

Follow-up message from John Armentrout:

From: John Armentrout (BRL) [mailto:jdarmentrout@brlseregion.com]
Sent: Friday, February 20, 2015 11:45 AM
To: Robert Faherty, Jr.
Cc: Henry Sermons
Subject: Re: Slash Bunting

Robert,

Thank you for sending out this notice. Clear direction is always welcome. But, I have a comment and a question.

1. (comment) You did not address the use of the “dangling” throat protector for the hockey-style catcher’s mask. This was a specific debate at a Virginia District meeting last Sunday; they are waiting on a determination.
2. (question) If the Slash Bunt rule is a safety rule, why does it not apply to regular season (and only tournaments)? If a player were to be injured tomorrow because of a slash-bunt situation, Babe Ruth League, Inc. has opened itself up for a potential major lawsuit (probably citing negligence since the Board has recognized that this is a “safety” rule). I guess the real question is: Why is it only a safety issue during tournaments?

John Armentrout
Assistant Commissioner, Operations
Southeast Region
Babe Ruth League, Inc.

Response from Robert Faherty (highlight added):

John,

1-The rule book allows the frame of the mask to have an extended throat protector. **The Hockey style mask has this as part of its design, as do many wire frame masks.** The addition of the Steve Yeager throat guard is only needed if the mask does not include an extended throat guard. There has been some concern that this piece has caused additional injuries when not sized properly.

2-**We have asked our League Presidents by a Rules Clarification memo to institute it in the local league season.** We will, through the cooperation of our commissioners, use this in tournament play. It will be placed in the 2016 rule book.

Robert