CHANGES TO THE LAWS OF CRICKET FOR 2026

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LORD'S

This document outlines all the changes that have been made to the Laws of Cricket in October **2026**. The changes to wording from the current edition are shown in red, with removed wording being shown as such with ~~strikethrough~~ text.

THE PLAYERS

1.2 informing umpires of a replacement

1.2.2 No player may be replaced after the nomination without the consent of the opposing captain. If such consent is granted, the captain of the team in which the player is being replaced shall inform the umpires and scorers.

THE UMPIRES

2.4 Before the toss and during the match, the umpires shall satisfy themselves that

2.4.2 the wickets are properly positioned ~~pitched~~ . See Law 8 (The wickets).

2.7.4

2.7.4 If the umpires consider the ground is so wet or slippery as to deprive:

- the bowler of a reasonable foothold,
- the fielders ~~the power of free movement~~ of the ability to move freely,
- or the batters of the ability to play their strokes or to run between the wickets,

then these conditions shall be regarded as so bad that it would be dangerous and unreasonable for play to take place.

2.13.2

2.13.2 The umpire shall wait until each signal to the scorers has been separately acknowledged by a scorer before allowing play to proceed.

2.13.2.1 If several signals are to be used, they shall be given in the order that the events occurred.

2.13.2.2 Where more than one contravention of the Laws occurs during the same delivery, any sanctions under each Law shall be applied independently, unless otherwise stated. However, where the necessary sanctions contradict one another, the sanctions in respect of the contravention that occurred first shall apply.

THE BALL

4.1 Weight and size

A Size 1 ball, when new, shall weigh not less than 5.5 ounces/~~155.9~~ 156g, nor more than 5.75 ounces/163 g, and shall measure not less than 8.81 in/22.4 cm, nor more than 9 in/22.9 cm in circumference.

A Size 2 ball, when new, shall weigh not less than 5 ounces/142g 4.94 ounces/140 g, nor more than 5.25 ounces/149 g, and shall measure not less than 8.46 in/21.5 cm nor more than 8.66 in/22 cm in circumference.

A Size 3 ball, when new, shall weigh not less than 4.69 ounces/133g nor more than 4.84 ounces/140g 5.06 ounces/144 g, and shall measure not less than 8.07 in/20.5 cm nor more than 8.27 in/21 cm in circumference.

~~The ball, when new, shall weigh not less than 5.5 ounces/155.9 g, nor more than 5.75 ounces/163 g, and shall measure not less than 8.81 in/22.4 cm, nor more than 9 in/22.9 cm in circumference.~~

4.4 New ball in match of more than one day's duration

In a match scheduled to be of more than one day's duration, the captain of the fielding side may demand a new ball when the number of overs, excluding any part overs, bowled with the old one is equal to or greater than 80 overs. The umpire shall inform the other umpire and indicate to the batters and the scorers whenever a new ball is taken into play.

4.6 Specifications

The Governing Body responsible for the match shall determine the size of ball to be used. If no such determination has been made, the umpires shall determine the size of ball to be used under Law 2.3.1.1. ~~The specifications as described in 4.1 shall apply to men's cricket only.The following specifications shall apply to:~~

~~4.6.1 Women's cricket~~

~~Weight: from 4.94 ounces/140 g to 5.31 ounces/151 g~~

~~Circumference: from 8.25 in/21.0 cm to 8.88 in/22.5 cm.~~

~~4.6.2 Junior cricket - Under 13~~

~~Weight: from 4.69 ounces/133 g to 5.06 ounces/144 g Circumference: from 8.06 in/20.5 cm to 8.69 in/22.0 cm.~~

THE BAT

5.8 Categories of bat

5.8.1 Types A, B and C are bats conforming to 5.1 to 5.7 inclusive.

5.8.2 Type A bats may be used at any level of cricket.

5.8.3 Type B bats may have material inserted at the toe and/or along the sides, parallel to the face of the blade (see B.4.2).

5.8.4 Type C bats may have a cloth covering (see B.3.3). They may also have material inserted at the toe and/or along the sides, parallel to the face of the blade (see B.4.2), and a greater proportion of materials other than cane, wood or twine in the handle than Types A and B (see B.2.3).

5.8.5 ~~The specifications for~~ Type D bats may be laminated and/or coloured, as outlined are described in Appendix B.7, and are for use only at lower levels of the game, as determined by the Governing Body for cricket in the country concerned. ~~and are for use by junior players in junior cricket only.~~

5.8.6 Bats of Type B and Type C, ~~Type D and any other bats~~ may be used only at or below levels determined by the Governing Body for cricket in the country concerned.

5.8.7 Bats that do not qualify for any of the four categories A to D are not recognised in the Laws.

THE WICKETS

8.1 Description, width and position ~~pitching~~

Two sets of wickets shall be ~~pitched~~ positioned opposite and parallel to each other in the centres of the bowling creases. Each set shall be 9 in/22.86 cm wide and shall consist of three wooden stumps with two wooden bails on top. See Appendix D.

PREPARATION AND MAINTENANCE OF THE PLAYING AREA

9.2 Clearing debris from the pitch

9.2.1 The pitch shall be cleared of any debris

9.2.1.1 before the start of each day's play. This shall be after the completion of mowing and before any rolling, not earlier than 30 minutes nor later than 10 minutes before the time or any rescheduled time for start of play.

9.2.1.2 between innings. This shall precede rolling if any is to take place.

9.2.1.3 at all intervals for meals.

9.2.2 The clearance of debris in 9.2.1 shall be done by any means deemed appropriate by the Ground Authority, so long as the umpires do not consider ~~sweeping, except where the umpires consider~~ that this may be detrimental to the surface of the pitch. In this case the debris must be cleared from that area by hand ~~without sweeping.~~

9.2.3 In addition to 9.2.1, debris may be cleared from the pitch by hand, ~~without sweeping~~, before mowing and whenever either umpire considers it necessary.

9.3.3 Timing of mowing

9.3.3.1 Mowing of the pitch on any day shall be completed not later than 30 minutes before the time scheduled or rescheduled for play to begin on that day, before any sweeping prior to rolling. If necessary, debris may be removed from the pitch before mowing, by hand, ~~without sweeping.~~ See 9.2.3.

9.3.3.2 Mowing of the outfield on any day shall be completed not later than 15 minutes before the time scheduled or rescheduled for play to begin on that day.

COVERING THE PITCH

10.2 - covering the pitch

Unless determined otherwise before the toss, on each night of the match and if appropriate when play is suspended ~~in inclement weather~~ at any time during the match

10.2.1 the whole pitch and a minimum of 4 ft/1.22 m beyond it at each end shall be covered.

10.2.2 the bowlers' run-ups, where possible, shall be covered.

10.3.2 If covers are used during the day, ~~as protection from inclement weather, or if inclement weather delays the removal of overnight covers~~ or if the removal of overnight covers is delayed, they shall be removed promptly as soon as conditions allow.

START OF PLAY; CESSATION OF PLAY

12.2 - Call of Time

The bowler's end umpire shall call Time, when the ball is dead, ~~at the end of any session of play~~ at the start of any interval or interruption or as required by the Laws. See also Law 20.3 (Call of Over or Time).

12.3 Removal of bails

After the call of Time, except at the start of a drinks interval, the bails shall be removed from both wickets.

12.5, wicket falling at the end of the day

Other than at the end of the match,

12.5.1 if the agreed time for an interval is reached during an over, the over shall be completed before the interval is taken, except as provided for in 12.5.2.

12.5.2 when less than 3 minutes remains before the time agreed for the next interval, the interval shall be taken immediately if either a batter is dismissed or retires, other than the end of day's play, in which case the over shall be completed or the players have occasion to leave the field whether this occurs during an over or at the end of an over. Except at the end of an innings, if an over is thus interrupted it shall be completed on the resumption of play.

DECLARATION AND FORFEITURE

15 Declaration and forfeiture

15.1 With the exception of the final innings of the match, the captain of the side batting may declare an innings closed, when the ball is dead, at any time during the innings. A declared innings shall be considered to be a completed innings.

15.2 With the exception of the final innings of the match, a captain may forfeit either of their side's innings at any time before the commencement of that innings. A forfeited innings shall be considered to be a completed innings.

THE RESULT

16.**3**.**2** if an umpire considers that an action by any player or players might constitute a refusal by either side to play then that umpire shall call Time, and the umpires together shall ascertain the cause of the action. If they then decide together that this action does constitute a refusal to play by one side, they shall so inform the captain of that side. If the captain persists in the action the umpires shall award the match in accordance with 16.3.1. See also Law 42.6.1 (Captain refusing to remove a player from the field).

THE OVER

17.**5**.**2** If, having miscounted, the umpire allows an over to continue after 6 valid balls have been bowled, the umpire ~~may~~ shall subsequently call Over when the ball becomes dead after any delivery, even if that delivery is not a valid ball.

SCORING RUNS

18.**5**.**1** If either umpire considers that one or both batters deliberately ran short at that umpire's end, the umpire concerned shall, when the ball is dead, call and signal Short run and inform the other umpire of what has occurred and apply 18.5.2.

18.5.1.1 A deliberate short run is an attempt by the batters to appear to run more than one run, while at least one batter deliberately does not make good their ground at one end.

18.5.1.2 Provided the umpires believe that there was no intention by the batter concerned to deceive the umpires, it will not be considered a deliberate short run if the batters abandon an attempted run.

18.**5**.**2** - Deliberate short running

18.**5**.**2** The bowler's end umpire shall

- disallow all runs to the batting side
- ~~return any not out batter to his/her original end~~
- signal No ball or Wide to the scorers, if applicable
- repeat the Short run signal to the scorers
- award 5 Penalty runs to the fielding side
- award any other 5-run Penalty that is applicable except for Penalty runs under Law 28.3 (Protective helmets belonging to the fielding side)
- ~~inform the scorers of the number of runs to be recorded~~
- inform the captain of the fielding side and, as soon as practicable, the captain of the batting side of the reason for this action.
- Instruct the fielding captain to decide which of the batters at the wicket, including the incoming batter if applicable, shall face the next delivery (see 18.13).

18.**11** Batter returning to original end

18.**11**.**1** When the striker is dismissed in any of the circumstances in 18.11.1.1 to 18.11.1.7, the not out batter shall return to his/her original end.

18.**11**.**1**.**1** A dismissal in the circumstances of Law 25.6.4 or 25.6.5 (Dismissal and conduct of a batter and his/her runner).

18.**11**.**1**.**2** Bowled.

18.**11**.**1**.**3** Stumped.

18.**11**.**1**.**4** Hit the ball twice.

18.**11**.**1**.**5** LBW.

18.**11**.**1**.**6** Hit wicket.

18.**11**.**1**.**7** Caught

~~18.11.1.8 Obstructing the field, where the obstruction or distraction prevents the striker being out Caught.~~

18.1.1 The batters shall return to their original ends when

18.11.2.1 a boundary is scored, unless as a result of an overthrow or wilful act of a fielder (see Law 19.8).

18.11.2.2 runs are disallowed for any reason.

~~**18.11.2.3** the batters at the wicket decide to do so under Law 41.5 (Deliberate distraction, deception or obstruction of batter).~~

18.13 Batters going to an end decided by players

18.13.1 When a batter is dismissed Obstructing the field, where the obstruction prevents a catch being taken, the captain of the fielding side shall decide whether the not out batter shall return to the wicket they have left, or the other end.

18.13.2 If the ball becomes Dead under Law 18.5.2 (Deliberate short running), the captain of the fielding side shall decide which batter is to face the next delivery.

18.13.3 If the ball becomes dead under Law 41.5 (Deliberate distraction, deception or obstruction of batter), the batters at the wicket decide which batter is to face the next delivery.

BOUNDARIES

19.5.2 A fielder who is not in contact with the ground is considered to be grounded beyond the boundary if, prior to their first contact with the ball, their final contact with the ground was not entirely within the boundary. This applies to any fielder who makes contact with the ball after it has been delivered by the bowler, whether or not the ball has previously been touched by another fielder.

19.5.2.1 If a fielder's first contact with the ball does not contravene 19.5.2, that fielder may then jump from outside the boundary in order to make contact with the ball whilst airborne. After making contact with the ball once airborne, all subsequent contact with the ground by that fielder, until the ball becomes dead, must be within the field of play. Any subsequent contact with the ground outside the boundary by that fielder during that delivery, whether or not in contact with the ball, will result in a boundary being scored.

19.5.2.2 If the ball is returned to the field of play, whether to another fielder or onto the ground, by a fielder who has jumped from outside the boundary, that fielder must land, and remain, within the boundary until the ball becomes dead. Otherwise a boundary shall be scored.

19.8 Overthrow or wilful act of fielder

19.8.1 Runs scored from an overthrow or wilful act of fielder

If the boundary results from an overthrow or from the wilful act of a fielder, the runs scored shall be

any runs for penalties awarded to either side and the allowance for the boundary

and the runs completed by the batters at the instant of the throw or wilful act of the fielder

and the run in progress, if the batters had already crossed at the instant of the throw or wilful act of the fielder.

18.12.2 (Batter returning to wicket they have left) shall apply as from the instant of the throw or wilful act of the fielder.

19.8.2 Definition of an overthrow or wilful act of fielder

19.8.2.1 A boundary results from an overthrow if, in the opinion of the umpire, in an attempt to Run out a batter or prevent further run-scoring, a fielder directs the ball towards the wickets, and the ball subsequently crosses the boundary.

19.8.2.2 It is not to be considered an overthrow if the ball crosses the boundary as a result of

- a fielder attempting to stop the ball,

or,

- when fielding near the boundary, a fielder attempting to pass it a short distance to another fielder.

19.8.2.3 For the purposes of this Law only, a wilful act is any deliberate action by a fielder that is not intended to prevent runs, effect a Run out, or complete a catch.

DEAD BALL

20.1.1.1 - Ball finally settled
The ball becomes dead when
20.1.1.1 it is finally settled ~~in the hands of the wicket-keeper or of the bowler.~~

20.1.2 ~~The ball shall be considered to be dead when it is clear to the bowler's end umpire that the fielding side and both batters at the wicket have ceased to regard it as in play~~
The ball is finally settled once it is
in the hand or hands of any fielder,
or stationary on the ground,
and the bowler's end umpire determines that it is no longer in play.

20.4.2 Where either umpire is required to call and signal Dead ball under 20.4.2.1 to 20.4.2.14, the ball will be considered to be dead at the instant of the incident causing the ball to become dead. However, where the Law specifically provides for the call to be delayed, so as not to disadvantage the non-offending side, under Law 23.3 (Leg byes not to be awarded), Law 25.7 (Restriction on the Striker's Runner), Law 34.4 (Runs permitted from the ball lawfully struck more than once), Law 41.2.1 (Unfair actions) and Law 42.1.2 (Unacceptable conduct), the ball will be considered to be dead at the point of the call.

20.4.2.4 one or both bails fall from the striker's wicket, without intervention from any player or their equipment, before the striker has had the opportunity of playing the ball.

20.4.2.10 the ball is not delivered ~~does not leave the bowler's hand~~ for any reason other than an attempt to run out the non-striker under Law 38.3 (Non-striker leaving his/her ground early).

NO BALL

20.4.2.13 the striker attempts to play the ball and no part of the striker's bat or person, whether grounded or raised, remains within the pitch as defined in Law 6.1 (Area of pitch).

21.6 Bowler breaking wicket in delivering ball
If the ball is delivered and if the non-striker is not dismissed under Law 41.16 (Non-striker leaving his/her ground early), either umpire shall call and signal No ball if the bowler breaks the wicket at any time after the ball comes into play and before completion of the stride after the delivery stride. This shall include any clothing or other object that falls from his/her person and breaks the wicket. See Appendix A.12. Laws 20.4.2.8, 20.4.2.10 (Umpire calling and signalling Dead ball). ~~and 21.12 will apply.~~

21.7 Ball bouncing more than once, rolling along the ground or ~~pitching~~ landing off the pitch
The umpire shall call and signal No ball if a ball which they consider to have been delivered, without having previously touched bat or person of the striker,
21.7.1 bounces more than once or rolls along the ground before it reaches the

popping crease
or
21.7.2 ~~pitches~~ first lands or subsequently bounces wholly or partially off the pitch as defined in Law 6.1 (Area of pitch) before it reaches the line of the striker's wicket. When a non-turf pitch is being used, this will apply to any ball that wholly or partially ~~pitches~~ first lands or subsequently bounces off the artificial surface.

21.9 Fielder intercepting a delivery
If, except in the circumstances of Law 27.3 (Position of wicket-keeper), a ball delivered by the bowler makes contact with any part of a fielder's person before it either makes contact with the striker's bat or person, or it passes the striker's wicket, the umpire shall call and signal No ball and immediately call and signal Dead ball.
However, if the fielder's action is a deliberate attempt to obstruct the striker from playing the ball, Law 41.4 shall ~~also~~ apply.

21.11 Revoking a call of No ball
21.11.1 An umpire shall revoke the call of No ball if Dead ball is called under any of Laws 20.4.2.4, 20.4.2.5, ~~20.4.2.6,~~ 20.4.2.8 or 20.4.2.10 (Umpire calling and signalling Dead ball), or if, for any other reason, the ball was deemed to be Dead before the bowler released the ball.
21.11.2 An umpire shall revoke the call of No ball if Dead ball is called under Law 20.4.2.6, unless the No ball is called under 21.6.

WIDE BALL

Law **21.10** moves to **22.1.3**
22.1.1 If the bowler bowls a ball, not being a No ball, the umpire shall adjudge it a Wide if, according to the definitions in 22.1.2 and 22.1.3, the ball passes wide of where the striker is standing or has stood at any point after the ball came into play for that delivery, and which also would have passed wide of the striker standing in a normal batting position.
22.1.2 The ball will be considered as passing wide of the striker unless it is sufficiently within reach for him/her to be able to hit it with the bat by means of a normal cricket stroke.
22.1.3 The ball will be considered as passing wide of the striker if any delivery, after landing, passes or would have passed over head height of the striker standing upright at the popping crease.

BYE AND LEG BYE

23.3 Leg byes not to be awarded
If in the circumstance of 23.2.1 the umpire considers that neither of the conditions therein has been met, then Leg byes shall not be awarded.
If the ball does not become Dead for any other reason the Umpire shall delay the call and signal of Dead ball ~~as soon as~~ until the ball reaches the boundary or ~~at~~ the completion of the first run.
The umpire shall then...

FIELDER'S ABSENCE; SUBSTITUTES

24.2.1 A player going briefly outside the boundary in the course of discharging the duties of a fielder is not absent from the field of play nor, for the purposes this Law, is that player to be regarded as having left the field of play. A fielder may be outside the boundary when the ball comes into play - however, all fielders shall be within the boundary at the moment the ball is delivered.

24.2.8 If a Level 3 offence under Law 42.4 (Level 3 offences and action by umpires) is committed by a fielder, the period of time spent off the field of play as a result of the suspension shall not be added to any unserved Penalty time if the fielder

takes the field at the end of the period of suspension. Any time off the field for an unscheduled break in play shall not count as Penalty time served, unless the player had served the whole of their suspension at the start of that unscheduled break and returns to the field immediately on the resumption of play, or their side is now batting.

BATTER'S INNINGS; RUNNERS

25.6.5 - Winning hit when striker has a runner
25.6.5 If the striker who has a runner is out of his/her ground and the wicket at the wicket-keeper's end is fairly broken, the striker is liable to be out under Laws 38 (Run out) or 39 (Stumped), unless a result has already been reached under Law 16.6. If the runner is also out of his/her ground at the wicket-keeper's end, then only Law 38 (Run out) can apply.

25.6.6 If a striker who has a runner is dismissed as in 25.6.5, the umpire shall

- disallow all runs to the batting side
- return any not out batter to his/her original end
- signal No ball or Wide to the scorers if applicable

award any 5-run Penalty that is applicable

25.7.2 If the striker's end umpire considers the runner for an injured striker to be in breach of this restriction then runs may not be scored.
If the ball does not become dead for any other reason, the umpire shall delay the call and signal of Dead ball ~~as soon as~~ until the ball reaches the boundary or at the completion of the first run. However, the striker's end umpire shall further delay the call of Dead ball to allow the opportunity for a catch to be completed.

The bowler's end umpire shall then:

- disallow all runs to the batting side
- return any not out batter to their original end
- Signal No ball or Wide if applicable
- ward any 5-run Penalty that is applicable except for Penalty runs under Law 28.3 (Protective helmets belonging to the fielding side).

25.8 The striker has a right to play the ball, or to make a legitimate second strike, after it has been delivered, without interference from the wicket-keeper or any other fielder. See Law 27.5 (Restrictions on actions of wicket-keeper) and Law 27.6 (Interference with wicket-keeper by striker). However, the striker may only attempt to play the ball if some of their bat or person, whether grounded or raised, remains within the pitch, as defined in Law 6.1 (Area of pitch). Should no part of the striker's bat or person remain within the pitch, ~~whilst the striker is playing the ball~~ from the moment the ball comes into play until the striker has finished receiving the delivery, either umpire shall immediately call and signal Dead ball.

PRACTICE ON THE FIELD

26.4.1 If there is a contravention of any of the provisions of 26.1 or 26.2, the umpire shall

- warn the player that the practice is not permitted;
- inform the other umpire and, as soon as practicable, both captains of the reason for this action.

26.4.1.1 If the contravention is by a batter at the wicket, the umpire shall inform the other batter and each incoming batter that the warning has been issued~~. The warning shall apply to the team of that player throughout the match.~~
The warning shall apply to the team of that player throughout the match.

THE WICKET-KEEPER

27.**3** Wicket-keeper position

27.**3**.**1** The wicket-keeper shall remain wholly behind the wicket at the striker's end from ~~the moment the ball comes into play~~ the instant of the bowler's delivery until a ball delivered by the bowler
touches the bat or person of the striker or
passes the wicket at the striker's end or
the striker attempts a run.

27.**4**.**1**.**1** movement of a few paces forward ~~for a slower delivery,~~ unless in so doing it brings him/her within reach of the wicket.

27.**5** If, in the opinion of either umpire, the wicket-keeper interferes with the striker's right to play the ball ~~and to guard the wicket~~, Law 20.4.2.6 (Umpire calling and signalling Dead ball) shall apply. However, if the wicket-keeper, or any other fielder, interferes with a legal second strike, either umpire shall call and signal Dead ball and the striker will not be dismissed, but the ball shall count as one for the over.

THE FIELDER

28.**2**.**1** A fielder may field the ball with any part of their person (see Appendix A.12), except as in 28.2.1.2. However, the fielder will be deemed to have fielded the ball illegally if, while the ball is in play ~~he/she wilfully~~

28.**2**.**1**.**1** They wilfully use anything other than part of their person to field the ball.

28.**2**.**1**.**2** They wilfully extend their clothing with their hands and use this to field the ball.

28.**2**.**1**.**3** ~~discards a~~ any piece of clothing, equipment or any other object, which had been deliberately discarded, subsequently makes contact with the ball.

APPEALS

31.**7** Batter leaving the wicket under a misapprehension

Either umpire shall call and signal Dead ball ~~An umpire shall intervene~~ if satisfied that a batter, not having been given out, has left the wicket under a reasonable misapprehension of being out. The umpire shall recall the batter. ~~The umpire intervening shall call and signal Dead ball to prevent any further action by the fielding side and shall recall the batter.~~

A batter may be recalled at any time up to the instant when the ball comes into play for the next delivery, unless it is the final wicket of the innings, in which case it should be up to the instant when the umpires leave the field.

Ball hitting both stumps

BOWLED

32.**1**.**2** However, the striker shall not be out Bowled if before striking the wicket the ball has been in contact with any other player, the wicket at the non-striker's end, or an umpire. The striker will, however, be subject to Laws 37 (Obstructing the field), 38 (Run out) and 39 (Stumped).

Person/Bat/Ground catches

CAUGHT

33.**2**.**2** Furthermore, a catch will be fair if any of the following conditions applies:

33.**2**.**2**.**2** a fielder catches the ball after it has been lawfully struck more than once by the striker, but only if it has not been grounded since it was first struck. For the purposes of this Law, a strike is defined as any contact between the ball and the bat or person, provided at least one such strike is on the bat. See Law 34 (Hit the ball twice).

HIT THE BALL TWICE

34.3 Ball lawfully struck more than once
The striker may, solely in order to guard their wicket and before the ball has been touched by a fielder, lawfully strike the ball a second or subsequent time with the bat, or with any part of their person other than a hand not holding the bat.
The striker may guard their wicket even if the delivery is a No ball.
However, the striker may not prevent the ball from being caught by striking the ball more than once in defence of their wicket. See Law 37.3 (Obstructing a ball from being caught).
If any fielder interferes with a legal second strike, the ball shall be Dead and the striker will not be dismissed, but the ball shall count as one for the over.

34.4 Runs permitted from ball lawfully struck more than once When the ball is lawfully struck more than once, as permitted in 34.3, runs may not be scored. If the ball does not become dead for any other reason, the umpire shall delay the call and signal of Dead ball ~~as soon as~~ until the ball reaches the boundary or ~~at~~ the completion of the first run. However, the umpire shall further delay the call of Dead ball to allow the opportunity for a catch to be completed.

HIT WICKET

35.1.1 The striker is out Hit wicket if, after the bowler has entered the delivery stride and while the ball is in play, his/her wicket is broken by either the striker's bat or person as described in Laws 29.2.1.2 to 29.2.1.4 (Breaking the wicket fairly) in any of the following circumstances:

35.1.1.1 in the course of any action taken by him/her in preparing to receive or in receiving a delivery,

35.1.1.2 as a result of any movement that is an attempt to recover their balance after receiving a delivery,

35.1.1.3 in setting off for the first run immediately after playing or playing at the ball,

35.1.1.4 if no attempt is made to play the ball, in setting off for the first run, providing that in the opinion of the umpire this is immediately after the striker has had the opportunity of playing the ball,

35.1.1.5 in lawfully making a second or further stroke for the purpose of guarding his/her wicket within the provisions of Law 34.3 (Ball lawfully struck more than once).

35.2 Not out Hit Wicket
The striker is not out under this Law should ~~his/her~~ their wicket be broken in any of the ways referred to in 35.1 if any of the following applies:

- it occurs after the striker has completed any action in receiving the delivery, other than in 35.1.1.2 to 35.1.1.4.
- the wicket is broken by a part of the striker's detached equipment or bat not held in the hand, which has come into contact with any other person before breaking the wicket.
- the wicket is broken by the striker's person, or bat held in the hand, as a direct consequence of contact with a member of the fielding side
- it occurs when the striker is in the act of running, other than setting off immediately for the first run. it occurs when the striker is trying to avoid being Run out or Stumped.
- it occurs when the striker is trying to avoid a throw in at any time.
- the bowler after entering the delivery stride does not deliver the ball. In this case either umpire shall immediately call and signal Dead ball. See Law **20.4** (Umpire calling and signalling Dead ball).
- the delivery is a No ball.

LEG BEFORE WICKET

36.1 Out LBW

The striker is out LBW if all the circumstances set out in **36.1.1** to **36.1.5** apply.

36.1.1 The bowler delivers a ball, not being a No ball

36.1.2 the ball, if it is not intercepted ~~full pitch~~ without landing, ~~pitches~~ first lands in line between wicket and wicket or on the off side of the striker's wicket

36.1.3 the ball not having previously touched the bat, the striker intercepts the ball, either ~~full pitch or after pitching~~ with or without landing, with any part of their person

36.1.4 the point of impact, even if above the level of the bails, either is between wicket and wicket or if the striker has made no genuine attempt to play the ball with the bat, is between wicket and wicket or outside the line of the off stump.

36.1.5 but for the interception, the ball would have hit the wicket.

36.2 Interception of the ball

36.2.1 In assessing points in **36.1.3**, **36.1.4** and **36.1.5**, only the first interception is to be considered.

36.2.2 In assessing point **36.1.3**, if the ball makes contact with the striker's person and bat simultaneously, this shall be considered as the ball having first touched the bat.

36.2.3 In assessing point **36.1.5**, it is to be assumed that the path of the ball before interception would have continued after interception, irrespective of whether the ball might have ~~pitched~~ landed subsequently or not.

OBSTRUCTING THE FIELD

37.1 Batter throwing the bat

37.1 Out Obstructing the field

37.1.1 Either batter is out Obstructing the field if, except in the circumstances of 37.2, and while the ball is in play, that batter wilfully attempts to obstruct or distract the fielding side by word or action. See also Law 34 (Hit the ball twice).

37.1.2 The striker is out Obstructing the field if, except in the circumstances of 37.2, in the act of receiving a ball delivered by the bowler, the striker wilfully strikes the ball with a hand not holding the bat. This will apply whether it is the first strike or a second or subsequent strike. The act of receiving the ball shall extend both to playing at the ball and to striking the ball more than once in defence of their wicket.

37.1.3 The striker is out Obstructing the field if, while receiving the ball, they deliberately drop or throw the bat in an attempt to either impact the ball or prevent any dismissal except Hit wicket.

37.1.4 This Law will apply whether or not No ball is called.

37.5 Obstructing a catch

37.5 Runs scored

When either batter is dismissed Obstructing the field,

37.5.1 unless the obstruction or distraction prevents the striker being out Caught, any runs completed by the batters before the offence shall be scored, together with any one-run Penalty for No ball or Wide, or any other award of 5 Penalty runs to either side. See Laws 18.6 (Runs awarded for penalties) and 18.8 (Runs scored when a batter is dismissed).

37.5.2 if the obstruction or distraction prevents the striker being out Caught,

- any runs completed by the batters shall not be scored but any award of 5 Penalty runs to either side shall stand.
- The fielding captain shall decide whether the non-striker, or the incoming batter, is to face the next delivery. ~~Law 18.11 (Batter returning to original end) will apply.~~

RUN OUT

38.3

38.3.1 At any time from the moment the ball comes into play until the moment the bowler's arm reaches the highest point of their normal bowling action in the delivery swing ~~the instant when the bowler would normally have been expected to release the ball,~~ the non-striker is liable to be Run out if they are out of their ground. In these circumstances the non-striker will be out Run out if they are out of his/hertheir ground when the non-striker's wicket is broken by the bowler throwing the ball at the stumps or by the bowler's hand holding the ball, whether or not the ball is subsequently delivered.

~~38.3.1.1 The instant when the bowler would normally have been expected to release the ball is defined as the moment the bowler's arm reaches the highest point of his/her normal bowling action in the delivery swing.~~

38.3.1.1 Even if the non-striker had left their ground before the moment the bowler's arm reaches the highest point of their normal bowling action in the delivery swing ~~the instant at which the bowler would normally have been expected to release the ball,~~ once the bowler has reached that point it is no longer possible for the bowler to run out the non-striker under this Law.

38.5 If either batter is dismissed Run out, the run in progress when the wicket is broken shall not be scored, but any runs completed by the batters shall stand, together with any runs for penalties awarded to either side. See Laws 18.6 (Runs awarded for penalties) and 18.8 (Runs scored when a batter is dismissed). If, however, a striker who has a runner is himself/herself dismissed Run out and runs are completed by the runner and the other batter before the wicket is broken, the umpire shall:

- disallow all runs to the batting side
- return any not out batter to their original end
- signal No ball or Wide ball to the scorers if applicable
- award any 5-run Penalty that is applicable.

See Law 25.6 (Dismissal and conduct of a batter and his/her runner).

UNFAIR PLAY

41.4 Deliberate attempt to distract or obstruct striker

41.4.1 It is unfair for any fielder deliberately to attempt to distract or obstruct the striker while they are preparing to receive or receiving a delivery.

41.4.2 If either umpire considers that any action by a fielder is such an attempt, that umpire shall immediately call and signal Dead ball and inform the other umpire of the reason for the call.

The bowler's end umpire shall

- award 5 Penalty runs to the batting side.
- inform the captain of the fielding side, the batters and, as soon as practicable, the captain of the batting side of the reason for the action.

Neither batter shall be dismissed from that delivery and the ball shall not count as one of the over. However, if either umpire had reason to call and signal No ball, ~~he/she shall do so regardless of the attempt to distract, and~~ this call shall stand regardless of the attempt to distract or obstruct the striker.

Together with the other umpire report the occurrence as soon as possible after the match to the Executive of the offending side and to any Governing Body responsible for the match, who shall take such action as is considered appropriate against the captain, any other individuals concerned and, if appropriate, the team.

41.6 Bowling of dangerous and unfair short ~~pitched~~ deliveries

41.6.1 The bowling of short ~~pitched~~ deliveries is dangerous if the bowler's end umpire considers that, taking into consideration the skill of the striker, by their speed, length, height and direction they are likely to inflict physical injury on the striker. The fact that the striker is wearing protective equipment shall be disregarded.

41.6.2 The bowler's end umpire may consider that the bowling of short ~~pitched~~ deliveries, although not dangerous under 41.6.1, is unfair if they repeatedly pass above head height of the striker standing upright at the crease. See also Law 22.1.3 (Ball bouncing over head height of striker).

41.6.3 As soon as the umpire decides that the bowling of short ~~pitched~~ deliveries has become dangerous under 41.6.1, or unfair under 41.6.2, that umpire shall call and signal No ball. When the ball is dead, the umpire shall caution the bowler, indicating that this is a first and final warning, and inform the other umpire, the captain of the fielding side and the batters of what has occurred.

This caution shall apply to that bowler throughout the innings.

41.6.4 Should there be any further such delivery by the same bowler in that innings, the umpire shall

- call and signal No ball
- when the ball is dead, direct the captain of the fielding side to suspend the bowler immediately from bowling
- inform the other umpire for the reason for this action.
- The bowler thus suspended shall not be allowed to bowl again in that innings.
- If applicable, the over shall be completed by another bowler, who shall neither have bowled any part of the previous over, nor be allowed to bowl any part of the next over.
- The umpire shall inform the batters and, as soon as practicable, the captain of the batting side.

The umpires together shall report the occurrence as soon as possible after the match to the Executive of the offending side and to any Governing Body responsible for the match, who shall take such action as is considered appropriate against the captain, any other individuals concerned and, if appropriate, the team.

41.6.5 The warning sequence in 41.6.3 and 41.6.4 is independent of the warning and action sequence in 41.7.

41.7 Bowling of dangerous and unfair non-~~pitching~~ landing deliveries

41.7.1 Any delivery, which passes or would have passed, without ~~pitching~~ landing, above waist height of the striker standing upright at the popping crease, is unfair. Whenever such a delivery is bowled, the umpire shall call and signal No ball.

41.7.2 The bowling of a delivery as defined in 41.7.1 is also dangerous if the bowler's end umpire considers that there is a risk of injury to the striker. In making that judgement the umpire shall:

- disregard any protective equipment worn by the striker
- be mindful of:
- the speed, height and direction of the delivery
- the skill of the striker
- the repeated nature of such deliveries.

41.7.3 If the umpire considers a non-~~pitching~~ landing delivery, or a series of non-~~pitching~~ landing deliveries, to be dangerous under 41.7.2, when the ball is dead, the umpire shall repeat the No ball signal to the scorers and then caution the bowler, indicating that this is a first and final warning. The umpire shall also inform the other umpire, the captain of the fielding side and the batters of what has occurred. This caution shall apply to that bowler throughout the innings.

41.7.4 Should there be any further dangerous such delivery by the same bowler in

that innings, the umpire shall

- call and signal No ball
- when the ball is dead, direct the captain of the fielding side to suspend the bowler immediately from bowling
- inform the other umpire for the reason for this action.

The bowler thus suspended shall not be allowed to bowl again in that innings.

If applicable, the over shall be completed by another bowler, who shall neither have bowled any part of the previous over, nor be allowed to bowl any part of the next over.

Additionally, the umpire shall

- inform the batters and, as soon as practicable, the captain of the batting side.

The umpires together shall report the occurrence as soon as possible after the match to the Executive of the offending side and to any Governing Body responsible for the match, who shall take such action as is considered appropriate against the captain, any other individuals concerned and, if appropriate, the team.

41.7.5 The warning and action sequences in 41.7.3 and 41.7.4 are independent of those in 41.6.

41.7.6 If the umpire considers that a bowler deliberately bowled a non-~~pitching~~ landing delivery, deemed to be unfair as defined in 41.7.1, then the caution and warning in 41.7.3 shall be dispensed with. The umpire shall

- immediately call and signal No ball.
- when the ball is dead, direct the captain of the fielding side to suspend the bowler

immediately from bowling and inform the other umpire for the reason for this action.

The bowler thus suspended shall not be allowed to bowl again in ~~that innings~~ the match.

If applicable, the over shall be completed by another bowler, who shall neither have bowled any part of the previous over, nor be allowed to bowl any part of the next over.

- inform the batters and, as soon as practicable, the captain of the batting side.

The umpires together shall report the occurrence as soon as possible after the match to the Executive of the offending side and to any Governing Body responsible for the match, who shall take such action as is considered appropriate against the captain, any other individuals concerned and, if appropriate, the team.

41.8 If the umpire considers that the bowler has delivered a deliberate front-foot No ball, that umpire shall

- Immediately call and signal No ball.
- when the ball is dead, direct the captain of the fielding side to suspend the bowler immediately from bowling
- inform the other umpire for the reason for this action.
- The ~~bowler thus~~ suspended bowler shall not be allowed to bowl again in the ~~innings~~ match.

41.16 It is unfair for the batters to attempt to steal a run during the bowler's run-up. Unless the bowler attempts to run out the non-striker – see Law 38.3 (Non-striker leaving his/her ground early) – the umpire shall

- call and signal Dead ball as soon as the batters cross in such an attempt.
- inform the other umpire of the reason for this action.

The bowler's end umpire shall then

- disallow the attempted run.
- return the batters to their original ends.
- award 5 Penalty runs to the fielding side.
- award any other 5 run Penalty that is applicable.

- inform the batters, the captain of the fielding side and, as soon as practicable, the captain of the batting side, of the reason for this action.

The umpires together shall report ....

41.17 Penalty runs

41.17.1 When Penalty runs are awarded to either side, when the ball is dead the umpire shall signal the Penalty runs to the scorers. See Law 2.13 (Signals).

41.17.2 Penalty runs shall be awarded in each case where the Laws require the award, up until the umpires leave the field at the end of the match, even if a result has already been achieved. See Law 16.6 (Winning hit or extras). Note that if the award of Penalty runs means that a result has no longer been achieved, the match continues. Where more than one award of Penalty runs is required during the same delivery, the umpires shall award them in the order that the offences took place.

Note, however, that the restrictions on awarding Penalty runs, in Laws 23.3 (Leg byes not to be awarded), 25.7 (Restriction on the striker's runner), 28.3 (Protective helmets belonging to the fielding side) and 34.4 (Runs permitted from ball lawfully struck more than once) will apply.

41.17.3 When **5** Penalty runs are awarded to the batting side, they shall be scored as Penalty extras and shall be in addition to any other penalties.

they are awarded when the ball is dead and shall not be regarded as runs scored from either the immediately preceding delivery or the immediately following delivery, and shall be in addition to any runs from those deliveries. the batters shall not change ends solely by reason of the 5-run penalty.

41.17.4 When **5** Penalty runs are awarded to the fielding side, they shall be added as Penalty extras to that side's total of runs in its most recently completed innings. If the fielding side has not completed an innings, the **5** Penalty runs shall be added to the score in its next innings.

41.17.5 When Penalty runs are awarded, except under Law 28.3 (Protective helmets belonging to the fielding side), the umpires together shall report the occurrence as soon as possible after the match to the Executive of the offending side and to any Governing Body responsible for the match, who shall take such action as is considered appropriate against the captain, any other individuals concerned and, if appropriate, the team.

41.17.6 Whether Penalty runs are awarded or not, if either umpire deems that any item of equipment used by any player is unfair or illegal, the umpires shall:

- if practicable, prevent the player from using the illegal or unfair equipment
- report the occurrence as soon as possible after the match to the Executive of the offending side and to any Governing Body responsible for the match, who shall take such action as is considered appropriate against the captain, any other individuals concerned and, if appropriate, the team.

PLAYERS' CONDUCT

42.3.1 throwing the ball at or near a player, umpire or another person in an inappropriate and dangerous manner

42.4.2.3.3

If the offending player is a fielder, no substitute shall be allowed for them. The offending player may return to the field of play after serving the period of suspension ~~and may bowl immediately.~~ Penalty time can neither accrue, nor be served, while a player is suspended.

APPENDICES

A.2.7 Held in the fielder's hand - to be considered held in the fielder's hand or hands, the ball must be held with complete control in the fielder's palm or fingers, or in the palm or fingers of a wicket-keeper's glove.

A.2.8 Complete control over the ball means that, assuming no contact with any other person or object, the fielder could continue to hold the ball for as long as they choose, or to dispose of it wherever they choose.

A.6.6 The batters have crossed, while running between the wickets, only when the whole of one batter's person and bat have passed the whole of the other batter's person and bat.

A.9.4 The back foot is the foot in the delivery stride that is the same side as the arm with which the bowler delivers the ball.

A.9.5 The front foot is the foot in the delivery stride that is the opposite side to the arm with which the bowler delivers the ball.

A.9.6 A bowler's foot lands at the moment some part of the foot first makes contact with the ground. Only the first point of contact with the ground is determined to be grounded at this point of landing.

A.10.2 ~~Full pitch Non-landing~~ describes a ball delivered by the bowler that reaches or passes the striker without having touched the ground. ~~Sometimes described as non-pitching.~~

A.12.3 Hand for batter ~~or wicket-keeper~~ shall include both the hand itself and the whole of a glove worn on the hand.

B.7 Type D Bats
Type D bats, as defined, shall comply with the size specifications and restrictions in Law **5** and this Appendix. The blade in addition may be

B.7.1 laminated but using only wood and with no more than three pieces, with one single piece as the face of the blade.

B.7.2. coloured, providing Law **5.5** is not contravened.

B.7.3 Type D bats may also have a cloth covering, material inserted at the toe and/or along the sides, parallel to the face of the blade, and a greater proportion of materials other than cane, wood or twine in the handle than Types A and B (see B.2.3).