



ECB ACO Summary of MCC Law Changes 2017

Introduction and Scope of this Summary:

A new Code of the Laws of Cricket has been approved by the M.C.C. Committee and became effective from 1st October 2017 and includes significant changes to the Laws. This Summary covers the most substantial changes to the Laws and does not include changes involving: ordering, numbering, or re-drafting that does not impact meaning. A number of minor changes unlikely to affect what an umpire does on the field are similarly not included in this Summary. For further information, see the “*MCC Summary of Changes to the Laws of Cricket 2017 Code (April 2017)*” on the MCC web site; the new Blue Laws Book of the 2017 Code and the MCC free on-line e-learning programme .

OVERVIEW OF THE MOST SIGNIFICANT CHANGES

The most significant changes are:

- The new Code of Laws is written in language applying to all persons, regardless of gender.
- The Laws have been re-numbered and re-ordered.
- There has been a change to the Preamble-The Spirit of Cricket.
- The Handled the ball Law has been deleted, with its contents merged into Obstructing the field, reducing the list of dismissals from ten to nine. This will have no effect on *whether* a batsman is dismissed; rather, it is just the method of dismissal that has changed.
- The Lost ball Law has been deleted and is now covered under Dead ball.
- The old Law 2 has been divided into two separate Laws, relating to the batsmen (Law 25) and the fielders (Law 24). These Laws have changed the concept of Penalty time, which starts to accrue immediately when a player leaves the field and which will also now affect when the player may bat.
- Law 5 (The Bat) places limits on the thickness of the edges and the overall depth of the bat. The maximum dimensions will be 108mm in width (unchanged), 67mm in depth with 40mm edges.
- Law 8.3.4 has been inserted, to help prevent injuries, to allow specially designed mechanisms which tether the bails to the stumps, thereby restricting the distance that they can fly off the stumps but without limiting their ability to be dislodged.
- Law 24 (Fielders’ absence; substitutes) now allows a substitute to keep wicket, with the consent of the umpires.
- Law 30 (Batsman out of his/her ground) has been amended to give protection to a running or diving batsman whose bat or person bounces up after having been grounded beyond the popping crease.
- Law 41.6 and 41.7 Beamers and Bouncers: Short-pitched and high full pitched deliveries (now called non-pitching deliveries) are treated separately and the tolerance levels for each have been reduced.
- Law 41.8 now covers the bowling of deliberate front foot No balls, which could result in the bowler being suspended from bowling.
- Law 41.15 now prevents the batsman from taking stance in a position where he/she will inevitably encroach on the protected area.
- Law 41.16 has changed so that the non-striker risks being Run out if he/she leaves his/her ground before the bowler would normally be expected to release the ball.
- Law 42 (Player Conduct) is a new Law which gives an in-match consequence for poor on-field behaviour including, for the most serious offences, temporary or permanent removal from the field of play.

SUBSTANTIAL CHANGES TO EACH LAW:

The Preamble – The Spirit of Cricket

The wording of the Preamble has been amended, principally to emphasise the positive behaviours that make cricket an exciting game that encourages leadership, friendship and teamwork..

LAW 1 – The Players

Law 1.1 (Number of players): If, for any reason, a side is reduced to less than the original number of players, the match shall continue as long as it is possible to do so under the Laws or any agreements made before the toss.

Law 1.3 (Captain): Law 1.3.2:provides that any person associated with the team may now deputise for the captain if he/she is absent for the nomination of the players. This means that a manager, a coach or another player can provide the team sheet to the umpires before the toss. However, after the nomination of the players only a nominated player may deputise for a captain including at the toss (Law 1.3.3).

LAW 2 – The Umpires (previously Law 3)

Before the Toss: Law 2.3 (Consultation with captains):The prior Law listed 4 matters to be agreed by the umpires and the captains at the toss and 2 to be notified by the umpires to the captains. All of these, under the new Laws, are to be determined by the umpires and advised to the captains and now includes agreement regarding the use of covers (see Law 10.2).

GW+L:

Law 2.7 (Fitness for play):Laws 2.7.1 and 2.7.4 provide more clarification of what might constitute unreasonable or dangerous conditions. The fact that the grass and the ball are wet does not warrant the ground conditions being regarded as unreasonable or dangerous. However, 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 dangerous and unreasonable for play to take place.

Law 2.8 (Suspension of play in dangerous or unreasonable circumstances): The most significant change to this Law is in relation to the suspension of play. If one umpire thinks that conditions are dangerous or unreasonable, then play will be suspended or not allowed to start or re-start. Previously, both umpires had to agree to suspend play. Similarly, where there has been a suspension of play, both umpires must agree that conditions are no longer dangerous or unreasonable for play to be resumed. These changes follow a recent court case in the UK. They reflect legal advice received by M.C.C and the GW&L Guidance provided by ECB ACO.

Umpires decisions:

Law 2.11 (Disagreement and dispute): If there is disagreement or dispute about any matter, the umpires together shall make the final decision

Law 2.12 (Umpire's decision): An umpire may now revoke any decision and not just in response to an appeal.

Signals:

Law 2.13.1.3: New signals stemming from Level 3 and Level 4 offences under Law 42 are included.

Law 2.13.2: Multiple signals should be given in the order in which the events occurred.

LAW 4 – The Ball (previously Law 5)

A new ball can be taken after 80 overs (previously it was the number of overs prescribed by the Governing Body but not less than 75 overs).

LAW 5 – The Bat & Appendix B (previously Law 6 & Appendix E)

Law 5.7 (Bat size limits): Under Law 5.7.2, there are now new restrictions on the thickness of the edges of the bat (4.0cm) and its overall depth (6.7cm) and the bat must be able to pass through the bat gauge described in Appendix B.8. Those gauges will be available to umpires.

Law 5.8 (Categories of bat): Under Law 5.8.3 and Appendix B.7, a new category of bat for use in junior cricket has been introduced and includes coloured bats.

LAW 6 – The Pitch (previously Law 7)

Law 6.1 (Area of pitch): When an artificial pitch is adjacent to the turf one being used, and its boundary is within 5 feet of the middle stumps of the turf pitch, there is clarification that the pitch ends at the join between the artificial pitch and the turf pitch. This is needed because a new No ball Law creates a No ball when a ball's first bounce is off the pitch (Law 21.7)

LAW 8 – The Wickets

Law 8.3 (The bails): Tethered Bails: Under Law 8.3.4, specially designed mechanisms which tether the bails to the stumps, thereby restricting the distance that they can travel, are now allowed, subject to the approval of the appropriate Governing Body.

Law 8.4 (Junior Cricket): The length of pitch and the dimensions of stumps and bails for junior cricket shall now be determined by the appropriate Governing Body.

LAW 9 – Preparation and maintenance of the playing area (previously Law 10)

Prior Law 10.1(e) (Insufficient time to complete rolling): is no longer necessary and has been deleted because changes to Laws 11 (Intervals) and 15 (Declaration and Forfeiture) now guarantee that there will be at least 10 minutes between innings and, thus, time to roll.

LAW 10 – Covering the pitch (previously Law 11)

Law 10.2 (During the match): Full covering of the pitch and a minimum of 4ft beyond it at each end, together with bowlers' run ups where possible, is required on each night of the match and in inclement weather during the match, unless determined otherwise at the toss.

Law 10.3 (Removal of covers): In Law 10.3.1, there is a minor amendment confirming that, after the toss in a multi-day match, the covers should be removed as soon as practicable on each day that play is expected to take place.

LAW 11 – Intervals (formerly Law 15)

Law 11.3 (Allowance for interval between innings): If a captain declares the innings closed less than 10 minutes from the end of an interval, other than a drinks interval, or interruption, the next innings will

commence 10 minutes later. This does away with the need for an extra allowance of time for rolling (prior Law 10.1(e))—see above.

Law 11.7: (Lunch or tea interval—9 wickets down):The principle of allowing play to continue for up to 30 mins when 9 wickets are down at the original time for tea has been extended to the lunch interval as well.

LAW 12 – Start of play; cessation of play (formerly Law 16)

Law 12.2 (Call of Time): The revised Law no longer attempts to list every occasion on which Time is to be called, rather it provides for this “*when the ball is dead, at the end of any session of play or as required by the Laws*”

Law 12.5 (Completion of an over): The time when an interval is taken before the agreed time, where a batsman is dismissed or retires or the players leave the field, is extended from 2 minutes to 3 minutes.

Law 12.6 (Last hour of match—number of overs): There is now clarification that, in timed cricket, the time for the close of play does not change if the last hour is called less than 1 hour before the scheduled close of play. For example, if the close of play is 7.00pm, and the last hour is not called until 6.05pm because that’s when the over in progress at 6.00pm ends, the scheduled close of play remains 7.00pm or once the minimum 20 overs have been bowled, whichever is later.

LAW 14 – The follow-on (previously Law 13)

Law 14.2 (Notification): Once notified, the decision to enforce the follow-on cannot be changed.

LAW 15 – Declaration and forfeiture (previously Law 14)

Law 15.3 (Notification): Once notified, the decision to declare or forfeit an innings cannot be changed.

LAW 16 – The Result (previously Law 21)

Law 16.3 (Umpires awarding a match): Umpires can award a match if a captain refuses to remove one of his/her players from the field under Law 42.6.1 which is part of the new Law governing Players’ Conduct.

Law 16.5 (All other matches—a Tie or a Draw):The wording defining a Tie and a Draw has been altered in order to improve the descriptions, clarifying that the Draw is classed as a result, whereas previously it was the failure to get a result.

LAW 18 - Scoring runs

Law 18.1 (A run):The ways in which runs can be scored no longer includes those when Lost ball (prior Law 20) is called as that Lost ball Law has been deleted and is dealt with as a Dead Ball (see new Law 20 below). Similarly prior Law 18.8 (Runs scored off Lost ball) has been deleted.

Law 18.2 (Runs disallowed):

This revised Law begins by stating with great clarity that provisions in the Laws for the scoring of runs or the awarding of penalties are subject to any applicable provisions for the disallowance of runs or the non-award of penalties. As before, with runs “disallowed”, the batsmen are returned to their original ends.

The revised Law then goes on to provide that when runs are “disallowed” (see definition in Appendix A11.1):

- The one run penalty for a No Ball or Wide shall stand;
- 5 penalty runs shall be allowed **except for Penalty runs under Law 28.3 (Protective helmets belonging to the fielding side).**

The substantive change in Law 18.2 arises from the exception to the award of 5 Penalty runs where the ball strikes the unworn fielder’s helmet placed in the position required by Law 28.3.1. Under the new Laws, every time under any Law where runs are “disallowed”, there are no Law 28.3 (Protective helmets belonging to the fielding side) 5 Penalty runs. Under the prior Laws such disallowance only occurred in the case of disallowed leg byes and a lawful second strike under the Hit the ball twice Law.

Under the new Laws there are 8 Laws involving runs “disallowed”:

- Three of these have their origins in the prior Laws: Law 23.3 (Leg byes not to be awarded); Law 28.3 (Protective helmets belonging to the fielding side) and Law 34.4 (Runs permitted from the ball lawfully struck more than once).
- The other Five are other runs “disallowed” Laws: (Law 18.5 (Deliberate short runs); Law 25.6.6 (the Run-out of the injured striker himself which is also covered to in Laws 18.8 and 38.4); new Law 25.7 (Restrictions on the striker’s runner); Law 41.14 (Batsman damaging the pitch); and new Law 41.15 (Striker in the protected area).

In addition Law 41.17 (Batsman stealing a run) while not involving runs “disallowed” expressly prohibits the award of 5 penalty runs under Law 28.3.

Laws 18.6 and 18.9 include a Note on restrictions on the award of penalty runs (all of which involve Law 28.3)—those Notes fail to include all of the occasions identified immediately above.

Law 18.5 (Deliberate Short runs):

The first and final warning has been removed. Immediate penalties apply that are the same as previously save for the impact of the change in Law 18.2 to runs “disallowed”—see above.

Law 18.10 (Crediting of runs scored):

This new Law summarises how runs are credited (including whether or not to the striker) and which runs are debited to the bowler.

It reflects the major change in how runs are scored off a No ball: as before, there is one No ball extra for the fact of a No ball and runs off the bat are credited to the striker. The change involves the scoring of runs **not off the bat** as byes or leg byes, as the case maybe, and not, as before, as no ball extras. So, for example, if a No ball goes for 4 Leg byes, it will be recorded as one No ball extra and 4 Leg byes.

Law 18.12 (Batsman returning to the wicket he/she has left):

There is one addition to this Law in the final sentence of Law 18.12.1 which provides that: “*if runs are disallowed, however, the not out batsman shall return to his/her original end*”—as indeed is the requirement in all cases of runs disallowed.

LAW 19 – Boundaries

Law 19.1.(Determining the boundary of the field of play):The boundary shall be fixed for the duration of the match. Accordingly, sightscreens will now need to have an area marked out which covers every possible position of the sightscreens during play, so that the boundary does not change when the screen is moved.

Law 19.2 (Identifying and marking a boundary): Animals and People on the field of play: Law 19.2.7 provides that an animal or person coming onto the field of play is not regarded as a boundary unless the

umpires determine otherwise, on a case by case basis, at the time they make contact with the ball. This places the onus on the umpires to decide whether or not a boundary would have been scored.

Law 19.5 (Fielder grounded beyond the boundary): There are two significant changes:

- First, a fielder is grounded beyond the boundary if part of that fielder's person is in contact with another fielder who is grounded beyond the boundary **and** the umpires consider that it was the **intention** of either fielder that such contact should assist in the fielding of the ball (law 19.5.1) e.g. a fielder outside the boundary deliberately pushes a fielder otherwise inside the boundary to prevent him/her toppling over the boundary;
- Second, only fielder whose first touch of the ball is from within the boundary, may field the ball (having taken off outside the boundary) whilst airborne beyond the boundary (Law 19.5.2).

Comment: A breach of the first of these changes or a failure to comply with the second, results in a boundary being scored and no catch.

LAW 20 – Dead ball (previously Law 23)

Two Prior Dead Ball Laws deleted:

- First, the ball will no longer become dead if it becomes lodged in the helmet worn by a fielder.
- Second, the Lost ball Law (prior Law 20) has been deleted. If the ball cannot be recovered within the field of play, either umpire calls and signals Dead ball (Law 20.4.2.10) and no extra Penalty runs are awarded as a result as was the case under the prior Law.

Law 20.4 (Umpire calling and signalling Dead ball):

Law 20.4.2.2: Serious injury The word 'possibly' has been inserted so this Law reads: "a **possible serious injury to a player or umpire occurs**", --as the umpires might not know at the time how serious the injury actually is.

Law 20.4.2.11: Other Dead Balls arising under Laws not included in Law 20.4: This is the Law that requires the umpire to call and signal Dead ball under any Laws not included above in Law 20.4. These now include 5 new Laws viz: Laws 21.9; 25.7; 41.15; 41.19 and 42.

Delayed call and signal of Dead Ball: Laws 25.7.2 and 34.4 allow the umpire to delay the call and signal of Dead ball to allow the opportunity for a catch to be taken. Laws 41.19 and 42.1.2 allow such call and signal to be delayed to avoid disadvantaging the non-offending side.

LAW 21 – No ball (previously Law 24)

Law 21.1 (Mode of delivery): Underarm bowling is not allowed other than by agreement before the match (Law 21.1.2).

Law 21.3 (Ball thrown or delivered underarm—action by umpires): Although the previous Law disallowed underarm bowling, there was no penalty for it, so the new Law introduces a penalty which is the same as that for a thrown delivery. As a result Law 21.3 now covers both "throwing" and illegal underarm bowling. The caution under the prior Laws has been deleted, so the first offence draws a first and final warning and any subsequent offence receives the same drastic sanction as before.

Law 21.6 (Bowler breaking the wicket in delivering the ball): The breaking of the wicket now includes that occurring as a result of any clothing or object falling from the bowler.

Law 21.7 (Ball bouncing more than once, rolling along the ground or pitching off the pitch): It is now a No ball if the ball:

- bounces more than **once** before reaching the popping crease or
- pitches wholly or partially off the pitch before it reaches the line of the striker's wicket. Where a non-turf pitch is being used this will apply to any ball that pitches wholly or partially off the artificial surface. (see also Law 6.1)

Law 21.9 (Fielder intercepting a delivery): If, except in the circumstances of Law 27.3 (Position of wicket-keeper), a ball delivered by a bowler makes contact with a fielder **before** it either touches the striker or his bat or it passes the striker's wicket, the umpire shall call and signal No ball and then immediately call and signal Dead ball.

Law 21.10 (Ball bouncing over- head height of striker): This has always been a No ball and this element of the sanction has simply been moved to into Law 21 (No ball). The remaining sanctions, if applicable, are dealt with in Law 41.6 (Bowling of dangerous and unfair short pitched deliveries).

Law 21.11 (Call of No ball for infringement of other Laws): The list of other No balls not set out in Law 21 now includes reference to new Law 41.8 (Bowling of deliberate front foot No Ball)—see below

Law 21.12 (Revoking a call of No ball): The list of occasions on which the umpire is to revoke his call of No ball now includes Laws 20.4.2.4 to 20.4.2.9

Law 21.16 (Runs resulting from a No ball—how scored): See Law 18.10 above. Runs not off the bat are now scored, in addition to the One run No ball extra, as byes or leg byes as the case may be.

Law 21.18 (Out from a No ball): Handled the ball (prior Law 33) has been absorbed into Obstructing the field (Law 37) and thus this is no longer one of the ways of being out from a No ball-- but the same behaviour will result in being out Obstructing the field from a No ball.

LAW 22 – Wide ball (previously Law 25)

Law 22.2 (Call and signal of Wide ball): A Wide is considered to have been bowled at instant that the bowler enters his/her delivery stride (under the prior Laws this was from the instant of delivery). As a result, a Wide will occur before the time frame within which Hit Wicket can occur.

Law 22.3 (Revoking a call of Wide ball): Such a call is to be revoked "*if there is then any contact between the ball and the striker's bat or person **before the ball comes into contact with any fielder***" The New Laws add the words in bold in order to avoid the need to revoke a call where a fielder fields the ball and the ball then hits the striker as, for example, where a Run out is attempted.

LAW 23 – Bye and Leg Bye (previously Law 26)

Law 23.1 (Byes): Under the prior Laws byes could not be scored off a No ball. Now (see Law 18.10 above), they can and are.

Law 23.2 (Leg byes): Under the prior Laws, Leg byes could not be scored off a No ball. Now (see Law 18.10 above), they can and are.

Law 23.3 (Leg byes not to be awarded): Under the prior Laws, no runs were scored by the batting side where Leg byes were disallowed except One No ball extra if there was a No ball. Specifically, the batting

side got no other award of penalties. Under the New Laws all runs are “disallowed” (see Law 18.2), One No ball extra is scored for any No ball and any other applicable Penalty runs are awarded except those under Law 28.3 (Protective helmets belonging to the fielding side)

LAW 24 – Fielder’s absence; substitutes (previously part of Law 2)

Introduction:

Law 24 includes and substantially alters those parts of prior Law 2 dealing only with substitute fielders, fielders absent or leaving the field of play and a player returning to the field without permission. The rest of prior Law 2 has been moved to new Law 25 (Batsman’s Innings; Runners).

Law 24.1 Substitute fielders:

When will the umpires allow a substitute fielder? (Law 24.1): The test is substantially the same as before—where a fielder has been injured or become ill after the toss or for any other wholly acceptable reason, but in no other circumstances.

What can a substitute do or not do? (Law 24.1.2): As before, the substitute may not bowl or act as captain but, unlike the prior Laws, may act as wicket-keeper with the umpires’ consent. However, if the wicket-keeper is suspended for a Level 3 or 4 offence, no substitute can keep wicket (Law 42.7.1).

Can the injured fielder for whom a substitute has acted return to bowl or field? (Law 24.1.3): As before, yes with limitations as to when he/she can bowl (Laws 24.2-24.3) and subject to suspensions under Levels 3 and 4 of Law 42.

Law 24.2 Fielder absent or leaving the field of play:

Fielder briefly outside the boundary (Law 24.2.1): Under the prior Laws (and the new Laws, A7.3) the definition of Fielder includes a provision that a fielder going briefly outside the boundary in carrying out his duties is not absent from the field of play nor to be regarded as having left the field. That provision is now also included as Law 24.2.1.

Fielder absence from the field of play (Law 24.2.2): Where a fielder fails to take the field at the start of play or at any later time or leaves the field during play, the following 3 provisos apply (the first 2 of which are unchanged and the third of which has been substantially changed):

- First, an umpire must be informed of the reason for the absence;
- Second, he/she shall not return during play without consent of the umpire which shall be given as soon as practical;
- Third, he/she shall not bowl until being back on the field for a period of time known as Penalty time (hereafter “PT”) as per Laws 24.2.3 to 24.2.7 and 24.3 (Penalty time not incurred)—under the new Laws each period of absence of less than 15 minutes is no longer ignored. Note: PT for absences is only incurred for absences during Playing Time (defined in A1.7 as between the calls of Play and Time).

Maximum amount of unserved PT (Law 24.2.3): 90 minutes cumulative—a new concept

Unserved PT is cumulative and carried forward (Laws 24.2.4, 24.2.5 and 24.2.7): Where a player leaves the field without having served all his PT, the balance is carried forward. With any absence the amount of PT for which the player is off the field is added to any PT that remains unserved, subject to the 90 minute

maximum. Any unserved PT is carried forward to the next and subsequent days and innings of the match—under the new Laws unserved PT impacts when the player can bat (see Law 25).

Impact of unserved PT on player's ability to bowl (Law 24.2.5): A player shall not bowl until all his PT has been served.

Impact of an unscheduled break (Law 24.2.6): Where there is an unscheduled break in play, the stoppage time **shall count as PT served**, provided that:

- The fielder (with unserved PT) was on the field at the start of that break and either takes to the field on the resumption of play or his/her side is now batting; or
- The fielder who was already off the field at the start of the break notifies the umpire as soon as he/she is able to participate and either takes to the field on the resumption of play or his/her side is now batting. Stoppage time before such notification does not count towards unserved PT.

Impact of Level 3 Offence under Law 42.4 committed by a fielder (Law 24.2.8): The period of time spent off the field as a result of the suspension is not added to any unserved PT if the fielder takes the field at the end of the suspension.

Impact of a Level 3 Offence under Law 42.4 committed by a substitute (Law 24.2.9):

- The period of time spent off the field as a result of the suspension is not added to any unserved PT if the nominated player (for whom that substitute was fielding) takes the field at the end of the suspension. But any time spent off the field by that player prior to the offence causing the suspension is unserved PT subject to the 90 minute maximum;
- If the nominated player (for whom that substitute was fielding) does not take the field at the end of the suspension, then the entire period of his/her absence is treated as PT subject to the 90 minute maximum.

Law 24.3 Penalty time not incurred:

A nominated player's absence will not incur PT if:

- He/she has suffered an external blow "*during the match*" (see definition A1.6) and, as a result, has justifiably left the field or is unable to field; or
- In the opinion of the umpires, the player has been absent or left the field for other wholly acceptable reasons (excluding illness or internal injury).

Law 24.4 Player returning without permission:

This Law is the same as prior Law 2.6 and is one of two forms of illegal fielding (the other is Law 28.2—see below) and subject to the same sanctions

LAW 25 – Batsman’s innings; Runners (previously part of Law 2)

Introduction:

Law 25 includes and substantially alters those parts of prior Law 2 that deal only with the batsman, his/her retirement and runners. The rest of prior Law 2 has been moved to new Law 24 (Fielder’s absences and substitutes)—see above.

Law 25.1 Eligibility to act as a batsman or runner:

Only a nominated player may bat or act as a runner and, subject to the restrictions and requirements of Laws 25.3 and 25.5.2, can do so even though a substitute fielder previously acted for him/her.

Law 25.2 Commencement of a batsman’s innings:

There is no substantive change to this Law but the new restrictions increase its importance.

Law 25.3 Restrictions on batsman commencing an innings:

Origins of these restrictions: This Law is entirely new and arises from unserved Penalty time (hereafter “PT”) being carried over under Law 24. Note: While his/her team is batting, no member of that team can incur PT but a batsman may discharge unserved PT carried forward to that innings.

When can a player with unserved PT bat or act as a runner? (Law 25.3.1): The earlier of: (i) once that PT has been served; or (ii) for a batsman, the fall of the 5th wicket.

How is a batsman’s PT served ? (Law 25.3.2): During Playing time (defined in A1.7 as between the calls of Play and Time) i.e. while waiting to bat, while batting or after the batsman is dismissed until the end of his/her Team’s innings, but:

- Time while serving a Level 3 suspension does not count as PT served; and
- If there is an unscheduled stoppage, the stoppage time after the batsman notifies an umpire that he/she is ready to participate, counts as PT served.

What happens to unserved PT remaining at the end of a team’s innings? (Law 25.3.3): It is carried forward.

Law 24 and 25 PT Calculations: See the example on the MCC e-learning web site.

Law 25.4 Batsman retiring:

There are no changes to the arrangements governing when a batsman may retire, whether and when he/she may bat again and how his innings is recorded if he/she does not bat again.

Law 25.3 Runners:

When is a runner allowed? (Law 25.1): There is a new test and it is different to that for a fielder’s substitute. A runner is only allowed if a batsman **has sustained an injury** during the match (see A.1.6) **that affects his/her ability to run** and in no other circumstances.

What requirements must a runner satisfy? (Law 25.5.2):

- Be a member of the batting side (as previously);
- If possible have already batted in that innings (as previously) but if not, once a dismissed batsman can act as runner, that change must be made immediately (new);
- Be changed only with the umpires’ consent (new);

- Wear the same external protective equipment as the injured striker and carry a bat (as previously);
- Not have any unserved PT (new).

What Laws govern a runner? (Law 25.5.3): As before, all the Laws govern a runner and the runner is regarded as a batsman except where there are special provisions for his/her role as a runner. See Law 30.2.

Law 25.6 Dismissal and conduct of a batsman and his/her runner:

This Law is a much clearer re-write of prior Law 2.8 (Transgression of Laws by a batsman who has a runner). The only substantive change is that one of the requirements for Stumped—the striker has not attempted a run—is, under the new Laws, now the same requirement for an injured striker (and not that of prior Law 2.8(e)(ii)). However, one point, although unchanged is worth clarifying:

Consequences of the Injured striker **himself** (as opposed to his runner) being Run out (Law 25.6.6)

While the drafting of Law 25.6.6 fails to emphasise “**himself**”, it is clear from other references in the Laws (e.g. Law 18.8.2) that this is what it means. The consequences are:

- Runs “disallowed” (see Law 18.2);
- Return any not out batsman to his/her original end;
- Signal No ball or Wide if applicable; and
- Award any 5-run Penalty that is applicable except under Law 28.3.2

Law 25.7 Restrictions on the striker’s runner (a new Law)

Law 25.7.1: When an injured batsman with a runner is on strike the runner must have some part of his/her person or bat behind the popping crease from the time the ball comes in to play until the ball reaches the striker or passes the popping crease, whichever is the sooner.

Law 27.2: Sanctions for a breach of Law 25.7.1:

If the ball does not become dead for any other reason, the striker’s end umpire will call and signal Dead ball upon the ball reaching the boundary or completion of the first run (but shall delay the call to allow an opportunity for a catch to be taken) and the bowler’s umpire then:

- Disallows all runs to the batting side (see Law 18.2)
- Return any not out batsman to his/her original end
- Award any 5-Penalty runs that are applicable except under Law 28.3.

LAW 26 – Practice on the field (previously Law 17)

Law 26.1 (Practice on the pitch or the rest of the square): There must not be any practice anywhere on the square on any day of the match without the permission of the umpires, and not on the match pitch at all.

Law 26.2 (Practice on the outfield):

Such practice is allowed before the start of play, after the close of play and during lunch, tea and intervals between innings providing the umpires are satisfied it will not cause significant deterioration of the outfield (Law 26.2.1)

Practice on the outfield is allowed between the call of ‘Play and the call of ‘Time’ provided (Law 26.2.2):

- Only the fielders as defined in Appendix A.7 take part
- Only the match ball is used (as was the case under the prior Laws)

- Bowling practice does not take place in the area between the square and the boundary in a direction parallel to the match pitch
- It does not damage the ball (per Law 41.3) (as per prior Laws)
- It does not waste time (per Law 41.9) (as per prior Law)

Law 26.3 (Trial run-up):

There is no change to the prior Law and a trial run up is allowed so long as it does not involve time wasting (Law 41.9) or fielder damaging the pitch (Law 41.12)

Law 26.4 (Penalties for contravention): As before, all forms of practice are subject to:

- Law 41.3 (The match ball—changing its condition);
- Law 41.9 (Time Wasting by the fielding side); and
- Law 41.12 (Fielder damaging the pitch)
-

In addition, if there is a contravention of Laws 26.1 or 26.2, the umpires will issue a first and final warning. This is a ‘team’ warning. If there is a further instance during the match the umpires shall award 5 penalty runs to the opposing side and Report.

LAW 28 – The fielder (previously Law 41)

Law 28.2 (Fielding the ball):

The sanctions for illegal fielding remain unchanged. There are two significant additions to what constitutes illegal fielding (i.e. wilfully fielding the ball other than with any part of a fielder’s “person” per the definition in A12)). This Law now expressly prohibits:

- First, wilfully extending a fielder’s clothing with his/her hands and using this to field the ball (Law 28.2.1); and
- Second, wilfully discarding a piece of clothing, equipment or other object which subsequently makes contact with the ball (Law 28.2.1.3). Note: this excludes a situation where such items fall off accidentally (Law 28.2.2)

The second leg of the above would include a ball touching an unworn fielder’s helmet placed on the ground other than in a position to that required by Law 28.3.1 (see below)

Law 28.3 (Protective helmets belonging to the fielding side):

As under the prior Laws, Law 28.3.1 provides that the unworn helmet may not be placed on the ground above the surface except behind the wicket-keeper and in line with both sets of stumps.

However, the remaining provisions of Law 28.3 (as to which see below) only apply where the unworn helmet **is placed in this required position**, whereas the prior Laws they applied wherever the helmet was placed within the field of play. As a result, under the new Laws where the unworn helmet is placed other than as required by Law 28.3.1, and the ball while in play touches that helmet, Law 28.3 does not apply but Law 28.2 (see above) does.

As noted, the rest of Law 28.3 goes onto to deal with what happens where the ball strikes an unworn helmet **so placed:**

- First, where this happens in circumstances where Law 23.3 (Leg byes not to be awarded) and Law 34.4 (Hit the ball twice) do **not** apply – the consequences are the same as under the prior Laws and,

- Second, where this happens in circumstances where Law 23.3 (Leg byes not to be awarded) and Law 34.4 (Hit the ball twice) **do apply**, the consequences are as follows: first Runs are “disallowed” (with the result that Law 18.2 applies); second, awards of applicable 5 Penalty runs are made except for the ball striking the unworn fielders helmet.

The result is the following two changes in Law: (i) the prior Law disallowed the award of **all** 5 Penalty runs to the batting side; and (ii) because runs are “disallowed”, there are 5 other Laws involving runs “disallowed” in which there will be no penalty runs where the ball strikes an unworn helmet **so placed** and one Law (41.17) that expressly excludes the award of any 5 Penalty runs under Law 28.3 (see discussion above re Law 18.2).

LAW 30 – Batsman out of his/her ground (previously Law 29)

LAW 30.1 (When out of his/her ground):

Law 30.1.2: A batsman shall not be considered to be out of his/her ground if: (1) in running or diving towards his/her ground, he/she grounds the bat or any other part of his/her person within his/her ground and (2) there is a subsequent loss of contact **either** between the ground and any part of his/her person or bat; **or** between the bat and the person (e.g. the bat is dropped), (3) **the batsman has continued forward momentum**. Where these three requirements are met, the batsman will be protected from being Run out or stumped. Note: the requirement for the batsman to be diving back into his/her ground is intended to preserve a stumping, as before, where the striker lowers his/her raised heel that had been grounded at one stage within the popping crease but not at the moment the wicket-keeper fairly put down the wicket.

LAW 31 – Appeals (previously Law 27)

Law 31.7 (Batsman leaving the wicket under a misapprehension) and Law 31.8 (Withdrawal of an appeal):

An appeal can be withdrawn or a batsman recalled anytime up to the ball becoming live for the next delivery, or, if innings is completed, before the umpires leave the field.

LAW 33– Caught (previously Law 32)

Overview: The caught and boundary Laws have been disentangled. Once a ball is a boundary, the ball is dead and no catch can occur so the new Laws impacting fielding close to or beyond the boundary (Law 19.5 (Fielder grounded beyond the boundary)) preclude any catch where their provisions result in a boundary—see above.

Athletic Boundary Fielding The combined effect of Laws 19.5 (Fielder grounded beyond the boundary) and Law 33.2 (A fair catch) is that: if more than one fielder makes contact with the ball the fielder(s) must either:

- be grounded within the boundary; or
- before making airborne contact with the ball after taking off from outside the boundary that fielder’s last contact with the ball must have been from within the boundary.

Note: Under the prior Laws a fielder behind the boundary could jump up and, while air borne, parry the ball back into play so long as prior to that happening a fielder (i.e any fielder, as opposed to the one jumping up behind the boundary) had touched the ball from within the field of play first). That is no longer possible—the fielder who jumps up beyond the boundary to parry the ball must be a fielder who had had prior contact with the ball from within the boundary.

Law 33.2 (A fair catch): Law 33.2.2.3: provides that a catch can now be taken after the ball has touched a runner or the wicket (in addition to, as before, an umpire, another fielder or the other batsman).

Fielder's worn helmets: The worn helmet of a fielder (including the wicket-keeper) are now fully part of his/her person with no exceptions with the result that a catch (stumping or Run out) can now occur after the ball has touched or lodged in such a worn helmet.

LAW 34 – Hit the ball twice

Law 34.4 (Runs permitted from ball lawfully struck more than once):

All runs are disallowed (see Law 18.2). One No ball extra for any No ball plus Penalty runs except where the ball strikes an unworn fielder's helmet positioned as per Law 28.3.

Dead ball called and signalled upon the earlier of the ball crossing the boundary or completion of the first run with discretion for the umpire to delay doing that to allow the opportunity for a catch.

LAW 36 – Leg before wicket

Law 36.2 (Interception of the ball): If the ball strikes the bat and the batsman's person simultaneously then it will be considered to have struck the bat first and therefore not considered for LBW.

LAW 37 – Obstructing the field

Law 37.1 (Out Obstructing the field): Law 37.1.2 now includes the previous Handled the ball Law which has been deleted as a separate method of dismissal—the same behaviour as before is now Obstructing the field.

LAW 38 – Run out

Fielder's worn helmets: The worn helmet of a fielder (including the wicket-keeper) are now fully part of his/her person with no exceptions with the result that a Run out (stumping or catch) can now occur after the ball has touched, rebounded from or lodged in such a worn helmet.

Run out of the injured striker or his/her runner: See Law 25.6.above

LAW 39 – Stumped

Wicket-Keeper's worn helmet: The worn helmet of a wicket-keeper is now fully part of his/her person with no exceptions with the result that a stumping (Run out or catch) can now occur after the ball rebounds off such a worn helmet (or touches or becomes lodged in it).

Stumping of the Injured Striker: See Law 25.6 and note that one of the requirements for a stumping—the striker has not attempted a run—is now the same for injured strikers with a runner as for uninjured ones

LAW 41 – Fair and unfair play (previously Law 42)

Law 41.3 (The match ball—changing its condition):

Overview: This Law has been strengthened. Under Law 41.3.3, any action by a player that does not comply with what's allowed by Law 41.3.2 is prohibited.

Law 41.3.1: In addition to 'frequent and irregular inspections of the ball' the umpires shall immediately inspect the ball if they suspect anyone of attempting to change the condition of the ball, except as permitted in Law 41.3.2.

Law 41.3.2: Specifies what players may do to the ball and includes the previous arrangements for polishing the ball and removing mud. In addition, it provides that any cloth used to dry the ball must be approved by the umpire (Law 42.3.2.3). Except in carrying out his normal duties, a batsman must not wilfully damage the ball.

Law 41.3.4: If the umpires consider that the condition of the ball has been unfairly changed by either side then the opposition will have the right to decide whether or not the ball should be changed. Penalties remain the same except that, for a second offence by the fielding side, the bowler who bowled the immediately preceding ball shall not be allowed to bowl again in the match (previously the innings).

Law 41.4 (Deliberate attempt to distract the striker)

As before this Law covers a deliberate attempt to distract the striker before or when he/she receives a delivery. The only change is the deletion of the first and final warning with the result that there are immediate sanctions involving the award of 5 penalty runs plus Inform and Report.

Law 41.5 (Deliberate distraction, deception or obstruction of batsman)

Deliberate distraction or obstruction of either batsman after receiving the ball, has been extended to include any attempt to **deceive** either batsman. This would include any 'mock fielding' where a fielder feigns to field or throw the ball in an attempt to prevent the batsmen running.

The sanctions remain the same as before save that Law 41.5.5 provides that where the obstruction involves physical contact, the umpires are to consider whether a Law 42 offence has been committed and if so are to apply the relevant procedures of Law 42 as well as those parts of Law 41.5's sanctions as specified in Laws 41.5.4 and 41.5.7 to 41.5.9.

Law 41.6 (Bowling of dangerous and unfair short pitched deliveries) and Law 41.7 (Bowling of dangerous and unfair non-pitching deliveries):

Beamers and Bouncers: Short-pitched and high full-pitched deliveries (now called non-pitching deliveries) are now treated **separately** Laws 41.6.5 & 41.7.3) and the tolerance levels for each have been reduced.

The sanctions are the same for each category and are;

- 1st offence: No ball, first & final warning
- 2nd offence: No ball, suspend bowler for rest of innings, report

See Laws 41.6.3 & 41.6.4 (bouncers) and 41.7.1 & 41.7.2 (accidental beamers)

Body Bouncers (Law 41.6.1 and 41.6.3): For bouncers aimed at the body or the head the test of what is dangerous is the same as previously save that the need for repetition has been removed. As a result, as soon as the umpire decides the delivery is dangerous sanctions (see above) shall be invoked.

Bouncers above head height of the striker standing upright in the popping crease: (Law 41.6.2 and 41.6.3): The umpire may consider the **repeated** bowling of above head high bouncers although not dangerous to be unfair. Where considered unfair (or dangerous) sanctions shall be invoked (see above).

Beamers (Law 41.7): All non-pitching deliveries (beamers) which pass or would have passed above waist height of the batsman standing upright in the crease are now considered dangerous and unfair regardless of pace. Sanctions for accidental beamers are as above. Sanctions for deliberate beamers remain unchanged.

Law 41.8 (Bowling of deliberate front foot no balls)

A new offence of bowling a deliberate front foot No ball has been introduced and the sanction is the same as for a deliberate high non-pitching delivery (beamer).

Definition of avoidable damage to the pitch (Law 41.12.1):

A batsman or fielder will be deemed to be causing avoidable damage to the pitch if either umpire considers that his/her presence on the pitch is without reasonable cause.

Law 41.14 (Batsman damaging the pitch):

As before, this Law covers the batsman causing deliberate or avoidable damage to the pitch but involves two changes:

- First, the protected area has been specifically added to the Law: *“ If the striker enters the protected area in playing or playing at the ball, he/she must move from it immediately thereafter.”*
- Second, where the striker infringes new Law 41.15 (Striker in protected area), that Law shall be invoked.

Law 41.15 (Striker in protected area):

This new Law provides: *“The striker shall not adopt a stance in the protected area or so close to it that frequent encroachment is inevitable. The striker may mark his guard on the pitch provided that no mark is unreasonably close to the protected area”* (Law 41.15.1)

Law 41.15.2 and 41.15.3: Sanctions for breach of Law 41.15:1:

- If the bowler has not entered his delivery stride, the umpire calls and signals Dead ball;
- Otherwise, the umpire waits until the ball is dead and then gives the striker a first and final warning (Team Offence) which applies throughout the innings and Informs (including incoming batsmen)
- Second and subsequent offences result in runs “disallowed” (see Law 18.2); return of batsman to his/her original end; signals for No ball or Wide if applicable; award of any 5 Penalty runs (except under Law 28.3); and Inform and Report..

Law 41.16 (Non-striker leaving his/her ground early):

The prior Law was named ‘Bowler attempting to run out non-striker before delivery’ and has been re-named as above to put the onus on the non-striker to remain in his/her ground. The point at which the bowler can attempt to run out the non-striker has been extended to the moment at which the bowler would normally have been expected to release the ball.

Law 41.19 (Unfair actions):

Overview: This is a new Law that takes into account new Law 42 (Players’ Conduct). Law 41.19 only applies where to actions by the players not covered by the Laws and, thus, does not apply to such actions covered by new Law 42.

Dead ball (Law 41.19.1): Each time the Law is invoked, the umpire calls and signals Dead ball (and can delay that signal to avoid disadvantaging the non-offending side).

Sanctions for a first Offence (Law 41.19.1.1): The bowler’s umpire:

- Summons the offending player's captain, issues a first and final warning that applies to all members of his Team for the rest of the match;
- Warns that captain that any further offence will result in the award of 5 Penalty runs;
- Reports (Law 41.19.1.3)

Sanctions for a second of subsequent offence: The bowler's umpire:

- Awards 5 Penalty runs (Law 41.19.1.2);
- Reports (Law 41.19.1.3)

LAW 42 – Player conduct

Law 42 is entirely new: It is described in the attached ECB ACO Law 42 Guidance Flow Chart which sets out the 4 different Levels of Offence and the process to be followed. Some of the details involved in what happens to fielders, batsmen or bowlers suspended under Levels 3 or 4 are omitted from that card (see Sections 42.4.2.3.3 to 42.4.2.3.6 and 42.5.2.3.1 to 42.5.2.3.3). Further, Laws 42.6 and 42.7 are not included in that Guidance and are, thus, summarised below.

Law 42.6: Captain refusing to remove a player from the field:

Law 42.6.1: Refusal by only one Captain: If a captain refuses to remove a player from the field as directed so to do by the umpires for a Level 3 or 4 Offence, the umpires invoke Law 16.3 (Umpires awarding a match).

Law 42.6.2: Refusal by both captains: If both captains refuse to remove a player from the field as directed so to do by the umpires for a Level 3 or 4 Offence in respect of the same incident, the umpire shall instruct the players to leave the field. The match is not concluded as in Law 12.9 and there shall be no result under Law 16.

Law 42.7 Additional points relating to Level 3 and 4 Offences:

Law 42.7.1: Impact of where the wicket-keeper, while acting as such, commits a Level 3 or 4 Offence: Another nominated player must keep wicket. No substitute, whether on the field at the time of suspension or later, may keep wicket.

Law 42.7.2: Impact on a nominated player who has a substitute or runner acting for him/her: If that substitute or runner commits a Level 3 or 4 Offence, the Nominated Player suffers the same penalty except that only the substitute/runner is Reported.

APPENDICES A to E OF THE 2017 CODE OF LAWS

APPENDIX A: Definitions and Explanations of Words or Phrases not defined in the Text (prior Laws Appendix D)

As with the prior Laws there are many words and phrases that are used in the Laws but only defined in this Appendix. An understanding of these is crucial to the correct interpretation of the Laws. Some are defined in a way that the expression suggests otherwise. For example, A1.6 “During the match”; A1.7 “Playing time”; A2.6 “Held in a batsman’s hand” means contact between a batsman’s hand, or glove worn on his/her hand and any part of the bat—so merely touching the bat with such hand or glove is enough. Others are an integral part of many Laws (or other definitions), for example: A2.3 “A protective helmet”; A.2.4 “Equipment”; A2.5 “The bat”; A7.3 “Fielder”; A12.1 “Person”; A12.2 “Clothing”; A12.3 “Hand”.

This new Definitions section is now very well organised under a series of lettered headings starting with A1 The match. There are a significant number of Definitions that have been added for the first time and a number of definitions in the prior Laws that include material amendments. The Summary does not include details of these changes.

APPENDIX B: The bat (Law 5) (Previously Law 6 and Appendix E)

There have been major changes to both the Appendix and to new Law 5, some of which are discussed above under Law 5. Detail has been moved between the prior Appendix and the prior Law. There is new detail and changed detail and a new Bat Gauge (see B.8)

APPENDIX C: Laws 6 (The pitch) and Law 7 (The creases) (Previously Laws 7 and 9 and Appendix B)

This Appendix contains no changes from previous Appendix B.

APPENDIX D: Law 8 (The Wickets) (prior Law 8 and Appendix C)

This Appendix contains no changes from previous Appendix C save for the deletion of the requirements for Junior cricket; expressing parts of inches as decimals rather than fractions and rounding 3.49cm up to 3.50 cm.

APPENDIX E Wicket-Keeper’s Gloves (Law 27.2) (Previously Law 40.2 and Appendix C)

This Appendix contains no changes from previous Appendix C.