

The Pitcher Safety Box (PSB):

Chalk lines are drawn to form a box around the mound. The left and right walls of the PSB are 2 feet to the left of the left edge of the pitcher's mound, and 2 feet to the right of the edge of pitcher's mound. Since the mound is about 2 feet wide, it's a box that is 6 feet wide, and 6 feet deep. The front part of the PSB is the mound, it extends 6 feet back towards 2B..

PSB is like a STRIKE ZONE which is essentially a box with a lid and bottom, that the pitcher would try to throw through for a strike.

The PSB is similar to the strike zone: regardless of where the batter stands, strike zone remains the same. Regardless where the pitcher moves once the pitch is made and regardless if the pitcher touches the ball with his/her glove, the PSB and the rule remain the same.

In other words, it's about where the ball travels through the PSB, not where the pitcher is or what he/she does once the ball is hit.

THE SPIRIT OF THE RULE:

The spirit of the rule is to create a safe zone around the most dangerous position in softball. Players are penalized if they hit up the middle: they are out, and it's a dead ball (no runners can advance).

PITCHER SAFETY BOX RULE:

1. If the batted ball travels through the Pitcher's Safety Box (PSB), the hitter is out, and it's a dead ball (runners cannot advance, and no double plays).
2. It does not matter where the pitcher is when the hit is made, nor does it matter if the ball hits or misses the pitcher. It's where the ball is hit. Like a strike zone, it stays consistent. The pitcher must be inside the box to be considered an out.
3. The height of the PSB is from the mound to 3 feet above the head of the pitcher. If a ball hits the ground before the mound, the ball is a dead ball and is an out. If it travels 3 feet above the head of the pitcher, it is also live.
4. The width of the PSB is 2 feet to the left of the left edge of the pitcher's mound, and 2 feet to the right of the right edge of the pitcher's mound. With a 2 foot wide mound, that's 6 feet from left to right.
5. The pitcher can pitch from anywhere inside the box, as long as both feet are inside the box when the pitch is released. The pitcher can move outside the box once the pitch is made. If the pitcher is hit while outside the PSB, the ball is live (the rationale is to try to incentivize the pitcher to stay within the safe zone, and let the hitters know that they only have to concern themselves with avoiding line drives up the middle within the "Pitcher Safety Box").