

THE HUNDRED

PLAYING CONDITIONS

Board Discretion

The Board of ECB retains ultimate discretion over these Playing Conditions and shall be entitled at any time to amend or vary them on reasonable notice to interested parties as well as in exceptional circumstances when the Board shall be entitled to immediately do so on notice to the interested parties.

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. A match shall however be able to commence if one or both sides nominate nine or ten players. A match shall not commence if either team is unable to nominate at least 9 players. After the match has commenced, should a team have fewer than 9 players able to play, the Competition Technical Committee shall have ultimate authority over the continuation of the match.

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/her players in writing to one of the umpires before the toss. 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/her 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 Concussion replacements

Concussion replacements shall be allowed in accordance with separate regulations and protocols.

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 90 minutes prior to the start of the match.

2.2 Decision Review System

The Decision Review System regulations detailed separately shall apply.

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.

2.6 Floodlights

2.6.1 In floodlit matches, the floodlights will be turned on for the whole of the match. In the event of floodlight malfunction or if the floodlights cannot be used for safety reasons with resultant loss of time, then The Hundred Playing Condition 12.3 shall apply.

2.6.2 Use of floodlights does not preclude the application of Hundred Playing Condition 2.5.

2.6.3 In non-floodlit matches where the home authority has confirmed prior to the commencement of the match that floodlights are available, if in the opinion of the Umpires natural light has deteriorated to an unsuitable level, they may authorise the home authority to turn on the floodlights so that the match may continue in acceptable conditions. Once the floodlights have been turned on, they shall remain on for the duration of the game.

2.7 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 under COVID protocols.

It is the onus of the Home Team 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 Team and ECB and made available should playing conditions not improve.

The venue should preferably be within the region. If no such venue is available, then alternative venues shall be considered in conjunction with ECB.

A change in venue will only be approved if it meets COVID protocols and 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 Team and the possible award of additional points to another Team.

2.8 Law 2.15 – Correctness of scores - shall apply. For the avoidance of doubt, a first 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.

2.9 Clothing and Equipment

In all matches, players shall wear coloured clothing and equipment approved by the ECB.

2.10 Sight Screens

Sight Screens shall be black.

2.11 Law 2.13 (Signals) shall apply with the addition of the following to Law 2.13.1.3:

End of the first of the two overs from the same end – by the umpire holding a white card above his/her head.

Strategic Timeout – by the umpire pointing to his/her watch.

3 Law 3 – The scorers

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

3.2 Law 3.2 – Correctness of scores - shall apply. For the avoidance of doubt, a first innings score may only be corrected where necessary prior to the commencement of the subsequent team-innings of the match. See also Playing Condition 2.8 and Law 16.10.

4 Law 4 – The ball

4.1 Balls to be used

White Kookaburra 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. Spare balls shall be of 2021 manufacture. All spare balls shall pass both ring tests of the ball gauge. Except as provided for in Law 4.5 and 4.1.2, the fielding Captain, or his/her nominee, may select the ball with which he/she 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. One new ball shall be used for each innings.

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

4.3.1 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 batters at the wicket and the fielding captain.

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

4.3.2 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 one occasion 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. However, stitched hybrid pitch systems in which synthetic turf fibres (polyethylene or polypropylene, of beige and/or green colour) are inserted vertically into an entire soil pitch with established natural turf, shall be permitted. Fibre stitches should be at a mean square spacing of 18 to 22 mm parallel to the direction of play and over the whole pitch area as defined by Law 6.1.

6.4 Pitch Regulations

The regulations in the 2021 Pitches Document shall apply as they refer to 1-day pitches and the condition of the playing area (includes pitch, square and outfield).

7 Law 7 – The creases

7.1 Additional Crease Markings

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”.

As a guideline to the umpires for the calling of wides on the offside the crease markings detailed in Appendix A shall be marked at each end of the pitch.

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:

One light roller must be available. Rollers heavier than 254kg are prohibited.

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, and in line with each venue's COVID guidelines for groundstaff.

10.2 Law 10.1 (Before the match) shall apply with the addition that:

10.2.1 The whole pitch shall be covered 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. The areas detailed in 10.3.2.1 to 10.3.2.4 shall also be covered the night before the match.

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

10.3.1.2 In the event of play being suspended on account of rain during the specified hours of play, and at the interval between innings on account of rain.

10.3.1.3 The covers shall be removed prior to the start of play provided it is not raining at the time, but they will be replaced if rain falls prior to the commencement of play. The time for the removal of covers shall be at the Groundsman's discretion.

10.3.1.4 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 10 yards, 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 The whole square including all worn patches.

10.3.2.4 The outfield, as much as is practicable.

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 There will normally be two sessions of play of 65 minutes each, excluding any Strategic Timeout, separated by an interval of 15 minutes. Law 11.9 (Agreement to forgo intervals) shall not apply.

11.2 If the innings of the team batting first is completed prior to the scheduled time for the Interval, the Interval shall take place immediately and the Innings of the team batting second will commence correspondingly earlier.

11.3 On any occasion where the innings of the side batting first is delayed or interrupted, the Umpires will reduce the length of the interval to 10 minutes.

11.4 Intervals for Drinks

No drinks intervals are permitted. 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 and any applicable COVID Personal Protective Equipment.

12 Law 12 – Start of play; cessation of play

12.1 All matches

Start times and extra time allocated to each match shall be determined by ECB.

If any Strategic Timeout, for whatever reason, is not taken or available to be taken, the 90 seconds allocated to it shall be added to the extra time allocated to the match (refer 12.6).

12.2 Length of Innings – In uninterrupted matches (ie. matches which are neither delayed nor interrupted):

12.2.1 Each team shall bat for 20 overs unless all out earlier.

12.2.2 If the team fielding first fails to bowl the required number of overs by the scheduled time for the cessation of the first innings, play shall continue until the required number of overs has been bowled and Playing Condition 12.5 shall apply.

12.2.3 If the team batting first is dismissed in less than 20 overs, the team batting second shall be entitled to bat for 20 overs.

12.2.4 If the team fielding second fails to bowl 20 overs by the scheduled time for the cessation of the second innings, the hours of play for the match shall, subject to conditions of ground, weather and light, be extended until the required number of overs has been bowled or a result has been achieved and Playing Condition 12.5 shall apply.

12.3 Delayed or interrupted matches – Group Stage, Eliminators

12.3.1 To constitute a match, a minimum of 5 overs has to be bowled to the side batting second, unless a result has been achieved earlier.

12.3.2 Delay or interruptions to the innings of the team batting first.

12.3.2.1 When playing time has been lost (see above) the revised number of overs to be bowled in the match shall be based on a rate of 3.25 mins per over in the total time available for play (that is, time already played added to time remaining though not including the time allocated to the interval).

Should calculations regarding numbers of overs result in a fraction of an over, the fraction shall be ignored.

In the event of a suspension occurring in the middle of an over, the number of total overs to be bowled in the match will be calculated as if the over in progress at the time of the interruption had been completed. (Note however 12.3.2.2 below)

The innings of the team batting first will continue from the point of the interruption.

The revision of the number of overs should ensure, whenever possible, that both teams have the opportunity to bat for the same number of overs. (Where this is possible, if the total number of overs in the match thereby calculated results in an odd number of total overs in the match, then one over shall be added and the new total divided in half).

12.3.2.2 The team batting second shall not bat for a greater number of overs than the first team unless the latter completed its innings in less than its allocated overs.

To constitute a match, a minimum of 5 overs has to be bowled to the side batting second, unless a result has been achieved earlier.

A fixed time will be specified for the commencement of the interval, and also the close of play for the match, by applying a rate of 3.25 mins per over in respect of each over already bowled and/or scheduled to be bowled in each innings. All relative delays, interruptions in play, and the duration of the interval will be taken into account.

If this calculation produces a close of play time that is earlier than the original time for cessation of play on the final scheduled day for play (time for cessation of play shall take into account extra time), then one additional over should be allocated to each team, with the interval and close of play times being recalculated accordingly.

If there is more than one interruption to the innings of the side batting first, the above calculations should always be based on the original scheduled close of play, rather than the rescheduled close resulting from the previous interruption.

12.3.2.3 If the team fielding first fails to bowl the revised number of overs by the specified time, play shall continue subject to conditions of ground, weather and light until the required number of overs has been bowled or the innings is completed, and Playing Condition 12.5 shall apply. In all reduced overs matches both teams will be given one over's leeway in addition to anytime that the Umpires might allow for stoppages. Allowances prior to a stoppage are carried forward for the purposes of the application of Playing Condition 12.5 only – they do not influence the recalculated number of overs or the scheduled close of either innings.

12.3.2.4 For the avoidance of doubt, on days where two matches are scheduled, the scheduled playing time and extra time allocated to the first match is fixed. No further time from later in the day shall be allocated to the first match.

12.3.3 Delay or interruptions to the innings of the team batting second.

12.3.3.1 When playing time has been lost (see above) and, as a result, it is not possible for the team batting second to have the opportunity of receiving its allocated, or revised allocation of overs in the playing time available, the number of overs shall be reduced at a rate of 3.25 mins per over in respect of the aggregated lost playing time. However, should the innings of the team batting first have been completed prior to the scheduled, or re-scheduled time for the commencement of the interval, then any calculation relating to the revision of overs shall not be effective until an amount of time equivalent to that by which the second innings started early has elapsed.

Should the calculations result in a fraction of an over the fraction shall be ignored. In the event of a suspension occurring in the middle of an over, the number of total overs lost will be calculated as above and the innings of the team batting second will continue from the point of the interruption. (Note 12.3.3.2 below)

12.3.3.2 A rescheduled time for the close of play will be fixed by applying a rate of 3.25 minutes per over in respect of each over already bowled and/or re-scheduled to be bowled in the innings. (The timing and duration of all relative delays and interruptions in play with respect to the second innings will be taken into account in specifying this time.) This calculation should not cause the match to finish earlier than the time that was set for the cessation of play at the commencement of the second innings.

To constitute a match, a minimum of 5 overs have to be bowled to the team batting second unless a result has been achieved earlier.

The team batting second shall not bat for a greater number of overs than the first team unless the latter completed its innings in less than its allocated overs.

12.3.3.3 If the team fielding second fails to bowl the revised overs by the scheduled or re-scheduled close of play, the hours of play shall be extended subject to conditions of ground, weather and light until the overs have been bowled or a result achieved, and Playing Condition 12.5 shall apply. In all reduced overs matches the fielding team will be given one over's leeway in addition to any time that the Umpires might allow for stoppages. Allowances prior to a stoppage are carried forward for the purposes of the application of Playing Condition 12.5 only – they do not influence the recalculated number of overs or the scheduled close of play.

12.3.3.4 For the avoidance of doubt, on days where two matches are scheduled, the scheduled playing time and extra time allocated to the first match is fixed. No further time from later in the day shall be allocated to the first match.

Note The Home Authority will provide a Duckworth Lewis Stern Match Manager. The Duckworth Lewis Stern Match Manager must understand the Duckworth Lewis Stern method and is responsible for the Duckworth Lewis Stern calculations required. The Umpires will both satisfy themselves as to the correctness of all such calculations before allowing play to take place. The Duckworth Lewis Stern Match Manager will notify the Captains, Scorers and all others concerned of such decisions.

12.4 Finals Day

12.4.1 The scheduled hours of play will be determined by ECB.

12.4.2 A Technical Committee shall be appointed who will in conjunction with the Umpires, determine the re-arrangement of overs and timings of matches in the case of any delays or interruptions to matches. At all times, the primary objective of the Technical Committee shall be to balance the desire to achieve commercial objectives with the need to ensure matches of as long a duration as possible.

In making judgments, the Technical Committee shall take into account the amount of play that may already have taken place, the amount of play remaining, and the most accurate weather forecast.

The Technical Committee may allocate extra time either at the break between the two Finals and/or at the end of each day (latest re-scheduled finish tbc) and readjust the timings for matches as appropriate.

The available hours of play on the Reserve Day for the Finals and the availability of floodlights on the Reserve Day shall be confirmed at the time.

The Technical Committee shall, in conjunction with the Umpires, apply the provisions of Clauses 12.3.2 and 12.3.3 above as appropriate.

12.5 Over-Rate Penalties

All sides are expected to be in position to bowl the first ball of their final over by the scheduled or rescheduled cessation time for the innings. In the event of them failing to do so, as an over-rate penalty, one fewer fielder shall be permitted outside the fielding restriction area in 28.1.3 than would normally be the case for the remaining deliveries. All penalties in this regard will be imposed immediately the ball first becomes dead after the scheduled or re-scheduled cessation time for the innings.

The full quota of overs will be completed.

If the innings is terminated before the scheduled or re-scheduled cut-off time, no over-rate penalty shall apply. If the innings is interrupted, the over-rate penalty will apply based on the re-scheduled cessation time for that innings.

The Umpire shall inform the fielding team Captain when taking the field for the first time and on every subsequent occasion if play is interrupted by the weather, the scheduled cessation time for that innings. The Umpire at the bowler's end will inform the fielding Captain, the batter and his/her fellow Umpire of any time allowances as and when they arise. (This matter will not be subject to retrospective negotiation). In addition, in all reduced overs matches, the fielding team will be given one over's leeway. For the avoidance of doubt, one overs leeway means that the fielding side must be in position to bowl the first ball of the penultimate over by the scheduled or rescheduled cut off time.

Over-rate penalties apply only to innings of 10 overs or more duration unless a penalty has been applied before 10 overs have been bowled. In innings of less than 10 overs' duration, Umpires shall apply the penalty run Laws for time wasting especially strictly.

This is the only penalty for a slow over-rate.

12.6 – Strategic Timeout

The fielding side's Captain may apply to the Umpires (not to be unreasonably withheld) to take a Strategic Timeout in accordance with the following:

- A team may only apply for the Strategic Timeout when they are the fielding side and when the ball is dead.
- A Strategic Timeout may be taken mid-over or between overs
- It is not mandatory to take a Strategic Timeout
- A Strategic Timeout shall be for 90 seconds duration and shall be deemed to have commenced at the time that it is signalled by the umpires
- If a Strategic Timeout has been signalled, then the 90 seconds allocated to it shall be completed even if players have cause to leave the field during this period.
- The batters and the fielding team must be ready for the next ball of the match 90 seconds after the Strategic Timeout has been allowed by the Umpires
- A Strategic Timeout may not be taken in the first 25 balls of either innings
- The side fielding second may take a Strategic Timeout even though the side fielding first did not take one, whether through choice or because the innings was terminated prior to the Strategic Timeout being taken
- If any Strategic Timeout, for whatever reason, is not taken or available to be taken, the 90 seconds allocated to it shall be added to the extra time allocated to the match

12.7 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.

13 Law 13 – Innings

13.1 Law 13.1 (Number of innings) shall be replaced by the following:

The match will consist of one innings per side, each innings being limited to a maximum of 20 overs.

One reserve day will be allocated to Finals Day. There will be no reserve day for Group matches or the Eliminator.

13.2 Extra time

30 minutes of extra official playing time is provided to make up for playing time lost.

13.3 Number of Overs Per Bowler

13.3.1 No bowler shall bowl more than 4 overs in an innings.

13.3.2 In a delayed or interrupted match where the overs are reduced for both teams or for the team bowling second;

13.3.2.1 for innings of rescheduled length of at least 10 overs, no bowler may bowl more than one-fifth of the total overs allowed (unless such a number has been exceeded before the interruption). Where the total overs is not divisible by 5, one additional over shall be allowed to the maximum number per bowler necessary to make up the balance.

13.3.2.2 for innings of rescheduled length of between 5 and 9 overs, no bowler may bowl more than two overs.

13.3.2.3 When an interruption occurs mid-over and on resumption the bowler has exceeded the new maximum allocation, he/she will be allowed to finish the incomplete over.

13.3.3 In the event of a bowler breaking down and being unable to complete an over, the remaining balls will be allowed by another bowler. Such part of an over will count as a full over only in so far as each bowler's limit is concerned.

13.3.4 The scoreboard shall show the total number of balls bowled and the number of balls bowled by each bowler.

13.4 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 not apply.

15 Law 15 – Declaration and forfeiture

15.1 The Captain of the batting side may not declare his/her innings closed at any time during the course of a match.

16 Law 16 – The result

16.1 Laws 16.1, 16.4 and 16.5.2 shall not apply.

16.2 When there is no interruption after play has commenced and when both sides have had the opportunity of batting for the same agreed number of overs, the team scoring the higher number of runs shall be the winner. In the event of the scores being tied, the following shall apply:

16.2.1 In a Group match, no account shall be taken of wickets lost, the match is tied and each team shall be awarded one point.

16.2.2 In the Eliminator or Final, no account shall be taken of wickets lost. The teams shall compete in a Super Five to determine the winner. (A Super Five is a sudden death contest comprising one five-ball over per team) Refer 16.5. Should a Super Five, or second Super Five, not be possible due to Playing Condition 2.5 being applied, in the Eliminator, the second-place team from the group stage shall progress to the final; in the final the trophy shall be awarded to the team that finished in first place in the group stage.

16.3 If, due to suspension of play after the start of the match, the number of overs in the innings of either team has to be revised to a lesser number than that originally allotted (minimum 5 overs), then a revised target score should be set for the number of overs which the team batting second will have the opportunity of facing, this revised target being calculated by the Duckworth Lewis Stern method. A par score will be set for the second innings. If this is exceeded a win for the team batting second shall result. If the par score is equalled then the scores are tied and 16.2.1 and 16.2.2 shall apply. (see also 16.5 and 16.6 below). If after the restart of play it is discovered that the wrong Duckworth Lewis Stern target has been set the faulty target shall stand.

16.4 If a match is abandoned before it has been played to a conclusion and before the team batting second has received its allotted number of overs (providing that it has received not less than 5 overs), the result shall be decided by the Duckworth Lewis Stern method.

16.5 Super Five

16.5.1 Subject to weather conditions the Super Five will take place at a time to be determined by the umpires. In normal circumstances it shall commence 10 minutes after the conclusion of the match.

16.5.2 The Super Five will take place on the pitch allocated for the match (the designated pitch) unless otherwise determined by the umpires in consultation with the ground authority and the umpires.

16.5.3 The umpires shall stand at the same end as that in which they finished the match.

16.5.4 In both innings of the Super Five, the fielding side shall choose from which end to bowl.

16.5.5 Only nominated players for the main match excluding any player that has been replaced, and including any replacement players may participate in the Super Five. Should any player (including the batters and bowler) be unable to continue to participate in the Super Five due to injury, illness or other wholly acceptable reason, the relevant Laws and Playing Conditions as they apply in the main match shall also apply in the Super Five.

16.5.6 Any unserved Penalty time at the end of the main match shall be carried forward to the Super Five.

16.5.7 Each team's over is played with the same fielding restrictions as apply for a non-powerplay over in a normal Hundred match.

16.5.8 The team batting second in the match will bat first in the Super Five.

16.5.9 The Umpires shall select a ball from the box of spare balls which shall be used for both overs of the Super Five. The ball to be used shall not be a new ball and should have the apparent wear characteristics of a ball that has had between 5 and 20 overs of usage. For the avoidance of doubt, a ball used in the main match shall not be used in the Super Five. If the ball needs to be changed, then playing conditions as stated for the main match shall apply.

16.5.10 The loss of two wickets in the over ends the team's one over innings.

16.5.11 In the event of the teams having the same score after the Super Five has been completed, another Super Five shall be played in accordance with 16.5, except where amended by the following:

16.5.11.1 The team batting second in the first Super Five will bat first in the second Super Five.

16.5.11.2 The balls selected for use by each team in the first Super Five shall be used again by the same team in the second Super Five.

16.5.11.3 The fielding side shall bowl its over in the second Super Five from the opposite end from which it bowled in the first Super Five.

16.5.12 In the event of the second Super Five being tied, in the Eliminator the team that finished second in the group stage shall progress to the Final; in the Final the trophy shall be awarded to the team that finished in first place in the group stage.

16.6 Match not constituted

16.6.1 In a Group match, if it is not possible for both teams to receive the minimum of 5 overs necessary to constitute a match, the match shall be declared No Result and each team shall be awarded 1 point.

16.6.2 In the Eliminator, if it is not possible for both teams to receive the minimum of 5 overs necessary to constitute a match, the second-place team from the group stage shall progress to the final.

16.6.3 In the Final, if it is not possible for both teams to receive the minimum of 5 overs necessary to constitute a match, the trophy shall be awarded to the team that finished in first place in the group stage.

16.7 In the event of a group match being abandoned due to a pitch that has been rated unfit in accordance with pitch regulations, the visiting team shall be awarded 2 points and the home team 0 points. The visiting team shall be credited with a win and the home team a loss for tiebreaker purposes. Such matches shall not be included for net-run-rate purposes for the visiting team. In respect of net-run-rate for the home team, they shall be considered to have scored 0 runs but to have faced the scheduled number of overs when the first innings commenced.

Note that this does not preclude further action being taken against the home team through the disciplinary process.

16.8 Points System in The Hundred Group Stage

16.8.1 Each team will play 8 matches as determined by ECB. Two points will be awarded for a Win, one point for a Tie or No Result and no points for a Loss.

16.8.2 The team that finishes top of the group will progress to the Final. The teams that finish second and third shall compete in the Eliminator with the winner progressing to the Final.

16.8.3 The tie-breakers for teams finishing on equal points will be:

16.8.3.1 The team with the higher net run rate in the Group Matches will be placed in the higher position (see below).

16.8.3.2 The team that has the highest average points per matches in matches between teams finishing on equal points (note that if this only separates one team when more than two teams are considered by this tiebreaker, only the remaining teams move to the next tiebreaker).

16.8.3.3 Wicket-taking strike rate (number of balls bowled per wicket taken)

16.8.3.4 In the event that teams cannot be separated by 16.11.3.1 to 16.11.3.3 above, this will be done by drawing lots.

16.9.4 Net Run Rate

A team's net run rate is calculated by deducting from the average runs per over scored by that team, the average runs per over scored against that team.

In the event of a team being all out in less than its full quota of overs, the calculation of the net run rate of both teams shall be based on the full quota of overs to which the batting team would have been entitled and not on the number of overs in which the team was dismissed.

Only those matches where results are achieved will count for the purpose of net run rate calculations. Where a match is abandoned, but a result is achieved under Duckworth Lewis Stern, for net run rate purposes Team 1 will be accredited with Team 2's Par Score on abandonment off the same number of overs faced by Team 2. Where a match is concluded but with Duckworth Lewis Stern having been applied at an earlier point in the match, Team 1 will be accredited with 1 run less than the final Target Score for Team 2 off the total number of overs allocated to Team 2 to reach the target.

16.9.5 Hundred Team unable to field a team

This clause relates solely to circumstances where a Team is not able to field a team and is distinct from Law 16.3 (Umpires awarding a match) and Playing Condition 2.4 (Fitness for play).

If a Team is not able to field a team for (or during) a match or the Competition Technical Committee decides in accordance with Competition Regulation 9 that the match shall not continue due to the reduced availability of the Team's players:

- (a) the match shall be cancelled or abandoned, as appropriate;
- (b) if a Group Stage match, the Team which is unable to field a team shall be awarded 0 points even if the match had been constituted and the Team would have won the match. If a knockout match, the Team which is unable to field a team shall lose the match, even if the match had been constituted and the Team would have won the match.
- (c) if a Group Stage Match the other Team shall be awarded 1 point if the match was not constituted, 0 points if it had lost a constituted match, 2 points if it had won a constituted match. If a knockout match, unless alternative and most merited opposition is arranged by ECB, the other Team shall win the match even if the match had been constituted and the other Team would have lost the match.
- (d) In the Group Stage, the Team which is unable to field a team shall be awarded a loss and the other Team a Win, Loss or No Result for tiebreaker purposes in accordance with (c) above.

16.9.6 The application of 16.9.5 does not preclude further disciplinary action being taken against the Team which is not able to field a team by the ECB in appropriate circumstances.

16.9.7 Any Team awarded 0 points in accordance with 16.9.5(b) shall have the ability to challenge the application of this rule on the basis that the Team was not at fault in not being able to field a team and the application of this rule would therefore be manifestly unfair. The burden of proof shall be on the Team. The Team must issue the challenge to the Chair of the Competition Technical Committee in writing, copied to the ECB, together with all supporting evidence, within 24 hours of the ECB confirming in writing that it has been awarded 0 points in accordance with 16.9.5(b). The Competition Technical Committee shall determine its own procedures (and seek additional information where appropriate, including allowing the ECB the opportunity to respond to the challenge) and shall, wherever possible, consider the case within 48 hours of the match being cancelled or abandoned. If the Competition Technical Committee considers that the application of this rule would be manifestly unfair, the Team shall be awarded 1 point if the match was not constituted, 0 points if it had lost a constituted match, 2 points if it had won a constituted match, and credited with a Win, Loss or No Result for tiebreaker purposes accordingly. The decision of the Competition Technical Committee shall be final. No challenge shall be allowed with respect to knockout matches.

17 Law 17 – The over

Law 17 shall apply with the following exceptions:

An over, wherever it is referred to in the Laws and Playing Conditions shall comprise 5 balls. Any reference to 6 balls or 6 valid balls in the Laws shall be replaced by 5 balls and 5 valid balls respectively.

17.1 – Law 17.1 (Number of balls) shall be replaced by:

Two overs of 5 balls each shall be bowled from each end alternately. Batters shall not change ends in between any overs.

17.2 – Law 17.4 (Call of Over) shall be replaced by:

When 5 valid balls have been bowled and as soon as the ball becomes dead, the umpires shall call "Five". See also Playing Condition 20.1.

17.3 – Law 17.6 (Bowler changing ends) shall be replaced by:

A bowler shall be allowed to change ends as often as desired, provided he/she does not bowl more than two overs consecutively, nor bowl parts of more than two consecutive overs, in the same innings. (Refer 13.3 – number of overs per bowler).

18 Law 18 – Scoring runs

Law 18 shall apply with the following exceptions:

18.1 – Law 18.11 (Batter returning to original end)

Law 18.11.1 shall apply with the addition that if the striker is dismissed Caught, the not out batter shall return to his/her original end.

18.2 – Law 18.12 (Batter returning to wicket he/she has left)

Law 18.12 shall apply with the exception of 18.12.1.1 which shall not 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:

19.1.1.1 In Men's Hundred, 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.

19.1.1.2 In Women's Hundred, no boundary exceeding a distance of 70 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.

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 following additions:

20.1 Law 20.3 Call of Over or Time

Law 20.3 shall apply except that the call of Over shall be replaced by Five (refer 17.2)

20.2 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 batter 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 batters 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 Teams and PCA before the commencement of the 2021 competition.

21.3 Law 21.5 (Fair delivery – the feet) shall apply except that in Law 21.5.2, the third umpire shall review television replays of the bowler's front foot landing and, if he/she is satisfied that any of these three conditions have not been met, he/she shall immediately advise the bowler's end umpire who shall in turn immediately call and signal No ball.. See Law 41.8 (Bowling of deliberate front foot No ball).

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

21.5 Free Hit after a No Ball

In addition to 21.1 above, the delivery following a no ball shall be a free hit for whichever batter is facing it. Note that this applies for all modes of No ball with the exception of a short-pitched delivery that passes or would have passed clearly over head-height of the striker standing upright at the popping crease. For the avoidance of doubt, a free hit shall be applied for a No ball that is called in respect of a breach of Hundred playing condition 41.3.1.

If the delivery for the free hit is not a legitimate delivery (any kind of no ball or a wide ball), then the next delivery will become a free hit for whichever batter is facing it.

For any free hit, the striker can be dismissed only under the circumstances that apply for a no ball even if the delivery for the free hit is called wide ball.

Field changes are not permitted for free hit deliveries unless there is a change of striker or the No Ball was the result of a field restriction breach in which case the field may be changed to the extent of correcting the breach. However, in all circumstances, any fielder within 15 yards of the striker may retreat to a position on the same line no more than 15 yards from the striker.

The Umpires will signal a free hit by (after the normal No Ball signal) extending one arm straight upwards and moving it in a circular motion.

22 Law 22 – Wide ball

Law 22 shall apply but in addition:

Umpires are instructed to apply a very strict and consistent interpretation in regard to this Law in order to prevent negative bowling wide of the wicket.

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/she 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/she 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.

24.2.2 In Law 24.2.6 the time taken for the Strategic Timeout shall not count as Penalty time served.

25 Law 25 – Batter’s innings; runners

Law 25 shall apply.

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 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 At the instant of delivery there shall not be more than five fielders on the leg side.

28.2 For the first 5 overs (powerplay overs) only in a 20-over innings, at the instant of delivery no more than two fielders are permitted to be outside an area bounded by two semi-circles centred on each middle stump (each with a radius of 30 yards for Men’s Hundred and each with a radius of 25.15 yards (23m) for Women’s Hundred) and joined by a parallel line on each side of the pitch (the fielding circle).

The fielding circle should be marked by painted white ‘dots’ at five-yard intervals, each ‘dot’ to be covered by a white plastic or rubber disc measuring seven inches in diameter.

28.3 In circumstances when the number of overs of the batting team is reduced, the powerplay overs in 28.2 shall be reduced in accordance with the table below. For the sake of clarity, it should be noted that the table shall apply to both the 1st and 2nd innings of the match.

Total overs in innings	No. of powerplay overs.balls for which fielding restrictions in 28.2 shall apply
5	1.1
6	1.3
7	1.4
8	2.0
9	2.1
10	2.3
11	2.4
12	3.0
13	3.1
14	3.3
15	3.4
16	4.0
17	4.1
18	4.3
19	4.4

28.4 For the remainder of each innings no more than five fielders in Men’s Hundred and no more than four fielders in Women’s Hundred are permitted to be outside the fielding circle at the instant of delivery. Refer also 12.5).

28.5 If following an interruption, on resumption the total number of powerplay overs for the innings has already been exceeded, then there will be no further powerplay deliveries bowled in the innings.

28.6 In the event of an infringement of any of the above fielding restrictions, the striker’s end Umpire shall call and signal ‘No Ball’.

28.7 In the event of the striker’s end Umpire failing to call and signal No Ball when the fielding restrictions in this playing condition have been breached or when Law 28.4 (Limitation of on side 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/she shall call and signal No Ball. If the striker’s end Umpire is unable to verify the breach then he/she shall confirm that the events of the delivery shall be unchanged.

28.8 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, subject to COVID protocols and provided that the Umpires do not consider that it constitutes a waste of playing time.

28.9 Umpires are not to hold helmets.

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

28.11 A batter 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 – Batter 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

40.1 Law 40 shall apply except that the incoming batter must be in position to take guard or for his/her partner to be ready to receive the next ball within 60 seconds of the fall of the previous wicket or the retirement of a batter. The incoming batter is expected to be ready to make his/her way to the wicket immediately, and is expected to jog to the wicket. Umpires shall strictly apply Law 41.10 (Batter wasting time).

41 Law 41 – Unfair play

Law 41 shall apply with the following additions/amendments:

41.1 Specific role of Match Referee

A Match Referee may be asked to avoid potentially damaging speculation relating to games where both teams could achieve their immediate goals through the result of the match.

In such a circumstance, 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 they feel that practices in the match are unacceptable
- Ensure that the Captains inform them 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 they will raise their concerns with the Captain(s) and issue a formal warning. The Match Referee will inform the ECB Domestic Cricket Operations and the Team 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, they will again call the ECB Domestic Cricket Operations who will organise for the Head of Operations (First-Class Cricket) or the Cricket Operations 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-person hearing at the earliest opportunity after the end of the match.

The following will be interviewed at the hearing (an Executive of each Team 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 Performance 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 Performance Cricket Committee or the ECB Chief Executive, will have the authority to appoint a two-person panel to conduct a post match 'hearing'. (The two-person Panel to be appointed at the discretion of the Head of Operations (First-Class Cricket) who may serve on the Panel themselves). 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 Team 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 Cricket Operations 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 Team 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 Performance Cricket Committee will be requested to convene an Appeal Panel comprising two of their nominees and the Chairman of the Cricket Discipline Commission or their 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/her normal duties, a batter 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/her clothing provided that no artificial substance or saliva 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 (except use of saliva – see 41.2.6) 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/she would like the ball to be replaced. If necessary, in the case of the batting side, the batters 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:

- Award 5 penalty runs to the opposing side.
- if appropriate, inform the batters at the wicket and the captain of the fielding side that the ball has been changed and the reason for their action.
- Inform the captain of the batting side as soon as practicable of what has occurred.
- 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 Team 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:

- issue the captain with a first and final warning, and
- advise him/her 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.

41.2.6 If the umpires believe that saliva has been applied to the ball, the umpires shall:

41.2.6.1 If it is a first instance during an innings, summon the captain of the fielding side and issue a first warning.

41.2.6.2 If it is a second instance during an innings, summon the captain of the fielding side and issue a second and final warning and warn the captain of the fielding side that any further such offence by any member of the team during the innings shall result in the award of 5 Penalty runs to the batting side.

41.2.6.3 If it is a third or subsequent instance, award 5 Penalty runs to the batting side.

41.2.6.4 The ball shall not be changed.

41.2.6.5 Use of saliva in breach of clause 41.2.2.1 above shall not, in itself, be considered an offence under ECB Directives.

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 one delivery per over that after pitching pass or would have passed over shoulder height of the striker standing upright at the popping crease.

