



Explanation of changes to the Laws of Cricket for the 5th Edition of the 2000 Code – coming into effect on 1st October 2013.

Some of the changes made in the 5th Edition of the Laws of Cricket are significant and materially alter the outcome from the 4th Edition, whilst others are simply aimed at creating more clarity or consistency with other Laws, rather than involving a change in policy. Below is an explanation of the more significant changes, together with some reasoning for them and a guide for their interpretation and application. A full list of all of the changes is available to view on MCC's website, together with an online version of this document, with video examples to help to clarify the changes. See www.lords.org/lawchanges2013. Any changes from the 4th Edition are highlighted in yellow.

Law 2 **Substitutes and runners; batsman or fielder leaving the field; batsman retiring; batsman commencing innings**

Law 2.8. ***Transgression of the Laws by a batsman who has a runner***

- (a) A batsman's runner is subject to the Laws. He will be regarded as a batsman except where there are **special** provisions for his role as a runner. See 7 above and Law 29.2 (Which is a batsman's ground).
- (b) A batsman who has a runner will suffer the penalty for any infringement of the Laws by his runner as if he had been himself responsible for the infringement. **In particular he will be out if his runner is out under either of Laws 37 (Obstructing the field) or 38 (Run out).**
- (c) **When a batsman who has a runner is striker he remains himself subject to the Laws and will be liable to the penalties that any infringement of them demands. In the case of Run out and Stumped, however, special provisions, set out in (d) and (e) below, apply to him as a striker who has a runner.**
- (d) **If a striker who has a runner is out of his ground when the wicket at the wicket-keeper's end is fairly put down by the action of a fielder, otherwise than in (e) below, then, notwithstanding (b) above and irrespective of the position of the non-striker and the runner, he will be out Run out. However, Laws 38.2(a) and 38.2(b)(ii) (Batsman not Run out) shall apply.**
- (e) **If a striker who has a runner is out of his ground when the wicket at the wicket-keeper's end is fairly put down by the wicket-keeper, without the intervention of another fielder, and if both the following conditions are satisfied,**
 - his runner is within his ground**
 - he makes no movement towards the bowler's end other than action in receiving and/or playing or playing at the ball,****he is**



- (i) *Not out if No ball has been called.*
- (ii) *Out Stumped if the delivery is not a No ball. In this case, however, Law 39.3(a) (Not out Stumped) shall apply.*
If either of the two conditions is not satisfied, then he is out Run out. Law 38.2(a) will apply.
- (f) *If a striker who has a runner is himself dismissed as in either (d) or (e) above, runs completed by the runner and the other batsman before the wicket is put down shall be disallowed. However, any runs for penalties awarded to either side shall stand. See Law 18.6 (Runs awarded for penalties). The non-striker shall return to his original end.*
- (g) *When a batsman who has a runner is not the striker*
 - (i) *he remains subject to Law 37 (Obstructing the field) but is otherwise out of the game.*
 - (ii) *he shall stand where directed by the striker's end umpire so as not to interfere with play.*
 - (iii) *he will be liable, notwithstanding (i) above, to any penalty demanded by the Laws should he commit any act of unfair play.*

Reason for the changes

Law 2.8 parts (b) and (g) cover an agreed clarification on when Handled the ball becomes Obstructing the field (see Laws 33 and 37 below), which affects numerous references throughout the Laws, which is the case here.

Law 2.8(e) covers the instance of an injured striker (with a runner) being stumped off a No ball. Now, he should be afforded the same protection as a “normal” batsman, and not be penalised for, essentially, being injured.

Interpretation & application

The conditions for a striker who has a runner (informally referred to as an ‘injured striker’) to be out Stumped have been revised. Because an ‘injured striker’ has only one end – the wicket-keeper’s end – he cannot ‘make good his ground from end to end’ and so cannot be considered to be attempting a run or, more significantly for stumping, not doing so. It is only when the putting down of the wicket is by the wicket-keeper alone that the question of stumping can arise. Paragraph (e) is for this situation.

Paragraph (d) is about the wicket being put down in any other way. In paragraph (d), nothing fundamental has changed. It is still true in this case that if the ‘injured striker’ is out of his ground at this point, then he is out Run out irrespective of where the runner and non-striker are.

In paragraph (e), where the wicket is put down solely by the wicket-keeper, there are two further conditions. The umpire must know whether, in addition to the ‘injured striker’, the runner is or is not within his ground. It is possible that he is not. In addition, the umpire must judge whether any movement that the ‘injured striker’ makes towards the bowler’s end is solely in receiving or playing (or attempting to



play) the ball. This is nearly the same as, for an ordinary batsman, distinguishing between merely playing (at) the ball and attempting a run. If both these conditions are satisfied (in addition to the wicket-keeper alone putting down the wicket), paragraph (e) sets out the outcomes for a No ball and not a No ball. If either condition is not satisfied (or both are not), the 'injured striker' will not be out Stumped, with the usual fall back that he may be out Run out. This situation mirrors as closely as possible that for a normal batsman as set out in Laws 38 and 39, including the exceptions stated therein.



Law 5 The ball

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

In a match of more than one day's duration, the captain of the fielding side may demand a new ball when the number of overs, excluding any part overs, bowled with the old one is equal to or greater than the prescribed number of overs. The Governing Body responsible for the match concerned shall decide the number of overs applicable in that match. This number shall not be less than 75 overs.

The umpire shall inform the other umpire and indicate to the batsmen and the scorers whenever a new ball is taken into play.

Reason for the changes

The first change is to give clarity to the rare occasion when the third new ball may be taken. The second change confirms that it is now the Governing Body for the match which will decide what the minimum is, not the Governing Body for the country.

Interpretation & application

If a new ball is taken in mid-over – say after 76.4 overs, i.e. during the 77th over – then the counting of overs before the next new ball can be taken must start with the next whole over, the 78th, not the 77th, as only part of that over (the last two balls in this example) is with the new ball. In this example, if the minimum is 75 overs, then the next new ball will not be available until the start of the 153rd over.



Law 17 Practice on the field

17.1. Practice on the pitch or the rest of the square

- (a) There shall be no practice of any kind, at any time on any day of the match, on the pitch or on either of the two strips parallel and immediately adjacent to the pitch, one on either side of it, each of the same dimensions as the pitch.
- (b) There shall be no practice of any kind on any other part of the square at any time on any day of the match, except before the start of play on that day or after the close of play on that day. Practice before the start of play
 - (i) must not continue later than 30 minutes before the scheduled time or any rescheduled time for play to start on that day.
 - (ii) shall not be allowed if the umpires consider that it will significantly impair the surface of the square.

17.2. Practice on the outfield

All forms of practice are permitted on the outfield before the start of the day's play on any day or after the close of play on any day or during the lunch and tea intervals or between innings, providing the umpires are satisfied that such practice will not cause significant deterioration in the condition of the outfield. Such practice must not continue later than 5 minutes before the scheduled or any rescheduled time for play to commence or to resume.

17.3 Practice on the outfield between the call of Play and the call of Time

- (a) The restrictions in (b), (c) and (d) below shall apply not only between the call of Play and the call of Time but also during an interval for drinks, or on any other occasion when Time has been called but the players remain on the field of play.
- (b) No ball other than the match ball may be used on the field of play.
- (c) There shall be no bowling or batting practice on the outfield. However, bowling a ball to a player in the outfield, using arm action only, although a form of practice shall not be regarded as bowling practice.
- (d) All other forms of practice are permitted on the outfield either at the fall of a wicket or during other gaps in play for legitimate activities providing that
 - (i) only the fielders as defined in Appendix D participate in such practice
 - (ii) the umpire is satisfied that it will not contravene either of Laws 42.3 (The match ball – changing its condition) or 42.9 (Time wasting by the fielding side).



17.4. Trial run up

A bowler is permitted to have a trial run up provided the umpire is satisfied that it will not contravene either of Laws 42.9 (Time wasting by the fielding side) or 42.13 (Fielder damaging the pitch).

17.5 Penalties for contravention

All forms of practice are subject to the provisions of Laws 42.3 (The match ball – changing its condition), 42.9 (Time wasting by the fielding side) and 42.13 (Fielder damaging the pitch). Additionally, if there is a contravention of any of the provisions of 1, 2, or 3 above, the following penalties will apply. If the contravention is

(a) by a fielder, he shall not be allowed to bowl after the contravention until either at least one hour has elapsed or there has been at least 30 minutes of playing time since the contravention, whichever is sooner.

If the contravention is by the bowler during an over, he shall not be allowed even to complete that over. It shall be completed by another bowler, who shall neither have bowled any part of the previous over nor be allowed to bowl any part of the next over.

(b) by a batsman,

(i) in the first instance, the umpire shall warn the player that the practice is not permitted, and inform the other umpire, the captain of the fielding side and, as soon as practicable, the captain of the batting side of the reason for this action. This warning shall apply throughout the innings which is about to begin or is in progress. The umpire shall so inform each incoming batsman.

(ii) if during that innings there is any further contravention by any batsman, the umpire shall award 5 penalty runs to the fielding side. He shall inform the other umpire, the captain of the fielding side and as soon as practicable the captain of the batting side.

Reasons for the changes

It was acknowledged that a bowler bowling a practice delivery (e.g. to a fielder at mid off) was now commonplace. The change made in 2010 to outlaw this practice has been over-written by playing regulations in all professional and most amateur cricket. There was a need to ensure that such practice did not waste time or damage the condition of the ball. Such practice will now be allowed, subject to those restrictions.

Clarifications have also been added that prohibit coaches or non-players from practising with players from outside the boundary, and that the only cricket ball(s) on the field during the hours of play is(are) the official match ball(s).



Finally, there is the addition of a penalty for a batsman infringing this Law, which provides equity between both the batsmen and fielders who find themselves contravening this Law.

Interpretation & application

There has been a general tightening up in this Law. The changes all relate to the time when the players are on the field as players, whether play is in progress or not. Even though not between the call of Play and the call of Time, drinks intervals, occasions when the umpires leave the field to investigate the non-appearance of a new batsman, etc, are all included.

No one may practise except the actual players. Coaches on the boundary are banned from giving fielders a bit of throwing and catching practice or any other kind of practice.

Only the match ball may be used for practice. Fielders cannot introduce their own ball for practising. As the umpires are to take possession of the match ball at the fall of a wicket, at any interval or at any interruption, this leaves very little time when the match ball is available to players. It may be that the umpire does not take the ball when the sight-screen is being adjusted or at other times when there is to be only a short gap in play. Certainly the bowler about to make the next delivery must have the ball! Equally, the players will not have the ball during a drinks interval.

Even when a player has the ball, he cannot use it for batting practice or for bowling practice. Throwing and catching and other forms of fielding practice are allowed. A trial run up is allowed, but must not involve running on the pitch. There is also another concession to bowlers. They are allowed to 'bowl' a ball to a fielder in the outfield (no practice on the square) without a run up, using arm action only. This is not counted as bowling practice.

However, all these permitted forms of practice are subject to two overriding embargos:

1. Time must not be wasted.
2. There is to be no avoidable damage to the ball.

Umpires are to be strict in applying the appropriate penalties for contravention. Whilst the bowler is permitted to have a quick 'bowl' to another fielder before starting his over, if the whole field is waiting for the over to begin, time wasting could be a consideration. If instead of merely bowling the ball to a fielder he hurls it hard into the ground, avoidable damage cannot be ruled out.

In addition to the prescribed penalties for time wasting, pitch damage and ball damage (all stated elsewhere in the Laws), Section 5 sets out penalties for breaches of any section of Law 17. Included in Section 5 is a new penalty for batsmen who



contravene any of the provisions of Law 17. Not being allowed to bowl for a period of time – the penalty for errant bowlers – is not appropriate for batsmen. For them the standard procedure for warning and then imposition of 5 penalty runs and reporting is to be followed.



Law 18 Scoring runs

18.6. Runs awarded for penalties

Runs shall be awarded for penalties under 5 above, and Laws 2.6 (Player returning without permission), 17.5 (penalties for contravention), 24 (No ball), 25 (Wide ball), 41.2 (Fielding the ball), 41.3 (Protective helmets belonging to the fielding side) and 42 (Fair and unfair play). Note, however, the restrictions on the award of penalty runs in Laws 26 (Bye and Leg bye), 34 (Hit the ball twice), 41.3 (Protective helmets belonging to the fielding side) and 41.4 (Penalty runs not to be awarded).

18.9. Runs scored when a batsman is dismissed

When a batsman is dismissed, any runs for penalties awarded to either side shall stand. No other runs shall be credited to the batting side, except as follows. If a batsman is

(a) dismissed Obstructing the field, the batting side shall also score the runs completed before the offence.

If, however, the obstruction prevented a catch being made, no runs other than penalties shall be scored.

(b) dismissed Run out, the batting side shall also score runs completed before the wicket was put down.

If, however, a striker who has a runner is himself dismissed Run out, under Law 2.8(d), runs completed by the runner and the other batsman shall be disallowed.

10. Runs scored when the ball becomes dead other than at the fall of a wicket

When the ball becomes dead for any reason other than the fall of a wicket, or is called dead by an umpire, unless there is specific provision otherwise in the Laws

(a) any runs for penalties awarded to either side shall be scored. Note however the provisions of Laws 26.3 (Leg byes not to be awarded) and 41.4 (Penalties not to be awarded).

(b) additionally the batting side shall be credited with

- (i) all runs completed by the batsmen before the incident or call
- and (ii) the run in progress if the batsmen had already crossed at the instant of the incident or call. Note specifically, however, the provisions of Law 42.5(f) (Deliberate distraction or obstruction of batsman).

11. Batsman returning to original end

(a) When a batsman is dismissed, the not out batsman shall return to his original end

(i) if the striker is himself dismissed in the circumstances of Law 2.8(d) (Transgression of the Laws by a batsman who has a runner).

(ii) and, with the three exceptions of



*Run out other than in (i) above
Caught
Obstructing the field,
for all other methods of dismissal.*

- (b) Other than at the fall of a wicket, the batsmen shall return to their original ends in the cases of, and only in the cases of*
- (i) a boundary*
 - (ii) disallowance of runs for any reason*
 - (iii) a decision by the batsmen at the wicket to do so, under Law 42.5(g), (Deliberate distraction or obstruction of batsman)*

12. Batsman returning to wicket he has left

(a) When a batsman is dismissed Caught, Obstructing the field or Run out other than under Law 2.8, the not out batsman shall return to the wicket he has left but only if the batsmen had not already crossed at the instant of the incident causing the dismissal.

(b) Except in the cases listed in 11(b) above, if while a run is in progress the ball is called dead by an umpire or becomes dead for any other reason except the dismissal of a batsman, the batsmen shall return to the wickets they had left, but only if they had not already crossed in running when the ball became dead.

Reason for the changes

Law 18.6 (Runs awarded for penalties) – a reference to new Law 17.5 (above) has been added, as has, for clarity, a note about the restrictions on the award of penalty runs.

Law 18.9 (Runs scored when a batsman is dismissed) – this has been reworded and renumbered as a result of the Handled the ball clarification.

Law 18.10 (Runs scored when the ball becomes dead other than at the fall of a wicket) – the reference to Law 34.4(c) has been removed.

Laws 18.11 (Batsman returning to original end) and 18.12(a) (Batsman returning to wicket he has left) – these Laws have been reworded as a result of the Handled the ball clarification.

Law 18.12(b) – there has been a grammatical rewording of the Law.

Interpretation & application

All the changes here are the result of changes to other Laws. Each should be read in conjunction with the Law change from which it has arisen.

18.6 The list of offences for which penalty runs will be awarded has had the new penalty in Law 17 added.



In Law 33, the offence of Handled the ball can now occur only when the striker is playing or trying to play the ball. At other times such action is to be considered as Obstructing the field. As a result, no question of scoring runs or of retuning to a particular end can arise. Consequently, Laws 18.8, 18.10, 18.11 and 18.12 have had all references to Handled the ball removed.



Law 19 Boundaries

Law 19.3. Scoring a boundary

- (a) A boundary shall be scored and signalled by the bowler's end umpire whenever, while the ball is in play, in his opinion,
- (i) the ball touches the boundary, or is grounded beyond the boundary.
 - (ii) a fielder with some part of his person in contact with the ball, touches the boundary or has some part of his person grounded beyond the boundary.
 - (iii) the ball, having crossed the boundary in the air, is first touched by a fielder who has not satisfied the conditions in 4(i) below.
- (b) The phrases 'touches the boundary' and 'touching the boundary' shall mean contact with
- either (i) the boundary edge as defined in 2 above
 - or (ii) any person or obstacle within the field of play which has been designated a boundary by the umpires before the toss.
- (c) The phrase 'grounded beyond the boundary' shall mean contact with
- either (i) any part of a line or solid object marking the boundary except the boundary edge
 - or (ii) the ground beyond the boundary edge
 - or (iii) any object in contact with the ground beyond the boundary edge.

4. Ball beyond the boundary

After it has crossed the boundary in the air, a ball may be caught, subject to the provisions of Law 32, or fielded provided that

- (i) the first contact with the ball is by a fielder, not touching or grounded beyond the boundary, who has some part of his person grounded within the boundary or whose final contact with the ground before touching the ball was entirely within the boundary.

Any fielder subsequently touching the ball is not subject to this restriction.

- (ii) neither the ball, nor any fielder in contact with the ball touches, or is grounded beyond, the boundary at any time during the act of making the catch or of fielding the ball.

The act of making the catch, or of fielding the ball, shall start from the time when the ball first comes into contact with some part of a fielder's person and shall end when a fielder obtains complete control both over the ball and over his own movement.

5. Runs allowed for boundaries

- (a) Before the toss the umpires shall agree with both captains the runs to be allowed for boundaries. In deciding the allowances the umpires and captains shall be guided by the prevailing custom of the ground.



(b) Unless agreed differently under (a) above, the allowances for boundaries shall be 6 runs if the ball having been struck by the bat pitches beyond the boundary, but otherwise 4 runs. These shall be described as a Boundary 6 and a Boundary 4 respectively, although the number of runs awarded may not be 6 or 4 if other allowances have been agreed under (a) above.

These allowances shall still apply even though the ball has previously touched a fielder. See also (c) below.

(c) A Boundary 6 will be scored if and only if the ball has been struck by the bat and pitches beyond the boundary. The ball is to be regarded as pitching beyond the boundary even though before it has pitched, a fielder

(i) catches it within the boundary but either has some part of his person touching the boundary or grounded beyond the boundary when he catches the ball or, after catching it, subsequently touches the boundary or grounds some part of his person beyond the boundary while carrying the ball but before completing the catch. See Law 32 (Caught).

(ii) comes into contact with the ball in the circumstances of 3a (iii) above.

(d) The award for all other boundaries scored under 3 above, for which either the ball was not struck by the bat or did not pitch beyond the boundary as defined above, will be a Boundary 4, including a case under 3(a)(iii) when the ball has pitched within the boundary before contact with the fielder.

Reason for the changes

Law 19.3 (Scoring a boundary) and Law 19.4 (Ball beyond the boundary) – these Laws have been amended to give additional clarity to the definition of when the ball has crossed the boundary. It particularly clarifies the position when fielders work as a team for a piece of fielding on the boundary.

Law 19.5 (Runs allowed for boundaries) – this Law has been reworded in order to clarify that it is possible for a different number of runs to be agreed at the toss for the scoring of boundaries, and that references to the two types of boundaries scored are Boundary 4 and Boundary 6, even if four or six runs are not to be scored from them.

Interpretation & application

There has been no change in the definition of a boundary, but the wording relating to the scoring of runs has been set out in more precise detail.

It has always been true that Boundary 6 and Boundary 4 describe the two types of boundary but that the runs for them may be agreed as different from 6 and 4. This principle has now been applied to Law 19.5(c). If a fielder is grounded on, is beyond, or carries the ball over the boundary before completing the act of catching or fielding



the ball, then the batting side will be awarded a Boundary 6, that is to say the number of runs agreed for this sort of boundary.

There is no other basic change to this Law except to add the penalty. If the conditions laid down for taking the ball, by catching it or fielding it, after it has crossed the boundary in the air, are not satisfied then a boundary will be scored, either a Boundary 4 or a Boundary 6 according to circumstances. In particular, the wording of section 5(c) has been clarified to emphasise that, when fielding or catching a ball after it has crossed the boundary in the air, the first fielder to touch the ball must not only have some part of his person in contact with the ground within the boundary, but must have no part grounded on or beyond the boundary (or he must have jumped up from such a position). A second fielder making contact with the ball after a team-mate has already touched it may, however, jump up from a position beyond the boundary on the basis that it is likely to be in reaction to the deflection from his colleague.



Law 23 Dead ball

Law 23.1(a) The ball becomes dead when

(x) the match is concluded in any of the ways stated in Law 16.9 (Conclusion of match).

Law 23.4(b) Either umpire shall call and signal Dead ball when

(ix) the ball does not leave the bowler's hand for any reason other than an attempt to run out the non-striker under Law 42.15 (Bowler attempting to run out non-striker before delivery).

Reason for the changes

A new clause has been added, stating explicitly what is already implicit in the Law, namely that the ball becomes dead at the conclusion of the match. The ways in which the match will be concluded are already listed in Law 16.9.

There is a clarification in 23.4(b)(ix) that, unless there is an attempt to run out the non-striker under Law 42.15 (Bowler attempting to run out non-striker before delivery), the umpire should call and signal Dead ball if the bowler does not release the ball. This will apply to situations under the new Law 24.6 (see below), when the bowler breaks the wicket during delivery. If the bowler does break the wicket in this way but does not release the ball, Dead ball should be called.



Law 24 No ball

24.6. Bowler breaking wicket in delivering ball

Either umpire shall call and signal No ball if, other than in an attempt to run out the non-striker under Law 42.15, the bowler breaks the wicket at any time after the ball comes into play and before he completes the stride after the delivery stride. See Appendix D. Laws 23.4(b)(viii), 23.4(b)(ix) and 10 below will apply.

Reason for the change

It has been decided to introduce a new Law 24.6, making it a No ball if the bowler breaks the wicket at the non-striker's end, except in an attempt to run out the non-striker as permitted by Law 42.15. This change removes any doubt over whether the striker may have been distracted by the disturbance, but provides the striker with protection from most forms of dismissal, whilst crediting him with any runs he may score.

Interpretation and application

A new clause had been introduced – which means the following sections have been renumbered – requiring the call and signal of No ball if the bowler breaks the wicket at the bowler's end while delivering the ball. 'While delivering the ball' is defined as from the moment the ball comes into play until not only has the bowler's front foot landed to complete his delivery stride but another stride has been completed, by the landing of his other foot – the one that was the back foot in the delivery stride.

Below are some photographs to help to illustrate this.



Delivery stride – back foot landing



Bowler puts wicket down – “no ball” to be called



Delivery stride after – back foot lands again (illustration)

Clearly the bowler is not going to break the wicket at the start of a long run up, but the provision ‘from when the ball comes into play’ is equivalent to ‘whenever he is physically within reach of the stumps, with his feet, his hands, his arms or any other part of his body’. Either umpire can make the call and signal. The umpires may need to consult if there is doubt about how the wicket was broken. If a bail is found on the ground, and neither umpire knows how the wicket was broken, no action should be taken.

If play is taking place without bails, either umpire should still call and signal No ball if he is confident that the bowler made contact with the wicket.

Should the bowler not make contact with the stumps and a bail falls from the non striker’s end stumps (blown by the wind), then there is no need to do anything – play should still continue as it normally would have done in the past. “No ball” not to be called and no call of “Dead ball” unless the umpire feels it appropriate based on when this happens in the run up.



Law 25 Wide ball

25.8. *Out from a Wide*

*When Wide ball has been called, neither batsman shall be out under any of the Laws **except** 35 (Hit wicket), 37 (Obstructing the field), 38 (Run out) or 39 (Stumped).*

Reason for the change

It is no longer possible to be out Handled the ball off a Wide and there are now only 4 possible methods of dismissal off a Wide ball.

If the striker handles the ball while playing (at) it, it cannot be out of his reach. The delivery cannot qualify as a Wide. Now that Handled the ball is a dismissal restricted solely to when he is playing (at) the ball, it is therefore not possible for the striker to be out Handled the ball if the delivery is a Wide. Handled the ball has therefore been deleted from the ways of dismissal possible from a Wide.



Law 30 Bowled

30.1(b) Notwithstanding (a) above he shall not be out Bowled if before striking the wicket the ball has been in contact with any other player or an umpire. He will, however, be subject to Laws 37 (Obstructing the field), 38 (Run out) and 39 (Stumped).

Reason for the change

Handled the ball has been removed from the list of methods of dismissal after the ball has made contact with any other player or umpire.

Law 30.1(b) states that once the ball has been touched by a fielder or an umpire, the striker will not be out Bowled and lists the ways in which he could be out. However, the striker is not allowed to play the ball once it has been touched by a fielder or an umpire. He can therefore not be out Handled the ball, since this can happen only when he is playing (at) the ball.



Law 32 Caught

32.3. A fair catch

Providing that in every case

neither (i) at any time the ball

nor (ii) throughout the act of making the catch as defined in Law 19.4, any fielder in contact with the ball

is, as described in Law 19.3(b), touching the boundary or grounded beyond the boundary, a catch shall be considered to be fair if

- (a) the ball is hugged to the body of the catcher or accidentally lodges in his clothing or, in the case of a wicket-keeper only, in his pads. However, it is not a fair catch if the ball lodges in a protective helmet worn by a fielder.*
- (b) the ball does not touch the ground even though the hand holding it does so in effecting the catch.*
- (c) a fielder catches the ball after it has been lawfully struck more than once by the striker, but only if it has not been grounded since it was first struck.*
- (d) a fielder catches the ball after it has touched an umpire, another fielder or the other batsman.*

However, it is not a fair catch if at any time after having been struck by the bat and before a catch is completed the ball has touched a protective helmet worn by a fielder.

- (e) a fielder catches the ball after it has crossed the boundary in the air, provided that after being struck by the bat, the first contact with the ball is by a fielder, not touching or grounded beyond the boundary, who has some part of his person grounded within the boundary or whose final contact with the ground before touching the ball was entirely within the boundary.*

Any fielder subsequently touching the ball is not subject to this restriction. See Law 19.4 (Ball beyond the boundary).

- (f) the ball is caught off an obstruction within the boundary that has not been designated a boundary by the umpires before the toss.*

4. Fielder beyond the boundary

A catch shall not be made and a Boundary 6 shall be scored if after the ball has been struck by the bat a fielder

- (i) has some part of his person touching or grounded beyond the boundary when he catches the ball, or after catching it subsequently touches the boundary or grounds some part of his person beyond the boundary while carrying the ball but before completing the catch as defined in Law 19.4.*
- (ii) catches the ball after it has crossed the boundary in the air without the conditions in 3(e) above being satisfied.*

See Laws 19.3 (Scoring a boundary) and 19.5 (Runs allowed for boundaries).

Reason for the changes

Law 32.1 (Out Caught) – additional wording has been included to clarify what



constitutes a fair catch.

Law 32.3 (A fair catch) – this Law has been reworded and renumbered to add clarification to what constitutes a fair catch.

In part (d) the word “previously” has been removed from the explanation of the circumstances of a ball hitting a fielder’s protective helmet, since it is no longer required and it had created confusion to some umpires.

In part (e) the circumstances surrounding what constitutes a fair catch on the boundary have been fully clarified.

Law 32.4 (Fielder beyond the boundary) – this Law has been re-titled and reworded as the former wording, which is considered incompatible with the new title of this Law, defined a fielder not within the field of play.

Interpretation & application

For clarification, there is an adjustment of wording in 32.3(d). This is to make it clear that the embargo on catching the ball, after it has touched a helmet worn by a fielder, applies whenever the contact occurs, from leaving the bat to being held by a fielder.

Otherwise, the changes, which relate to catching the ball after it has crossed the boundary in the air, mirror the conditions in Law 19, to which reference is made here. Of course, in this Law, only catching is relevant, whereas Law 19 includes fielding. There is no alteration to the conditions. As a reminder, a fielder can catch the ball (as a fair catch) beyond the boundary, providing that at any time during ‘the act of making the catch’ he is not in contact with the boundary or the ground beyond it at the same time as he is in contact with ball. Moreover, if he is the first fielder to touch it after it has been struck by the bat, to make the catch he must have some contact with the ground within the boundary (and none on or beyond it) or have jumped up from such a position.



Law 33 Handled the ball

1. *Out Handled the ball*

The striker is out Handled the ball if, except in the circumstances of 2 below, in the act of playing a ball delivered by the bowler, he wilfully strikes the ball with a hand not holding the bat. This will apply whether No ball has been called or not and whether it is the first strike or a second or subsequent strike.

The act of playing the ball shall also encompass both playing at the ball and striking the ball more than once in defence of his wicket.

2. *Not out Handled the ball*

Notwithstanding 1 above,

(a) the striker will not be out Handled the ball if the strike with a hand not holding the bat is in order to avoid injury.

(b) the striker will not be out Handled the ball but will be liable to be out Obstructing the field if he makes a strike with a hand not holding the bat

(i) unless trying to avoid injury, as a lawful second or subsequent strike which prevents a catch. See Law 37.3 (Obstructing a ball from being caught).

(ii) unless trying to avoid injury, after he has completed the act of playing the ball, as defined in 1 above.

(iii) at any time while the ball is in play, to return the ball to any fielder, without the consent of a fielder. See Law 37.4 (Returning the ball to a fielder).

3. *Bowler does not get credit*

The bowler does not get credit for the wicket.

Reason for the changes

There has been some confusion over both the Handled the ball and Obstructing the field Laws, most notably which Law should apply in given situations, but also when self-defence gave the batsman immunity. It has been agreed that the demarcation between the two should be when the striker has “finished playing the ball” – before that point in time Handled the ball applies, and afterwards Obstructing the field takes over. The result is that the striker can be dismissed Handled the ball but only for a very short period.

This change not only affects Laws 33 and 37, but also any references in the Laws whereby both methods of dismissal could apply simultaneously – now that there is a specified “cut-off point”, both cannot apply at the same time.

Interpretation and application

There has been a major change to this Law. Defining what constitutes handling the ball – ball in play, no consent from a fielder, wilful use of a hand not holding the bat – has not altered. Handling the ball to avoid injury is still permitted without penalty.



The big difference is that all this applies only to the time when the striker is playing, or attempting to play the ball, either as a first or as a subsequent stroke. In all other situations, handling the ball comes under Obstructing the field. It is still, as before, Obstructing the field if using a hand not holding the bat in making a second or subsequent stroke prevents a catch.

It has already been explained how this affects Laws 18, 25, and 30. The impact on Law 37 (Obstructing the field) will be dealt with under that Law.



Law 34 Hit the ball twice

34.4. Runs scored from ball lawfully struck more than once

When the ball is lawfully struck more than once, as permitted in 3 above, **only the first strike is to be considered in determining what runs may be scored.**

- (a) If on the first strike the umpire is satisfied that
- (i) **the ball first struck the bat**
 - or (ii) the striker attempted to hit the ball with his bat**
 - or (iii) the striker attempted to avoid being hit by the ball**
- the batting side shall not be credited with any runs but any penalties that may be applicable shall stand except that a penalty under Law 41.3 (Protective helmets belonging to the fielding side) is not to be awarded.**
- (b) **If the umpire considers that on the first strike none of the conditions in (a) has been met, then no runs or penalties will be credited to the batting side other than the one run penalty for a No ball if applicable.**

34.5. No runs permitted from ball lawfully struck more than once – action by the umpire

- (a) **If no run is attempted but the ball reaches the boundary the umpire shall call and signal Dead ball and disallow the boundary.**
- (b) **If the batsmen run, and**
- (i) **neither batsman is dismissed and the ball does not become dead for any other reason, the umpire shall call and signal Dead ball as soon as one run is completed or the ball reaches the boundary. The run or boundary shall be disallowed. The batsmen shall be returned to their original ends.**
 - (ii) **a batsman is dismissed or for any other reason the ball becomes dead before one run is completed or the ball reaches the boundary, all the provisions of the Laws will apply except that the batting side shall not be credited with any runs, except the penalties permitted under 4(a) or 4(b) above as appropriate.**

Reason for the change

Law 34.4 (Runs scored from ball lawfully struck more than once) – it has been decided that runs can no longer be scored after a lawful second strike. Currently, runs can be taken only after an overthrow, but it is now agreed that a lawful second strike (in defence of his wicket) was enough of a privilege for the striker and that no runs should be able to accrue.

Interpretation and application

The change is that now the batsmen are not allowed to take runs, even for overthrows.



The basic facts remain the same. The striker is permitted to make a second stroke (and subsequent strokes)

- if it is solely an attempt to prevent the ball striking his wicket
- if he uses his bat or his person but not a hand not holding the bat
- if it does not interfere with a fielder attempting to take a catch.

If the batsmen run, the procedure is exactly the same as for batsmen taking illegal Leg byes. The only question about runs is whether penalties can be allowed. This depends on whether or not the umpire is satisfied that the first strike was on the bat or, if on the person, that the striker made a genuine attempt either to play the ball with his bat or to avoid being hit by the ball. If the umpire is satisfied of this, then any penalties, with one exception, will stand. If he is not satisfied, the only penalty that can be awarded is the one run for a No ball, if applicable. The one exception noted above is the 5 runs for the ball hitting the helmet. This is not to be awarded whatever the circumstances of the second strike.

The Law specifies that Handled the ball will apply in the case of a second or subsequent stroke unless a catch is prevented.



Law 37 Obstructing the field

1. Out Obstructing the field

Either batsman is out Obstructing the field if he wilfully attempts to obstruct or distract the fielding side by word or action. In particular, but not solely, it shall be regarded as obstruction and either batsman will be out Obstructing the field if while the ball is in play and after the striker has completed the act of playing the ball, as defined in Law 33.1, he wilfully strikes the ball with

- (i) a hand not holding the bat, unless this is in order to avoid injury. See also Law 33.2 (Not out Handled the ball).*
- (ii) any other part of his person or with his bat. See also Law 34 (Hit the ball twice).*

2. Accidental obstruction

It is for either umpire to decide whether any obstruction or distraction is wilful or not. He shall consult the other umpire if he has any doubt.

3. Obstructing a ball from being caught

The striker is out should wilful obstruction or distraction by either batsman prevent a catch being made. This shall apply even though the obstruction is caused by the striker himself in lawfully guarding his wicket under the provision of Law 34.3 (Ball lawfully struck more than once).

4. Returning the ball to a fielder

Either batsman is out Obstructing the field if, at any time while the ball is in play and without the consent of a fielder, he uses his bat or any part of his person, including a hand not holding the bat, to return the ball to any fielder.

5. Runs scored

When either batsman is dismissed Obstructing the field,

- (a) unless the obstruction prevents a catch from being made, runs completed by the batsmen before the offence shall be scored, together with any runs awarded for penalties to either side. See Laws 18.6 (Runs awarded for penalties) and 18.9 (Runs scored when a batsman is dismissed).*
- (b) if the obstruction prevents a catch from being made, runs completed by the batsmen shall not be scored but any penalties awarded to either side shall stand.*

Reasons for the changes

Further to the comments relating to Law 33 (Handled the ball) above, much of the wording of Law 37 has been amended to tighten the wording and to clarify that self-defence can be allowed.



Interpretation and application

As well as continuing largely in its present form, Obstructing the field now takes over all the instances that in the past might have been Handled the ball, but now are not so because he is not playing (at) the ball. It is still paramount that any action is wilful.

37.1 It has been made clear that it will be obstruction, although not the only form of obstruction, if, once the striker has finished playing (at) the ball, either batsman wilfully strikes the ball with his bat or person. It must be remembered that 'playing (at) the ball' includes any second or later stroke in defence of his wicket and 'person' includes a hand not holding the bat. This includes the previous situation in which the illegal strike was after the ball has been touched by a fielder. In the case of a hand not holding the bat, as usual, no penalty will be incurred if it was an attempt to avoid injury.

37.3 It is confirmed that obstructing a fielder from making a catch is always a case of Obstructing the field, even though the action is by a hand not holding the bat and even though it arose from the striker making a second or further stroke in defence of his wicket.

37.4 Either batsman returning the ball to a fielder, without consent and while the ball is in play, is always to be regarded as obstruction, even though the action is by the striker using a hand not holding the bat. If, of course, he is returning the ball to a fielder, he is not playing the ball.

37.5 There is no substantive change here, only an adjustment to the wording.



Law 38 Run out

38.1. Out Run out

- (a) *Either batsman is out Run out, except as in 2 below, if, at any time while the ball is in play,*
- (i) *he is out of his ground*
 - and (ii) *his wicket is fairly put down by the action of a fielder.*
- (b) (a) *above shall apply even though No ball has been called, except in the circumstances of 2(b)(ii) below, and whether or not a run is being attempted.*

38.2. Batsman not Run out

Notwithstanding 1 above,

(a) *A batsman is not out Run out if*

(i) *he has been within his ground and has subsequently left it to avoid injury, when the wicket is put down.*

Note also the provisions of Law 29.1(b) (When out of his ground).

(ii) *the ball has not subsequently been touched by a fielder, after the bowler has entered his delivery stride, before the wicket is put down.*

(iii) *the ball, having been played by the striker, or having come off his person, directly strikes a protective helmet worn by a fielder and, without any other contact with him or any contact with any other fielder, rebounds directly on to the wicket. However, the ball remains in play and either batsman may be Run out in the circumstances of 1 above if a wicket is subsequently put down.*

(b) *The striker is not out Run out*

(i) *if he is out Stumped. See Laws 2.8(e)(ii) (Transgression of the Laws by a batsman who has a runner) and 39.1(b) (Out Stumped).*

(ii) *either in the circumstances of Law 2.8(e)(i) (Transgression of the Laws by a batsman who has a runner) or, otherwise,*

if No ball has been called

and he is out of his ground not attempting a run

and the wicket is fairly put down by the wicket-keeper without the intervention of another fielder.

38.4. Runs scored

If either batsman is dismissed Run out, the run in progress when the wicket is put down shall not be scored, but runs completed by the batsmen shall stand, together with any runs for penalties awarded to either side. See Laws 18.6 (Runs awarded for penalties) and 18.9 (Runs scored when a batsman is dismissed).

*If, however, a striker who has a runner is himself dismissed Run out, runs completed by the runner and the other batsman before the wicket is put down shall **be disallowed**, but any runs for penalties awarded to either side shall stand.*



The non-striker shall return to his original end. See Law 2.8 (Transgression of the Laws by a batsman who has a runner).

Reason for the changes

Law 38.1 (Out Run out) – this Law has been reworded to allow for the renumbering in 38.2 below, but the meaning and outcome has not changed.

Law 38.2 (Batsman not Run out) – this Law has been reworded and renumbered for additional clarity, including references to the “batsman” being changed to “striker” where necessary to cater for different situations applicable to any batsman or solely to the striker. There are no 'policy changes'.

Interpretation and application

38.1(a) The change below in 38.2 necessitated a change of numbering of the various sections. This change, in 38.1(b) is to take account of that renumbering.

38.2 The Law has been split into two sections. Paragraph (a) applies to any batsman. Paragraph (b) applies only to the striker. As noted above, this has entailed some renumbering.

Paragraph (b)(i) notes that the striker will not be out Run out if in fact he is Stumped. This is as before and is the natural result of Stumped being, in essence, Run out plus a few more conditions. Paragraph 38.2(b)(ii) embodies the reverse of this. If he is not out Stumped, because not all the conditions are satisfied, it may be that nevertheless the requirements for Run out are met. Then he could be out Run out.

However, there are two exceptions, noted in 38.2(b)(ii). Both are situations in which all the conditions for Stumped are satisfied *except* that the delivery is a No ball. Then he will not be out Run out either. Law 2.8(e)(i) covers this for a striker with a runner. Law 38.2(b)(ii) and 39.3(b) between them cover it for a normal striker.

As an example, assume the striker plays at the ball and it goes 2 or 3 metres towards mid-wicket on the leg side. The striker sets off for a run but changes his mind and turns back. Meanwhile, the wicket-keeper has run to collect the ball. He throws it at the stumps and, with the striker out of his ground, the ball breaks the wicket. The striker would be out Run out, not Stumped, as he had attempted a run and so it is irrelevant whether or not it was a No ball.



Law 39 Stumped

39.3. *Not out Stumped*

- (a) *Notwithstanding 1 above, the striker will not be out Stumped if he has left his ground **in order** to avoid **injury**.*
- (b) *If the striker is not out Stumped he may, except in the circumstances **of either of Laws 2.8(e)(i) or 38.2(b)(ii), be out Run out if the conditions of Law 38.1 (Out Run out) apply.***

Reason for the changes

Law 39.3 (Not out Stumped) – in (a), the wording has been amended for more clarity; and in (b), a rewording has taken place to amend cross references of other amended Laws, as discussed under Law 2.8 (above) with the stumping off a No ball when the striker has a runner and under Law 38.2 when he does not have a runner.



Law 41 The fielder

41.3. Protective helmets belonging to the fielding side

Protective helmets, when not in use by fielders, should, if above the surface, be placed only on the ground behind the wicket-keeper and in line with both sets of stumps.

If a protective helmet belonging to the fielding side is on the ground within the field of play, and the ball while in play strikes it, the ball shall become dead and, except in the circumstances of Law 34 (Hit the ball twice), 5 penalty runs shall then be awarded to the batting side, in addition to the penalty for a No ball or a Wide, if applicable.

Additionally runs completed by the batsmen before the ball strikes the protective helmet shall be scored, together with the run in progress if the batsmen had already crossed at the instant of the ball striking the protective helmet. See Law 18.10 (Runs scored when the ball becomes dead other than at the fall of a wicket).

If, however, the circumstances of Law 34 apply, neither the 5 penalty runs nor any runs to the batsman are to be awarded. See Law 34.4 (Runs scored from a ball lawfully struck more than once).

Reason for the changes

Law 41.3 (Protective helmets belonging to the fielding side) – the words “except in the circumstances of Law 34 (Hit the ball twice)” have been added to clarify an exception to when penalty runs are not awarded, and this is further clarified in a new final paragraph. (See the explanation of Law 34 above.)



Appendix D Definitions and explanations of words or phrases not defined in the text

Delivery stride is the stride during which the delivery swing is made, whether the ball is released or not. It starts when the bowler's back foot lands for that stride and ends when the front foot lands in the same stride. **The stride after the delivery stride is completed when the next foot lands, i.e. when the back foot of the delivery stride lands again.**

The addition to the definition of the delivery stride is to take account of the new Law 24.6. The meat of this extra definition has been incorporated into the comment on Law 24.6.

Runs disallowed/not scored. A run to be **disallowed** is one that in Law should not have been taken. It is not only to be cancelled but the batsmen are to be returned to their original ends. A run **not to be scored** is not illegal, but one which in Law is not recognised as a proper run. It is to be regarded as not existing, so that the question of cancellation does not arise. It incurs no penalty other than the loss of the run.

There is nothing new in the definition, distinguishing between 'runs disallowed' and 'runs not scored'. It has been inserted for the avoidance of doubt. It is an important distinction, since the batsmen are to be returned to their original ends in one case but not in the other. Each of the relevant Laws states whether sending back is to apply or not.

As examples:

A deliberate short run is to be disallowed and the batsmen sent back.

An accidental short run is not scored and there is no sending back.