

BYE-LAWS (2021)

The following Bye-Laws shall apply, all Laws or parts of Laws inconsistent with the Bye-Laws being suspended:

(a) Start of Match

The Umpires shall ring a bell 5 minutes before the time arranged for the match to start and 5 minutes before the re-start after any interval or stoppage where the players leave the field.

(b) Declarations

Law 15.1 shall not apply: no innings may be declared closed.

(c) Tea Interval

The tea interval shall not exceed 30 minutes and should, preferably, be taken between innings. However, if the innings of the team batting first is completed more than 60 minutes prior to the latest finishing time for the innings as prescribed in (o) below, a 10-minute break will occur, after which the team batting second will start its innings and the interval will be taken at the latest finishing time for the first innings. Where the layout of the ground makes a 30-minute interval impracticable, an extension to 40 minutes may be agreed by the captains and umpires prior to the toss.

(d) Boundary Markings

A continuous white line or a rope shall mark the boundary on all grounds. Runs awarded for boundaries shall be standardised as 4 runs and 6 runs respectively.

(e) Scoreboard

The number of completed overs and/or the number remaining to be bowled shall be shown on the scoreboard and updated at the end of each over. In matches in the Challenge Cup, Junior Cup, Senior League, Twenty20 Cup, Trophy and Shield, the number of overs bowled by each bowler shall be displayed clearly and kept up to date.

(f) Balls

Quartered balls shall be used in all matches.

(g) Covers

Where covers are available, the pitch shall be completely covered during a match when the umpires so direct. In addition, where possible the bowler's run-ups and the pitches either side of the match pitch shall also be covered.

(h) Fielding Circles

For all matches in the Challenge and Junior Cups, the Senior League and Sections 1 - 3 of the Junior League, two semi-circles shall be marked 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. The semi-circles shall be linked by two parallel straight lines marked on the field. The areas shall be marked by continuous painted white lines or 'dots' at 5-yard intervals, each 'dot' to be covered by a white plastic or rubber (but not metal) disc measuring 7 inches in diameter. These discs shall not be fixed to the ground by means of a nail/pin or any other dangerous sharp object.

For matches in the Junior Cup, Sections 2 & 3 of the Senior League, and Section 1 of the Junior League, at the instant of delivery a minimum of four fieldsmen (plus the bowler and wicket-keeper) shall be within this area.

In the event of an infringement, the striker's end umpire shall call and signal 'No ball'.

Comment: The Schools' Cup has its own free-standing Rules, published in the Schools' Fixtures Book

(i) Powerplays

In the Challenge Cup, Premier League and Section 1 of the Senior League, the following fielding restrictions shall apply:

At the instant of delivery:

- a) Powerplay 1 - no more than two fieldsmen shall be permitted outside the fielding restriction area defined in (h) above. In an innings of 50 overs, these are overs 1 to 10 inclusive.
- b) Powerplay 2 - no more than four fieldsmen shall be permitted outside this area. In an innings of 50 overs, these are overs 11 to 40 inclusive.
- c) Powerplay 3 - no more than five fieldsmen shall be permitted outside this area. In an innings of 50 overs, these are overs 41 to 50 inclusive. Where the number of overs of either innings is reduced, the number of overs within each phase of the innings shall be reduced in accordance with the table below.

Innings Duration	PP 1	PP 2	PP 3
5	2	2	1
6	2	3	1
7	2	4	1
8	2	4	2
9	3	4	2
10	3	5	2
11	3	6	2
12	4	6	2
13	4	7	2
14	4	7	3
15	4	8	3
16	4	9	3
17	4	10	3
18	4	11	3
19	4	11	4
20	4	12	4
21	4	13	4
22	5	13	4
23	5	14	4
24	5	14	5
25	5	15	5
26	5	16	5
27	6	16	5
Allowed Outside Circle	2	4	5

Innings Duration	PP 1	PP 2	PP 3
28	6	17	5
29	6	17	6
30	6	18	6
31	6	19	6
32	7	19	6
33	7	20	6
34	7	20	7
35	7	21	7
36	7	22	7
37	8	22	7
38	8	23	7
39	8	23	8
40	8	24	8
41	8	25	8
42	9	25	8
43	9	26	8
44	9	26	9
45	9	27	9
46	9	28	9
47	10	28	9
48	10	29	9
49	10	29	10
50	10	30	10
Allowed Outside Circle	2	4	5

If play is interrupted during an innings and the above table applies, the Powerplay take immediate effect. For the avoidance of doubt this applies even if the interruption has occurred in mid-over.

Illustrations

A 50-over innings is interrupted after 8.3 overs and reduced to 32 overs. The new phases are 7+19+6. Therefore, the middle phase fielding restrictions take immediate effect when play resumes and last for a further 17.3 overs. The final phase begins after 26 overs have been bowled.

A 40-over innings is interrupted after 18.5 overs and reduced to 22 overs. The new phases are 5+13+4. When play resumes, the final phase fielding restrictions apply for the remaining 3.1 overs.

At the start of the middle and final phases of an innings, the umpire shall signal this to the scorers by rotating his arm in a large circle. The scoreboard shall indicate the current Powerplay in progress. In the event of an infringement of any of the above fielding restrictions, the striker's end umpire shall call and signal "No ball".

(j) On Side Fieldsmen

At the instant of delivery there shall not be more than five fieldsmen on the on side. In the event of an infringement, the striker's end umpire shall call and signal 'No ball'.

(k) Free Hit

In the Challenge Cup, Premier League and Section 1 of the Senior League, the Twenty20 Cup, Trophy and Shield in addition to the penalty prescribed by Law 21, the delivery following a No ball shall be a free hit for whichever batsman is facing it.

If this delivery is not a legitimate delivery (ie it is any kind of No ball or a Wide ball), then the next delivery shall become a free hit for whichever batsman is facing it.

Off any free hit delivery, the striker can be dismissed only under the circumstances that apply for a No ball (even where the free hit delivery is called 'Wide ball'). Field changes are not permitted for free hit deliveries unless there is a change of striker (where they are permitted because of a change of striker, any other fielding restrictions in place shall continue to apply). However, in all circumstances, any fielder within 15 yards of the striker may retreat to a position on the same line no more than 15 yards from the striker.

Where field changes that are not permitted take place, either umpire shall call and signal 'Dead ball'.

The umpires shall signal a free hit (after the normal No ball signal) by extending one arm straight upwards and moving it in a circular motion.

(l) Bowler Incapacitated or Suspended During an Over

Where a bowler is incapacitated or suspended during an over and another bowler completes the over in accordance with Law 17.8, each part of the over shall count as a full over only in so far as each bowler's limit is concerned.

(m) Under-arm Bowling

Under-arm bowling is not permitted.

(n) Wides

Umpires shall apply a very strict and consistent interpretation of Law 22 in judging leg-side wides. As a guideline to the umpires for the calling of wides on the off side, the crease markings detailed in Appendix 1 shall be marked in white at each end of the pitch. Players umpiring matches involving teams from the Junior League should apply a somewhat less strict interpretation, remembering that the purpose of the Bye-Law is to prevent deliberate negative bowling rather than to over-penalise young or inexperienced bowlers for lack of control.

(o) Time of Innings

In all 1st XI fixtures, including the Twenty20 Cup, Trophy and Shield, and Junior Cup and Junior League Section 1 fixtures to which umpires have been appointed, each team shall bowl its overs at a rate no less than 15 overs per hour (inclusive of one drinks interval in matches where one is due to be taken).

At the start of each innings, and on the resumption of play after any stoppage, the umpires shall advise the fielding captain of the latest finishing time for the innings. The fielding side must be in a position to bowl the first ball of the last over (the penultimate over where the maximum overs have been reduced after the start of the innings) by this time. If a team fails to do so, the umpires shall award the batting team 6 penalty runs for each over not started by then. The award shall be made immediately after the ball first becomes dead following the latest finishing time. Play shall continue until the normal end of the innings.

In the second innings, if the penalty runs awarded to the side batting second take its score past its victory target, the match shall be over.

If an innings ends before the latest finishing time, no time penalties shall apply to it. The umpires shall have discretion to allow extra time for events beyond the control of the fielding side (eg injuries, lost balls, extra authorised drinks intervals).

The decision of the umpires on all matters relating to this Bye-Law shall be final.

(p) Non-Turf Pitches

Non-turf pitches on appropriate graded/registered grounds may be used for the following matches:

- (1) 'Match 2' fixtures in the Senior League and Junior League Sections 1-2;
- (2) Matches rearranged following postponement due to weather in the Challenge, Junior and Intermediate Cups;
- (3) Any match in Junior League Section 3 and below and the Minor and Minor Qualifying Cups; and
- (4) Any match in the Twenty20 Cup, Trophy and Shield.

Teams should travel prepared to play on non-turf pitches.

(q) Penalty Runs and Disciplinary Sanctions

In the absence of at least one officially appointed umpire, penalty runs shall be awarded only in respect of Law 28 (illegal fielding, including the ball striking a fielder's helmet on the ground) and none of the disciplinary sanctions provided for in Law 42 shall be applied.

(r) Duckworth/Lewis/Stern

In any competition in which the Duckworth/Lewis/Stern method is to be used to determine the result of matches curtailed by adverse weather, the following provisions shall apply:

- (1) the home team shall ensure that there is available at the ground a computer loaded with the current DLS software, a compatible and operational printer with a sufficient supply of paper, and a proficient operator and shall ensure before the start of the match that the hardware and software are operating correctly;
- (2) before the scheduled start of the second innings, and at any subsequent interruption that results in overs being lost, the operator shall produce an up-to-date par score printout, and shall provide copies to each captain, the umpires and the scorers;
- (3) at each interruption of play in the second innings where overs are lost, the umpires shall inform the operator of the number of overs lost, allowing sufficient time before play is due to resume for the production and distribution of the par score printouts (the time allowed for this purpose shall not exceed 15 minutes); and
- (4) where overs have been lost in either innings, and the home club fails to provide the par score printouts as required above, the umpires shall award the match to the visiting team;

- (5) where the home team has been denied use of a computer and/or printer through the enforced closure of a pavilion or clubhouse, a par score table generated on a laptop computer, tablet or smartphone may be substituted.

(s) Scorers

- (1) In each match in the Premier League and Section 1 of the Senior League, and in the Challenge Cup, when the teams are nominated to the Umpires, each captain shall also designate a suitably competent and experienced person (who shall not be one of the nominated players or the twelfth man) as the team's scorer. The designated scorer shall officiate throughout the match. In the event of illness or sudden emergency, or where the match is continued on another day, the designated scorer may be changed, subject to the approval of the Umpires. If this Bye-Law is breached, the Umpires shall inform the General Secretary and the offending club(s) shall be fined £25.
- (2) Scorers may maintain their match records either on paper (scorebook or scoresheets) or electronically (laptop, tablet or phone), however the home side shall produce a full contemporaneous paper record of the match which must be retained until after the end of the season. Where any issue arises that requires the Union to scrutinise match records, only paper records will be considered.

(t) Bats

Only Type A, B or C bats may be used in adult competitions.

(u) Short-pitched Bowling

- (1) A fast-short-pitched delivery is defined as a ball that passes, or would have passed, above the shoulder height of the striker standing upright at the popping crease.
- (2) In the Premier League, Section 1 of the Senior League and the Challenge Cup, a bowler shall be limited to two short-pitched deliveries per over. In the Twenty20 Cup and Trophy a bowler shall be limited to one such delivery per over.
- (3) The umpire at the bowler's end shall advise the bowler and the batsman on strike when each fast short-pitched delivery has been bowled.
- (4) In addition, a ball that passes above head height of the batsman that prevents him from being able to hit it with his bat by means of a normal cricket stroke shall be called and signalled 'Wide ball'. Any such delivery shall, in the competitions specified in (2) above, be counted as one of the allowable short-pitched deliveries in that over.
- (5) In the event of a bowler bowling more than the maximum number of such deliveries per over in the competitions specified in (2) above, or any such delivery in any other competition, the umpire at the bowler's end shall call and signal 'No ball' on each occasion.
- (6) Any further infringement shall be dealt with by the umpires in accordance with Law 41.6.3 - 5.

(v) Player Umpires

Players acting as umpire in the absence of officially appointed umpires shall be dressed as similarly as possible, in a manner that is appropriate to umpires and distinguishes them clearly from the players on the field.

(w) Super Overs

Where the regulations for any competition require the use of one or more Super Overs, the following procedure shall apply:

- (1) Subject to weather conditions, the Super Over shall take place at a time to be determined by the umpires. In normal circumstances it shall start 10 minutes after the end of the main match.
- (2) The Super Over shall take place on the pitch allocated for the main match unless otherwise determined by the umpires in consultation with the ground authority.
- (3) The umpires shall stand at the same ends as at the end of the main match.
- (4) In both innings of the Super Over, the fielding side shall choose from which end to bowl.

- (5) Only players nominated for the main match may participate in the Super Over. Should any player (including the batsmen and bowler) be unable to continue to participate in the Super Over due to injury, illness or other wholly acceptable reason, the relevant Laws relating to replacement players and substitutes shall apply.
- (6) Any penalty time being served in the main match shall be carried forward to the Super Over.
- (7) Each team's Super Over shall be played with the same fielding restrictions as applied to the final over of the main match.
- (8) The team batting second in the main match shall bat first in the Super Over.
- (9) The same ball (or a ball of a similar age if the original ball is out of shape or lost) as used at the end of the team's innings in the main match shall be used for the Super Over.
- (10) The loss of two wickets in the Super Over ends the team's one-over innings.
- (11) The team with the greater score after the Super Over shall win the match.
- (12) If both teams have the same score at the end of the Super Over, and providing the umpires are satisfied that conditions allow, then a second Super Over shall be played.
- (13) In normal circumstances the second Super Over shall start 5 minutes after the previous Super Over ends.
- (14) The team batting second in the first Super Over shall bat first in the second Super Over.
- (15) All other playing conditions shall be the same as for the first Super Over.

(x) Pitch Preparation

Home clubs are required to ensure, to the best of their ability, that pitches are prepared to a standard appropriate to the level of cricket to be played on them and that the pitch and its surrounds are adequately protected from rain prior to the match and during any breaks in play.

Where the umpires are of the opinion that a club has failed adequately to meet either or both of these requirements, they shall report the matter to the Union. If the Competitions Committee, having considered the umpires' report and any representations from the clubs involved in the match, deems the home club to have failed to comply with this obligation it shall impose one or more of the following penalties:

- I. award of the match to the visiting team if the latter did not win it (in which event the home club shall, for net run rate purposes (see Rule F7), be deemed not to have fulfilled the fixture);
- II. deduction of League points;
- III. a fine of up to £100.