



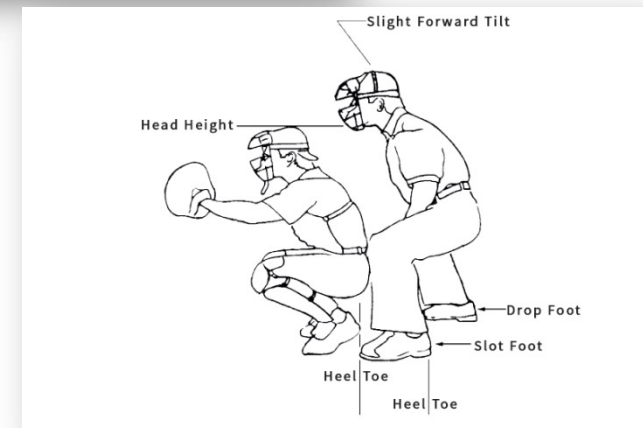
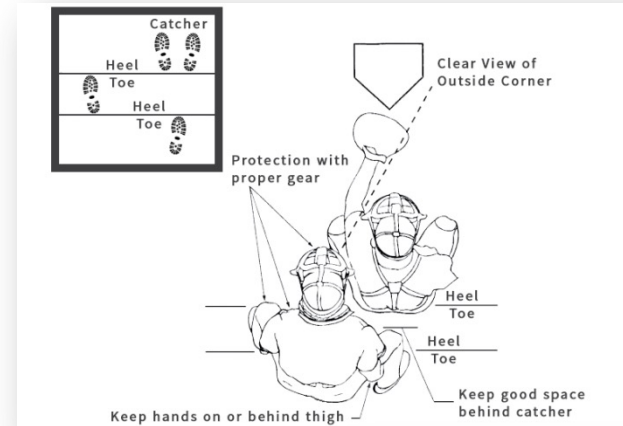
Setting Up

The Proper Slot Position



- The umpire lines up, in the slot between the batter and the catcher, about 6-10 inches behind the catcher positioning his head so that his chin is no lower than the top of the catcher's head.
- The umpire's feet should be in a staggered position, a bit wider than shoulder width.
- You want to make sure you have a clear view of the outside corner of the plate, as well as the proper angle to see the low strike.
- Given the extent to which the modern strike pitching "lives low," it is important to have a clear view of the bottom of the strike zone.

It is important to keep in mind that knowing the proper position is good, but nothing beats on-hand directed instruction and in game experience.





The Strike Zone

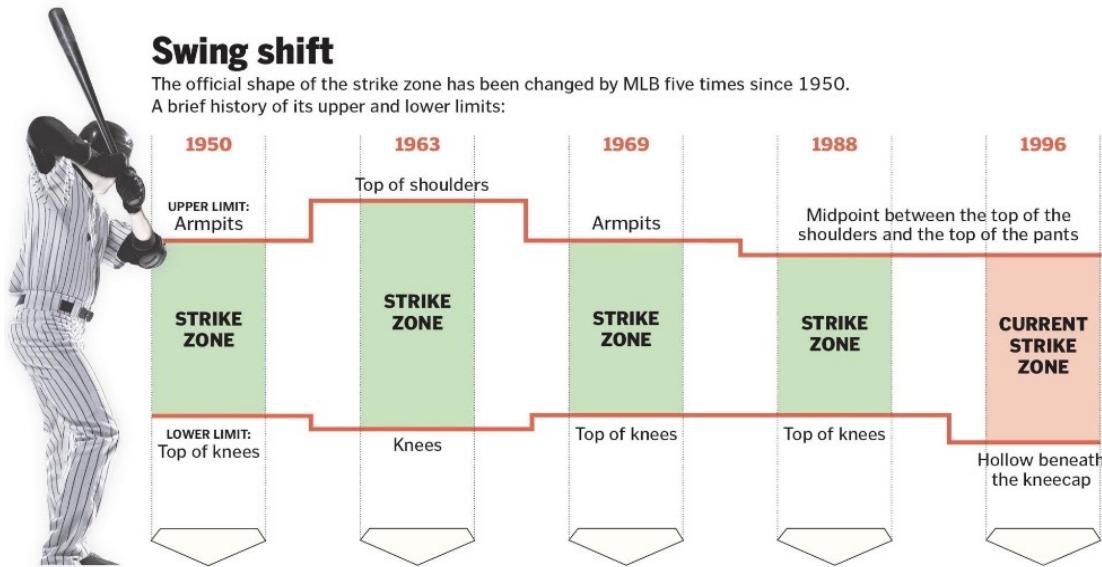


The most common gripe we hear during a game is about the strike zone.

Major League Baseball defines the strike zone as “...that area over home plate the upper limit of which is a horizontal line at the midpoint between the top of the shoulders and the top of the uniform pants, and the lower level is a line at the hollow beneath the kneecap.

Wikipedia also defines the strike zone as "...the volume of space through which a pitch must pass in order to count as a strike (if the batter does not swing). The strike zone is defined as the volume of space above home plate and between the batter's knees and the midpoint of their torso."

Knowing the strike zone as it is defined is important, but being consistent in how you apply the strike zone in a given game is critical.



- As you can see, the Baseball strike zone definition has changed a lot over the last 67 years.
- You can imagine the amount of fans who still think it is defined as it was when they were learning the game.
- Keep in mind, every part of the plate is in the strike zone. This means the ball can miss the front of the plate and still be a strike

SOURCE: Major League Baseball



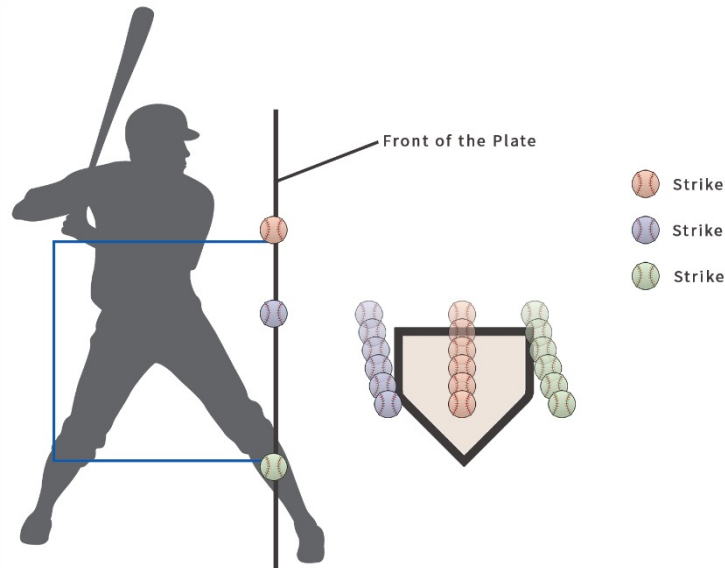
The Strike Zone

Baseball



Midpoint between the top of the shoulders and the top of the pants to the Hollow beneath the kneecap.

- Any part of the ball that passes through the strike zone is a strike. Look at the following graphic for examples of a strike.



- Notice the ball can touch any part of the plate in order to be a strike.
- Notice any part of the ball can be in the vertical strike zone when it crosses any part of the plate in order to be a strike.



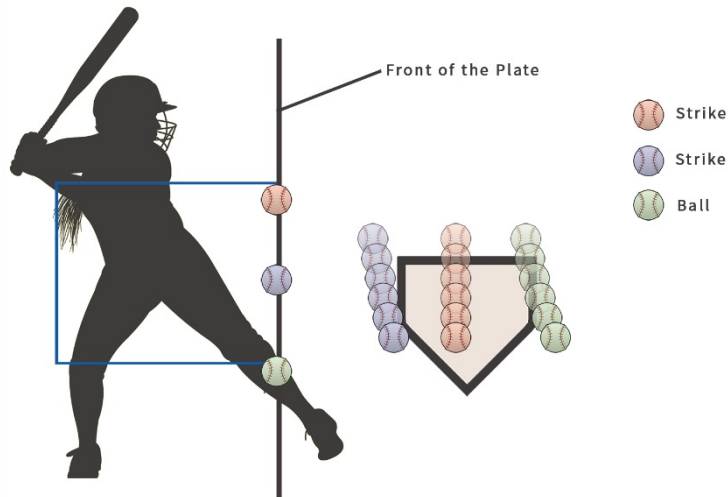
The Strike Zone

Softball



Armpits to knees

- Any part of the ball that passes through the horizontal strike zone is a strike. Look at the following graphic for examples of a strike.



- Notice the ball can touch any part of the plate in order to be a strike.
- The entire ball must be in the vertical strike zone when it crosses any part of the plate in order to be a strike.