

## **KEY LAW CHANGES FOR PLAYERS**

### **Law 5 – The Bat**

There are now restrictions on the thickness of the bat and the overall depth, but there is a moratorium before introducing this Law into recreational cricket.

### **Law 21 – Ball Bouncing More Than Once**

It is now a No ball if the ball bounces more than once before reaching the popping crease, or if it pitches, wholly or partly, off the pitch. Junior cricket regulations may permit two.

### **Law 24 – Fielder’s Absence; Substitutes**

A substitute may now act as wicketkeeper, providing the umpires give their permission.

If a fielder fails to take the field at the start of play or at any other time, or leaves the field during play for any reason other than an injury caused by an external blow, then he/she shall start to incur ‘penalty time’ and will not be allowed to bowl until he/she has been back on the field for a period at least equal to the period of absence. Any unserved ‘penalty time’ will carry over into a subsequent innings, meaning that the player will not be able to bat until all his/her penalty time has elapsed. The one exception to this restriction is that a player will be allowed to bat if his/her team has lost a minimum of five wickets.

### **Law 25 – Runners**

A runner acting for an injured batsman must remain behind the popping crease until the ball reaches the striker or passes the popping crease. If a runner is in breach of this then the umpire at striker’s end will follow the procedure for Illegal Leg Byes.

### **Law 33 – Caught & Law 39 – Stumped**

Helmets worn on the head are now in play for caught or stumped.

### **Law 41.5 – Deliberate Obstruction of Batsman**

This 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, or where a fielder feigns not to have

fielded the ball in an attempt to deceive the batsmen into running and effect a run out. The penalty for this is the immediate award of five penalty runs to the batting side and report.

### **Law 41.6 & 7 – Bouncers and Beamers**

Dangerous and unfair bowling has been split to differentiate between bouncers and beamers. The need for ‘repetition’ when dealing with bouncers has been removed and it is now possible to invoke the procedure of No ball and warning after only one such dangerous delivery, but only in ECB competitions.

A beamer is now deemed to be dangerous, regardless of the pace of the delivery, in all cricket.

### **Law 41.15 – Striker in Protected Area**

The striker shall not be allowed to adopt a stance in the protected area or be so close to it that encroachment is inevitable when playing a shot. This does not prevent the striker advancing into the protected area to play a shot.

### **Law 41.16 – Non-striker Leaving Ground Early**

The emphasis has been changed to put the onus on the non-striker to remain in their ground until the bowler would normally be expected to deliver the ball. It is now possible for the bowler to run out the non-striker up to that point, with no warning required.

### **Law 42 – Player Conduct**

This is a new Law introducing on-field sanctions for unacceptable player conduct. This is split into four levels with sanctions ranging from a warning for a Level 1 offence through to directing the captain to remove an offending player from the field for the remainder of the match. All levels of offence carry mandatory reporting in addition to the on-field punishment.