

MCC Law Changes 2010—Summary of Changes

This Summary addresses the changes that have been made, effective October 1, 2010, in the new (4th) edition of the 2000 Code of the Laws of Cricket. These changes are easily accessed via the MCC website which includes a video illustrating the 8 significant Policy changes and a PDF document highlighting the changes in yellow and blue, with the blue being Policy changes. Many of the changes do not result in any change to the meaning of the Laws—rather they are grammatical, involve re-numbering or re-lettering of sub-sections, changes to cross-references, alterations to expressions used to improve consistency, the tidying up of some drafting and the use of some new defined terms etc—and are not described in this Summary.

This summary is for use by players and divides changes into Policy ('P') changes (as designated by the MCC) and Notable ('N') changes. There is a fuller summary for use by umpires and officials.

Law No.	Section No.	Type	Change
Pre-Amble	# 4	N	The Spirit of Cricket requires RESPECT for, inter alia, the game's traditional values—as re-worded this is now “the game and its traditional values.
1	1.3 (b)	N	Law 1.3 (Captain). After the nomination of players, only a nominated player can deputise for the Captain— <i>see also changes to Laws 12.4 & 12.5.</i>
2	2.8 (c)	N	Law 2.8 (Transgression of the Laws by a batsman who has a runner). An injured striker on strike not attempting a run and out of his crease when the wicket is fairly put down at the wicket keeper's end can—unlike any other batsman—be run out off a no ball by the wicket-keeper acting alone without the prior intervention of another fielder. Law 38.2(e) prevents such a dismissal for other batsmen but does not apply to the injured striker – <i>see also Law 39.1(a)(iv).</i> <i>Note: the cross reference in Law 2.8(c) to Law 39.2(a) should be to Law 39.3(a).</i>
3	3.8 & 3.9	P	Law 3.8 (Fitness for play) and Law 3.9 (Suspension of play in dangerous or unreasonable conditions). The umpires together are now the sole judge of whether conditions of ground (including the pitch), weather, or light or exceptional circumstances mean that it would be dangerous or unreasonable for play to occur. <i>Note: Umpires no longer “offer the light” to the batsmen or the “weather” to both captains—rather it is up to the umpires together to decide for themselves whether to continue, commence or suspend play.</i> Conditions are not dangerous merely because they are not ideal but they are dangerous if there is an actual and foreseeable risk to player or umpire safety. Conditions shall be regarded as unreasonable if, despite posing no risk to safety, it would not be sensible to play. Where the umpires together agree that such conditions or circumstances are dangerous or unreasonable, they shall immediately suspend play or not allow play to start or resume. Where there is a suspension of play it is the responsibility of the umpires to monitor conditions and make such inspections as appropriate unaccompanied by any players or officials. Once the umpires together agree that conditions are no longer dangerous or unreasonable, they shall call upon the players to resume.
3	3.13	N	Law 3.13 (Informing the umpires). Where the Laws require the captains or other players to provide information to the umpires, it is sufficient for one umpire to be informed and for him to inform his colleague.
7	7.2	N	Law 7.2 (Fitness of pitch for play). Consistent with the changes to Law 3.8, the umpires are now the sole judges of the fitness of the pitch for play.
12	12.1 (b)	N	Law 12 .1 (Number of innings). Where a match is played under arrangements where there is an agreement to limit any innings to a number of overs or a period of time, that agreement must also include criteria that deal with any result other

			than an outright win or umpires awarding a match (Laws 21.1—21.3). <i>See also Laws 21.4 to 21.5. Note: Unless such agreement is part of the Rules governing the match, the umpires should enquire about these arrangements prior to the toss.</i>
12	12.4	P	Law 12.4 (The toss). The toss must occur in the presence of one or both umpires and per Law 1.3 be undertaken by the captains or by deputies who are nominated players
12	12.5	P	Law 12.5 (Decision to be notified). As soon as the toss is completed the winning captain must notify the other captain and the umpire(s) of his decision to bat or field.
14	14.1	N	Law 14.1 (Time of declaration). A declaration must take place during an innings.
15	15.10	N	Law 15.10 (Agreement to forgo intervals). When play is in progress, the batsmen may deputise for their captain in agreeing to forgo a drinks interval in that session.
17	All	P	Law 17 (Practice on the Field). <i>Note: There are major changes to Law 17 that may involve significant player confusion until they are understood. A discussion of these changes at or prior to the toss with the captains is suggested.</i>
17	17.1	P	Law 17.1 (Practice on the pitch). This Law, which applies throughout each day of the match, has been broadened to prohibit any practice (not just batting or bowling as previously) on the pitch or on either of two strips parallel and immediately adjacent to the pitch on either side of it and of the same dimensions as the pitch. <i>Note: one of those parallel strips could be off the square.</i>
17	17.2	P	Law 17.2 (Practice on the rest of the square). Again this Law has been extended to cover any practice. <i>Note: This is broad enough to cover, for example, catching practice among fielders as they cross the square.</i> The time during which practice is allowed remains as before (after close of play or up to 30 minutes before the scheduled or re-scheduled start of play) but the exception preventing such practice if detrimental to the surface of the square has now become “will significantly impair the surface of the square”.
17	17.3	P	Law 17.3 (Practice on the outfield). There are major new provisions. Previously the only restriction in Law 17 applied where such practice could result in a waste of time (see Law 42.9).Now there is a much more extensive regime: --Any practice before start of play or after the close of play or during meal intervals or between innings is allowed so long as it stops 5 minutes before play starts or resumes and will not cause significant deterioration to the outfield (Law 17.3(a)). --Between the call of Play and the call of Time (Law 17.3(b)): (i) no practice of any kind on the field of play, even from outside the boundary, except by the fielders and the batsmen at the wicket. <i>This is designed to stop fielding practice from the fielding coach, 12th man etc.(Law 17.3(b)(i)).</i> (ii) no bowling or batting practice on the outfield. Bowling a ball, using arm action only, to a player in the outfield is not bowling practice but is subject to (b)(iii) and (c) below. But a bowler deliberately bowling a ball into the ground will contravene Law 42.3 (The match ball—changing its condition)(Law 17.3(b)(ii)). The offender will also be subject to the additional penalty set out in Law 17.4 (Penalty for contravention). (iii) other practice is allowed subject to the restrictions in (i) & (ii) above, either at the fall of a wicket or during other gaps in play for legitimate reasons e.g. moving the sight screen (Law 17.3(b)(iii)). Finally, Law 17.3(c) provides that practice at the fall of a wicket must stop as soon as the incoming batsman steps onto the square and practice during other legitimate gaps in play must not continue beyond the minimum time required for the activity giving rise to the gap. Where these time restrictions are breached, Law 42.9(Time wasting by the fielding side) applies.
17	17.4	P	Law 17.4 (Penalty for contravention). This covers the previous penalty for

			breaching this Law, i.e. that the offending player cannot bowl until the shorter of 1 hour or 30 minutes of playing time has elapsed since the breach. That penalty applies to breaches of Laws 17.1, 17.2, 17.3(b)(i) or (ii). Where the breach is by the bowler mid over, he shall not complete that over. It shall be completed by another bowler who has not bowled and does not bowl all or part of the prior or subsequent over.
17	17.5	P	Law 17.5 (Trial run up). A bowler is allowed a trial run up subject to the provisions of Laws 17.3 and 17.4.
19	19.4	P	Law 19.4 (Ball beyond the boundary). This new Law applies to the taking of catches and the scoring of boundaries <i>.It is well illustrated in the MCC video. It is designed to draw a new line under athletic fielding. Essentially it deals with the extent to which a fielder can retreat beyond the boundary, jump in the air and while totally airborne punch or parry the ball back into the field of play such that thereafter from within the field of play he or another fielder can catch or field the ball.</i> It draws the line by specifying that a ball maybe caught (subject to the other requirements of Law 32) or fielded after it has crossed the boundary provided: -- first contact with the ball is by a fielder (not necessarily the same fielder who makes contact with the ball while outside the boundary) either with some part of his person grounded within the boundary or whose final contact with the ground before touching the ball was within the boundary; and --neither the ball nor any fielder in contact with the ball, touches or is grounded beyond the boundary “ during the act of making the catch or of fielding the ball “(see definition at the end of Law 19.4).
21	21.4	N	Law 21.4 (Matches in which there is an agreement under Law 12.1(b)). In any match for which there is an agreement under Law 12.1(b)--an agreement to limit an innings to a number of overs or a period of time—if the result is not an outright win or by virtue of the umpires awarding the match (Laws 21.1-21.3)—that agreement must specify how that result is to be determined. <i>Note 1: Law 21.5 (All other matches – a Tie or Draw) does not apply to matches for which such an agreements is required. Hence, the agreement must specify what constitutes a tie or draw and, if needed, include a tie breaker rule to achieve an outright winner. Absent those arrangements, such matches in those circumstances will have no result.</i> <i>Note 2: this change has been introduced because MCC got many questions as to who had won a limited over game that ended in a Tie in matches whose Rules or other arrangements failed to address this point.</i>
22	22.5 (b)	N	Law 22.5 (Umpire miscounting). A new subsection (b) has been added to the effect that if, having miscounted, the umpire allows an over to continue after 6 valid balls, he may subsequently call Over as the ball becomes dead after any delivery, even if that delivery is not a valid ball. <i>E.g. if Ball 7 is a No ball an extra ball is not allowed</i>
24	24.5 (b)	P	Law 24.5 (Fair Delivery—the feet). There is an additional requirement for the front foot no ball. That foot must land with some part of it, grounded or raised, on the same side of the imaginary line joining the two middle stumps on the side of the wicket from which the bowler has said he would bowl. <i>Note: under the new Law, slow bowlers, for example, who have said they are bowling over the wicket cannot in effect bowl a valid ball round the wicket by landing their front foot all the way across to the leg side as they bowl from over the wicket—now this will be a No ball.</i>
27	27.8	N	Law 27.8 (Withdrawal of an appeal). Previously, the fielding captain could withdraw an appeal “with the consent of the umpire.” This has been amended so that a withdrawal is only allowed “if he obtains the consent of the umpire”. <i>The onus is on the Captain to obtain consent.</i>
28	28.1	P	Law 28.1 (Wicket put down). The sub-sections of Law 28.1(a) (previously

	(a)		numbered (i) –(iv)) have been re-arranged and expanded to accommodate one substantive change. As revised, the wicket can be put down by any part of the batsman's bat, in hand or not, including a part that has broken off and become detached . <i>See also Law 35.1 (Hit Wicket).</i>
29	29.1	P	Law 29.1 (When out of his ground). The batsman is considered in his ground if having grounded some part of his foot behind the popping crease and still continuing forward momentum, he loses contact with the ground. This change is noted in Law 38.2 (Batsman not Run out). <i>Note: the change does not apply to a batsman who dives into his crease with bat outstretched and grounds only the bat behind the popping crease in circumstances where the bat then bounces in the air as the wicket is broken.</i>
31	31.1 (a)	N	Law 31.1 (Out Timed out). The Timed out Law now expressly applies not only following the fall of a wicket but also following the retirement of a batsman.
32	32.3	N	Law 32.3 (A fair catch). The Law includes a reference to Law 19.4 (Ball beyond the boundary). The definition of the act of making a catch is amended to reflect that new Law. That act starts when the ball in flight comes into contact with some part of a fielder's person other than a protective helmet, and ends, as previously, when a fielder obtains complete control over the ball and his own movement.
37	37.1	N	Law 37.1 (Out Obstructing the field). As previously, the Law applies if while the ball is in play either batsman wilfully, and without a fielder's consent, strikes the ball with his bat or person, other than a hand not holding the bat, after the ball has been touched by a fielder. Words are added immediately following this provision to the effect that it applies whether or not there is any disadvantage to the fielding side.
39	39.1 (a)	N	Law 39.1 (Out Stumped). Reference is included to Law 2.8(c) (Transgression of the Laws by a batsman who has a runner) under which the injured striker is denied the protection of Law 38.2(e) (Batsman not run out). <i>See above re Law 2.8(c)</i>
39	39.3 (a)	N	Law 39.3 (Not out stumped). Law 39.3(a) is new. It provides that the striker will not be out stumped if he has left his ground to avoid injury, when his wicket is put down. This is similar to the Run out provision in Law 38.2(a) (Batsman not Run out).
42	42.3 (a) & (d)	N	Law 42.3 (The match ball—changing its condition). Previously, Law 42.3(a)(iii) allowed the ball to be dried with a towel-- now amended to “ a piece of cloth”. The significant change is in Law 42.3(d), specified the standard for judging ball tampering and moves to an objective test. Previously, the trigger point was “in the event of any fielder changing the condition of the ball”. The amendment reads “if the umpires together agree that the deterioration in the condition of the ball is greater than is consistent with the use it has received”. The sanctions remain unaltered.
42	42.12 (a)	N	Law 42.12 (Bowler running on protected area after delivering the ball). This Law now applies not only to the bowler running onto a protected area after delivering the ball but also to doing likewise if he fails to release the ball after completing his delivery swing or stride.
42	42.14	P	Law 42.14 (Batsmen damaging the pitch). Previously, the batsmen got two warnings—each with different consequences—before the more severe sanctions that flowed from the third offence. As amended, the second warning is eliminated and the first warning is first and final but carries the same consequences as previously. The sanctions attached to what was the third warning now apply to the second and all subsequent offences. Those sanction are: --disallowance of all runs except No ball/Wide; -- the return of the batsmen to their original ends; -- the award of 5 penalty runs to the fielding side;

			--Inform and Report.
42	42.18	N	Law 42.18 (Players' conduct). The amendment makes it clear that breaches of the Spirit of Cricket that give rise to action under Law 42.18 are not confined to the four instances set forth in this Law but extend to any unfair action not covered by the Laws as to which the umpires are the sole judges under Law 42.2 (Fair and unfair play—responsibility of umpires).