Playing Conditions – The County Championship, Other First-Class Matches and Non First-Class MCC University Matches against Counties

Except as varied hereunder the Laws of Cricket 2017 Code (2nd Edition - 2019) shall apply.

1 Law 1 – The players

1.1 Law 1.1 (Number of players) shall be replaced by:

A match is played between two sides, each of eleven players, one of whom shall be captain.

If, during the match and for whatever reason, a side is reduced to fewer than the original number of nominated players, the match shall continue as long as it is possible to do so under the Laws

1.2 Law 1.2 (Nomination and replacement of players) shall be replaced by:

Each Captain shall nominate his players in writing to one of the umpires before the toss and, in the case of County Championship matches, before the visiting Captain has declared whether the visiting team will exercise its right to bowl first. No player may be replaced after the nomination of teams and before the Umpire has called Play, other than in the circumstances of 1.3 and 1.4 below, without the consent of the opposing Captain (not to be unreasonably withheld) and ECB Domestic Cricket Operations. No player may be replaced after the Umpire has called Play before the first ball of the match other than in the circumstances of 1.3 and 1.4 below.

If after a Captain has nominated his players, it is discovered that someone who was not on the list has acted in the match as though a nominated player, then, if consent is not given by the opposing Captain (not to be unreasonably withheld) for the original nomination to be changed, the offender shall take no further part in the match and no replacement, including the original nominated player shall be allowed.

1.3 County Championship Matches Only

1.3.1 In addition to 1.2 above and as an exception to it, a replacement player shall be allowed by right immediately in the event of a cricketer currently playing in a Championship match being required to join the England, England Lions or England U19 Team("England") (either through a call-up after the commencement of the Championship match or through his being placed on official stand-by prior to the commencement of the Championship match, in both cases be it a planned event or at short notice, and being required to travel to the international venue). Such replacement player may be permitted to bat or bowl in that match subject to the approval of the ECB Chief Executive or his nominee who shall determine the conditions, if any, that apply to the replacement. If the cricketer is batting at the time he is required to leave the match, he shall retire "not out", and his replacement player may be permitted to bat later in that innings subject to the approval of the ECB Chief Executive or his nominee.

If the cricketer, after having been called up to join the England Team, is subsequently not required by the England Team, then subject to the approval of the ECB Chief Executive or his nominee, he may return to the Championship match and resume a full part in the match, taking over from the replacement player that replaced him earlier in the match. If the replacement player is batting at the time that the cricketer returns to the Championship match, the replacement player shall complete his innings and the cricketer shall take over thereafter. If the replacement player is bowling at the time that the cricketer is available and ready to take the field of play, then the replacement player shall complete any unfinished over, and the cricketer shall take the field thereafter.

If a player is either (a) with the England squad but omitted from the final Xl, or (b) in exceptional circumstances returning from other England duty and if he is made available by England to play in a County Championship match so that he can participate in at least two full days of the County Championship match, then that player may return to his County's match and take the place of a nominated player who may or may not have already participated in the match. Each county that has representation in the England Xl (or other England duty) must, if it wishes that a specified England player shall participate in the County match if released by England, specify which player the England player shall replace. This shall be done at the nomination of teams to the Umpires prior to the toss for innings. If no County player has been specified, then under no circumstances shall the England player be allowed to participate in the County match. For the avoidance of doubt, if a County has more than one representative in the England squad, then one player in the County team must be nominated in respect of each England player and the County player shall be considered as dedicated to that England player for the purpose of the replacement.

If the County has specified a nominated player who will potentially be replaced by the England player, and the England player is indeed released by England to play in the County Championship match (this release must be made so that the player can participate in at least two full days of the County Championship match, including any time that the nominated player continues to bat after the England player has joined the County Championship match – see also below), then, unless special dispensation is given by the ECB Chief Executive or his nominee, he must make all reasonable efforts to take his place in the County side at the earliest opportunity(which may be before the commencement of play) and the replacement must be effected. Unless special dispensation is given by the ECB Chief Executive or his nominee, no replacement will be allowed if the England player cannot participate in at least two full days of the County Championship match. Save in exceptional circumstances and only with the approval of the ECB Chief Executive or his nominee, there is no option for the County to refuse the England player if they have nominated a player to be replaced by the England player.

If the nominated player is batting at the time that the England player joins the Championship match, the nominated player shall complete his innings and the England player shall take over thereafter. If the nominated player is bowling at the time that the England player is available and ready to take the field of play, then the nominated player shall complete any unfinished over, and the England player shall take the field thereafter.

This regulation 1.3.1 shall also apply to Unqualified Cricketers (see Regulations Governing the Qualification and Registration of Cricketers) and equivalent duty for his national team.

Note also that this regulation 1.3.1 shall also apply, amended accordingly, to cricketers playing in Vitality Blast matches and in Royal London Cup matches.

1.3.2 Subject to the approval of the ECB Chief Executive or his nominee, in circumstances where an Associate Member Country player has been released by a County under ICC mandatory release regulations to play for their country, they may return to join a County Championship match and play a full part in that match if: (a) the player is released so that he will be able to participate in two full days of the County Championship match and (b) the County has specified which player will be replaced by the returning Associate Member player.

Subject to the approval of the ECB Chief Executive or his nominee, an Associate Member player may, under the ICC mandatory release regulations, leave a County Championship match to join an Associate Member Country match providing that he has been or will be available for at least two full days of scheduled play in the County Championship match, and a replacement player may play a full part in the Championship match under the same terms as apply in the equivalent situation in 1.3.1.

1.4 Concussion replacements

Concussion replacements shall be allowed in accordance with separate regulations.

2 Law 2 – The umpires

2.1 Law 2.1 (Appointment and attendance) shall be replaced by:

Two Umpires shall be appointed, one for each end to control the game as required by the Laws and Playing Conditions with absolute impartiality.

Umpires will be appointed by the ECB. They shall report themselves to the Ground Authority by 10.00am at the latest on the first day of the match and, by mutual agreement with each other, one Umpire shall report by 9.30am at the latest and the other by 10.00am on succeeding days. (These timings shall be advanced by 30 minutes in respect of Championship matches where the scheduled first day is in September and adjusted accordingly for Day/Night matches).

Before leaving the ground after Cessation of Play, the Umpires shall ensure that the minimum covering of the pitch and surrounding areas as laid down in the Playing Conditions, and any necessary renovation of foot holes, have been carried out to their satisfaction.

2.2 Third umpires / TV Replays

For matches which are televised and for which a third umpire is appointed, the following shall apply in addition to Clause 2.1:

2.2.1 General

2.2.1.1 The Home Authority will ensure a separate room is provided for the third umpire and tha the has access to a television monitor and direct sound link with the television control broadcast director to facilitate as many replays as is necessary to assist him in making a decision.

2.2.1.2 In the circumstances detailed in Clauses 2.2.2,2.2.3, 2.2.4, 2.2.5, 2.2.6 and 2.2.7 below, the on-field umpire has the discretion to consult with or refer the decision to the third umpire. Players may not appeal to the umpire to use the referral/consultation system – breach of this provision would constitute dissent and the player could be liable for disciplinary action.

2.2.1.3 The third umpire shall call for as many replays from any camera angle as is necessary to reach a decision. As a guide, a decision should be made within 30 seconds whenever possible, but the third umpire shall have a discretion to take more time in order to finalise a decision.

2.2.1.4 The third umpire shall only have access to replays of any camera images for the provisions of paragraphs 2.2.2, 2.2.3, 2.2.4, 2.2.5, 2.2.6and 2.2.7 below. Other technology which maybe in use by the broadcaster for broadcast purposes (for example, ball-tracking technology, sound-based edge detection technology, and heat-based edge detection technology) shall not be permitted.

2.2.2 Run Out, Stumped, Bowled and Hit Wicket Decisions

2.2.2.1 The relevant on-field umpire shall be entitled to refer an appeal for a run-out, stumped, bowled or hit-wicket to the third umpire.

2.2.2.2 An on-field umpire wishing to refer a decision to the third umpire shall signal to the third umpire by making the shape of a TV screen with his hands.

2.2.2.3 If the third umpire decides the batsman is out a red light is displayed; a green light means not-out. Should the third umpire be temporarily unable to respond, a white light (where available) will remain illuminated throughout the period of interruption to signify to the on-field umpires that the TV replay system is temporarily unavailable, in which case the decision will be taken by the on-field

umpire. (Where available and as an alternative to the red/green light system, the big replay screen may be used for the purpose of conveying the third umpire's decision).

2.2.2.4 In the case of a referral of a bowled, hit wicket or stumped decision, the third umpire shall first check the fairness of the delivery (all modes of No ball). If the delivery was not a fair delivery the third umpire shall indicate that the batsman is Not out and advise the on-field umpire to signal No ball. See also paragraph 2.2.6 below. Additionally, if the third umpire finds the batsman is out by another mode of dismissal (excluding LBW), or not out by any mode of dismissal (excluding LBW), he shall notify the on-field umpire so that the correct decision is made.

2.2.2.5 Wickets that use lights to determine if the wicket is broken are permitted to be used for run-out, stumping and hit wicket decisions.

2.2.3 Caught Decisions, Obstructing the field

2.2.3.1 Where the bowler's end umpire is unable to decide upon a Fair Catch or a Bump Ball, or if, on appeal from the fielding side, the batsman obstructed the field, he shall first consult with the striker's end umpire.

2.2.3.2 Should both on-field umpires require assistance from the third umpire to make a decision, the bowler's end umpire shall firstly take a decision on-field after consulting with the striker's end umpire, before consulting by two-way radio with the third umpire. Such consultation shall be initiated by the bowlers end umpire to the third umpire by making the shape of a TV screen with his hands, followed by a Soft Signal of 'out' (raising a finger) or 'not out' (by crossing hands in a horizontal position side to side) signal made close to the chest at chest height. If the third umpire advises that the replay evidence is inconclusive, the on-field decision communicated at the start of the consultation process shall stand.

2.2.3.3 The third umpire shall determine whether the batsman has been caught, whether the delivery was Bump Ball or not, or if the batsman obstructed the field. However, when reviewing the television replay(s), the third umpire shall first check the fairness of the delivery (all modes of No ball) and whether the batsman has hit the ball. If the delivery was not a fair delivery or if it is clear to the third umpire that the batsman did not hit the ball he shall indicate to the bowler's end umpire that the batsman is Not out caught, and in the case of an unfair delivery, advise the bowler's end umpire to signal No ball. See also paragraph 2.2.6 below. Additionally, if it is clear to the third umpire that the batsman is out by another mode of dismissal (excluding LBW) , or not out by any mode of dismissal (excluding LBW), he shall notify the on-field umpire so that the correct decision is made.

2.2.3.4 The third umpire shall communicate his decision by the system as in paragraph2.2.2.3.

2.2.4 Boundary Decisions

2.2.4.1 The bowler's end umpire shall be entitled to refer to the third umpire for a decision on whether a four or six has been scored, or whether the fielder had any part of his person in contact with the ball when he touched the boundary or whether the fielder had any part of his person in contact with the ball when he had any part of his person grounded beyond the boundary. A decision is to be made immediately and cannot be changed thereafter. If the television evidence is inconclusive as to whether or not a boundary has been scored, the default presumption shall be in favour of no boundary being awarded.

2.2.4.2 Where the bowler's end umpire wishes to use the assistance of the third umpire in this circumstance, he shall communicate with the third umpire by use of a two-way radio and the third umpire shall convey his decision to the bowler's end umpire by the same method.

2.2.4.3 The third umpire may initiate contact with the on-field umpire by two-way radio if TV coverage shows a boundary line infringement or incident that appears not to have been acted upon by the on-field umpires.

2.2.5 Batsmen Running to the Same End

2.2.5.1 Where both batsmen have run to the same end and the umpires are uncertain over which batsmen made his ground first, the on-field umpires may consult with the third umpire.

2.2.5.2 The procedure in Clause 2.2.4.2 shall apply.

2.2.6 No Balls

2.2.6.1 If the bowler's end umpire is uncertain as to the fairness of the delivery following a dismissal, either affecting the validity of the dismissal or which batsman is dismissed, he shall be entitled to request the batsman to delay leaving the field and to check the fairness of the delivery (all modes of No ball)with the third umpire. Communication with the third umpire shall be by way of two way radio.

2.2.6.2 If the delivery was not a fair delivery the on-field umpire shall indicate that the batsman is not-out and signal no-ball (except in the case of a dismissal for obstructing the field, which may still be effected despite a No ball being called, in which case the bowler's end umpire shall indicate that the relevant batsman is Out and additionally call a No ball).

2.2.6.3 If a No ball is called following the check by the third umpire, the batting side shall benefit from the reversal of the dismissal and the penalty for the No ball, but shall not benefit from any runs that may subsequently have accrued from the delivery had the on-field umpire originally called a No ball. Where the batsmen crossed while the ball was in the air before being caught, the batsmen shall remain at the same ends as if the striker had been dismissed, but no runs shall be credited to the striker even if one (or more) runs were completed prior to the catch being taken.

2.2.6.4 If any mode of No ball has not been called by either on-field umpire, and if the third umpire is of the opinion that the delivery was full pitched and passed or would have passed above waist height of the striker standing upright at the popping crease, then the third umpire shall communicate with the on-field umpires and request that when the ball becomes dead, the height of the delivery is reviewed. The third umpire shall check the fairness of the delivery (all modes of No ball). If the delivery was not a fair delivery the on-field umpire shall call and signal no-ball and where appropriate, the striker shall not be dismissed. For the avoidance of doubt, the third umpire may only initiate a No ball review in respect of a high full pitched delivery.

2.2.7 Cameras on or over the field of play

The on-field umpire shall be entitled to refer to the third umpire for a decision as to whether the ball has been in contact with any part of the camera, its apparatus or its cables above the playing area.

A decision is to be made immediately and cannot be changed thereafter. If the television evidence is inconclusive as to whether or not the ball has come into contact with any part of the camera, its apparatus or its cables above the playing area, the default presumption shall be in favour of no contact having been made.

An on-field umpire wishing the assistance of the third umpire in this circumstance shall communicate with the third umpire by use of a two-way radio and the third umpire will convey his decision to the on-field umpire by this method.

The third umpire may initiate contact with the on-field umpire by two-way radio if TV coverage shows the ball to have been in contact with any part of the camera or its cables above the playing area as envisaged under this paragraph.

Refer to Playing Condition 20.

2.3 Law 2.2 – Change of umpire - shall apply except that if there has to be a change of umpire, the duties of all umpires shall be determined by ECB.

2.4 Law 2.7 – Fitness for play - shall apply with the addition that:

The safety of all persons within the ground is of paramount importance to the ECB. In the event that any threatening circumstance, whether actual or perceived, comes to the attention of any Umpire (including for example weather, pitch invasions, act of God, etc), then the players and officials should immediately be asked to leave the field of play in a safe and orderly manner and to relocate to a secure and safe area (depending on each particular threat) pending the satisfactory passing or resolution of such threat or risk to the reasonable satisfaction of the venue safety officer and/or the Umpire as the circumstances may require.

2.5 Law 2.8 – Suspension of play in dangerous or unreasonable circumstances shall apply with the following additions:

2.5.1 The Umpires shall disregard any shadow on the pitch from the stadium or from any permanent object.

2.5.2 Following any inspection, the Umpires will report their findings immediately to both Captains and to the Ground Authority.

2.5.3 Floodlights

At matches where the home authority has confirmed prior to the commencement of the competition that floodlights are available for all days of the match in question, if in the opinion of the Umpires, natural light has deteriorated to an unsuitable level, they shall authorise the home authority to turn on the floodlights so that the match can continue in acceptable conditions.

Floodlights must be made available for as many full matches as possible. If any planned use is not required, it must be taken forward to the next and subsequent match.

In Day/Night matches, the floodlights shall be turned on at the tea interval or at 7.00pm, whichever is the earlier.

2.6 Changing the Venue for the Match

The venue for a match may only be changed at short notice with the consent of the ECB Chief Executive. Consideration will be given for a change of venue if the change will significantly improve the prospects of play or if there is a genuine concern over the original venue producing a sub-standard pitch or outfield. A match may only be switched to a venue suitable for staging First XI cricket.

It is the onus of the Home County to ensure that if there is a material likelihood that 72 hours prior to a scheduled match that a venue will be unable to stage any play over the scheduled term of the match due to the prevailing condition of the venue 72 hours prior to the scheduled start of the match (including pitch and/or square and/or outfield) then an alternative venue must be identified under this playing condition and brought to the attention of the visiting County and ECB and made available should playing conditions not improve.

The venue should preferably be within the County or a recognised venue used by the County in question. If no such venue is available then a neutral venue preferably within the Region of the originally scheduled match maybe considered. In no circumstances will it be permissible for the match to be re-scheduled at a venue normally or occasionally used as a home venue by the scheduled away County.

A change in venue is unlikely to be approved if it is considered to make an unreasonable request of the visiting team for logistical reasons. It is unlikely that a change of venue would be approved on the day the match is scheduled to take place.

Failure to comply with this playing condition may result in the deduction of points from a First Class County and the possible award of additional points to another First-Class County.

2.7 Law 2.15 – Correctness of scores - shall apply. For the avoidance of doubt, a team innings score may only be corrected where necessary prior to the commencement of the subsequent team-innings of the match. See also Playing Conditions 3.2, 19.2 and Law 16.10.

3 Law 3 – The scorers

3.1 Law 3.1 – Appointment of scorers - shall apply except that three scorers shall be appointed, one of whom shall be the Data Scorer.

3.2 Law 3.2 – Correctness of scores - shall apply. For the avoidance of doubt, a team innings score may only be corrected where necessary prior to the commencement of the subsequent team-innings of the match. See also Playing Condition 2.7 and Law 16.10.

4 Law 4 – The ball

4.1 Balls to be used

Grade 1 Dukes red cricket balls conforming to the specifications laid down by the ECB, shall be used, and spare used balls for changing during a match shall also be of the same brand and specification. Such spare balls shall pass both ring tests of the ball gauge. Except as provided for in Law 4.5 and 41.2, the fielding Captain, or his nominee, may select the ball with which he wishes to bowl which shall be from the whole of the supply of new balls provided by the Ground Authority. Such selection must take place in the presence of the Umpires, and the ball shall not be marked in any way.

4.2 Law 4.3 (New ball) shall not apply. A new ball shall be used at the start of each innings.

4.3 Law 4.5 (Ball lost or becoming unfit for play) shall apply with the addition that:

4.3.1 If a ball needs to be replaced after 110 overs, it shall be replaced by a new ball.

4.3.2 The Umpires may deem a ball that has become wet and soggy or unusually soft to be unfit for play. The Umpires alone will select the replacement ball from the supply of approved replacements and shall inform the batsmen at the wicket and the fielding captain.

Either bowler or batsman may raise the matter with the Umpires and the Umpires' decision as to a replacement or otherwise shall be final.

4.3.3 The Umpires may use a ball gauge to assist them in their decision as to whether a used ball should be changed because it is out of shape. They shall only do so should the ball visually appear to be out of shape. Additionally, the fielding Captain only may request that the Umpires check the shape of the ball a maximum of two occasions for each ball. If the ball does not pass both ring tests of the ball gauge, it shall be changed.

Law 5– The bat

Law 5 shall apply with the addition that only Type A bats shall be used.

Law 6 – The pitch

6.1 All maintenance issues should be carried out with the guiding principle that they should ensure that conditions are as similar as possible for both sides throughout the match.

6.2 Law 6.3 (Selection and preparation) shall apply with the following additions:

Captains, Umpires and Groundsmen should co-operate to ensure that, prior to the start of any day's play, no-one bounces a ball on the pitch or strikes it with a bat to assess its condition or for any other reason, or causes damage to the pitch in any other way.

Prior to the commencement of a day's play, one TV commentator and camera crew of the official licensed TV broadcaster/s (but not news crew) may be permitted to inspect the pitch and surrounds subject to the following:

6.2.1 a ball must not be bounced on the pitch;

6.2.2 a key or knife may only be inserted in the pitch in the area between the popping and bowling creases.

In the event of any dispute, the Umpires in consultation with the Ground Authority will rule and their ruling will be final.

6.3 Law 6.5 – Non-turf pitches – will not apply

6.4 Pitch Regulations

The regulations in the 2020 Pitches Document shall apply as they refer to 4-day pitches and the condition of the playing area (includes pitch, square and outfield).

Law 7 – The creases

7.1 Law 7.3 (The popping crease) shall apply with the addition that in matches when a 3rd Umpire is present, the reference to "a minimum of 6 ft/1.83m" shall be replaced by "a minimum of 45 ft/13.72m".

8 Law 8 – The wickets

8.1 Law 8.2 (Size of stumps) shall apply with the following addition:

For televised matches slightly larger cylindrical stump(s)to accommodate the stump camera may be used. When any larger stumps are used, the overall dimensions shall conform to Law 8.1.

9 Law 9 – Preparation and maintenance of the playing area

9.1 All maintenance issues should be carried out with the guiding principle that they should ensure that conditions are as similar as possible for both sides throughout the match.

9.2 Law 9.1.3 (Choice of rollers) is replaced by:

A light roller must be available. A roller heavier than 1000kg must also be available, which after the toss for innings, each team may use it no more than twice. Within such constraint, the Captain of the batting side shall choose which roller, if any, is to be used.

9.3 Drying of Pitch and Ground

9.3.1 Prior to tossing for choice of innings the artificial drying of the pitch and outfield shall be at the discretion of the Groundsman. Thereafter and throughout the match the drying of the outfield may be undertaken at any time by the Groundsman, but the drying of the pitch shall be carried out only on the instructions and under the supervision of the Umpires. The Umpires shall be empowered to have the pitch dried without reference to the Captains at any time they are of the opinion that it is unfit for play.

9.3.2 The Umpires may instruct the Groundsman to use any available equipment, including any roller (other than an absorbent roller), for the purpose of drying the pitch and making it fit for play.

An absorbent roller may be used to remove water from the covers including, where absolutely necessary, the cover on the match pitch.

9.3.3 Following the artificial drying of the pitch, the Captain of the batting side shall not have the right to select the roller prior to the resumption of play, but the Umpires may decide on the use of a roller if they think fit.

10 Law 10 – Covering the pitch

10.1 All maintenance issues should be carried out with the guiding principle that they should ensure that conditions are as similar as possible for both sides throughout the match.

10.2 Law 10.1 (Before the match) shall apply and accordingly, Umpires shall establish prior to the toss which method of covering of the match pitch shall be used during the course of the match.

10.3 Law 10.2 (During the match) and Law 10.3 (Removal of covers) shall be replaced by:

10.3.1 The whole pitch shall be covered:

10.3.1.1 The night before the match and, if necessary, until the first ball is bowled; and whenever necessary and possible at any time prior to that during the preparation of the pitch.

10.3.1.2 On each night of the match and, if necessary, throughout any rest days.

10.3.1.3 In the event of play being suspended on account of rain during the specified hours of play, and at lunch, tea and between innings on account of rain.

10.3.1.4 The covers shall be removed before 8.00am (2hours prior to the commencement of Day Night matches) on each morning of the match(including the first day) provided it is not raining at the time, but they will be replaced if rain falls prior to the commencement of play.

10.3.1.5 If flatsheet covers are to be used on pitches from 48 hours before the start through to the end of matches, a dry coir mat or equivalent must be placed under the sheet.

10.3.2 The following areas will be covered, in addition to the pitch as in 10.3.1 above, unless the Umpires determine otherwise:

10.3.2.1 The bowler's 'run up' to a distance of at least 10yards, with a width of 4 yards.

10.3.2.2 At least 20 feet either side of the length of the pitch.

10.3.2.3 In addition to 10.3.2.1 and 10.3.2.2 further areas and in particular worn patches should, if possible and practicable, also be covered.

10.3.3 Covering During Play

10.3.3.1 In order to make play possible, the Umpires may decide to have particularly wet or muddy areas covered by mats or blankets whilst play is in progress.

10.3.3.2 Any pitch(es) being prepared for a future match may be protected by a porous mat in order to avoid unnecessary damage.

11 Law 11 – Intervals

11.1 Lunch Interval

11.1.1 The County Championship

The normal commencement time for the lunch interval will be:

All days 1.00pm

(12.30pm in matches where the scheduled first day is in September, 4.00pm in Day/Night matches)

11.1.2 Other Domestic First Class Matches and non first-class3-day MCC University matches against Counties

The normal commencement time for the lunch interval will be:

1st and 2nd days (and 3rd day in 4-day matches) 1.15pm
Final day 1.00pm

11.1.3 Law 11.7 (Lunch or tea interval – 9 wickets down) shall apply except that lunch will not be taken until either 8 more overs have been bowled or until the end of the over that is in progress 30 minutes after the originally agreed time for lunch whichever is the later, unless the players have cause to leave the field of play or the innings is completed earlier.

For the avoidance of doubt, this clause shall apply subsequent to the application of Playing Condition12.1.2 .3. or 12.2.8. That is, when 9 wickets are down following the extra 15 minutes.

11.2 Tea Interval

11.2.1 The County Championship

Laws 11.6 (Changing agreed time for tea interval) and 11.7 (Lunch or tea interval – 9 wickets down) will not apply and are replaced by 11.2.2 and 11.2.3 below.

Law 11.9 (Agreement to forgo intervals) will not apply in so far as it relates to the tea interval.

11.2.2 Timing of tea interval

11.2.2.1 The tea interval shall be of 20 minutes' duration and shall normally be taken at either 3.40pm (3.10pm in matches where the scheduled first day is in September, 6.40pm in Day/Night matches) or at the conclusion of the over in progress at that time, provided 32 overs or less remain to be bowled. The over in progress at that time shall be completed unless a batsman is out, or retires, either within three minutes, or after, the scheduled time for the interval.

11.2.2.2 In the event of more than 32 overs remaining to be bowled at 3.40pm (3.10pm in matches scheduled to start in September, 6.40pm in Day/Night matches) the tea interval will be delayed and

play will continue until 32 overs remain to be bowled at which time the tea interval will commence. The over being bowled immediately before the start of the interval shall be completed unless a batsman is out, or retires, during that over.

11.2.2.3 Unless 12.2.8 applies, whenever an innings ends or there is a stoppage in play caused by weather or light, or the players have cause to leave the field for any reason, either when 30 minutes or less remains before the scheduled time for the tea interval or during the period that the tea interval has been delayed (para 11.2.2.2refers), the tea interval will commence immediately, irrespective of the number of overs still remaining to be bowled. Should a change of innings occur, the tea interval will include the ten minute interval between innings.

11.2.2.4 If nine wickets are down at the scheduled or rescheduled time for the tea interval (11.2.2.1and 11.2.2.2 refers), tea will not be taken until either 8 more overs have been bowled or until the end of the over that is in progress 30minutes after the originally agreed time for tea whichever is the later, unless the players have cause to leave the field of play or the innings is completed earlier.

For the avoidance of doubt, this clause shall apply subsequent to the application of Playing Condition 12.1.2 .3. or 12.2.8. That is, when 9 wickets are down following the extra 15 minutes.

11.2.2.5 Where the provision for making up lost time (12.2.2) has been invoked prior to the tea interval, the Umpires may at their sole discretion rearrange the timing of the tea interval regardless of the number of overs remaining to be bowled (but not dispense with it).

11.2.3 4th day exception

Clause 11.2.2.2 and all other references to 32 overs or less remain to be bowled regarding the timing of the tea interval shall not apply on the 4th day.

11.2.4 Other Domestic First Class Matches and non first-class3-day MCC University matches against Counties.

The normal commencement time for the tea interval will be:

1st and 2nd days (and 3rd day in 4-day matches)..4.10pm
Final day.....3.40pm

11.3 Law 11.8 (Intervals for drinks) shall apply. In addition, an individual player may be given a drink either on the boundary edge or at the fall of a wicket, on the field, provided that no playing time is wasted. No other drinks shall be taken on to the field of play without the permission of the Umpires. Any person taking drinks onto the field shall be dressed in proper cricket attire.

12 Law 12 – Start of play; cessation of play

12.1 Scheduled Hours of Play

12.1.1 County Championship – normal timings shall be:

Daytime Matches

All days.....11.00am-6.00pm

(10.30am-5.30pm in matches where the scheduled first day is in September)

Day/Night Matches
All days.....2.00pm-9.00pm

A maximum of 30 minutes of time lost from play on Days 1,2 and 3 shall be made up on that respective day (refer also Playing Condition 12.2.2). If any time lost from a day is unable to be made up on the same day, it shall be carried forward to the next and subsequent day as appropriate, save that no time shall be carried forward to the fourth day. A maximum of 30 minutes of play may be made up on any day, whether that is time lost from the day itself or time carried forward. Time lost shall only be made up at the end of a day's play.

In Day/Night matches, in all circumstances, play shall not extend beyond one hour after the original scheduled close of play or the completion of the over being bowledat that time.

MCC v Champion County hours of play to be confirmed.

12.1.2 Other Domestic First Class Matches and non first-class3-day MCC University matches against Counties

Normal timings will be:

1st and 2nd days (and 3rd day in 4-day matches).....11.00am-6.30pm
Final Day.....11.00am-6.00pm

The above timings may be varied subject to ECB approval.

12.1.2.1 If both captains (the batsmen at the wicket may act for their captain) accept that there is no prospect of either side achieving a victory, they may agree to finish the match after the time for the commencement of the last hour has been reached.

12.1.2.2 The Captains may agree or, in the event of disagreement, the Umpires may decide to play30 minutes (a minimum ten overs) extra time at the end of the first and/or second day's play and/or third day's play (if a 4-day match) if, in their opinion, it would bring about a definite result on that day. If it is decided to play extra time on either or both these days, the whole period shall be played out, even though the possibility of finishing the match may have disappeared before the full period has expired. The time by which play is extended on any day shall be deducted from the total number of hours' play remaining in the match, and the match shall end earlier on the last day by the actual amount of time by which play was previously extended (the time for the commencement of the last hour to be adjusted accordingly.)

12.1.2.3 The umpires may decide to play 15 minutes extra time at the scheduled lunch or tea interval of any day if requested by either captain if, in the umpires' opinion, it would bring about a definite result in that session. If the umpires do not believe a result can be achieved no extra times hall be allowed.

If it is decided to play such extra time, the whole period shall be played out which may include, if applicable, 10 minutes for a change of innings. Only the actual amount of playing time up to the maximum 15 minutes extra time by which play is extended on any day shall be deducted from the total number of hours of play remaining, and the following session of play shall be reduced by the amount of time by which play was previously extended under this clause.

This clause shall not apply when either 11.1.3 or11.2.2.4 has already been applied to this interval, i.e. the total extra time remains at 30minutes.

12.2 County Championship Matches only –Minimum Overs in the Day

12.2.1 Play shall continue on each day until the completion of a minimum number of overs or until the scheduled or re-scheduled cessation time, whichever is the later. The minimum number of overs to be completed, unless an innings ends or an interruption occurs, shall be either:

(a) on days other than the last day – a minimum of 96 overs or;

(b) on the last day – a minimum of 80 overs (or 16 overs per hour) for playing time other than the last hour when Playing Condition 12.2.5 below shall apply. Note however that in Day/Night matches, the cessation of play shall not extend beyond one hour after the original scheduled close of play or the completion of the over being bowled at that time.

12.2.2 Making up lost time – extra time

Subject to weather and light, in the event of scheduled playing time being lost on Days 1,2 and 3, the scheduled close of play on that day shall be delayed by the amount of time lost up to a maximum of 30 minutes. If any time lost is unable to be made up on the day on which it was lost, it shall be carried forward to the next and subsequent day as appropriate, save that no time shall be carried forward to the fourth day. A maximum of 30 minutes of play may be made up on any day, whether that is time lost from the day itself or time carried forward. Time lost shall only be made up at the end of a day's play.

In Day/Night matches, in all circumstances, play shall not extend beyond one hour after the original scheduled close of play or the completion of the over being bowled at that time.

Any time unable to be made up due to weather or light shall be carried forward to the next and subsequent day as appropriate. When such time is carried forward, the minimum overs in the day shall be increased by 1 over for each full 3 minutes and 45 seconds.

No time is carried forward to the next or subsequent day in respect of any time lost after the latest rescheduled time for the close of play.

12.2.3 Where there is a change of innings during a day's play (except during the lunch or tea interval or during a suspension of play due to ground, weather or light conditions or exceptional circumstances or during the last hour when Playing Condition 12.2.5 below shall apply), two overs will be deducted from the minimum number of overs to be bowled plus any over in progress at the end of the completed innings.

12.2.4 If interruptions for ground, weather or light occur, other than in the last hour of the match for which Playing Condition 12.2.5 makes provision, the minimum number of overs shall be reduced by one over for each full 3minutes 45 seconds of the aggregate playing time lost. As per 12.2.2 on Days 1,2 and 3 no aggregate playing time is lost until the 30 minutes permitted for extra time ,whether carried forward or from the day itself, has been applied.

12.2.5 Laws 12.6 (Last hour of match – number of overs), 12.7 (Last hour of match – interruptions of play), 12.8 (Last hour of match – intervals between innings) shall apply with the following clarifications:

12.2.5.1 The last hour shall commence when one hour of playing time of the match remains.

12.2.5.2 On the last day, if any of the daily minimum requirement of 80 overs, or as recalculated, have not been bowled at the commencement of the last hour, those overs shall be completed. A minimum of 16 overs shall then be bowled – the Umpires shall signal such to the players and scorers and these shall be deemed to be the minimum number of overs to be bowled in the last hour as referred to in Law12.9 (Conclusion of match). For the avoidance of doubt, the close of play remains as originally scheduled even if the final 16 overs commence less than 60 minutes prior to the scheduled close of play.

Laws 12.7 (Last hour of match – interruptions of play) and 12.8 (Last hour of match – intervals between innings) shall only apply after this minimum number of overs has commenced.

12.2.5.3 References to 20 overs shall be amended to 16 overs and references to 3 minutes shall be amended to 3 minutes 45 seconds.

12.2.5.4 If, however, both captains (the batsmen at the wicket may act for their captain) accept that there is no prospect of either side achieving a victory, they may agree to finish the match at any time after the scheduled time for the commencement of the last hour has been reached (regardless of the number of overs remaining to be bowled).

12.2.6 The Captains may agree or, in the event of disagreement, the Umpires may decide to play 30 minutes' (a minimum eight overs, though note also 12.1.1 regarding the cut-off in Day/Night matches) extra time at the end of the first, second and/or third day's play if, in their opinion, there was a reasonable prospect that it would bring about a definite result on that day. For the avoidance of doubt, should a wicket fall within 3 minutes of the scheduled or re-scheduled close of play, the extra 30 minutes is added to the scheduled or re-scheduled time of close of play, not to the time at which the wicket fell. If it is decided to play extra time on any or all of these days, the whole period shall be played out even though the possibility of finishing the match may have disappeared before the full period has expired. The scheduled time by which play is extended on any day shall be deducted from the total number of hours of play remaining in the match, and the match shall end earlier on the last scheduled day by the actual amount of scheduled time by which play was previously extended in aggregate (ie. the time for the commencement of the last hour will be adjusted accordingly and the minimum number of overs prior to the last hour will be correspondingly reduced at a rate of one over for each full 3 minutes 45 seconds of aggregate scheduled extra time).

For the avoidance of doubt, if there is a change of innings immediately prior to the start of, or during the period of extra time, then 2 overs shall be deducted in respect of the change of innings.

12.2.7 With the exception of the circumstances in 12.2.6, there shall be no further play on any day, other than the last scheduled day, if a wicket falls or a batsman retires or if the players have occasion to leave the field during the last minimum over within 3 minutes of the scheduled orre-scheduled cessation time or thereafter.

12.2.8 The umpires may decide to play 15 minutes (a minimum of four overs) extra time at the scheduled lunch or tea interval of any day if requested by either captain if, in the umpires' opinion, it would bring about a definite result in that session. If the umpires do not believe a result can be achieved no extra time shall be allowed.

If it is decided to play such extra time, the whole period shall be played out which may include, if applicable, 10minutes for a change of innings.

Only the actual amount of playing time up to the maximum 15 minutes extra time by which play is extended on any day shall be deducted from the total number of hours of play remaining, and the following session of play shall be reduced by the amount of time by which play was previously extended under this clause.

For the avoidance of doubt, if there is a change of innings immediately prior to the start of, or during the period of extra time, then 2 overs shall be deducted in respect of the change of innings.

This clause shall not apply when either 11.1.3 or11.2.2.4 has already been applied to this interval, i.e. the total extra time remains at 30 minutes.

12.2.9 A previously started over that has to be completed on resumption of a new day's play shall be disregarded in calculating minimum overs for that day.

12.2.10 The scoreboard shall show:

the number of overs in the innings up to 110 overs in each side's first innings and subsequently the number of overs bowled with the ball currently in use, and the minimum number of overs remaining to be bowled in a day including the 16 overs for the last hour of the match. In addition the scoreboard shall indicate the number of overs that the fielding side is ahead of or behind the over-rate.

12.2.11 MCC v Champion County minimum overs to be confirmed.

12.3 Ringing of the Bell

The bell will be rung five minutes before the start of play and before the termination of an interval, when the Umpires shall go to the wickets.

12.4 Championship Over Rate Penalties

The minimum over-rate to be achieved by Counties will be 16 overs per hour. When calculating the over-rate, two minutes will be allowed for each wicket taken which results in the subsequent batsman immediately commencing his innings. For the avoidance of doubt, no allowance shall be given for the final wicket in an innings or for a wicket that falls prior to any interval.

No allowances shall be given for drinks intervals. Any suspension of play for an injury to a player or for any other reason beyond the control of the players shall be a deductible allowance. The Umpire at the bowler's end will inform the fielding Captain, the batsman and his fellow Umpire of any time allowances as and when they arise and the scorers at the earliest opportunity. (This matter will not be subject to retrospective negotiation).

Overs will be calculated at the end of the match and penalties applied on a match by match basis. The relevant calculation to establish the match target is:

(Total minutes in the field -2 minutes per allowable wicket – Umpires' allowances)/3.75 (fractions to be ignored).

For example, a side that has been in the field for 491 minutes throughout the course of the match and that has taken 18 allowable wickets and been allowed 10 minutes by the Umpires, has a match target of 491-36-10/3.75 = 118.67 overs. Ignoring fractions, the match target is 118 overs.

For the purpose of over-rate calculations, no single innings will be assessed at more than 24 overs per hour. In any such innings, any overs bowled in excess of a rate of 24 overs per hour will be disregarded.

For each over (fractions to be ignored) that a side has bowled short of the target number, 1 point will be deducted from their Championship total as follows:

1 over short of the match target .....1 point deduction
2 overs short of the match target .....2 points deduction etc

Only matches in which a team has bowled for 4 hours or more (net of time allowed for wickets taken and Umpires' allowances) in the match will be subject to over-rate penalties.

The scoreboard shall show the number of overs above or below the target overs for the bowling side.

This number is calculated by subtracting the number of overs that should have been bowled (calculated as above and ignoring fractions) from the number of overs that have actually been bowled (ignoring fractions in the total number of overs bowled in the match). This will be updated at the very minimum at the start of every session.

13 Law 13 – Innings

13.1 Duration

13.1.1 The County Championship

All matches shall be of Four days' duration and of two innings per side.

13.1.2 Other First Class Matches

Other matches will be of three or four days' duration and of two innings per side.

13.2 ECB Fast Bowling Guidelines (as varied from time to time) shall apply. It shall be the responsibility of the Captain of any player to whom the ECB Fast Bowling Guidelines apply to inform the Umpires of such and to apply the Guidelines.

Any deviation from the Fast Bowling Guidelines shall have no implications on the course of the match or competition in question.

14 Law 14 – The follow-on

Law 14 shall apply

Law 15 – Declaration and forfeiture

15.1 Extraordinary Declarations

An Extraordinary Declaration for the purposes of this rule is usually a declaration aimed primarily at denying the bowling side the opportunity to acquire further bonus points in that innings, but without enhancing the batting side's prospects of winning or saving the match.

Such a declaration may, depending on the particular circumstances, be deemed as bringing the game into disrepute, penalties for which may include the deduction of points from the offending team.

A captain who is contemplating a declaration which has potential to be deemed an Extraordinary Declaration may, if he wishes, first approach the Officiating Umpires, providing due notice of his intention, in order to request an indicative ruling as to whether or not such a declaration is likely to be deemed an Extraordinary Declaration with the potential for bringing the game into disrepute.

The Officiating Umpires shall then request advice from ECB Domestic Cricket Operations who will (in liaison with the Cricket Discipline Commission and time permitting) provide an indicative ruling to the captain.

ECB Domestic Cricket Operations may ask the Match Referee, or appoint an official to such matches where no Match Referee is available, to facilitate good communication between all relevant parties.

Law 16 – The result

16.1 Law 16 shall apply with the exception of Law 16.4(Matches in which there is an agreement under Law13.1.2) which shall not apply.

16.2 Scoring of Points – County Championship

16.2.1 For a win, 16 points, plus any points scored in the first innings.

16.2.2 In a tie, each side to score 8 points, plus any points scored in the first innings.

16.2.3 In a drawn match, each side to score 5 points, plus any points scored in the first innings (see also paragraph16.2.6).

16.2.4 If the scores are equal in a drawn match where play has taken place, the side batting in the fourth innings to score 8 points plus any points scored in the first innings, and the opposing side to score 5 points plus any points scored in the first innings.

16.2.5 First Innings Points (awarded only for performances in the first 110 overs of each first innings and retained whatever the result of the match).

16.2.5.1 A maximum of five batting points to be available as below:

200 to 249 runs.....1 point
250 to 299 runs.....2 points
300 to 349 runs.....3 points
350 to 399 runs.....4 points
400 runs or over.....5 points

16.2.5.2 A maximum of three bowling points to be available as below:

3 to 5 wickets taken.....1 point
6 to 8 wickets taken.....2 points
9 to 10 wickets taken.....3 points

For the avoidance of doubt, “wickets taken” shall relate exclusively to batsmen dismissed under Laws 32 to 40 inclusive and to batsmen retired out.

If penalty runs are awarded to a team which at that time had faced less than 110 overs in their first innings, or completed their first innings before they had faced 110 overs, those penalty runs will be considered as counting towards the total as far as the award of bonus points is concerned.

If penalty runs are awarded to a team which had already faced 110 overs or more in their first innings, or had previously completed their first innings after they had faced 110 overs, those penalty runs will not be considered as counting towards the total as far as the award of bonus points is concerned.

16.2.6 If a match is abandoned without a ball being bowled, each side to score 5 points.

16.2.7 In the event of a match being abandoned due to a pitch that has been rated unfit in accordance with pitch regulations, the visiting team shall be awarded 16 points plus bonus points already achieved or 20 points whichever is the greater at the time of abandonment. The home team shall be awarded 0 points and any bonus points already achieved shall be rescinded. The visiting team shall be credited with a win and the home team a loss for tiebreaker purposes. Note that this does not preclude further action being taken against the home team through the disciplinary process. For the avoidance of doubt, over-rate penalties shall apply. Ref 12.4.

16.2.8 The side which has the highest aggregate of points gained at the end of the season shall be the Champion County of their respective Division. Should any sides in the Championship table be equal on points, the following tie-breakers will be applied in the order stated: most wins, fewest losses, team achieving most points in contests between teams level on points, most wickets taken, most runs scored.

17 Law 17 – The over

Law 17 shall apply.

18 Law 18 – Scoring runs

Law 18 shall apply.

19 Law 19 – Boundaries

19.1 Law 19.1 (Determining the boundary and the field of play) shall apply with the following additions:

19.1.1 The Ground Authority shall aim to provide the largest playing area, subject to no boundary exceeding a distance of 90 yards from the centre of the pitch.

In any event, the distance from one square boundary to the other square boundary shall not be less than 120 yards and neither square boundary shall be shorter than 50 yards. The straight boundary at both ends of the pitch shall be a minimum of 60 yards. Distances shall be measured from the centre of the pitch to be used.

A gap of 3 yards between the boundary and any perimeter fencing (or other solid object) is mandatory. If this results in a boundary shorter than the minimum being required, then ECB Domestic Cricket Operations must be contacted for approval for such a boundary to be used.

In the event of the Umpires, during their pre-match inspection, considering that a suitably large area has not been utilised for the marking of boundaries within this Playing Condition, they shall be empowered to have them moved to achieve this objective, subject to consultation with the Ground Authority.

On grounds where the boundary is not clearly defined by a perimeter fence or edge of grass area, it must be marked by a rope.

19.1.2 In addition to Law 19.1.2, if practicable, sight screens shall be provided at both ends of all grounds. Advertising shall be permitted on the sight screen behind the striker, provided that is removed for the subsequent over from that end. In Day/Night matches, sightscreens shall be white.

19.2 Law 19.7 (Runs scored from boundaries) shall apply and in addition, at the point that the ball ceases to be dead subsequent to a boundary being scored or Time has been called, there shall be no scope for review or further review of the number of runs scored from that boundary.

20 Law 20 – Dead ball

Law 20 shall apply with the addition of the following to Law 20.4 (Umpire calling and signalling Dead Ball).

In a match where cameras are being used on or over the field of play (e.g. Spydercam), should a ball that has been hit by the batsman make contact, while still in play, with the camera, its apparatus or its cable, either umpire shall call and signal Dead ball. The ball shall not count as one of the over and no runs shall be scored. If the delivery was called a No ball it shall count and the No ball penalty applied. No other runs (including penalty runs) apart from the No ball penalty shall be scored. Should a ball thrown by a fielder make contact with a camera on or over the field of play, its apparatus or its cable, either umpire shall call and signal dead ball. Unless this was already a no-ball or wide, the ball shall count as one of the over. All runs scored to that point shall count, plus the run in progress if the batsmen have already crossed.

21 Law 21 – No ball

Law 21 shall apply with the following additions:

21.1 Law 21.1 (Mode of Delivery) - there shall be no special agreement under Law 21.1.2 that a ball may be delivered underarm.

21.2 Law 21.2 (Fair Delivery – the Arm) and 21.3 (Ball thrown or delivered underarm – action by umpires) shall be read in conjunction with the ECB Regulations for the Review of Bowlers reported with Suspected Illegal Bowling Actions. These regulations will be printed in a separate document and circulated to all County Chief Executives and PCA before the commencement of the competitive 2020 County season.

21.3 Law 21.15 (Penalty for a No ball) shall apply except that the penalty for a No Ball will be 2 runs.

In the event of the striker's end Umpire failing to call and signal No Ball when Law 28.4 (Limitation of onside fielders) has been breached, immediately the ball becomes dead the striker may draw the matter to that Umpire's attention.

If the striker's end Umpire is able to verify the breach he shall call and signal No Ball. If the striker's end Umpire is unable to verify the breach then he shall confirm that the events of the delivery shall be unchanged.

22 Law 22 – Wide ball

Law 22 shall apply but in addition:

22.1 For bowlers attempting to utilise the rough outside a batsman's leg stump, not necessarily as a negative tactic, the strict Limited Over Wide interpretation shall be applied.

22.2 For bowlers whom Umpires consider to be bowling down the leg side as a negative tactic, the strict Limited Over Wide interpretation shall be applied.

23 Law 23 – Bye and Leg bye

Law 23 shall apply.

24 Law 24 – Fielder's absence; substitutes

24.1 Law 24.1 (Substitute fielders) shall apply with the following additions:

24.1.1 The opposing Captain shall have no right of objection to any player acting as a substitute.

24.1.2 No Substitute may take the field until the player for whom he is to substitute has been absent from the field for a period of two consecutive complete overs, with the exception that if a fieldsman sustains an obvious serious injury or is obviously taken ill, a Substitute shall be allowed immediately. A substitute shall be allowed immediately for all head or blood injuries. Substitutes shall be allowed at the sole discretion of the Umpires.

24.1.3 Squad members of the fielding team who are not playing in the match and who are not acting as substitute fielders shall be required to wear a team training bib whilst on the playing area (including the area between the boundary and the perimeter fencing).

24.2 Law 24.2 (Fielder absent or leaving the field of play) shall apply except:

24.2.1 A player shall only accrue Penalty time if he is absent from the field for longer than 8 minutes. In such cases, the whole of the time that the player is absent from the field shall count as unserved Penalty time (though note24.2.2 below).

24.2.2 A player's unserved Penalty time shall be limited to a maximum of 120 minutes (refer Law 24.2.3).

25 Law 25 – Batsman's innings; runners

Law 25 shall apply; however note 24.2.2 above.

26 Law 26 – Practice on the field

Law 26 shall apply with the following additions:

26.1 No practice shall be undertaken on a match pitch during its preparation period (typically the 10 days prior to the match).

26.2 There shall be no bowling or batting practice on any part of the square or the area parallel to the match pitch during the hours of play except at lunch, tea and between innings.

26.3 Practice facilities – Prior to the day's play, all grounds are to provide a net for 'throw-downs' and either a dedicated grass net area or a net on the square. In addition, every effort should be made to provide practice facilities at other times when teams have the opportunity to practise.

26.4 Hitting Up

Teams are required to observe Ground Authority Regulations and the ECB Range Hitting Directive and to exercise the utmost care and caution when engaging in practice and pre-match warm-up and 'hitting up' activities so as to avoid the risk of injury to members of the public, damage to the centre wicket region and to perimeter fencing.

27 Law 27 – The wicket-keeper

Law 27 shall apply.

28 Law 28 – The fielder

Law 28 shall apply with the following additions:

28.1 In order to eliminate any waste of playing time caused by the removal from the field of fieldsmen's protective equipment other than helmets (e.g. shin pads, etc.) such equipment, once taken on to the field, must be worn until the fall of a wicket or until the next interval.

The exchanging of equipment between members of the fielding side on the field shall be permitted, provided that the Umpires do not consider that it constitutes a waste of playing time.

28.2 Umpires are not to hold helmets.

28.3 Head Protector Regulations shall apply. If the non-striker chooses not to wear his helmet, he must carry it personally all the time while play is in progress.

28.4 A batsman may only change an item of protective equipment at the fall of a wicket or at the next interval, unless the equipment is clearly damaged or unserviceable and then only with the approval of the Umpires.

29 Law 29 – The wicket is down

29.1 Law 29 shall apply except that: Law 29.1.1.4 is replaced by:

by the striker's person or by any part of his/her clothing or equipment being worn, or by any part of the striker's clothing or equipment becoming detached from his/her person. However, any detached equipment shall not include the striker's protective helmet, or any part thereof, as defined in Appendix A2.3.

Appendix A2.3 is replaced by:

A protective helmet is headwear made of hard material and designed to protect the head, neck and/or the face. For the purposes of interpreting these Laws of Cricket, such a description will include faceguards, grilles and neck guards.

30 Law 30 – Batsman out of his/her ground

Law 30 shall apply

31 Law 31 – Appeals

Law 31 shall apply with the following addition:

31.1 Intimidatory Appealing

In the event of an appeal, all members of the fielding team must maintain their fielding positions until a decision is given, unless legitimately in the act of fielding or backing up the ball which is not yet dead. For the purposes of this playing condition, a referral to the third umpire will constitute a decision.

32 Law 32 – Bowled

Law 32 shall apply.

33 Law 33 – Caught

Law 33 shall apply.

34 Law 34 – Hit the ball twice

Law 34 shall apply.

35 Law 35 – Hit wicket

Law 35 shall apply.

36 Law 36 – Leg before wicket

Law 36 shall apply.

37 Law 37 – Obstructing the field

Law 37 shall apply.

38 Law 38 – Run out

Law 38 shall apply.

39 Law 39 – Stumped

Law 39 shall apply.

40 Law 40 – Timed out

Law 40 will apply except that the incoming batsman must be in position to take guard or for his partner to be ready to receive the next ball within 2 minutes 30seconds of the fall of the previous wicket or the retirement of a batsman.

41 Law 41 – Unfair play

Law 41 shall apply with the following additions/amendments:

41.1 Guidelines for the Modus Operandi of Match Referees

A Match Referee may be appointed to a specific match at any stage during the season. This will help to avoid potentially damaging speculation relating to games where both teams could achieve their immediate goals through the result of the match. It is likely that the Match Referee will be from the team of Cricket Liaison Officers but may also be another suitable individual at the discretion of the Head of Operations (First-Class Cricket).

The Match Referee will:

•Conduct a meeting with the Umpires and Captains before the start of the match
•Have the power to liaise with Umpires and Captains at any stage
•Only intervene if he feels that practices in the match are unacceptable
•Ensure that the Captains inform him of any agreements that have been reached between them
• Be available to members of the media and liaise with them immediately to head off any unjustified criticism.

If the Match Referee feels that the match is being conducted in an unacceptable manner, then he will raise his concerns with the Captain(s) and issue a formal warning. The Match Referee will inform the ECB Domestic Cricket Operations and the County Chief Executive(s) concerned at the earliest opportunity of any warnings issued. If, in the Match Referee's judgement the match continues to be conducted in an unacceptable manner, he will again call the ECB Domestic Cricket Operations who will organise for the Head of Operations (First-Class Cricket) or the Umpires Manager or another suitable individual at the discretion of the Head of Operations (First-Class Cricket) to join the Referee at the match in question. The Match Referee will conduct a two-man hearing at the earliest opportunity after the end of the match.

The following will be interviewed at the hearing (an Executive of each County or their nominee will be entitled to observe the interviews):

- The Umpire
- The Captains of each team
- Anyone else deemed to have information relevant to the situation

At the end of the interview process, the Match Referee will ask the Executives (or their nominee) to confirm that they are satisfied that all relevant evidence has been gathered, and that the hearing has been conducted in a fair manner. The Match Referee will contact the Chairman of the Cricket Committee and / or the ECB Chief Executive before announcing whether the sanction outlined below will be imposed.

For all other matches when Match Referees have not been appointed, ECB Domestic Cricket Operations, with the approval of the Chairman of Cricket Committee or the ECB Chief Executive, will have the authority to appoint a two-man panel to conduct a post match 'hearing'. (The two-man Panel to be appointed at the discretion of the Head of Operations (First-Class Cricket) who may serve on the Panel himself). With no Match Referee appointed prior to the start of the match there will be no provision for a formal warning to be issued.

If in any match the conduct of one or both teams is found to have been unacceptable, then any points gained by the team(s) in the match (or matches if there was a cross-competition agreement) will be declared to be null and void.

The above penalty is imposed under the procedures agreed by ECB's First Class Forum in December 1999.

A County has the right to appeal against the decision of the hearing. Any appeal must be communicated to the Head of Operations (First-Class Cricket) or Umpires Manager within 24 hours of the hearing's decision. A bond in respect of the appeal will be placed via ECB having the right to deduct an amount up to £5000 from future distributions to the County in question. The bond or any part of it may be retained by the Appeal Panel at its discretion whether the appeal is successful or not. The Chairman of the Cricket Committee will be requested to convene an Appeal Panel comprising two of his nominees and the Chairman of the Cricket Discipline Commission or his nominee who will chair the Appeal Panel. The Appeal Panel will hear the appeal as soon as possible. The decision of the Appeal Panel will be made as soon as possible after the appeal hearing and will be communicated to the home Chief Executive/Secretary at the earliest opportunity. The decision of the Appeal Panel will be final and binding.

41.2 Law 41.3 (The match ball – changing its condition) shall be replaced by:

41.2.1 The umpires shall make frequent and irregular inspections of the ball. In addition, they shall immediately inspect the ball if they suspect anyone of attempting to change the condition of the ball, except as permitted in 41.2.2.

41.2.2 It is an offence for any player to take any action which changes or which may be perceived as likely to change the condition of the ball.

Except in carrying out his normal duties, a batsman is not allowed to wilfully damage the ball. See also Law5.5 (Damage to the ball).

A fielder may, however

41.2.2.1 polish the ball on his clothing provided that no artificial substance is used and that such polishing wastes no time.

41.2.2.2 remove mud from the ball under the supervision of an umpire.

41.2.2.3 dry a wet ball on a piece of cloth that has been approved by the umpires.

41.2.3 The umpires shall consider the condition of the ball to have been unfairly changed if any action by any player does not comply with the conditions in 41.2.2 or if the umpires consider that the condition of the ball is inconsistent with the use it has received.

The umpires shall then ask the captain of the opposing side if he would like the ball to be replaced. If necessary, in the case of the batting side, the batsmen at the wicket may deputise for their captain.

41.2.3.1 If a replacement ball is requested, the umpires shall select and bring into use immediately, a ball which shall have wear comparable to that of the previous ball immediately prior to the contravention.

41.2.3.2 The umpires together shall decide whether they can identify the player(s) responsible for the unfair action.

41.2.4 Regardless of whether a replacement ball has been chosen to be used, if it is possible to identify the player(s) responsible, the bowler's end umpire shall:

a) Award 5 penalty runs to the opposing side.

b) if appropriate, inform the batsmen at the wicket and the captain of the fielding side that the ball has been changed and the reason for their action.

c) Inform the captain of the batting side as soon as practicable of what has occurred.

d) Together with the other umpire report the incident to ECB who shall take action as is appropriate against the player(s) and/or Captain and/or County responsible for the conduct under the ECB Directives.

41.2.5 Regardless of whether a replacement ball has been chosen to be used, if it is not possible to identify the player(s) responsible, the bowler's end umpire shall:

a) issue the captain with a first and final warning, and

b) advise him that the incident will be reported to ECB and that should there be any further incident by that team during the remainder of the match, steps 41.2.4 a) to d)above will be adopted, with the captain deemed under d) to be the player responsible.

41.3 Law 41.6 (Bowling of dangerous and unfair short pitched deliveries) shall apply with the following additions:

41.3.1 Regardless of how wide of the striker a delivery is, there shall be no more than two deliveries per over that after pitching pass or would have passed over shoulder height of the striker standing upright at the popping crease.

41.3.2 The umpire shall make it clear to the bowler (and any bowler called upon to complete an over) and the batsmen at the wicket when a delivery within the limit in 41.3.1 has been bowled. It is unfair if the limit is exceeded and the umpire shall call and signal No ball on each such occasion and consider it as part of the warning sequence in Laws 41.6.3 and 41.6.4.

41.3.3 If a short pitched delivery either:

41.3.3.1 Passes or would have passed over head height of the striker standing upright at the popping crease, and in the umpire's opinion so prevents him from being able to hit it with his bat by means of a normal cricket stroke or;

41.3.3.2 Passes or would have passed over shoulder height of the striker standing upright at the popping crease, and in the umpire's opinion he is able to hit it with his bat by means of a normal cricket stroke or;

41.3.3.3 Passes over shoulder height of the striker standing upright at the popping crease and wide of the striker so that in the umpire's opinion he is unable to hit it with his bat by means of a normal cricket stroke

and, although not necessarily threatening physical injury, is deemed dangerous in accordance with Law41.6.1, it shall be considered as part of the warning sequence in Laws 41.6.3 and 41.6.4.

41.3.4 A delivery as described in 41.3.3.1 shall be called No ball in accordance with Law 21.10.

41.3.5 A delivery as described in 41.3.3.3, if not a No ball, shall be called and signalled wide. (Refer Law 22).

41.3.6 Law 41.6.5 shall not apply. Any warnings applied in Law 41.6.3 shall be added to any warnings applied in Law 41.7 and action taken according to Law 41.6.4.

41.4 Law 41.7 (Bowling of dangerous and unfair non-pitching deliveries) shall apply with the following amendment:

41.4.1 Law 41.7.5 shall not apply. Any warnings applied in Law 41.7 shall be added to any warnings applied in Law 41.6.3 and action taken according to Law 41.7.4.

41.5 Electronic Equipment

With the exception of player movement technology the use of electronic communication devices and equipment of any kind which enables communication between on-field players and anyone not on the field of play shall not be permitted during the scheduled or re-scheduled hours of play.

Law 42 – Players' conduct

Law 42 shall apply with the following amendments:

42.1 In Laws 42.1.4, 42.2.2.2, 42.3.2.2, the batsmen at the wicket may deputise for their Captain.

42.2 In Laws 42.1.4, 42.4.2.2, 42.5.2.2, a team representative may deputise for their Captain.

42.3 ECB Directives shall also apply as appropriate and as separately detailed.