

# Hands-On Experience



**T**rying to determine if a batted ball, usually from left-handed batters, is a bunt or slap hit can often be challenging for umpires. That's important to know if a bunt attempt or slap-hit attempt rolls into foul territory with two strikes on the batter. Here are a few guidelines to determine the difference between a bunt attempt or slap-hit attempt.

**Wrists** - Try to observe the hands and wrists during the attempt. Most often, the batter's wrists will be locked as the batter attempts to tap or place

the ball into play. If the batter's hands stop in front of the body or pull back from the ball at the contact point, it is likely a bunt attempt. If the wrists break during the swinging motion as the batter attempts to strike the ball, it is a slap-hit attempt.

**Hands** - Separated hands can indicate a potential bunt while hands that are together often indicate a slap-hit attempt.

**Feet** - A left-handed batter often will make crossover steps in her approach

to a bunt or slap-hit attempt. The batter's left foot generally will be the last to cross over near the front of the batter's box prior to making contact with the ball. The batter is not considered out of the box if any part of the foot is touching a line of the batter's box.

**Bat** - If there is a driving force through the strike zone from the bat to the ball with a follow-through with the bat past the body, call it a slap hit. □