

Date: 28/03/10

Subject: SAL TB 2010-1 Fast Pitch Strike Zone.

Background.

Rule 1 Sec. 90 states; the strike zone in Fast Pitch is that space over any part of home plate, between the batter's armpits and the top of his knees, when he assumes his natural batting stance.

Australia has taught and interpreted that the pitch must pass under the batter's sternum bone to be a strike.

Review.

A review of the strike zone, particularly in non elite, junior and lower grade competitions has been undertaken in Australia.

The review identified that not enough strikes are being called, therefore, too many Base on Balls are being issued lowering the interest of the game to both participants and spectators.

Our teaching and training manuals will now reflect the rule book definition.

Mechanics.

The batter may be at the front or back of the batter's box, or opposite the plate, however the strike zone should remain the same.

The strike zone is taken from the position of home plate.

The top and bottom of the zone is taken from their natural batting stance.

The ball need only pass through the strike zone at some point while over home plate for it to be considered a strike. This is especially important for balls that drop, rise or curve through the zone.

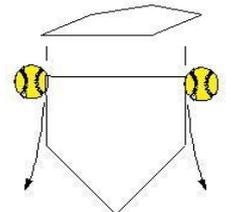
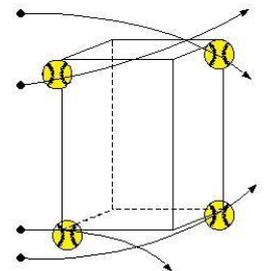
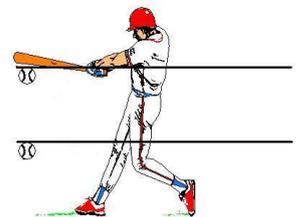
The complete ball must pass under the **batter's arm pits**^[1], some part of the ball must be above the **top of the batter's knees**; and **any part of the ball can pass over any part of the home plate for it to be a strike.**

I.E. The outermost cover of the ball may pass over the extreme outside edge of the home plate and still be called a strike.

This does not include a ball that touches the ground and bounces up through the strike zone before reaching home plate.

Note: *If the ball passes through the Strike Zone and lands on Home Plate, it is not a Strike unless the Batter swings at the ball.*

It is generally accepted at senior elite competitions worldwide that the strike zone is often up to one ball lower than the arm pits.



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^[1] **Definition:** For this application the armpit will be that point where the arm joins the body.