



Action Points and Considerations for Coaches & Governing Bodies

This document summaries the changes in the new Laws. A full explanation of the changes to the Laws is available at:

<https://www.lords.org/news/2017/april/summary-of-new-laws-of-cricket-released/>

The Spirit of Cricket – now emphasis on the positive behaviours that make cricket an exciting game that encourages leadership, friendship and teamwork. The wording is simplified and stresses the importance of the roles of coaches, teachers and parents in junior cricket.

Umpires: Health & Safety - If **one umpire** thinks that conditions are **dangerous** or **unreasonable**, then play will be suspended. Previously, both umpires had to agree to suspend play. Similarly, both umpires must agree that conditions are safe for play to be resumed. Also more clarification of what might constitute unreasonable conditions.

Law 5 – The Bat - The changes that have been introduced which limit the size of cricket bats should be introduced into professional cricket from 1st October 2017.

Cost means it might be unfair to impose the Law change on recreational cricketers immediately - Governing Bodies to decide - possibly on a sliding scale, with the higher levels of recreational cricket getting 12 or 24 months' grace and lower levels slightly longer.

New bat gauges will measure: limits on the thickness of the edges and the overall depth of the bat. The maximum dimensions will be 108mm in width (unchanged), 67mm in depth with 40mm edges.

Junior bats, the new Law will allow junior bats to be laminated and coloured, only in a new category called Type D bats.

Wickets - sets of stumps which tether the bails to the stumps is recommended

New ball - Now after 80 overs – unless local playing conditions change this.

Intervals - 9 wickets are down when lunch is scheduled, play can continue for up to 30 minutes, in line with the similar situation with the tea interval.

NO BALL - It will be a No ball if the ball bounces more than once before it reaches the popping crease. For lower levels of the game consideration could be given to



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introducing a playing condition which allows a second bounce. 'No ball' also when a ball's first bounce is off the pitch.

Boundary - All airborne fielders making their first contact with the ball will need to have taken off from within the boundary, otherwise a boundary is scored.

Law 23 – Bye and Leg bye - A change to this Law means that Byes and Leg byes off a No ball will now be credited as one No ball extra, plus the Byes or Leg byes as appropriate. Previously, all such runs were credited as No ball extras.

Law 24 – Fielder's absence; substitutes & Law 25 – Penalty time accrued by a fielder's absence from the field will now affect when he or she is allowed to bat. The Law clarifies that Penalty time will continue onto a subsequent day's play. **Law 24 now allows a substitute to keep wicket**, (except when he/she has been removed) with the consent of the umpires.

Illegal fielding – is now only when articles are intentionally used to field the ball.

Fielders Helmets OK: Run out if the ball rebounds directly from a fielder's helmet onto the stumps.

Handled the ball Law has been deleted, with its contents merged into 'Obstructing the Field', reducing the list of dismissals from ten to nine. This will have no effect on whether a batsman is dismissed; rather, it is just the method of dismissal that might be changed.

The Lost ball Law has been deleted and is now covered under Dead ball.

Law 30 (Batsman out of his/her ground) has been amended to give protection to a running or diving batsman whose bat bounces up after having been grounded beyond the popping crease.

Law 36 – LBW

Note the clarification in this Law (particularly for TV replays) that a ball's simultaneous contact with bat and pad is deemed as hitting the bat first – therefore it is to be Not Out.

Law 41.8 now covers the bowling of **deliberate front foot No Balls**, which will result in the bowler being suspended from bowling.

Law 41.5 Deliberate distraction, **deception** or obstruction of a Batsman. The adding of the word '**deception**' to this Law was made to outlaw the practice of 'mock-fielding', where a fielder feigned to have and/or throw the ball to prevent the batsmen running.

Law 41.15 Now prevents the batsman from taking stance in a position where he/she will



inevitably encroach on the protected area.

Law 41.16 has changed so that the **non-striker risks being Run out** if he/she leaves his/her ground before the bowler would normally be expected to release the ball.

Law 42 (Player Conduct) - a new Law which gives an in-match consequence for poor on-field **behaviour** including, for the most serious offences, temporary or permanent removal from the field of play. This new Law should be closely scrutinised, as there will be significant crossover from any Codes of Conduct that Governing Bodies might have in place.

- Level 1: Warning then 5 penalty runs to the opposition for a repeat offence.
- Level 2: 5 Penalty runs to the opposition.
- Level 3: Offending player is suspended for a number of overs, depending on the length of the match, plus 5 Penalty runs to the opposition.
- Level 4: Offending player is removed from the field for the rest of the match, plus 5 Penalty runs to the opposition.

Governing Bodies may wish to use these changes to introduce a standard \$\$ or suspension procedure in recreational cricket for players disciplined under these Laws.

For lower levels of the game, where the players themselves are acting as umpires, this Law (and Law 41.19) might need to be overwritten. This should not, however, prevent a robust post-match reporting procedure for misconduct, with appropriate sanctions being administered.

SUMMARY

Laws now **re-ordered into a more logical sequence**, some of the Laws have a new number.

Writing and layout is clarified – The formatting of the numbering of the sub-sections has changed, - for example, Law 38.2(a)(i) would now be referred to as Law 38.2.1.1.

Gender in the Laws – now caters for both sexes.

FULL LAW COPY ON WEB:

<https://www.lords.org/assets/Uploads/MCC-Laws-of-Cricket-2017-Code-Final-8-May.pdf>

LAW 42 - Players' conduct (New Law)

This is a new Law that deals specifically with players' misconduct and is introduced following widespread consultation, surveys with players and umpires and a series of trials of the different levels of sanctions.

It is widely accepted that there is a need both to provide the umpires with appropriate on-field sanctions to deal with deteriorating levels of behaviour, not just to report such



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matters, and that there should be different levels of sanction leading to sending off for acts of violence.

Four different levels of offences have been created, with Level 4 being the most serious. The umpires shall determine into which of the Levels an unfair action falls and will apply the appropriate sanction.

The four levels of sanction are set as:

- Level 1: Warning then 5 penalty runs to the opposition for a repeat offence.
- Level 2: 5 Penalty runs to the opposition.
- Level 3: Offending player is suspended for a number of overs, depending on the length of the match, plus 5 Penalty runs to the opposition.
- Level 4: Offending player is removed from the field for the rest of the match, plus 5 Penalty runs to the opposition.

All breaches, including the first offence under Level 1, will attract a report to the Executive of the Team(s) and the Governing Body.

For all offences under Level 1-4, the umpire will call Time and summon the relevant captain, who will be informed of the breach of Law and the associated penalty. If appropriate, the umpire will instruct the captain to remove the offending player from the field.

New signals for Level 3 and Level 4 offences have been created, which are covered in Law 2.13. The signal for each offence is made to the scorers, not the player, and starts with the umpire putting an arm out to the side of the body and repeatedly raising it and lowering it.

For Level 3 offences, this is followed by raising both hands, all fingers spread, to shoulder height, palms facing towards the scorers. For Level 4 offences, the first part is followed by raising an index finger, held at shoulder height, to the side of the body.

In the, hopefully unlikely, event that a Captain refuses to comply with the umpires' instructions under Level 3 or 4 then they will consider awarding the match if one captain is involved or abandoning the match if both refuse to comply and it is impossible to resolve matters. This is covered in Law 42.6.

Law 42.7 clarifies that, if it is the wicket-keeper who is suspended or sent off, a substitute will not be allowed to keep-wicket. It also makes clear that, if the Level 3 or 4 offence is committed by a substitute or a runner, the player for whom they are fielding / running



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will be affected by the punishment.

This system is designed to give the umpires on-field penalties to tackle poor behaviour. However, as with other penalties under the Laws, these new sanctions are intended as deterrents, the presence of which should reduce the frequency of poor behaviour, so that they would only rarely be applied.

THE PREAMBLE – THE SPIRIT OF CRICKET

Cricket owes much of its appeal and enjoyment to the fact that it should be played not only according to the Laws, but also within the Spirit of Cricket.

The major responsibility for ensuring fair play rests with the captains, but extends to all players, umpires and, especially in junior cricket, teachers, coaches and parents.

- Respect is central to the Spirit of Cricket:
- Respect your captain, team-mates, opponents and the authority of the umpires.
- Play hard and play fair.
- Accept the umpire's decision.
- Create a positive atmosphere by your own conduct, and encourage others to do likewise.
- Show self-discipline, even when things go against you.
- Congratulate the opposition on their successes, and enjoy those of your own team.
- Thank the officials and your opposition at the end of the match, whatever the result.

Cricket is an exciting game that encourages leadership, friendship and teamwork, which brings together people from different nationalities, cultures and religions, especially when played within the Spirit of Cricket.