



LINE DRIVES

Line Drives at the Pitcher

You're up to bat. The pitch comes in—right down the middle—and... SMEEASH! A rocket of a line drive straight at the pitcher! It hits their glove, but they drop it, but wait ... “I’m out?!”

Yep! In the BLSA, we have a safety rule to protect our pitchers. Here's how it works

3.23 – Line Drive to Pitcher

“If the pitcher is hit by a line drive that has not touched the ground, the batter is automatically out. Runners do not advance.”

How do we define a Line Drive at the Pitcher?

A ball that is hit directly at the pitcher without bouncing that strikes the pitcher in any part of their body, INCLUDING their glove (which is an extension of their body, and can be used in defence as protection)

What Doesn't Count as a Line Drive at the Pitcher:

A ball hit as a line drive, but not directly at the pitcher

A ball that passes on either side of the pitcher, that they reach for to play, and are hit by it, or drop it

Any ground balls, bloopers, fumbles or balls that bounce

Why This Rule Exists

This is a BLSA-specific rule created to keep our league safe and enjoyable. Here's why:

Our pitching distance is shorter (only 40 ft), giving pitchers less reaction time

Orthodox pitching (no windmill) results in more flat, hard-hit balls

Pitchers are not required to wear full protective gear — only masks are mandatory

A Reminder for Game Day

This is not a Softball Canada Rule — it's specific to our league

Before the game, let the umpire know during the plate meeting:

When they ask, "Are there any league-specific rules I should know?" — THIS is one of them! Umpires work across many leagues and rule sets — a quick heads-up helps them apply this rule correctly.

The umpire has final say on whether a hit qualifies under this rule, based on the pre-game discussion.