

UMPIRES MEETING SUMMARY BICESTER NOCC MAY 1st 2012

The following is a summary of the discussion at the Umpires meeting.[†]

Changes to the rules for 2012 as voted for by member clubs at the 2011 AGM

1. Fielding Circles only apply to matches in Divisions 1-6
2. White painted dots are not required the markers for fielding circles
3. In Divisions 1-6 the team must be in a position to start the 53rd over after 3 hours 10 minutes (i.e. before 4.10pm if there are no interruptions) TEA
4. Batting Bonus Points apply to all overs in both innings of all matches
5. Any team which fails to fulfil at least two thirds of its scheduled fixtures shall have its record expunged from the league for that season and all points gained in fixtures against them will be removed and the tables recalculated without that team included
6. In the event of a tied match both teams receive 18 points
7. In Divisions 1-6 the Umpires will be instructed to apply ICC regulation 25.1 for wides;

Umpires are instructed to apply very strict and consistent interpretation in regard to this Law in order to prevent negative bowling wide of the wicket. Any offside or legside delivery which in the opinion of the umpire does not give the batsman a reasonable opportunity to score shall be called a wide....**see below for more clarification on this issue**

Appointments schedule... batch 1 May 12 to June 16 now on website

Batch 2 June 23 to 28 July to be issued late May

Batch 3 Aug 4 to Sept 8 to be issued early July

Bob Perkin will administer last minute changes from batch 3 during my absence. For club nominees standby slots will be spread round pro-rata to availability so if you are available 18 weeks you will get very few standby weeks but this increases relative to the number of weeks you are unavailable. On Standby weeks umpires may be offered a game in divs 5 and 6 but they do not have to take these up.

Pathway and development ... A larger group of div 1 umpires is to be developed including those seeking to advance beyond this level. We have a group on the level 1A assessment procedure involving an onfield assessment.

Captains form has been simplified and now includes 7 gradings . Feedback will be issued during season.

Umpires form has only minor modifications. Umpires and captains should meet after game to agree on match points scored.

The website is the definitive appointments list and will be updated as changes are made. If an umpire clicks on his name on the contacts page, they will get a list of their appointments.

WIDES

The intention of adopting the ICC ruling above is to discourage negative bowling and increase the level of consistency in the calling of wides. At the umpires meeting there was a discussion on the detail and this is the present guidance. The call is still in the opinion of the umpire. Dissent by word or action in this area is not acceptable and should after a warning be treated as a disciplinary offence.

On the off side a legal delivery is one that the batsman can comfortably reach from their stance at the time the ball passes him (he should not have to stretch to hit it with the extremity of the bat). The umpire should consider the height and reach of the batsman, the height of the ball when passing the batsman and the position the batsman has taken at the time the ball passes. If a batsman has moved to the leg side it does not make an offside delivery into a wide if he cannot reach it. If he has moved over to the off side he may make a delivery that would have been called a wide in to a legal delivery. The return crease is not a guide line for wides. On the leg side a wide shall be called for balls that pitch outside the line of leg stump and pass the stumps outside the position of the batsman in a normal stance. If he moves to the offside and the ball passes the leg stump in the line of a normal stance this is not a wide. If a spinner is turning the ball and it pitches in line and turns this may not necessarily be a wide unless considered to be negative bowling. The key purpose of the guidance is to discourage negative bowling.

PLAYER DISCIPLINE

A lengthy discussion was held on player discipline and it is expected that umpires will work with captains to ensure that good standards are maintained. An occasional brief burst of frustration may be seen as warranting a warning but if repeated or persistent and including swearing and signs of dissent or confrontation with an opponent then umpires and captains should be seen to act more firmly and where necessary report the incident. Umpires have the option of grading a team or a captain with a mark of 3 and three marks of this kind will lead to a points deduction without appeal. The management committee would encourage umpires to report conduct which is in breach of the ECB disciplinary code and the league's disciplinary procedures. These are on the website and have been streamlined to ensure that reports can be followed up quickly. Umpires will be offered feedback on the reports and on the outcome.

RAIN

To avoid changes to the condition of the ball and the pitch conditions and to ensure consistency, play should be suspended unless the rain coming down is very light unless the umpires believe it may blow over within a very short time. The pitch should be covered during suspensions in play.

SPARE BALLS

The home team should provide a box of at least six spare balls of varied ages for the umpires to select from in case a ball is lost. It is accepted that these balls may be of various makes (mainly Kaka) in the early part of the season as each club builds up a collection of used Tiflex balls.