

## Technical Bulletin

**Subject:** Slap Hit/Bunt Interpretation

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### Slap Hit/Bunt Interpretation

A definition of a Slap Hit was introduced to the Rulebook to explain the difference between a Bunt and a Slap Hit. While nothing has changed with regard to a bunt (*a batted ball not swung at but intentionally met with the bat and tapped slowly within the infield*), there appears to be some confusion with players and umpires in the interpretation of the words of the Slap Hit definition.

When reading point (b) of the definition, the words must be read in conjunction with the opening sentence of the definition, i.e. for a slap hit to be ruled, the batter, when taking running steps (within the batter's box) toward the pitcher before making contact with the pitch, must make contact with the ball with a controlled, short chopping motion (or sweeping action).

If the batter simply assumes a bunting position, takes running steps toward the pitcher, makes contact with the ball by tapping slowly within the infield, without any swinging, chopping or sweeping motion of the bat, this action should be interpreted as a bunt, and if the ball becomes foul on a third strike, the batter would be out.

The action of the batter running through the batter's box toward the pitcher, in itself, does not necessarily constitute a slap hit ~ there must be some physical movement of the bat!

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