

## **The LV County Championship, Other First Class Matches and Non-First Class MCC University Matches against Counties**

3

Playing Conditions Domestic Matches The LV County Championship and Other First Class Matches

### **1 Laws**

Except as varied hereunder the Laws of Cricket (2000 Code 2nd Edition 2003) shall apply.

### **2 Duration**

#### **2.1 The County Championship**

All matches shall be of Four days' duration and of two innings per side.

#### **2.2 Other First Class Matches**

Other matches will be of three or four days' duration and of two innings per side.

### **3 Hours of play and Intervals**

#### **3.1 Scheduled Hours of Play**

##### **3.1.1 Championship and MCC v Champion County (normal timings):**

All days .....11.00am-6.00pm

(10.30am-5.30pm in matches scheduled to start in September)

A maximum of 30 minutes of time lost from play on Days 1,2 and 3 shall be made up on that respective day (refer also Playing Condition 4.1.3). For the avoidance of doubt, no time shall be carried forward and made up on subsequent days.

3.1.2 Other Domestic First Class Matches and non first-class  
3-day MCC University matches against Counties

Normal timings will be:

1st and 2nd days

(and 3rd day in 4-day matches).....11.00am-6.30pm

Final .....11.00am-6.00pm

Notes to 3.1.2 (other Domestic First Class Matches)

- (a) Further to Laws 16.6 and 16.7 and 16.8, for matches in which there is no daily minimum number of overs requirement, if both captains (the batsmen at the wicket may act for their captain) accept that there is no prospect of either side achieving a victory, they may agree to finish the match after the time for the commencement of the last hour has been reached.

For matches in which a daily minimum number of overs applies, Laws 16.6, 16.7 and 16.8 will apply except that that there shall be a minimum of 16 overs in the last hour. However, if both captains (the batsmen at the wicket may act for their captain) accept that there is no prospect of either side achieving a victory, they may agree to finish the match at any time after the scheduled time for the commencement of the last hour has been reached.

- (b) The Captains may agree or, in the event of disagreement, the Umpires may decide to play 30 minutes (a minimum ten overs) extra time at the end of the first and/or second day's play and/or third day's play (if a 4-day match) if, in their opinion, it would bring about a definite result on that day. If it is decided to play extra time on either or both these days, the whole period shall be played out, even though the possibility of finishing the match may have disappeared before the full period has expired. The time by which play is extended on any day shall be deducted from the total number of hours'

play remaining in the match, and the match shall end earlier on the last day by the actual amount of time by which play was previously extended (the time for the commencement of the last hour to be adjusted accordingly.)

- (c) The above timings may be varied by mutual agreement and subject to notice being given to the media in sufficient time before the start of the match.

### 3.2 Lunch Interval

#### 3.2.1 The County Championship

Law 15.5 will apply so far as it relates to the lunch interval.

The normal commencement time for the lunch interval will be:

All days .....1.00pm

(12.30pm in matches scheduled to start in September)

#### 3.2.2 Other Domestic First Class Matches and non first-class 3-day MCC University matches against Counties

The normal commencement time for the lunch interval will be:

1st and 2nd days (and 3rd day in 4-day matches) ..1.15pm

Final day .....1.00pm

### 3.3 Tea Interval

#### 3.3.1 The County Championship

Law 15.5 will not apply in so far as it relates to the tea interval.

Laws 15.7 and 15.8 will not apply and are replaced by 3.3.2 to 3.3.7 below:

Law 15.10 will not apply in so far as it relates to the tea interval.

1st, 2nd and 3rd days

- 3.3.2 The tea interval shall be of 20 minutes' duration and shall normally be taken at either 3.40pm (3.10pm in matches scheduled to start in September) or at the conclusion of the over in progress at that time, provided 32 overs or less remain to be bowled. The over in progress at that time shall be completed unless a batsman is out, or retires, either within two minutes, or after, the scheduled time for the interval.
- 3.3.3 In the event of more than 32 overs remaining to be bowled at 3.40pm (3.10pm in matches scheduled to start in September) the tea interval will be delayed and play will continue until 32 overs remain to be bowled at which time the tea interval will commence. The over being bowled immediately before the start of the interval shall be completed unless a batsman is out, or retires, during that over.
- 3.3.4 Whenever an innings ends or there is a stoppage in play caused by weather or light, or the players have cause to leave the field for any reason, either within thirty minutes of the scheduled time for the tea interval or during the period that the tea interval has been delayed (para 3.3.3 refers), the tea interval will commence immediately, irrespective of the number of overs still remaining to be bowled. Should a change of innings occur, the tea interval will include the ten minute interval between innings.
- 3.3.5 If at the scheduled time for the tea interval, 32 overs or less remain to be bowled, (para 3.3.2 refers) or if in the case of a delayed tea interval, nine wickets are down at the conclusion of the last over being bowled prior to the interval, (para 3.3.3 refers), play will continue and the tea interval will commence after either eight more overs have been bowled, or play has continued for a further thirty minutes, whichever is the later, or after the conclusion of the innings during that period of play.

3.3.6 Whenever play has been suspended for any reason, the captains and the umpires may agree to rearrange the timing of the tea interval but not to dispense with it. However where the provision for making up lost time (4.1.3) has been invoked prior to the tea interval, the Umpires may rearrange the timing of the tea interval at their sole discretion.

3.3.7 4th day

As for 1st, 2nd and 3rd days, except that 3.40pm shall be substituted for 4.10pm (3.10pm for matches scheduled to start in September). Para 3.3.3 and all other references to 32 overs or less remain to be bowled regarding the timing of the tea interval shall not apply on the 4th day.

3.3.8 Other Domestic First Class Matches and non first-class 3-day MCC University matches against Counties.

The normal commencement time for the tea interval will be:

1st and 2nd days (and 3rd day in 4-day matches) ..4.10pm

Final day.....3.40pm

#### **4 County Championship Matches - Minimum Overs in the Day**

4.1 Play shall continue on each day until the completion of a minimum number of overs or until the scheduled cessation time, whichever is the later. The minimum number of overs to be completed, unless an innings ends or an interruption occurs, shall be:

4.1.1 on days other than the last day - a minimum of 96 overs.

4.1.2 on the last day - a minimum of 80 overs (or 16 overs per hour) for playing time other than the last hour when Playing Condition 4.5 below shall apply.

4.1.3 Making up lost time on the day

Subject to weather and light, in the event of playing time being lost on Days 1,2 and 3, the scheduled close of play on that day shall be delayed by the amount of time lost up to a maximum of 30 minutes.

4.2 Where there is a change of innings during a day's play (except during the lunch or tea interval or during a suspension of play due to ground, weather or light conditions or exceptional circumstances or during the last hour when Playing Condition 4.5 below shall apply), two overs will be deducted from the minimum number of overs to be bowled plus any over in progress at the end of the completed innings.

4.3 If interruptions for ground, weather or light occur, other than in the last hour of the match for which Playing Condition 4.5 makes provision, the minimum number of overs shall be reduced by one over for each full 3 minutes 45 seconds of the aggregate playing time lost. As per 4.1.3 on Days 1,2 and 3 no aggregate playing time is lost until at least 30 minutes playing time has been lost.

4.4 On the last day, if any of the minimum of 80 overs, or as recalculated, have not been bowled when one hour of scheduled playing time remains, the last hour of the match for the purposes of Playing Condition 4.5 shall be the hour immediately following the completion of those overs.

4.5 Law 16.6, 16.7, 16.8 will apply except that a minimum of 16 overs shall be bowled in the last hour, and all calculations with regard to suspensions of play or the start of a new innings shall be based on one over for each full 3 minutes 45 seconds. If, however, both captains (the batsmen at the wicket may act for their captain) accept that there is no prospect of either side achieving a victory, they may agree to finish the match

at any time after the time for the commencement of the last hour has been reached.

- 4.6 The Captains may agree or, in the event of disagreement, the Umpires may decide to play 30 minutes' (a minimum eight overs) extra time at the end of the first, second and/or third day's play if, in their opinion, there was a reasonable prospect that it would bring about a definite result on that day. If it is decided to play extra time on any or all of these days, the whole period shall be played out even though the possibility of finishing the match may have disappeared before the full period has expired. The time by which play is extended on any day shall be deducted from the total number of hours of play remaining in the match, and the match shall end earlier on the last scheduled day by the actual amount of time by which play was previously extended in aggregate (ie. the time for the commencement of the last hour will be adjusted accordingly and the minimum number of overs prior to the last hour will be correspondingly reduced at a rate of one over for each full 3 minutes 45 seconds).

For the avoidance of doubt, if there is a change of innings immediately prior to the start of, or during the period of extra time, then 2 overs shall be deducted in respect of the change of innings.

- 4.7 Notwithstanding any other provision, there shall be no further play on any day, other than the last scheduled day, if a wicket falls or a batsman retires or if the players have occasion to leave the field during the last minimum over within two minutes of the scheduled or re-scheduled cessation time or thereafter.
- 4.8 A previously started over that has to be completed on resumption of a new day's play shall be disregarded in calculating minimum overs for that day.

4.9 The scoreboard shall show:

the number of overs in the innings up to 130 overs in each side's first innings and subsequently the number of overs bowled with the ball currently in use, and the minimum number of overs remaining to be bowled in a day including the 16 overs for the last hour of the match. In addition the scoreboard shall indicate the number of overs that the fielding side is ahead of or behind the over-rate.

**5 Ringing of the Bell**

The bell will be rung five minutes before the start of play and before the termination of an interval, when the Umpires shall go to the wickets.

**6 Umpires**

6.1 Law 3.1 – The Umpires –  
Appointment and attendance

Law 3.1 shall be replaced by:

Two Umpires shall be appointed, one for each end to control the game as required by the Laws and Playing Conditions with absolute impartiality.

Umpires will be appointed by the ECB. They shall report themselves to the Ground Authority by 10.00am at the latest on the first day of the match and, by mutual agreement with each other, one Umpire shall report by 9.30am at the latest and the other by 10.00am on succeeding days. (These timings shall be advanced by 30 minutes in respect of Championship matches scheduled to start in September.)

Before leaving the ground after Cessation of Play, the Umpires shall ensure that the minimum covering of the pitch and surrounding areas as laid down in the Playing Conditions, and any necessary renovation of foot holes, have been carried out to their satisfaction.

## 6.2 Law 1.2 - Nomination of players

The following shall apply in addition to Law 1.2:

If after a Captain has nominated his players, it is discovered that someone who was not on the list has acted in the match as though a nominated player, then, if consent is not given by the opposing Captain (not to be unreasonably withheld) for the original nomination to be changed, the offender shall take no further part in the match and no substitute, including the original nominated player shall be allowed.

## 6.3 Law 1.3 Captain

The following shall apply in addition to law 1.3 (a):

The deputy must be one of the nominated players.

## 6.4 TV Umpires / TV Replays

The following shall apply in addition to Clause 6.1:

### 6.4.1 General

- (a) The Home Authority will ensure a separate room is provided for the TV umpire and that he has access to a television monitor and direct sound link with the television control unit director to facilitate as many replays as is necessary to assist him in making a decision.
- (b) In the circumstances detailed in Clauses 6.4.2, 6.4.3, 6.4.4 and 6.4.5 below, the on-field umpire has the discretion whether or not to refer the appeal to the TV umpire for a decision.
- (c) The TV umpire shall call for as many replays from any camera angle as is necessary to reach a decision. As a guide, a decision should be made within 30 seconds whenever possible, but the TV umpire shall have a discretion to take more time in order to finalise a decision.

#### 6.4.2 Run Out, Stumping and Hit Wicket Decisions

- (a) The on-field umpire shall be entitled to refer an appeal for a run-out, stumping or hit-wicket to the TV umpire.
- (b) An on-field umpire wishing to refer a decision to the TV umpire shall signal to the TV umpire by making the shape of a TV screen with his hands.
- (c) If the TV umpire decides the batsman is out a red light is displayed; a green light means not-out. Should the TV umpire be temporarily unable to respond, a white light (where available) will remain illuminated throughout the period of interruption to signify to the on-field umpires that the TV replay system is temporarily unavailable, in which case the decision will be taken by the on-field umpire. (Where available and as an alternative to the red/green light system, the big replay screen may be used for the purpose of conveying the TV umpire's decision).
- (d) When reviewing the TV replay(s), if the TV umpire finds the batsman has been bowled rather than hit wicket or stumped, he shall indicate that the batsman was dismissed.

#### 6.4.3 Caught Decisions

The on-field umpire shall be entitled to refer an appeal for a caught decision to the TV umpire in the following circumstances:

##### 6.4.3.1 Clean catches

- (a) Should the bowler's end umpire be unable to decide whether or not a catch was taken cleanly, he shall first consult with the square leg umpire.
- (b) Should both umpires be unable to make a decision, a not out decision shall be given by the bowler's end umpire. Only if the line of vision of both umpires is obscured shall the bowler's end umpire be entitled to

refer the decision to the TV umpire as in Clause 6.4.2 (b).

- (c) The TV umpire has to determine whether the batsman has been caught. However, when reviewing the television replay(s), if it is clear to the TV umpire that the batsman did not hit the ball, he shall indicate that the batsman is not out.
- (d) The TV umpire shall communicate his decision by the system as in Clause 6.4.2 (c).

#### 6.4.3.2 Bump Ball

- (a) Should the bowler's end umpire be unable to decide whether a catch was taken from a bump ball or not, he shall first consult with the square leg umpire.
- (b) Should both on-field umpires be unable to make a decision, the bowler's end umpire shall be entitled to refer the decision to the TV umpire to review a TV replay(s) of the batsman's stroke as in Clause 6.4.2 (b).
- (c) The TV umpire has to determine whether the ball was a bump ball or not. However, when reviewing the television replays(s), if the evidence is indisputable that the batsman did not hit the ball, the TV umpire shall indicate that the batsman is not out.
- (d) The TV umpire shall communicate his decision by the system as in Clause 6.4.2 (c).

#### 6.4.4 Boundary Decisions

- (a) The on-field umpire shall be entitled to refer to the TV umpire for a decision about whether the fieldsman had any part of his person in contact with the ball when he touched or crossed the boundary line or whether a four or six had been scored. A decision is to be made immediately.
- (b) An on-field umpire wishing the assistance of the TV umpire in these circumstances shall communicate

with the TV umpire by use of a two-way radio and the TV umpire will convey his decision to the on-field umpire by this method.

- (c) The TV umpire may initiate contact with the on-field umpire by two-way radio if TV coverage shows a boundary line infringement or incident as envisaged under this clause.

#### 6.4.5 Batsmen Running to the Same End

- (a) In the event of both batsmen running to the same end and the umpires are uncertain over which batsmen made his ground first, the on-field umpire may refer the decision to the TV umpire.
- (b) The procedure in Clause 6.4.4 (b) shall apply.

## **7 Law 2.1 - Substitutes**

7.1 In addition to Law 2.1 the following will apply:

7.1.1 No Substitute may take the field until the player for whom he is to substitute has been absent from the field for a period of five consecutive complete overs, with the exception that if a fieldsman sustains an obvious serious injury or is taken ill, a Substitute shall be allowed immediately (see also 7.1.2 below). In the event of any disagreement between the two sides as to the authenticity of an injury or illness, the Umpires shall adjudicate. A substitute shall be allowed immediately for all head or blood injuries. If a player leaves the field during an over, the remainder of that over shall not count in the calculation of the five complete overs.

7.1.2 Law 2.1(b) will apply as modified:

The umpires shall have discretion, for other wholly acceptable reasons, to allow a substitute for a fielder, or a runner for a batsman, at the start of the match or at any subsequent time subject to consent being given by the opposing captain.

7.1.3 Law 2.1 (c) is replaced by:

In respect of a fielder who wishes to leave the field to use the toilet or to change a shirt, the Umpire shall allow a substitute for a maximum of two overs; consent is not required from the opposing captain. For the avoidance of doubt, if a fielder leaves the field during an over for either of these two reasons, the substitute shall be allowed only until the end of the over subsequent to the over in which the fielder left the field.

7.2 Laws 2.2 and 2.3 shall be replaced by the following:

A substitute shall not be allowed to bat or bowl, or to act as captain on the field of play.

The opposing Captain shall have no right of objection to any player acting as a substitute on the field. The opposing Captain shall also have no right of objection to where the substitute shall field with the exception of the position of wicket-keeper. However, with the agreement of both Captains (not to be unreasonably withheld), any substitute may act as wicket-keeper. In the event of the Captains' disagreement, then the substitute shall not be allowed to act as wicket-keeper.

7.3 County Championship Matches Only

In addition to the above Playing Condition (Law 2.1 - Substitutes), and as an exception to it, a replacement player shall be allowed by right immediately in the event of a cricketer currently playing in a Championship match being required to join the England Team (either through a call-up after the commencement of the Championship match or through his being placed on official stand-by prior to the commencement of the Championship match and being required to travel to the international venue) for

a Test or One-Day International match. Such replacement player may be permitted to bat or bowl in that match subject to the approval of the ECB Chief Executive or his nominee. If the cricketer is batting at the time he is required to leave the match, he shall retire "not out", and his replacement player may be permitted to bat later in that innings subject to the approval of the ECB Chief Executive or his nominee.

If the cricketer, after having been called up to join the England Team, is subsequently not required by the England Team, then subject to the approval of the ECB Chief Executive or his nominee, he may return to the Championship match and resume a full part in the match, taking over from the replacement player that replaced him earlier in the match. If the replacement player is batting at the time that the cricketer returns to the Championship match, the replacement player shall complete his innings and the cricketer shall take over thereafter. If the replacement player is bowling at the time that the cricketer is available and ready to take the field of play, then the replacement player shall complete any unfinished over, and the cricketer shall take the field thereafter.

If a player is with the England squad but omitted from the final XI, and if he is released by England prior to the nomination of players being made in his County's match, then his County may have a fielding-only substitute immediately until the cricketer is able to join the Championship match. The consent of the opposing Captain is not required in this circumstance.

If a player is with the England squad but omitted from the final XI, and if he is released by England to play in a County Championship match after the nomination of the County teams and prior to the scheduled start of the third scheduled day of the County Championship match, then that player may return to his County's

match and take the place of a nominated player who may or may not have already participated in the match. Each county that has representation in the England XI must, if it wishes that a specified England player shall participate in the County match if released by England, specify which player the England player shall replace. This shall be done at the nomination of teams to the Umpires prior to the toss for innings. If no County player has been specified, then under no circumstances shall the England player be allowed to participate in the County match. For the avoidance of doubt, if a County has more than one representative in the England squad, then one player in the County team must be nominated in respect of each England player and the County player shall be considered as dedicated to that England player for the purpose of the replacement.

If the County has specified a nominated player who will potentially be replaced by the England player, and the England player is indeed released by England to play in the County Championship match (this release must be prior to the scheduled start of the third scheduled day of the County Championship match), then, unless special dispensation is given by the ECB Chief Executive or his nominee, he must make all reasonable efforts to take his place in the County side at the earliest opportunity and the replacement must be effected. Unless special dispensation is given by the ECB Chief Executive or his nominee, no replacement will be allowed if the England player is released after the scheduled start of the third scheduled day of the County Championship match. There is no option for the County to refuse the England player if they have nominated a player to be replaced by the England player.

If the nominated player is batting at the time that the England player joins the Championship match, the

nominated player shall complete his innings and the England player shall take over thereafter. If the nominated player is bowling at the time that the England player is available and ready to take the field of play, then the nominated player shall complete any unfinished over, and the England player shall take the field thereafter.

## **8 Law 2.5 Fieldsman Leaving the Field**

### **8.1 Law 2.5 Fielder absent or leaving the field**

Law 2.5 shall be replaced by:

If a fielder fails to take the field with his side at the start of the match or at any later time, or leaves the field during a session of play, the umpire shall be informed of the reason for his absence, and he shall not thereafter come on to the field during a session of play without the consent of the umpire. The umpire shall give such consent as soon as practicable. If the player is absent from the field for longer than 8 minutes:

- (i) the player shall not be permitted to bowl in that innings after his return until he has been on the field for at least that length of playing time for which he was absent. In the event of a follow-on, this restriction will, if necessary, continue into the second innings.
- (ii) the player shall not be permitted to bat unless or until, in the aggregate, he has returned to the field and/or his side's innings has been in progress for at least that length of playing time for which he has been absent or, if earlier, when his side has lost five wickets.

The restriction in (i) and (ii) above shall not apply if the player has suffered an external blow (as opposed to an internal injury such as a pulled muscle) whilst participating earlier in the match and has consequently been forced to leave the field or is consequently unable to take the field. External blow should be interpreted

broadly to include, but not restricted to, such things as collisions with boundary boards, clashes of heads, heavy falls, etc. Nor shall it apply if the player has been absent for very exceptional and wholly acceptable reasons (other than injury or illness) and consent for a Substitute has been granted by the opposing Captain.

In the event of a fieldsman already being off the field at the commencement of an interruption in play through ground, weather or light conditions, he shall be allowed to count any such stoppage time as playing time, provided that he personally informs the umpires when he is fit enough to take the field had play been in progress.

#### 8.2 Law 2.6 Player returning without permission

Law 2.6 shall apply except that the reference to Law 2.5(b) shall be taken to refer to Playing Condition 8.1.

### 9 Fitness of Ground, Weather and Light

- 9.1 The safety of all persons within the ground is of paramount importance to the ECB. In the event that any threatening circumstance, whether actual or perceived, comes to the attention of any Umpire (including for example weather, pitch invasions, act of God, etc), then the players and officials should immediately be asked to leave the field of play in a safe and orderly manner and to relocate to a secure and safe area (depending on each particular threat) pending the satisfactory passing or resolution of such threat or risk to the reasonable satisfaction of the venue safety officer and/or the Umpire as the circumstances may require.

Laws 3.8 & 3.9 shall be replaced by:

- 9.2 The umpires shall be the final judges of the fitness of the ground, weather and light for play. See 9.3 below and Law 7.2 (Fitness of the pitch for play).

9.3 Suspension of play for adverse conditions of ground, weather or light

- (a) (i) All references to ground include the pitch. See Law 7.1 (Area of pitch).
- (b) If at any time the umpires together agree that the conditions of ground, weather or light are so bad that there is obvious and foreseeable risk to the safety of any player or umpire, so that it would be unreasonable or dangerous for play to take place, then they shall immediately suspend play, or not allow play to commence or to restart. The decision as to whether conditions are so bad as to warrant such action is one for the umpires alone to make.

The fact that the grass and the ball are wet and slippery does not warrant the ground conditions being regarded as unreasonable or dangerous. If the umpires consider the ground is so wet or slippery as to deprive the bowler of a reasonable foothold, the fielders of the power of free movement, or the batsmen 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 unreasonable for play to take place.

The Umpires shall disregard any shadow on the pitch from the stadium or from any permanent object on the ground.

- (c) When there is a suspension of play it is the responsibility of the umpires to monitor the conditions. They shall make inspections as often as appropriate, unaccompanied by any of the players or officials. Immediately the umpires together agree that conditions are suitable for play they shall call upon the players to resume the game.
- (d) If play is in progress up to the start of an agreed interval then it will resume after the interval unless the umpires together agree that the conditions of ground, weather or

light are so bad that there is obvious and foreseeable risk to the safety of any player or umpire, so that it would be unreasonable or dangerous for play to take place.

- (e) Following any inspection, the Umpires will report their findings immediately to both Captains and to the Ground Authority.

#### **10 Law 5 - The Ball**

Grade 1 B.S.I. approved Dukes cricket balls, with seams conforming to the specifications laid down by the ECB, shall be used, and spare used balls for changing during a match shall also be of the same brand. Except as provided for in 12 and 30, the fielding Captain, or his nominee, may select the ball with which he wishes to bowl from the whole of the supply provided by the Ground Authority. Such selection must take place in the presence of the Umpires, and the ball shall not be marked in any way.

#### **11 Law 5.4 - New Ball in Match of Three or More Days' Duration**

The Captain of the fielding side shall have the choice of taking the new ball after 80 overs have been bowled with the old one.

#### **12 Law 5.5 - Ball Lost or Becoming Unfit for Play**

Law 5.5 is amended as follows:

If, during play, the ball cannot be found or recovered or the umpires agree that it has become unfit for play through normal use, the Umpires shall replace it with a ball which has had a comparable amount of wear to that which the previous ball had received before the need for its replacement. However, if a ball needs to be replaced after 110 overs of use for any of the above reasons, it shall be replaced by a new ball. The Umpires alone will

select the replacement ball and shall inform the batsmen at the wicket and the fielding captain.

The Umpires may deem a ball that has become wet and soggy or unusually soft to be 'unfit for play'. Either bowler or batsman may raise the matter with the Umpires and the Umpires' decision as to a replacement or otherwise shall be final.

### **13 Law 6 - The Bat**

Law 6.1 will apply as modified:

The bat overall shall not be more than 38 inches/96.5 cm in length; the blade of the bat shall be made of wood, shall have a conventional 'flat' face and shall not exceed 4.25 inches/10.8 cm at the widest part.

### **14 Law 7 - The Pitch**

14.1 Law 7.2 is replaced by:

The Umpires shall be the sole judges of the fitness of the pitch for play.

14.2 In addition to Law 7.3, the following will apply:

Captains, Umpires and Groundsmen should co-operate to ensure that, prior to the start of any day's play, no-one bounces a ball on the pitch or strikes it with a bat to assess its condition or for any other reason, or causes damage to the pitch in any other way.

Prior to the commencement of a day's play, one TV commentator and camera crew of the official licensed TV broadcaster/s (but not news crew) may be permitted to inspect the pitch and surrounds subject to the following:

14.2.1 a ball must not be bounced on the pitch;

14.2.2 a key or knife may only be inserted in the pitch in the area between the popping and bowling creases.

In the event of any dispute, one or both Umpires in consultation with the Ground Authority will rule and his/their ruling will be final.

14.3 Law 7.5 - Non-turf pitches - will not apply

#### **15 Law 8 - The Wickets**

The following shall apply in addition to Law 8.2:

For televised matches the home Board may provide a slightly larger cylindrical stump to accommodate the stump camera. When the larger stump is used, all six stumps shall be the same size.

#### **16 Law 9.3 - The Popping Crease**

In matches when a 3rd Umpire is present, Law 9.3 shall apply, except that the reference to "a minimum of 6 ft" shall be replaced by "a minimum of 15 yards".

#### **17 Law 11 - Covering the Pitch and Surrounding Areas**

All maintenance issues should be carried out with the guiding principle that they should ensure that conditions are as similar as possible for both sides

In place of Laws 11.2, 11.3, 11.4, the following will apply:

##### **17.1 The Pitch**

The whole pitch shall be covered:

17.1.1 The night before the match and, if necessary, until the first ball is bowled; and whenever necessary and possible at any time prior to that during the preparation of the pitch.

17.1.2 On each night of the match and, if necessary, throughout any rest days.

17.1.3 In the event of play being suspended on account of bad light or rain during the specified hours of play, and at lunch, tea and between innings on account of rain.

**Notes** (a) The covers shall be removed before 8.00am on each morning of the match (including the first day and rest days) provided it is not raining at the time, but they will be replaced if rain falls prior to the commencement of play.

b) If flatsheet covers are to be used on Championship pitches from 48 hours before the start through to the end of matches, a dry coir mat or equivalent must be placed under the sheet.

## 17.2 Other Areas

The following areas will be covered, in addition to the pitch as in 17.1 above, unless the Umpires decide otherwise:

17.2.1 The bowler's 'run up' to a distance of at least 10 yards, with a width of four yards.

17.2.2 At least 20 feet either side of the length of the pitch.

17.2.3 In addition to 17.2.1 and 17.2.2 further areas and in particular worn patches should, if possible and practicable, also be covered.

## 17.3 Covering During Play

17.3.1 In order to make play possible, the Umpires may decide, following consultation with the Captains, to have particularly wet or muddy areas covered by mats or blankets whilst play is in progress.

17.3.2 Any pitch being prepared for a future match may be protected by a porous mat in order to avoid unnecessary damage. Further porous mats may be put down if an additional pitch which is intended to be used for a future Test Match, One Day International or an ECB Cup Final requires protection.

#### 17.4 Drying of Pitch and Ground

17.4.1 Prior to tossing for choice of innings the artificial drying of the pitch and outfield shall be at the discretion of the Groundsman. Thereafter and throughout the match the drying of the outfield may be undertaken at any time by the Groundsman, but the drying of the pitch shall be carried out only on the instructions and under the supervision of the Umpires. The Umpires shall be empowered to have the pitch dried without reference to the Captains at any time they are of the opinion that it is unfit for play.

17.4.2 The Umpires may instruct the Groundsman to use any available equipment, including any roller (other than an absorbent roller), for the purpose of drying the pitch and making it fit for play.

An absorbent roller may be used to remove water from the covers including, where absolutely necessary, the cover on the match pitch.

17.4.3 Following the artificial drying of the pitch, the Captain of the batting side shall not have the right to select the roller prior to the resumption of play, but the Umpires may decide on the use of a roller if they think fit.

#### 18 Law 14.2 - Forfeiture of Innings

Law 14.2 shall apply.

#### 19 Law 15.9 - Intervals for Drinks

The provisions of Law 15.9 shall be strictly observed. An individual player may be given a drink either on the boundary edge or at the fall of a wicket, on the field, provided that no playing time is wasted. No other drinks shall be taken on to the field of play without the permission of the Umpires. Any person taking drinks onto the field shall be dressed in proper cricket attire.

## **20 Law 17 - Practice on the Field**

### **20.1** The following shall apply in place of Law 17.1:

At no time on any day of the match shall there be any bowling or batting practice on the pitch or the square, except in official netted practice pitch areas or in other areas designated by the Groundsman and with the approval of the Umpires. In addition there shall be no bowling or batting practice on any part of the square or the area parallel to the match pitch during the hours of play except at lunch, tea and between innings. Any fieldsman contravening this playing condition shall not be allowed to bowl until either at least one hour later than the contravention or there has been at least 30 minutes of playing time since the contravention whichever is the sooner. If an over is in progress at the contravention, he shall not be allowed to complete that over.

No practice may take place on the field if, in the opinion of the umpires, it could result in a waste of time. In this circumstance Law 42.9 shall apply.

### **20.2** Practice facilities- Prior to the day's play, all grounds are to provide a net for 'throw-downs' and either a dedicated grass net area or a net on the square. In addition, every effort should be made to provide practice facilities at other times when teams have the opportunity to practise.

### **20.3** No practice shall be undertaken on a match pitch during its preparation period (typically the 10 days prior to the match).

## **21 Law 19 - Boundaries**

The Ground Authority shall aim to provide the largest playing area, subject to no boundary exceeding a distance of 90 yards from the centre of the pitch. No boundary shall be less than 50 yards.

In the event of the Umpires, during their pre-match inspection, considering that the maximum area has not

been utilised for the marking of boundaries within this Playing Condition, they shall be empowered to have them moved to achieve this objective, subject to consultation with the Ground Authority.

On grounds where the boundary is not clearly defined by a perimeter fence or edge of grass area, it must be marked by a rope.

If a spectator or similar person enters the playing area and comes into contact with the ball whilst it is in play, the Umpire at the bowler's end shall be the sole judge of whether the boundary allowance should be scored or the ball be treated as still in play or called dead ball if a batsman is liable to be out as a result of the unauthorised person coming into contact with the ball whilst it is in play.

## **22 Law 19.1(b) - Position of Sight Screens**

If practicable, sight screens shall be provided at both ends of all grounds. Advertising shall be permitted on the sight screen behind the striker, provided that is removed for the subsequent over from that end.

## **23 Law 24.1 - No Ball - Mode of Delivery**

Law 24.1 will apply, except that the bowler may not deliver the ball underarm. If a bowler bowls a ball underarm the umpire shall call and signal 'No ball'.

## **24 Laws 24.2 and 24.3 - Fair Delivery - the Arm**

In place of Law 24.2 (c) (iii) ECB Regulations for the Review of Bowlers reported with Suspected Illegal Bowling Actions will apply. These regulations will be printed in a separate document and circulated to all County Chief Executives and PCA before the commencement of the competitive 2008 County season.

## **25 Law 24.12 - No Ball - Penalty**

Law 24.12 will apply except that the penalty for a No Ball will be 2 runs.

In the event of the striker's end Umpire failing to call and signal No Ball when Law 41.5 has been breached (at the point of delivery, not more than two fielders other than the wicketkeeper shall be behind the popping crease on the on side), immediately the ball becomes dead the striker may draw the matter to that Umpire's attention. If the striker's end Umpire is able to verify the breach he shall call and signal No Ball. If the striker's end Umpire is unable to verify the breach then he shall confirm that the events of the delivery shall be unchanged.

## **26 Law 25 - Wide Ball**

26.1 Law 25.1 will apply but in addition:

26.1.1 For bowlers attempting to utilise the rough outside a batsman's leg stump, not necessarily as a negative tactic, the strict Limited Over Wide interpretation shall be applied.

26.1.2 For bowlers whom Umpires consider to be bowling down the leg side as a negative tactic, the strict Limited Over Wide interpretation shall be applied.

26.1.3 Law 25.5 shall apply (the penalty is 1 run in addition to other runs scored).

**Note** 26.1.1; 26.1.2 do not apply to Limited Over Cricket.

## **27 Law 31 - Timed Out**

Law 31 will apply except that the incoming batsman must be in position to take guard or for his partner to be ready to receive the next ball within 2 minutes 30 seconds of the fall of the previous wicket.

## 28 Laws 40.4, 41.7 and 41.8 - Movement by Wicketkeeper and Fielders

Laws 40.4, 41.7 and 41.8 are replaced by:

It is normal fielding practice for fielders in recognised close to the wicket catching positions to be stationary, and for outfielders to walk in towards the striker when the bowler commences his run up. Any significant movement, off line or in depth, by either fielder or wicket-keeper once the bowler commences his run up and before the batsman has indicated what shot he is going to play is considered unfair and either Umpire shall call Dead Ball. As a guide, the movement of a wicket-keeper standing back who moves up to the stumps would be regarded as significant, whereas the movement forward by a wicket-keeper of a couple of paces for a slower delivery or in taking his normal stance would not be regarded as significant. The same provision will apply to a slip fielder who takes only a couple of steps forward. Once the batsman has indicated what shot he is going to play, fielders and wicket keeper may alter their position. The Umpire has to make a judgement taking all the circumstances into account.

## 29 Protective Helmets and Equipment

29.1 In addition to Law 41.3 the following will apply:

In order to eliminate any waste of playing time caused by the removal from the field of fieldsmen's protective equipment other than helmets (e.g. shin pads, etc.) such equipment, once taken on to the field, must be worn until the fall of a wicket or until the next interval.

The exchanging of equipment between members of the fielding side on the field shall be permitted, provided that the Umpires do not consider that it constitutes a waste of playing time.

- 29.2 Umpires are not to hold helmets.
- 29.3 A batsman who chooses to use a helmet must wear (or carry) it personally all the time while play is in progress. While he may call for a helmet to be brought out to him at any time when the ball is dead, he may only have the helmet taken off the field at the fall of a wicket or at the next interval.
- 29.4 A batsman may only change an item of protective equipment other than a helmet (e.g. batting gloves, etc.) at the fall of a wicket or at the next interval, unless the equipment is clearly damaged or unserviceable and then only with the approval of the Umpires.

**30 Law 42.3 - The Match Ball - changing its condition**

- 30.1 Law 42.3 will apply except that 42.3(d)(i) will be replaced by:
- The umpires shall change the ball forthwith. The batsmen at the wicket shall then choose the replacement ball from a selection of six other balls of various degrees of usage (including a new one) and of the same brand as the ball in use prior to the contravention.
- 30.2 No member of the fielding side may skim the ball along the ground, and use what in the opinion of the Umpires is an excessive number of bounces on to the ground when returning the ball by any means to either the wicket-keeper or bowler.

**31 Law 42.6 Dangerous and Unfair Bowling**

- 31.1 Law 42.6 (a)(i) Bowling of fast short-pitched balls, will apply.
- 31.1.1 Law 42.6 (a)(i) is amended to read as follows :

- (a) Any delivery which, after pitching, passes or would have passed clearly over head height of the striker standing upright at the crease, and in the umpire's opinion so prevents him from being able to hit it with his bat by means of a normal cricket stroke, although not threatening physical injury, shall be considered as part of the repetition sequence in Law 42.6 (a)(i). The umpire shall call and signal No ball for each such delivery.
- (b) Any delivery which, after pitching, passes or would have passed clearly over shoulder height of the striker standing upright at the crease, and in the umpire's opinion he is able to hit it with his bat by means of a normal cricket stroke shall, if applicable, be considered part of the repetition sequence in Law 42.6 (a)(i).
- (c) Any delivery which, after pitching, passes clearly over shoulder height of the striker standing upright at the crease and wide of the striker so that in the umpire's opinion he is unable to hit it with his bat by means of a normal cricket stroke shall, although not threatening physical injury, be considered part of the repetition sequence in Law 42.6(a)(i) and, if not a No Ball, shall be called and signalled wide. (Refer Law 25).
- (d) There shall be no more than two deliveries, as defined in paragraphs (a), (b) and (c) above, per over. The umpire will make it clear to the bowler (and any bowler called upon to complete an over) and the batsmen at the wicket when a delivery within this limit has been bowled. It is unfair if the limit is exceeded and the umpire shall call and signal No ball on each such occasion. In addition, the Umpire will adopt the procedures of Law 42.7.

31.1.2 Law 42.6 (b) Bowling of high full pitched balls, to be amended to read as follows:

Any high full pitched ball (regardless of its pace) which passes or would have passed above waist height of the striker standing upright at the crease shall be called and signalled No ball by the umpire at the bowler's end.

In addition, if the high full pitched ball is fast, it shall be deemed dangerous and unfair and the umpire at the bowler's end, in addition to the call and signal of No ball, will adopt the procedures of Law 42.7.7 (refer 31.1.3 below).

31.1.3 Law 42.7 - Dangerous and Unfair Bowling - action by the umpire.

In respect of 31.1.1, Law 42.7 shall apply except that the reference to Law 42.6 is the amended Law 42.6 as above.

In respect of 31.1.2, Law 42.7(b) shall not apply and Law 42.7(a) shall be considered as the first and final warning. The reference to Law 42.6 is the amended Law 42.6 as above.

For the avoidance of doubt, the warnings in respect of 31.1.1 and 31.1.2 are cumulative.

## **32 Law 42.8 - Deliberate bowling of High Full Pitched Balls**

Law 42.8 is amended to read as follows:

If the Umpire considers that a high full pitch which is deemed to be dangerous and unfair as defined in Law 42.6 (b) was deliberately bowled, then the caution and warning prescribed in Law 42.7 (c) shall be dispensed with. The Umpire shall:

- (a) call and signal No ball
- (b) direct the Captain, when the ball is dead, to take the bowler off forthwith
- (c) implement the remainder of the procedure as laid down in Law 42.7(c).

### **33 Hitting Up**

Teams are required to observe Ground Authority Regulations and to exercise the utmost care and caution when engaging in practice and pre-match warm-up and 'hitting up' activities so as to avoid the risk of injury to members of the public, damage to the centre wicket region and to perimeter fencing.

### **34 Intimidatory Appealing**

In the event of an appeal, all members of the fielding team must maintain their fielding positions until a decision is given, unless legitimately in the act of fielding or backing up the ball which is not yet dead. For the purposes of this playing condition, a referral to the third umpire will constitute a decision.

### **35 Reports**

Umpires are required to report immediately after or, if necessary, during a match, any breach of these Playing Conditions or as required under the terms of Law 42. Umpires will report any case of obvious dissent or misconduct, even though the player's Captain may have taken effective action (Law 42.18 refers) and apply the fixed penalty disciplinary system as appropriate. All reports shall be submitted in writing as soon as possible to the Secretary or Manager of the Club or team concerned, and to the Chief Executive of the ECB.

### **36 Guidelines for the Modus Operandi of Match Referees**

A Match Referee may be appointed to a specific match at any stage during the season. This will help to avoid potentially damaging speculation relating to games where both teams could achieve their immediate goals through the result of the match.

The Match Referee will:

- Conduct a meeting with the Umpires and Captains before the start of the match
- Have the power to liaise with Umpires and Captains at any stage
- Only intervene if he feels that practices in the match are unacceptable
- Ensure that the Captains inform him of any agreements that have been reached between them
- Be available to members of the media and liaise with them immediately to head off any unjustified criticism.

If the Match Referee feels that the match is being conducted in an unacceptable manner, then he will raise his concerns with the Captain(s) and issue a formal warning. The Match Referee will inform the ECB Cricket Department and the County Chief Executive(s) concerned at the earliest opportunity of any warnings issued. If, in the Match Referee's judgement the match continues to be conducted in an unacceptable manner, he will again call the ECB Cricket Department who will organise for the Head of Operations (First-Class Cricket) or the Umpires Manager or another accredited Match Referee to join the Referee at the match in question. The Match Referee will conduct a two-man hearing at the earliest opportunity after the end of the match.

The following will be interviewed at the hearing (an Executive of each County or their nominee will be entitled to observe the interviews):

- The Umpire
- The Captains of each team
- Anyone else deemed to have information relevant to the situation

At the end of the interview process, the Match Referee will ask the Executives (or their nominee) to confirm that they are happy that all relevant evidence has been gathered, and that the hearing has been conducted in a fair manner. The Match Referee will contact the Chairman of the Cricket Committee and / or the ECB Chief Executive before announcing whether the sanction outlined below will be imposed.

For all other matches when Match Referees have not been appointed, the ECB Cricket Department, with the approval of the Chairman of Cricket Committee or the ECB Chief Executive, will have the authority to appoint a two-man panel to conduct a post match 'hearing'. (The two-man Panel to consist of at least one appointed Match Referee with the Head of Operations (First-Class Cricket) and the Umpires Manager able to serve on the Panel). With no Match Referee appointed prior to the start of the match there will be no provision for a formal warning to be issued.

If in any match the conduct of one or both teams is found to have been unacceptable, then any points gained by the team(s) in the match (or matches if there was a cross-competition agreement) will be declared to be null and void.

The above penalty is imposed under the procedures agreed by ECB's First Class Forum in December 1999.

A County has the right to appeal against the decision of the hearing. Any appeal must be communicated to the Head of Operations (First-Class Cricket) or Umpires Manager within 24 hours of the hearing's decision. A bond in respect of the appeal will be placed via ECB having the right to deduct an amount up to £5000 from future distributions to the County in question. The bond or any part of it may be retained by the Appeal Panel at its discretion whether the appeal is successful or not.

The Chairman of the Cricket Committee will be requested to convene an Appeal Panel comprising two of his nominees and the Chairman of the Cricket Discipline Commission or his nominee who will chair the Appeal Panel. The Appeal Panel will hear the appeal as soon as possible. The decision of the Appeal Panel will be made as soon as possible after the appeal hearing and will be communicated to the home Chief Executive/Secretary at the earliest opportunity. The decision of the Appeal Panel will be final and binding.

### **37 Guidelines for the Modus Operandi of Pitch Liaison Officers**

The regulations in the 2008 Pitches Document shall apply as they refer to 4-day pitches and the condition of the playing area.

### **38 Championship**

#### **38.1 Scoring of Points**

38.1.1 For a win, 14 points, plus any points scored in the first innings.

38.1.2 In a tie, each side to score seven points, plus any points scored in the first innings.

38.1.3 In a drawn match, each side to score four points, plus any points scored in the first innings (see also paragraph 38.1.6).

38.1.4 If the scores are equal in a drawn match, the side batting in the fourth innings to score seven points plus any points scored in the first innings, and the opposing side to score four points plus any points scored in the first innings.

38.1.5 First Innings Points (awarded only for performances in the first 130 overs of each first innings and retained whatever the result of the match).

(a) A maximum of five batting points to be available as under:

200 to 249 runs .....	1 point
250 to 299 runs .....	2 points
300 to 349 runs .....	3 points
350 to 399 runs .....	4 points
400 runs or over .....	5 points

(b) A maximum of three bowling points to be available as under:

3 to 5 wickets taken .....	1 point
6 to 8 wickets taken .....	2 points
9 to 10 wickets taken .....	3 points

For the avoidance of doubt, "wickets taken" shall relate exclusively to batsmen dismissed under Laws 30 to 39 inclusive and to batsmen retired out.

If penalty runs are awarded to a team which at that time had faced less than 130 overs in their first innings, or completed their first innings before they had faced 130 overs, those penalty runs will be considered as counting towards the total as far as the award of bonus points is concerned.

If penalty runs are awarded to a team which had already faced 130 overs or more in their first innings, or had previously completed their first innings after they had faced 130 overs, those penalty runs will not be considered as counting towards the total as far as the award of bonus points is concerned.

38.1.6 If a match is abandoned without a ball being bowled, each side to score four points.

38.1.7 The side which has the highest aggregate of points gained at the end of the season shall be the Champion County of their respective Division. Should any sides in the Championship table be equal on points, the following tie-breakers will be applied in the order stated: most wins, fewest losses, team achieving most points in contests between teams level on points, most wickets taken, most runs scored. At the end of the season, the top two teams from the Second Division will be promoted and the bottom two teams from the First Division will be relegated.

### **39 Championship Over Rate Penalties**

The minimum over-rate to be achieved by Counties will be 16 overs per hour. When calculating the over-rate, two minutes will be allowed for each wicket taken which results in the subsequent batsman immediately commencing his innings. For the avoidance of doubt, no allowance shall be given for the final wicket in an innings or for a wicket that falls prior to any interval. No allowances shall be given for drinks intervals. Any suspension of play for an injury to a player or for any other reason beyond the control of the players shall be a deductible allowance. The Umpire at the bowler's end will inform the fielding Captain, the batsman and his fellow Umpire of any time allowances as and when they arise and the scorers at the earliest opportunity. (This matter will not be subject to retrospective negotiation).

Overs will be calculated at the end of the match and penalties applied on a match by match basis. The relevant calculation to establish the match target is:

(Total minutes in the field -2 minutes per allowable wicket - Umpires' allowances)/3.75 (fractions to be ignored)

For example, a side that has been in the field for 491 minutes throughout the course of the match and that has taken 18 allowable wickets and been allowed 10 minutes by the Umpires, has a match target of  $491 - 36 - 10 / 3.75 = 118.67$  overs. Ignoring fractions, the match target is 118 overs.

For the purpose of over-rate calculations, no single innings will be assessed at more than 24 overs per hour. In any such innings, any overs bowled in excess of a rate of 24 overs per hour will be disregarded.

For each over (fractions to be ignored) that a side has bowled short of the target number, 1 point will be deducted from their Championship total as follows:

1 over short of the match target .....1 point deduction

2 overs short of the match target .....2 points deduction etc

Only matches in which a team has bowled for 4 hours or more (net of time allowed for wickets taken and Umpires' allowances) in the match will be subject to over-rate penalties.

The scoreboard shall show the number of overs above or below the target overs for the bowling side. This number is calculated by subtracting the number of overs that should have been bowled (calculated as above and ignoring fractions) from the number of overs that have actually been bowled (ignoring fractions in the total number of overs bowled in the match). This will be updated at the very minimum at the start of every session.

#### **40 Changing the Venue for the Match**

The venue for a match may only be changed at short notice with the consent of the ECB Chief Executive.

Consideration will be given for a change of venue if the change will significantly improve the prospects of play or if there is a genuine concern over the original venue producing a sub-standard pitch. In addition

A match may only be switched to a venue suitable for staging First XI cricket.

It is the onus of the Home County to ensure that if there is a material likelihood that 72 hours prior to a scheduled match that a venue will be unable to stage any play over the scheduled term of the match due to the prevailing condition of the venue 72 hours prior to the scheduled start of the match (including pitch and/or outfield) then an alternative venue must be identified under playing condition 40 and brought to the attention of the visiting County and ECB and made available should playing conditions not improve.

The venue should preferably be within the County or a recognised venue used by the County in question. If no such venue is available then a neutral venue preferably within the Region of the originally scheduled match may be considered. In no circumstances will it be permissible for the match to be re-scheduled at a venue normally or occasionally used as a home venue by the scheduled away County.

A change in venue is unlikely to be approved if it is considered to make an unreasonable request of the visiting team for logistical reasons. It is unlikely that a change of venue would be approved on the day the match is scheduled to take place.

In exceptional circumstances, failure to comply with this playing condition 40 may in the sole and absolute and unfettered discretion of the Board result in the deduction of points from a First Class County and the possible award of additional points to another First Class County.

#### **41 Floodlights**

Floodlights or other artificial lighting is not permitted.

#### **42 Extraordinary Declarations**

An Extraordinary Declaration for the purposes of this rule is a declaration aimed primarily at denying the bowling side the opportunity to acquire further bonus points in that innings, but without enhancing the batting side's prospects of winning or saving the match.

Such a declaration may, depending on the particular circumstances, be deemed as bringing the game into disrepute, penalties for which may include the deduction of points from the offending team.

A captain who is contemplating an Extraordinary Declaration may, if he wishes, first approach the Officiating Umpires, providing due notice of his intention, in order to request an indicative ruling as to whether or not such an Extraordinary Declaration is likely to be deemed as bringing the game into disrepute. The Officiating Umpires may then request advice from the ECB Cricket Department who will (in liaison with the Cricket Discipline Commission and time permitting) provide an indicative ruling to the captain.

ECB Cricket Department may appoint an official to such matches to facilitate good communication between all relevant parties.

#### **43 Electronic Equipment**

The use of electronic communication devices and equipment of any kind which enables communication between on-field players and anyone not on the field of play shall not be permitted during the scheduled or re-scheduled hours of play.

