

The County Championship and other First Class Matches

1 Laws

Except as varied hereunder the Laws of Cricket (2000 Code) 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 (normal timings)

1st, 2nd and 3rd days.....11.00am-6.30pm
(10.30am-6.00pm in matches scheduled to start in September)

4th day.....11.00am-6.00pm
(10.30am-5.30pm in matches scheduled to start in September)

3.1.2 Other Domestic First Class Matches

Normal timings will be:

1st and 2nd days.....11.30am-6.30pm
(11.00am-6.30pm in the 'Varsity Match' between Oxford and Cambridge Universities)

3rd day.....11.00am-6.00pm

Notes to 3.1.2 (other Domestic First Class Matches)

- (a) Laws 16.6 and 16.7 and 16.8 will apply (ie. there shall be a scheduled minimum of 20 overs in the last hour). However, play may cease on the last day up to 30 minutes earlier than the scheduled time for the Cessation of Play, by mutual agreement of the Captains.
- (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 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:

1st, 2nd and 3rd days1.15pm
 (12.45pm in matches scheduled to start in September)

4th day1.00pm
 (12.30pm in matches scheduled to start in September)

3.2.2 Other First Class Matches

The normal commencement time for the lunch interval will be:

1st and 2nd days1.30pm

3rd day1.00pm

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 4.10pm (3.40pm 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 4.10pm (3.40pm 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, there will be no tea interval if the scheduled timing for Cessation of Play on that day is earlier than 5.30pm (5.00pm in matches scheduled to start in September).

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 First Class Matches

The normal commencement time for the tea interval will be:

1st and 2nd days4.10pm
3rd day3.40pm

Note There will be no tea interval if the scheduled timing for Cessation of Play is earlier than 5.30pm

4 The 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 104 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.
- 4.2 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 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.
- 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 six ball 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, at 5.30pm

(5.00pm in matches scheduled to start in September) both Captains (the batsmen at the wicket may act for their Captain) accept that there is no prospect of a result to the match or of either side gaining any further first innings bonus points, they may agree to cease play at that time. Such agreement may be reached at any time after 5.30pm (5.00pm for matches scheduled to start in September).

- 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, 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 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).
- 4.7 Notwithstanding any other provision, there shall be no further play on any day, other than the last 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 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

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.

Law 1.3 Captain

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

The deputy must be one of the nominated players

7 Law 2.1 - Substitutes

7.1 In addition to Law 2.1 the following will apply:

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. In the event of any disagreement between the two sides as to the authenticity of an injury or illness, the Umpires shall adjudicate. 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.

7.2 County Championship Matches Only

In addition to the above Playing Condition (Law 2.1 - Substitutes) and as an exception to it, a substitute 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 for a Test Match (or One-Day International Match). Such substitute may be permitted to bat or bowl in that match subject to the approval of the Chief Executive of the ECB or his nominee. If such a participating substitute is approved, then the cricketer who is substituted shall take no further part in that match even though he may not be required to play for England. If the cricketer is batting at the time, he is required to leave the match, he shall retire "not out" and his substitute may be permitted to bat later in that innings subject to the approval of the Chief Executive of the ECB or his nominee.

The County however may be given approval by the Chief Executive of the ECB or his nominee to have a "fielding-only" substitute during an interim period while it is established whether the called-up cricketer is required by the England Team, thus keeping the option open for the cricketer to return and fully participate in the match without penalty.

8 Law 2.5 Fieldsman Leaving the Field

8.1 Law 2.5 Fielder absent or leaving the field

Law 2.5 shall be applied as modified.

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 consequently been forced to leave 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.

9 Fitness of Ground, Weather and Light

9.1 Laws 3.8 and 3.9 will not apply.

9.1.1 All decisions concerning the fitness of the pitch, ground, weather and light for play shall be in the hands of the Umpires. The Umpires shall inspect conditions alone, liaising as necessary with the Groundsman. The Umpires' decision on the fitness of the conditions will be final. However, subject to 9.1.5 below, play may take place if both captains wish to play even though the umpires have deemed the conditions unfit.

Clause 9.1.5 over-rides this clause in this regard.

9.1.2 The Umpires will only suspend, or continue to suspend, play for bad light when they consider that there is a risk of serious physical injury to the batsman. Amongst the facts to be considered are background, sightscreens and the type of bowling. Before deciding to suspend play, or not to resume play after an interval on account of bad light (but for no other reason), the Umpires shall establish whether the Captain of the batting side (the batsmen at the wicket may deputise for their Captain) wishes to continue in unfit conditions; if so, his wishes shall be met.

9.1.3 If, after agreeing to continue play in unfit light conditions, the Captain of the batting side (the batsmen at the wicket may deputise for their Captain) subsequently wishes play to be suspended, he may appeal to the Umpires, who shall uphold the appeal only if, in their opinion, light conditions are the same or have deteriorated since the agreement to continue was made or, as a consequence of a change of bowler, if batting conditions have become more dangerous.

9.1.4 Following any suspension of play due to light conditions, the Umpires shall assess their decision to resume on the basis of conditions being properly fit, even though the

batsmen may have agreed previously to continue play in unfit light conditions.

- 9.1.5 If at any time the Umpires together agree that the conditions of ground, weather and 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, 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.
- 9.1.6 Following any inspection, the Umpires will report their findings immediately to both Captains and to the Ground Authority.
- 9.1.7 The Umpires shall disregard any shadow on the pitch from the stadium or from any permanent object on the ground.

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. The fielding Captain, or his nominee, may select the ball with which he wishes to bowl from 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 100 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

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.

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 16.1 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 16.2.1 and 16.2.2 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 A pitch being prepared for a future match may be

protected by a porous mat in order to avoid unnecessary damage. A second porous mat 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.

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

Championship Matches Only

In addition to Law 14.2, the following will apply:

If, due to weather conditions play has not started when less than eight hours playing time remains, the first innings of each side shall automatically be forfeited and a one innings match played.

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. In addition there shall be no bowling or batting practice on any part of the square or the area immediately parallel to the match pitch after the commencement of play on any day. Any fieldsman contravening this Law may not bowl the next 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 practice.

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 consul-

tation 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 an unauthorised person enters the playing area and handles the ball, 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 handling the ball.

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) the following will apply:

At the conclusion of every match, both umpires will submit reports to the Chief Executive of the ECB, on the fairness or otherwise of the actions of all bowlers in the match. In the event of an Umpire expressing doubts as to the absolute fairness of a bowler's action, the Chief Executive of the ECB shall inform the Secretariat of the County Club concerned.

ECB Bowling Review Group

Should a bowler be 'called' or 'reported' by two different umpires in different matches within a period of 12 months, at the earliest opportunity the Chairman of the Cricket Advisory Committee shall convene a Bowling Review Group to adjudicate on the legitimacy of the

bowling action. A Group will also adjudicate on an action if requested to do so by both the player and his County. In addition, the Chairman of Selectors is empowered to invite a review of any England qualified player's bowling action without the necessity of an umpire's report so long as that review has the approval of the player and his employing County.

A Bowling Review Group will consist of at least seven people nominated by the Cricket Advisory Committee Chairman, who will Chair the Panel if available. Subject to availability, the Group will include ECB's nominated representatives for the ICC Bowling Review Group. It will also include the Chairman of the MCC Cricket Committee (or his nominee), a bowling technician nominated by the ECB Performance Director, a retired umpire, a PCA representative and a biomechanist. A Bowling Review Group will include a fast bowling, finger-spin or wrist-spin technical specialist if this category of bowler is being reviewed.

The Bowling Review Group will receive copies of the reports on bowlers and at the hearing will view footage of the cricketer bowling in matches within the previous 12 months if this is available. The Group may view older footage for comparative purposes but decisions will not be based on such footage. The Group will also view footage of the bowler filmed in practice conditions, indoors or outdoors, with the bowler wearing a vest or bowling without a shirt to assist in the biomechanical analysis of the action. In practice conditions, the bowler should bowl as in matches, performing a full repertoire of deliveries including bouncers in the case of fast bowlers.

Filming should be done from 4 different angles, behind the bowler's arm, the batsman's view, and from either side of the bowler with the camera positioned between the extended bowling crease and popping crease. The video tapes presented (VHS or digital) should be filmed at as high a speed as possible (a minimum of 1000th

is desirable).

The bowler and a representative of the County will be invited to attend the hearing and, on request, will have access to the footage to be viewed in advance of the hearing. At the hearing, the bowler and his County will be invited to present any additional written or video evidence that they would like to have taken into consideration. The player and County representative will then be asked to leave the hearing. After discussion, the Bowling Review Group will vote on whether the bowler is guilty of breaching Law 24.2 (a simple majority voting system to apply). If there is a breach of Law 24.2, the Bowling Review Group will be empowered to apply whatever action or sanction it deems appropriate in the circumstances at its absolute discretion including, but not limited to, suspension from First Class County Cricket until such time as the Bowling Review Group is satisfied that the unlawful action has been remedied.

25 Law 24.12 - No Ball - Penalty

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

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 will apply except that the penalty of two runs for a wide shall be awarded.

Note 26.1.1; 26.1.2; 26.1.3 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 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. 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 during any break in play, 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.

30.3 In addition to Law 5.2(b), at the end of every over, when the ball is dead, the ball will be handed to the Umpire who was standing at the striker's end, who will inspect the condition of the ball before the commencement of the next over.

31 Law 42.6 Dangerous and unfair bowling

31.1 Law 42.6 will apply except that

31.1.1 Law 42.6(a)(ii) - re Bowling of fast short pitched balls - is amended to read as follows:

Any delivery which, after pitching, passes or would have

passed over head height of the striker standing upright at the crease, although not threatening physical injury, shall be considered as part of the repetition sequence in Law 42.6(a)(i). In addition, a bowler shall be limited to two fast, short-pitched balls per over. The umpire at the bowler's end shall make it clear to the bowler and both batsmen when such a delivery has been bowled.

For the purpose of this Playing Condition a fast, short pitched ball is defined as a ball which passes or would have passed above the shoulder height of the striker standing upright at the crease.

If this limit is exceeded, the umpire at the bowler's end shall call and signal No ball on each occasion.

If a bowler exceeds his limit of short pitched deliveries in an over, the umpire shall follow the procedures of Law 42.7 (a).

If a bowler is No balled a second time in the innings for the same offence, the umpire shall follow the procedures of Law 42.7 (b).

If a bowler is No balled a third time in the innings for the same offence, the umpire shall follow the procedures of Law 42.7 (c)

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 and shall not be subject to any warning procedure.

A fast high full pitched ball which passes or would have passed above waist height of the striker standing upright at the crease, shall be deemed to be dangerous 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.

32 Law 42.8 - Deliberate bowling of high full pitched balls

Law 42.8 to be amended to read as follows::

If the Umpire considers that a high full pitch which is deemed to be dangerous was deliberately bowled, then the caution and warning prescribed in Law 42.7 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). 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 Director of Cricket Operations or the Cricket Operations Manager (First Class) 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 Advisory Committee and / or the 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 CAC or the 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 Director of Cricket Operations and the Cricket Operations Manager (First Class) 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 ECB Director of Cricket Operations or Cricket Operations Manager (First-Class) 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 Advisory Committee will be requested to convene an Appeal Panel comprising two of his nominees and the Chairman of the Discipline Standing Committee 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

This regulation is to be read in conjunction with the ECB Pitches Document 2001.

A Pitch Liaison Officer (PLO) may be appointed by the ECB Cricket Department to attend any Championship match at any time in order to monitor and assess the standard of the pitch.

If the PLO is unhappy with the quality of a particular Championship pitch at any stage of the match, he will call a Pitch Panel that will include one other person only. ECB Cricket Department will arrange for another PLO, the Director of Cricket Operations, the Cricket Operations Manager (First Class) or a member of the Pitches Advisory Group to join the first PLO. The ECB Cricket Department will also arrange for the ECB Pitch Consultant or other expert Groundsman (the Technical Advisor) to join the Pitch Panel to offer technical advice only. The Technical Advisor is not a member of the Pitch panel. The PLO initially appointed to the match will chair the panel. (Where a PLO is not present, Umpires will still have the ability to report a pitch at any time to the ECB Cricket Department who will then decide whether to

instruct a PLO to attend the match).

When the PLO and the other member of the Pitch Panel feel that they have witnessed sufficient cricket to enable them to make a final decision regarding the rating for the pitch, the Pitch Panel will conduct interviews at the end of the day's play. The Panel will interview:

- The Umpires
- The Captain and where available the Coach of the visiting team
- The Captain and where available the Coach of the home team
- The Head Groundsman
- Any one else nominated by the Pitch Panel or the home Chief Executive/Secretary (or his nominee) as felt to be appropriate at the time.

The home Chief Executive/Secretary (or his nominee) will be entitled to be present and to question the interviewees.

At the end of the interview process, the Pitch Panel will ask the home Chief Executive/Secretary (or his nominee) to confirm that he is happy that all relevant evidence has been gathered, and that the hearing has been conducted in a fair manner. If he is unhappy, then the Pitch panel will make all reasonable effort to gather any further evidence and ensure fairness of proceedings. The Panel will make its decision alone as to how to rate the pitch, and, if appropriate, as to whether there were in the Panel's opinion sufficient extenuating circumstances to negate the imposition of a points penalty. The decision will be based on what the Panel has seen and on the evidence obtained from the interviews.

The Panel will contact the Chairman of the Cricket Advisory Committee and / or the ECB Chief Executive to confirm the Panel's decision and, if appropriate, the penalty that will be imposed. This decision and confir-

mation of any penalty will then be related to the home Chief Executive/Secretary (or his nominee) immediately thereafter. A press statement will be released as soon as practicable.

A County which is adjudged to have prepared a pitch which is 'unfit' for four-day First Class cricket will have 20 points deducted from its aggregate of points. A County which is adjudged to have prepared a 'poor' pitch for four-day First Class cricket will have 8 points deducted (this penalty will rise to 12 points if the County has prepared a 'poor' or 'unfit' pitch within the previous 12 months).

The above penalties are 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 Pitch Panel. Any appeal must be communicated to the ECB Director of Cricket Operations or Cricket Operations Manger (First-Class) within 24 hours of the Pitch Panel'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 Advisory Committee will be requested to convene an Appeal Panel comprising two of his nominees and the Chairman of the Discipline Standing Committee 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 immediately. The decision of the Appeal Panel will be final and binding.

38 Championship

38.1 Scoring of Points

- 38.1.1 For a win, 12 points, plus any points scored in the first innings.
- 38.1.2 In a tie, each side to score six 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 six 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

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 be not be considered as counting towards the total as far as the award of bonus points is concerned.

- 38.1.6 If play starts when less than eight hours playing time remains (in which event a one innings match shall be played as provided for in First Class Playing Condition 18), no first innings points shall be scored. The side winning on the one innings to score 12 points. In a tie, each side to score six points. In a drawn match, each side to score 4 points. If the scores are equal in a drawn match, the side batting in the second innings to score six points and the opposing side to score four points.
- 38.1.7 If a match is abandoned without a ball being bowled, each side to score four points.
- 38.1.8 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, least 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 three teams from the Second Division will be promoted and the bottom three 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 though no allowance will be made 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:

$(\text{Total minutes in the field} - 2 \text{ minutes per wicket} - \text{Umpires' allowances}) / 3.75$ (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 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 each over (fractions to be ignored) that a side has bowled short of the target number, 0.25 points will be deducted from their Championship total as follows:

1 over short of the match target 0.25 points deduction
2 overs short of the match target 0.50 points deduction
3 overs short of the match target 0.75 points deduction
etc.

All innings will qualify for the purpose of over-rate calculations, regardless of the length of the innings

The scoreboard shall show the number of overs above or below the target overs for the bowling side. 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 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.
- The venue must be within the County concerned or a recognised venue used by the County in question.
- 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.