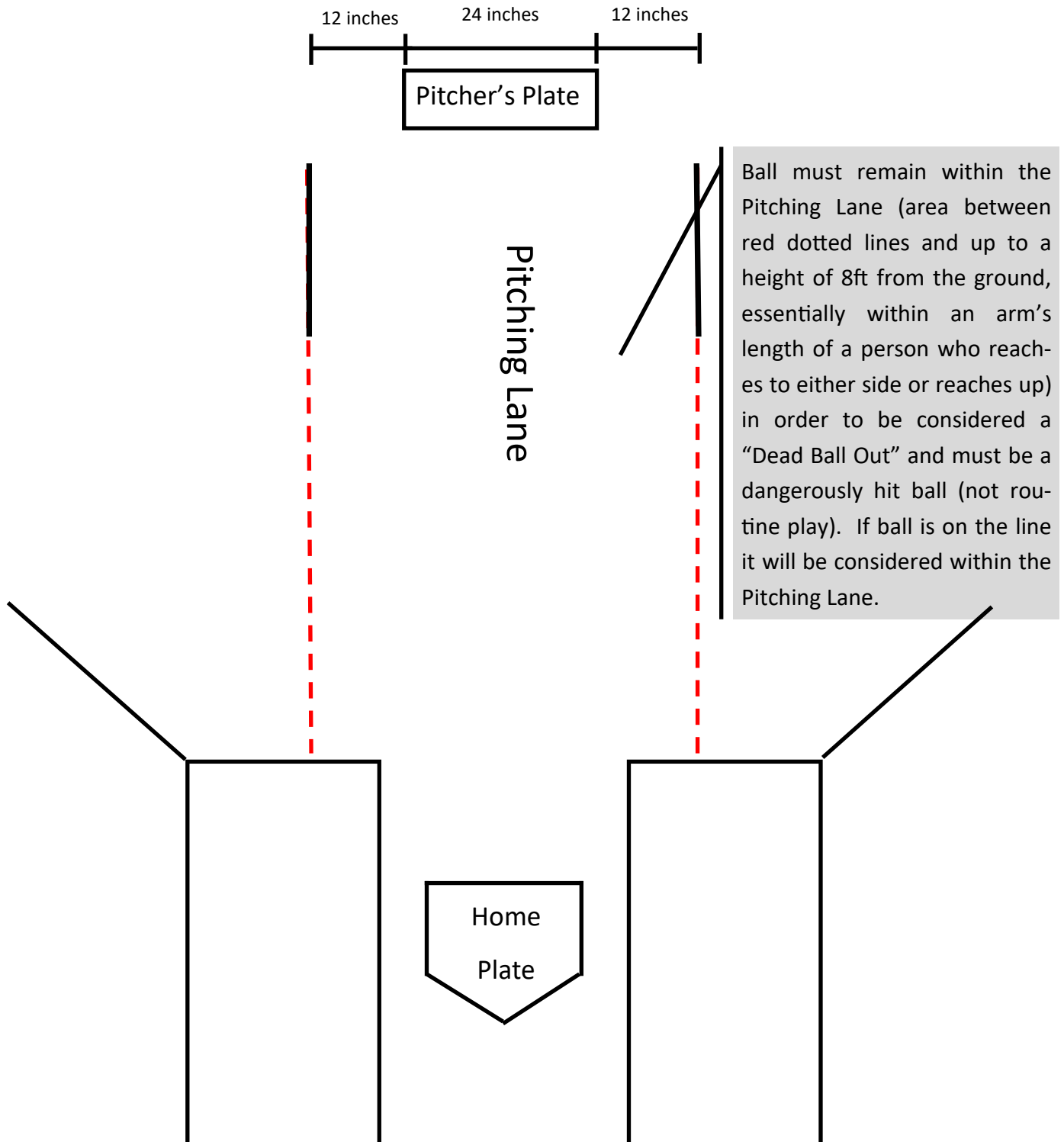


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