

## 2017 SEASON - UMPIRES & CAPTAINS ISSUES

### Introduction (Issue 1) 09.1.17)

1 – Welcome to the start of another year and hopefully a successful season. I have set out in this document issues of concern or importance to umpires and therefore for captains. **Following on from recent seasons there have been some changes that have come from either the MCC or as agreed at our AGMs. These are:-**

- **Changes as to the ages and ability of junior players playing in Open Age Cricket-**This is detailed in full elsewhere on the League website and in item 8 below.
  - **Sportsmanship marks-**As agreed at the 2015 AGM the sportsmanship marks in the Premier Division **and Division One** will be given by the appointed umpires.
  - **Umpires performance card-**As agreed at the 2010 AGM and amended at the 2012 AGM clubs who have panel appointed umpires in the Premier Division and Division One must fully complete this card to reach the Umpires Appointments Secretary by the following **Wednesday**. Even if only **one** ball is bowled the Umpires performance card must be completed. Failure to comply will in the first instance result in a deduction of **5 points**. Again this result card can be found elsewhere on the League website.
  - **Wides-** As agreed at the 2011 AGM in the **Premier Division and Division 1** the definition of a wide ball has been tightened up. See 19 below.
  - **There have been a number of Law changes issued by the MCC, the most significant recent one being to Law 24 No ball. It is now a No ball if the bowler breaks the wicket with any part of his body between the ball coming into play and before he completes the stride after his delivery stride (i.e. when his back foot lands for the second time). Captains and umpires should note that, Unfair Play-Bowling Dangerously, is covered by sections 14-17 below.**
  - **In matches other than when panel umpires are appointed, if a club has an umpire who wishes to stand for the whole game, then he/she is entitled to.**
  - Payment of umpires, calling a game off etc. See 20 below.
  - **Match Rules changed at the 2014 & 2016 AGM.**
- a) 1.2 All matches will start at 1.00pm. Matches may start earlier with the mutual agreement of both clubs and, if appointed, the umpire(s).
- b) 3.3 A match will be based on 90 overs, each side batting for a maximum of 45 overs in Divisions Premier to **7 inclusive. In Division 8** downwards a match will be based on 80 overs, each team batting for a maximum of 40

overs. **Note:- If the team batting first does not use its allotted overs any complete unused overs are transferred to the team batting second.**

- c) 3.7 No bowler may bowl more than 10 overs in Divisions Premier to **7 inclusive and 9 overs in Division 8** downwards.
- Can captains please ensure that plenty of sawdust (not wood shavings) is available at every match.
  - Finally I ask captains to ensure, and umpires to check, that there is a sufficient **quantity and quality** of spare match balls available at the start of each match.

2 - I urge captains and players to remember that player umpires (whatever their age) are giving their services freely (no-one gets any fee if they are not appointed officially by the League Umpires Appointments Secretary). Club umpires are often not experienced nor do they have an in depth knowledge of the Laws of Cricket that govern our game. They do however deserve the thanks of players and the respect of their office. Captains must bring this to the attention of their members and management at all levels.

3 - What is very important about this is that captains must ensure that anyone that they provide to stand in matches has at least an appropriate level of knowledge, awareness and fairness to do the job. It is essential that all umpires at every level apply the LBW Law fairly. There is verified statistical evidence on this League that the decision to give someone out LBW is much rarer when appointed umpires are not standing. Captains must emphasise to non-appointed umpires that they must be fair and not fear any criticism for deciding to give a player (one of their own) out LBW. Before making a LBW decision replay the ball over in your mind. Do not be rushed into a decision. There are six **'MUSTS'** for you to give the striker out.

It **must** be a fair ball, not a No ball.

There **must** be an appeal; you cannot give a striker out if there is no appeal.

The ball **must** have pitched 'wicket-to-wicket' or on the strikers off side.

It **must** have first touched the striker, not his bat or the hand(s) (including glove) holding the bat.

It **must** have first hit the striker 'wicket-to-wicket'-though if no shot is played, the first hit can be outside the off stump.

And finally-It **must** be going on to hit the wicket.

**Any doubt and 'NOT OUT' is your correct decision.** There is no need to give an explanation.

This also touches on the following paragraphs.

### The Spirit of the Game

4 - We all hear these days about the very high standards of discipline and behaviour that is expected of players at all levels. Our Panel umpires will not permit dissent, criticism or challenging of their decisions. This will

apply on the pitch, after the match and in any form of published media.

5 - Umpires are there to ensure fair play in a manner that does not adversely affect the enjoyment of matches by either the players or the umpires themselves. Umpires and the League expect **captains** to handle any issues on the pitch, and to note that they will be held responsible for any issues.

6 - High spirits, competitive behaviour, honest effort and friendly banter are part of the richness of the game. However, so are courtesy, pleasantness, respect and fair play. I ask all captains to be aware of the preamble to the laws of cricket.

### Team Sheets

7 - This is a very important liability issue for all umpires and especially Panel appointed umpires. The Laws of Cricket (**Law 1.2**) state that each Captain shall nominate his players in writing to one of the umpires before the toss. It is the job of the captain (or his/her stand-in) to ensure that this is done in good time for discussion to take place (if necessary) about players on the team sheets. Panel umpires will expect the co-operation of captains in making this happen each week. Copies of the forms are available on the League website or directly from the ECB.

8 - The League also affirms that the practice of exchanging Team Sheets **as detailed in Law 1.2 is mandatory** in all League matches. Firstly, the exchange of team sheets gives both captains a chance to review the ages of players on both sides playing in the match, this being necessary because of the need to protect young players. Secondly, it gives both captains an opportunity to be very clear about exactly who is playing in the match and identify any player who may/will be late in arriving (see section 10). Thirdly, it should be noted that no player may be changed after the exchange of team sheets without the consent of the opposing Captain. The exchange of Team Sheets also offers evidence that the Clubs are taking the welfare of young players seriously and protects them against criticism. **The full extract for junior players to play in Open Age Cricket is:-**

**Players who are selected in a County U12 squad in Spring for a squad or in another squad deemed by ECB Performance Managers to be of a standard above 'District level' for that season are eligible to play Open Age Cricket. This is providing they are at least 11 years old, and in School year 7 on 1<sup>st</sup> September in the year preceding the season and have parental consent to play. In allowing these players to play in Open Age Cricket it is essential that Clubs and Coaches recognise the 'Duty of Care' obligations towards these young players.**

**This means that County Squad and Area Squad players, both boys and girls are able to play Open Age Group Cricket if they are in U12 Age group and are a minimum of 11 years old on 1<sup>st</sup> September of the year preceding the season. District and Club players who are not in a County or Area squads must wait until they reach the Under 13 age group, be in year 8 and be 12**

years old on 1<sup>st</sup> September of the preceding year prior to being allowed to play in Open Age Group Cricket. Again written parental consent is required for these players.

Under no circumstances must a younger player than that specified be allowed to play in this League.

It is important that Clubs do not:-

- Place a young player in a position that involves an unreasonable risk to that young player, taking account of the circumstances of the match and the relative skills of the player.
- Create a situation that places members of the opposing side in a position whereby they cannot play cricket as they would normally do against adult players.

#### Restrictions on the placement of fielders

9-The following was agreed at the 2009 agm and amended at the 2013 agm is applicable in the **Premier Division** only.

Two semi circles shall be drawn on the field of play.

The semi circles shall have as their centre the middle stump at either end of the pitch. The radius of each of the semi circles shall be 30 yards (27.4 metres). The ends of each semi circle shall be joined to the other by a straight line drawn on the field on the same side of the pitch.

The field restriction area shall be marked by painted 'white' dots at five yard intervals, each 'dot' to be covered by a white plastic or rubber (but not metal) disc measuring seven inches in diameter.

At the instant of delivery, there may not be more than five fielders on the leg side.

For the first 15 overs of each innings only two fielders are permitted to be outside the field restriction marking at the instant of delivery.

For the remaining overs of each innings, **at the moment of delivery, there must be a minimum of four fielders (in addition to the bowler and wicket-keeper) within the circle.**

In the event of an infringement of any of the above fielding restrictions, the umpire at the strikers end shall call and signal 'No Ball'.

It is therefore important that the home team ensures that the markings and discs are in place well before the start of play and that the umpires arrive in good time to check. Equally it is important that the umpires strictly apply this competition rule which was introduced to improve the standard of cricket in the League.

#### Players arriving after the start of the match

10 - Players who arrive after the start of the match may participate in the match as long as they were **named on the team sheet (nominated) exchanged prior to the match.** Where a player arrives 15 minutes, or more, late for the start of a match, the same restrictions apply as when a player leaves the field during a session, but only if their side are fielding. They may not bowl for a

period equal to the length of the time that they were absent from the field. Each period of absence is treated as separate, and periods are not added up.

11 - There is no restriction in the Laws on any player batting at any time, nor are there any rules in our League covering this. Therefore, if a player enters the field of play 90 minutes after the scheduled start and when their side are fielding (whether they field first or second) that player may not bowl until a further 90 minutes have passed regardless of the number of overs bowled. Any player being ready to bat may bat at any time during his team's innings without restriction. **This has proved a contentious issue, and captains can see that the exchange of team sheets will prevent any arguments.**

#### Unfair Play – Bowling Dangerously

12 - Law 42 covers unfair play in all its types. This includes 'Dangerous' and Unfair Bowling, Law 42.6.

13 – This means that a 'No Ball' will be called under Law 42.6(a) when fast short-pitched bowling is repetitive and dangerous. My colleagues have been instructed to enforce this Law rigidly.

14 - For information the Law on this matter actually sets out the following.  
42.6. Dangerous and unfair bowling

(a) - Bowling of fast short pitched balls

(i) - The bowling of fast short pitched balls is dangerous and unfair if the umpire at the bowler's end considers that by their repetition and taking into account their length, height and direction they are likely to inflict physical injury on the striker, irrespective of the protective equipment he may be wearing. The relative skill of the striker shall be taken into consideration.

(ii) - Any delivery which, after pitching, passes or would have passed over head height of the striker standing upright at the crease, although not threatening physical injury, shall be included with bowling under (i) both when the umpire is considering whether the bowling of fast short pitched balls has become dangerous and unfair and after he has so decided. The umpire shall call and signal No ball for each such delivery.

(b) - Bowling of high full pitched balls

(i) - Any delivery, other than a slow paced one, which passes or would have passed on the full above waist height of the striker standing upright at the crease is to be deemed dangerous and unfair, whether or not it is likely to inflict physical injury on the striker.

(ii) - A slow delivery which passes or would have passed on the full above shoulder height of the striker standing upright at the crease is to be deemed dangerous and unfair, whether or not it is likely to inflict physical injury on the striker.

15 - I finish this section with an issue relating to 42.6(b) in the case of a delivery that passes above the waist of the batsman when bowled by any bowler other than a slow bowler or above the shoulder if bowled by a slow

bowler. These deliveries come under the terminology of 'beamers' or high full tosses. They are illegal whether accidental or deliberate. Umpires have no discretion with these deliveries, and they must take action. This action must be taken if we are all to avoid injuries.

16 - For fast short-pitched deliveries (should the umpire consider them repetitive and dangerous) and all high full pitched deliveries, on a first offence the bowler's end umpire must call no ball, caution the bowler, advise their colleague, advise the fielding captain, advise the batsmen at the crease and advise the batting captain as soon as possible. On a second offence the same action must be taken as for the first offence and the bowler warned that this is a final warning. On a third offence the umpire must call no ball, instruct the captain to take the bowler off and complete the over with another bowler (with that part of the over to be completed counting as part of his **allowable overs** ). The umpire must then advise their colleague and the batsmen at the crease, advise the batting captain as soon as possible, report the issue to the executive of the fielding side as soon as possible and finally report the matter to the League. This process applies in our League with no exceptions, and applies to all such deliveries as set out above. Note that it is the decision of the bowler's end umpire as to the height of the delivery, whether pitching or not pitching, and not the striker's end (sometimes called the square leg) umpire, although the bowler's end umpire may choose to consult their colleague.

17 - In the case of a bowler bowling a deliberate high full pitched delivery the situation is different. If an umpire considers a delivery to have been bowled intentionally high then the umpire must call no ball, instruct the captain to take the bowler off and complete the over with another bowler (with that part of the over to be completed counting as part of the replacement bowler's **allowable overs**). The umpire must then advise their colleague and the batsmen at the crease, the batting captain as soon as possible, report the issue to the executive of the fielding side as soon as possible and finally report the matter to the League. There must be no exceptions as this is a very serious offence.

### Wide Ball

18 - This has been a contentious issue since cricket began but players continue to query calls of wide-ball. Players and captains must familiarise themselves with the Wide Ball Law, emphasised in the League's Handbook.

**One-day ECB regulations for wide balls do not apply in our League except in the Premier Division and Division 1. In these divisions the following applies. **Wide ball-judging a wide ball:** In addition to Law 25, the following shall apply:**

**Any offside or leg side delivery which, in the opinion of the umpire, does not give the batsmen a reasonable opportunity to score shall be called a wide. A wide should be called for any ball that passes on the leg side of the**

stumps. The only exception to this rule is if the batsman has moved to the leg side and the ball passes between him and the stumps, in which case a wide is not to be called.

I ask captains to remind players that if they move their position at the crease in an attempt to play the ball, thus bringing the ball into their reach, and then miss the ball, it is not a wide ball. Panel umpires will apply their knowledge of the law (and their interpretation) in each delivery as consistently as possible. I am sure that player-umpires will do the same. If a wide is not given then any players waving their arms about or making any comment or fuss is dissent. Dissent will be reported as a disciplinary issue and the League treats it very seriously.

No Ball –from which the striker cannot be out ‘stumped.’

19 – Back foot-where FIRST lands must be wholly within the Return Crease (side line).

Front foot-Where FIRST lands must have some part behind the Popping Crease (front line). This can be in the air.

High Full Pitch (Beamer)-Slow bowler-ball passes striker standing upright at crease above SHOULDER height.

High Full Pitch (Beamer)-Any other delivery-ball passes the striker standing upright at the crease above WAIST height.

Ball bouncing MORE THAN TWICE or ROLLING ALONG THE GROUND before reaching the Strikers Popping Crease.

Ball COMING TO REST in front of strikers wicket-automatically becomes ‘Dead Ball’-so no hitting it!

Umpire Availability, calling a game off and payment of umpires

20 - Will clubs and particularly those in the Premier Division and Division One please check the League website on a regular basis to see if your umpire has changed or one has now been appointed for your game. Equally check the website for the up-to-date details of our Panel of umpires.

Where matches are not covered by two appointed umpires, I ask for the co-operation of the captains in providing a striker’s end (square leg) umpire.

Where umpires are appointed to any match in the competition these are formal League appointments. These umpires will be paid a fee at the rate of £35 for each umpire. If only one umpire is appointed he/she is entitled to a fee of £35 from each Club. When calling a game off as per match rule 1.5 the home club must telephone the appointed umpires immediately. If the game is called off with less than two hours before the scheduled start and the umpires(s) have already left for the game then they will be entitled to their fee (£35/£70). **In all matches the umpires are not to be paid on the day.** The League will pay the umpires at the conclusion of the season and claim the money back from the applicable clubs.

### Final Comments

21 – It is an agreed fact that umpires have the best position from which to watch a cricket match. My colleagues and I shall do our best to be as inconspicuous as possible and to facilitate an excellent season for all. If anyone has any questions on the Laws of Cricket or any umpiring issue then please do not hesitate to contact me.

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