

Official Ruling 15-02

Bunt Ruling

Called Balls and Strikes

Officially, it's a ball if a batter holds the bat over the plate, the ball is outside the strike zone, and the batter makes no movement indicating an attempt to contact the ball. If the ball is inside the strike zone, it is a strike whether the batter attempts to contact the ball or not.

2.00 A BUNT is a batted ball not swung at, but **intentionally met** with the bat and tapped slowly within the infield.

2.00 A STRIKE is a legal pitch when so called by the umpire, which:

- a) Is **struck at** by the batter and is missed;
- b) Is not struck at, if any part of the ball passes through any part of the strike zone;

So, there is intent required in both definitions, AND **if there is no attempt**, and it was not in the strike zone, **it is a "ball"**.

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NOTE:

IN NCAA Softball you must pull back the bat but not in baseball. In baseball showing bunt and holding bat over the plate is not a strike unless the pitch crosses the plate in the strike zone or the batter attempts to contact the ball.

If the umpire calls a strike when the ball is outside the strike zone, he must judge that the batter attempted to contact the ball.

There is a widely held belief (false - but out there) that the batter must withdraw the bat or it is a strike (In NCAA softball it is true by the way - **but not in any baseball rules**).

SO, rules notwithstanding, you will find umpires that will call it a strike. Don't be surprised if one does. However, you should instruct umpires in your pre-tournament meetings on the correct way to handle this situation in baseball.



Wes Skelton, Commissioner