

## Don't bash The Umpire: Do you know the Law?

### **The Fielder**

#### **1. PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT**

No member of the fielding side other than the wicket-keeper shall be permitted to wear gloves or external leg guards. In addition, protection for the hand or fingers may be worn only with the consent of the umpires.

#### **2. FIELDING THE BALL**

A fielder may field the ball with any part of his person but if, while the ball is in play he willfully fields it otherwise,

- (a) the ball shall become dead and 5 penalty runs shall be awarded to the batting side.
- (b) the umpire shall inform the other umpire, the captain of the fielding side, the batsman and, as soon as practicable, the captain of the batting side of what has occurred.
- (c) the umpires together shall report the occurrence as soon as possible to the Executive of the fielding side and any Governing Body responsible for the match who shall take such action as is considered appropriate against the captain and player concerned.

#### **3. PROTECTIVE HELMETS BELONGING TO THE FIELDING SIDE**

Protective helmets, when not in use by fielders, shall only be placed, if above the surface, on the ground behind the wicket-keeper and in line with both sets of stumps. If a helmet belonging to the fielding side is on the ground within the field of play, and the ball while in play strikes it, the ball shall become dead. 5 penalty runs shall then be awarded to the batting side.

#### **4. PENALTY RUNS NOT TO BE AWARDED**

Notwithstanding 2 and 3 above, if from the delivery by the bowler the ball first struck the person of the striker and if, in the opinion of the umpire, the striker:

- neither (i) attempted to play the ball with his bat,
- nor (ii) tried to avoid being hit by the ball,

then no award of 5 penalty runs shall be made and no other runs or penalties shall be credited to the batting side except the penalty for a No ball if applicable.

#### **5. LIMITATION OF ON SIDE FIELDERS**

At the instant of the bowler's delivery there shall not be more than two fielders other than the wicket-keeper behind the popping crease on the on side. A fielder will be considered to be behind the popping crease unless the whole of his person, whether grounded or in the air, is in front of this line.

In the event of infringement of this Law by the fielding side, the umpire at the striker's end shall call and signal No ball.

#### **6. FIELDERS NOT TO ENCROACH ON THE PITCH**

While the ball is in play and until the ball has made contact with the bat or person of the striker, or has passed the striker's bat, no fielder, other than the bowler, may have any part of his person grounded on or extended over the pitch.

In the event of infringement of this Law by any fielder other than the wicket-keeper, the umpire at the bowler's end shall call and signal No ball as soon as possible after the delivery of the ball.

#### 7. MOVEMENT BY FIELDERS

Any significant movement by any fielder after the ball comes into play and before the ball reaches the striker is unfair. In the event of such unfair movement either umpire shall call and signal Dead ball.

#### 8. DEFINITION OF SIGNIFICANT MOVEMENT

- (a) For close fielders anything other than minor adjustments to stance or position in relation to the striker is significant.
- (b) In the outfield, fielders are permitted to move in towards the striker, or striker's wicket, provided that 5 above is not contravened. Anything other than slight movement off line or away from the striker is to be considered significant.

There is now a clear statement that members of the fielding side, other than the wicket-keeper, are not allowed to wear gloves or external leg guards. Should any fielder require protection for his hand or fingers he must obtain permission from the umpires. Failure to do so may make him liable to a penalty being awarded against him.

#### **2002 Code – Laws of Cricket**

WAYS OF AWARDING 5-RUN PENALTIES		Warnings & action
	Shaded area means fielding side gets the 5 runs.	
1	Player returning without umpires permission (handle ball).	0
2	Obstruction of Batsman by Fielding Side.	0
3	Batsman stealing runs during bowler's run-up.	0
4	Changing the condition of the ball. (next offence bowler off).	0 (change ball)
5	Fielding the ball illegal.	0
6	Ball strikes helmet on the ground belonging to fielding side.	0
7	Time wasting by fielding side (during over bowler off).	1
8	Distraction of Batsman by fielding side	0
9	Deliberate short running by either batsman	1 (disallow runs)
10	Fielders damaging the pitch	1
11	Time Wasting by batting side	1
12	Batsman damaging the pitch	2