

Concussion Replacement Regulations

1 These Concussion Replacement Regulations (the "Regulations") apply in relation to actual or suspected concussion injuries only. They should be read in conjunction with the ECB Concussion Guidelines (as published and amended from time to time) and apply in conjunction with the Playing Conditions for the relevant ECB competition.

2 The following definitions shall apply in these Regulations:

2.1 "Appropriate Medical Professional" means the most appropriate medically qualified person available at the relevant Match.

2.2 "Concussed Player" means a player for whom a formal notification has been made in accordance with Regulation 7.1.

2.3 "Concussion Replacement" means a player who has been formally nominated to replace a Concussed Player in accordance with Regulation 7.6, who must meet the relevant eligibility and/or registration requirements that apply to the Match.

2.4 "Match" shall have the meaning in Regulation 3.1.

2.5 "Member" shall mean the Member (as defined in the ECB Cricket Discipline Commission Regulations) which is responsible for the relevant Team

2.6 "Participant" shall have the meaning specified in the ECB Directives.

2.7 "Team" means any team competing in any Match.

3 Jurisdiction

3.1 These Regulations shall only apply to the following ECB competitions/matches: -

(i) County Championship

(ii) Royal London One-Day Cup

(iii) Vitality Blast

(iv) The Men's Hundred and The Women's Hundred

(v) First Class County v MCC University matches

(vi) Second XI Championship

(vii) Second XI T20

(viii) Second XI Friendlies

(ix) Tour matches and matches involving England Lions/England U19

(x) Women's Elite Domestic Structure Senior Competition

3.2 These Regulations shall apply from the nomination of teams prior to the relevant Match until the conclusion of the relevant Match, but will also apply in the case of any player or umpire who has suffered a head trauma prior to the nomination of teams but whose concussion symptoms only present after such nomination.

4 Each Team must ensure that it has an appropriately qualified medical professional who is capable of diagnosing and managing concussion present at the Match, who shall be the Appropriate Medical Professional for that Team.

5 Failure by any Member (in respect of its Team or otherwise) or any Participant to comply with any of these Regulations may be referred to the Cricket Discipline Commission. However, this shall not exclude the possibility of a complaint being made to or action taken by any other body, such as the relevant professional body of a medical professional.

6 Concussion or Head Trauma Assessment

6.1 If a player or umpire suffers a head trauma or the concussion of a player or umpire is suspected by an umpire, team-mate, team support staff or qualified medical professional (either immediately after a head or neck trauma or at any later time during play), play in that Match shall cease immediately and the Appropriate Medical Professional shall be asked to enter the field of play to conduct an initial concussion assessment in accordance with the ECB Concussion Guidelines.

6.2 If the Appropriate Medical Professional determines that concussion is established or that further assessment is required:

6.2.1 the Appropriate Medical Professional shall determine (in his/her absolute discretion) whether to direct the player or umpire to leave the field of play; and

6.2.2 play in the Match must not resume until that player or umpire has completely left the field of play.

6.3 A maximum of 5 minutes will be allowed for an initial assessment on the field of play. If further assessment is required, the player or umpire must be removed from the field of play and may not return until a full assessment has been completed in accordance with the ECB Concussion Guidelines.

6.4 A batsman instructed to leave the field of play following an assessment is deemed to have retired pursuant to Law 25.4.2 and may, if no concussion has been diagnosed after a full assessment in accordance with the ECB Concussion Guidelines, return to play pursuant to Law 25.

6.5 If a team is 9 wickets down and either has a player off the field with a suspected concussion and/or an assessment is currently taking place or has a batsman at the crease who requires further assessment for concussion, no additional time shall be allocated to the innings for the assessment to be concluded.

6.6 A player on the fielding team who is instructed to leave the field of play following an assessment can, if no concussion has been diagnosed after a full assessment in accordance with the ECB Concussion Guidelines, return to play pursuant to Law 24.

6.7 Where an umpire is instructed to leave the field of play following an assessment, Specsavers County Championship Playing Condition 2.3 shall apply.

6.8 If a player or umpire has been diagnosed with a concussion following any assessment, then their return to play in future cricket matches will be strictly subject to and in accordance with the ECB

Concussion Guidelines and will be managed by the Appropriate Medical Professional or any other medical professional retained by his/her Team or employer.

6.9 The outcome of any assessment by the Appropriate Medical Professional is final and no player, umpire, coach or member of the Team support staff shall do or say anything to try to influence or interfere with the Appropriate Medical Professional's assessment and/or decision-making.

7 Activation of a Concussion Replacement

7.1 A Concussion Replacement cannot be activated without the formal notification of the diagnosis of the concussion or suspected concussion of the Concussed Player to the Match Referee and/or umpire(s) in accordance with this Regulation 7.

7.2 The Appropriate Medical Professional shall formally notify the Match Referee and/or umpire(s) (either orally or in writing) of a suspected or diagnosed Concussed Player, either immediately or from a repeat concussion assessment following a trauma or impact.

7.3 Once this formal notification has been made it may not be withdrawn under any circumstances.

7.4 If initial formal notification is made orally, it must be followed up in writing from the Appropriate Medical Professional to the Match Referee and/or umpire(s) as soon as practicable with a copy of the completed Concussion Report Form and the Appropriate Medical Professional must also ensure that relevant medical records are completed and uploaded onto the ECB Medical Records System. Concussion management and concussion reporting is required at all times to meet the appropriate medical standards.

7.5 Activation of a concussion replacement can take place at any time following the formal notification(s) made in Regulations 7.2 and 7.4 above, subject to Regulations 7.6 and 7.7 below.

7.6 Following the formal notification, if the Concussed Player's Team wishes to activate the Concussion Replacement, it must have its captain (or coach where the captain cannot reasonably practicably do so) formally nominate a player to the Match Referee and/or umpire(s) for approval (such approval not to be unreasonably withheld) as the Concussion Replacement for that Concussed Player for the remainder of the Match concerned. Save in exceptional circumstances only a 'like for like' player (or close as possible) shall be permitted as a Concussion Replacement, subject also to the following:

7.6.1 In circumstances where a Concussion Replacement is required for an all-rounder the Match Referee and/or umpires(s) may take into account the role that the Concussed Player would have been likely to play in the remainder of the Match.

7.6.2 The Match Referee and/or umpires may accept a Concussion Replacement on a conditional basis, for example an all-rounder replacing a batsman on the condition that the Concussion Replacement does not bowl spin or does not bowl at all. A signed written undertaking detailing any conditions, or stating that there are no conditions, shall be submitted by the Captain of the team or his nominee to the Match Referee and/or umpires(s) prior to a Concussion Replacement being permitted.

7.6.3 In circumstances where a Team has more than one Concussed Player and request to activate more than one Concussion Replacement, the Match Referee shall take into account the overall loss of resource by the Team, in addition to the cricket still to be played in the match, when considering approval for the second or subsequent Concussion Replacements. Conditions attached to a previous Concussion Replacement(s) may, for example, be withdrawn.

7.7 The Match Referee and/or umpire(s) will make the final determination (in consultation with ECB Cricket Operations Department if required) on whether to approve the nominated player as a Concussion Replacement for that Concussed Player, and any conditions that must apply. The Match Referee's and/or umpire(s)' decision is final and there shall be no right of appeal.

7.7.1 The Team(s) activating the Concussion Replacement shall have sole responsibility for ensuring that the nominated Concussion Replacement meets the relevant eligibility and/or registration requirements that apply to the Match.

7.8 If the Concussion Replacement is not immediately available, a substitute shall be allowed in accordance with Specsavers County Championship Playing Condition 24.

7.9 If, at the time of activation, the Concussion Replacement is replacing a:

7.9.1 Concussed Player who has "retired not out" during his/her Team's current batting innings, the Concussion Replacement may only bat in that innings (where possible) pursuant to Law 25 as though he/she was a batsman returning to his/her innings; or

NOTE: For scoring and statistical purposes, the Concussion Replacement will be entered as an additional batsman and his/her innings will be considered separate to the innings of the Concussed Player (who will remain "Retired – Not out"). However, the fielding side still only needs to take 10 wickets to end the batting Team's innings.

7.9.2 Concussed Player who has "retired not out" during his/her Team's previous batting innings and that batting innings has since concluded, the Concussion Replacement may bat at any position in the batting order in that team's subsequent batting innings (if any); or

7.9.3 Concussed Player from the fielding Team, the Concussion Replacement may enter the field of play pursuant to Law 24 as though he/she was a member of the fielding Team returning to play and without needing to serve any further Penalty time to any already being served by the Concussed Player.

7.10 In a limited overs match where a Concussed Player has been replaced by a Concussion Replacement, the replacement may only bowl the remaining allocation of overs relating to the Concussed Player he/she has replaced.

7.11 Once replaced by a Concussion Replacement, a Concussed Player may take no further part in the Match concerned, including any Super Over or Bowl Out.