

BOWLING REVIEW REGULATIONS



**England and Wales Cricket Board, Lord's Cricket Ground
St John's Wood, London, NW8 8QZ
England**

Table of Contents

Clause		Page
1	Definitions and Application	3
2	Reporting Procedure	5
3	Independent Assessment	7
4	Bowling Review Group and BRG Hearing.....	11
5	Re-Assessment of Reported Player's Action	13
6	Second and Subsequent Bowling Suspensions and/or Warnings	14
	Appendix 1 ECB Standard Analysis Protocols.....	15

1 DEFINITIONS AND APPLICATION

1.1 In these Bowling Review Regulations (“Regulations”):

Appointed Specialist means an individual with the credentials, equipment and appropriate facilities to conduct an analysis of the bowling actions of bowlers who is appointed by the ECB to produce an Expert Opinion Report and/or to conduct an Independent Assessment.

Bowling Review Group means the group responsible for determining appeals from Reported Players on behalf of the ECB in accordance with Regulation 3.10, none of whom must have any association with the Reported Player or the Reported Player’s Team, comprising one independent bio-mechanical expert and two members of the Cricket Discipline Panel. When an appeal is required, the Chair of the Cricket Discipline Panel will appoint two members of the Cricket Discipline Panel to form part of the Bowling Review Group for that specific appeal, one of whom must be legally qualified and will act as the chair of the Bowling Review Group (the “BRG Chair”).

Bowling Suspension has the meaning given to it in Regulation 3.7.

BRG Hearing has the meaning given to it in Regulation 3.

Chair of the Cricket Discipline Panel means the independent chair of the Cricket Discipline Panel from time to time or their authorised deputy.

Competitive County Cricket has the meaning given to it in the Competitive County Cricket Registration Regulations.

Competitive County Cricket Registration Regulations means the regulations governing registration for, amongst other things, the County Championship, as in force and amended from time to time.

Cricket Discipline Panel means the panel of individuals responsible for adjudicating on regulatory cases on behalf of the ECB.

Cricket Regulator means the body responsible for investigating and prosecuting breaches of ECB Regulations.

ECB means England and Wales Cricket Board.

ECB Regulations means the ECB’s rules, regulations, playing conditions and codes as published and in force (and as amended and supplemented) from time to time.

Effective Date means 24 March 2026.

England Representative Team means any England team playing in a match that is not International Cricket.

Expert Opinion Report has the meaning given to it in Regulation 3.

ICC means the International Cricket Council, which is the worldwide governing body for the sport of cricket.

ICC Illegal Bowling Regulations means the ICC Regulations for the Review of Bowlers Reported with Suspected Illegal Bowling Actions, as in force and amended from time to time.

ICC Regulations means the ICC Regulations as in force and amended from time to time.

ICC Standard Analysis Protocols means the ICC Standardised Protocols for the Assessment of Suspected Illegal Bowling Actions (as amended from time to time), which set out the test methods and protocols developed for and on behalf of the ICC to analyse bowling actions, a summary of which is annexed to the ICC Illegal Bowling Regulations.

Illegal Bowling Action means a bowling action where a player's elbow extension exceeds 15 degrees, measured using the ECB Standard Analysis Protocols at Appendix 1, from the point at which the bowling arm reaches the horizontal until the point at which the ball is released.

Independent Assessment has the meaning given to it in Regulation 3.

Independent Assessment Report has the meaning given to it in Regulation 3.

International Cricket has the meaning given to it in the ICC's Illegal Bowling Regulations.

Law means any of the Laws of Cricket as set by the Marylebone Cricket Club.

Match means any match in Competitive County Cricket, the Tier 1 Competitions, The Hundred and any match involving an England Representative Team that is not International Cricket.

Match Officials' Report means a report made to the ECB by the umpire(s) or match referee (as applicable) in the standard form prescribed by the ECB from time to time, and which details the relevant match official's concern with the bowling action of a Registered Cricketer in a Match, including, where relevant, whether those concerns relate to the Registered Cricketer's bowling action generally or whether they relate to one or more specific types of delivery.

PCA means the Professional Cricketers' Association.

Professional County Club means any of the clubs and/or companies listed in Schedule A of the ECB's Articles of Association from time to time and/or any county cricket club from time to time playing in the County Championship and/or Tier 1 Competitions.

Re-Assessment has the meaning given to it in Regulation 5.

Registered Cricketer means:

(i) any cricketer that plays in a Match and who is registered (including any cricketer whose registration is suspended) in accordance with the following regulations, as in force and amended from time to time:

- (a) the Competitive County Cricket Registration Regulations;
- (b) the Tier 1 Registration Regulations;
- (c) the Hundred Player Selection Regulations, and

(ii) any cricketer that plays for an England Representative Team in a Match.

Reported Player means a Registered Cricketer that has been reported to the ECB in a Match Officials' Report in accordance with Regulation 2.

Reported Player's Team means the Team a Registered Cricketer is registered to or otherwise playing for (or was registered to or playing for) at the time of the relevant Match.

Team means a Professional County Club, Hundred Team or England Representative Team.

The Hundred means the ECB's domestic cricket competition in a hundred-ball format, and

references to “Men’s Hundred” and “Women’s Hundred” mean The Hundred competition played by the men’s Hundred Team and women’s Hundred Team, respectively.

Tier 1 Competitions means any women’s domestic cricket competitions designated by the ECB as being a “Tier 1” competition, which, as at the Effective Date, includes the T20 Blast Women’s Competition and the One Day Cup Women’s Competition.

Tier 1 Registration Regulations means the regulations governing, amongst other things, registration for the Tier 1 Competitions as in force and amended from time to time.

Warning has the meaning given to it in Regulation 3.

- 1.2 These Regulations come into full force and effect from the Effective Date, and apply to all Registered Cricketers.
- 1.3 Nothing in these Regulations will override an umpire’s responsibility and discretion to apply Law 21.
- 1.4 Where a Reported Player is reported in a Match in which they have played whilst on loan to another Team, both the Reported Player’s Team and the Team with whom the Reported Player is on loan to will be sent notifications (so long as the loan continues).
- 1.5 Where a Registered Cricketer is registered by a new Team and therefore the player provides the necessary consent for that new Team to access their player record, the ECB will inform that Team of any relevant past actions or records under these Regulations involving that player.

2 REPORTING PROCEDURE

- 2.1 The following reporting procedure will apply in respect of Registered Cricketers:
 - 2.1.1 called by the umpire(s) for throwing the ball, as prohibited by Law 21.2, or
 - 2.1.2 suspected by the umpire(s) and (if appointed) match referee of bowling with an Illegal Bowling Action,

in a Match.
- 2.2 In deciding whether to report a Registered Cricketer to the ECB, the umpire(s) and (if appointed) match referee must use the naked eye viewing the action live and/or on television at normal speed. Slow motion television replays must only be used to confirm initial suspicions.
- 2.3 At the conclusion of a Match, the match referee (or if none, the umpire(s)) will submit a Match Officials’ Report to the ECB where:
 - 2.3.1 the umpire(s) called a Registered Cricketer for throwing the ball as prohibited by Law 21.2; or
 - 2.3.2 the umpire(s) and (if appointed) match referee agree that a Registered Cricketer is suspected to have bowled with an Illegal Bowling Action.
- 2.4 The match referee or umpire(s) (as applicable) will immediately inform the ECB Head of Domestic Cricket Operations or ECB Senior Cricket Operations Manager that they have submitted a Match Officials’ Report to the ECB in respect of a Registered Cricketer.
- 2.5 Before leaving the venue, the match referee or umpire(s) (as applicable) will inform the

Reported Player, the Reported Player's coach and/or another representative of the Reported Player's Team who is present, that they have submitted a Match Officials' Report to the ECB. If the match referee or umpire(s) (as applicable) are unable to inform the Reported Player, the Reported Player's Coach and/or any other members or representatives of the Reported Player's Team because they have left the venue, the match referee or umpire(s) (as applicable) will notify the ECB of this fact and the ECB will notify the Reported Player within the following 24 hours.

- 2.6 Within 5 days of the conclusion of the relevant Match in which the Reported Player is reported to the ECB, the ECB will share a copy of the Match Officials' Report with the Chief Executive (or other equivalent senior representative, as applicable) of the Reported Player's Team.
- 2.7 If the bowling action of the Reported Player has been assessed previously, whether under these Regulations or any previous version of them, or under any equivalent ICC Regulations, the ECB will show the match referee (if appointed) and umpire(s) any available video evidence of that previous assessment. The match referee (if appointed) and umpire(s) will then be asked to confirm whether they wish to proceed with submitting the Match Officials' Report. If having reviewed that evidence either of the match referee (if appointed) or the umpire(s) do not wish to proceed with submitting the Match Officials' Report, that report, so far as it relates to the reported bowling action, will be deemed to have been withdrawn.
- 2.8 Following their review of any previous video evidence as referred to in Regulation 2.7, where the match referee (if appointed) and umpire(s), confirm that they wish to proceed to submit the Match Officials' Report, or there is no previous assessment to review, the Reported Player must submit to the process outlined in Regulation 3, regardless of whether the Match Officials' Report was in relation to the Reported Player's bowling action generally or any specific types of delivery.
- 2.9 Where possible, the ECB will not make any public comment regarding any Match Officials' Report until the Reported Player has been informed of the situation and the Chief Executive (or other equivalent senior representative, as applicable) of the Reported Player's Team has received the outcome of the Independent Assessment. Once this has occurred, or otherwise where the ECB considers it is necessary in order to address or minimise media/public speculation, the ECB may issue a media release to the effect that the Reported Player has been called or reported and that they will be subject to an Independent Assessment. Where the Independent Assessment of the Reported Player results in a Bowling Suspension or Warning as outlined in Regulations 3.7 and 3.8 the ECB will issue a media release summarising the outcome of the Independent Assessment and the action to be taken by the ECB. Where the Independent Assessment does not result in a Bowling Suspension or a Warning the ECB may, with the agreement of the Reported Player, issue a media release summarising the outcome of the Independent Assessment.
- 2.10 When the Match Officials' Report is made in a Match that has been televised or filmed, upon receipt of the Match Officials' Report the ECB will, where possible, arrange for copies of the footage of the bowling spells of the Reported Player in the Match in question to be produced as soon as possible and all Teams must comply with supplying any available footage. Once copies of this footage have been received, the ECB will forward a copy to the Reported Player's Team who will retain one copy for its own purposes and provide a copy to the Reported Player. A copy of the Match Officials' Report will be retained by the ECB for use in the Expert Opinion Report (if applicable), the Independent Assessment and, where necessary, for a BRG Hearing (if required in accordance with Regulation 4 below). If footage from the Match when the Match Officials' Report was lodged is not available, or not of an appropriate quality, the Independent Assessment may analyse footage of the Reported Player bowling in other matches where video footage is available. Such other footage may only be obtained from matches that took place in the immediately preceding 12 months and must start with the most recent footage available within that 12-month period. Where this type of footage will be analysed in the Independent

Assessment, it must only be selected following consultation with the Reported Player and/or the Reported Player's Team in order to discuss whether any changes have been made to the Reported Player's bowling action since that footage was filmed.

3 INDEPENDENT ASSESSMENT

Expert Opinion Report

- 3.1 Where the ECB has a copy of the footage of the bowling spells of the Reported Player in the Match in question, then upon receipt of a Match Officials' Report, the ECB will instruct an Appointed Specialist to carry out an initial assessment of the Match Officials' Report by reference to the available footage. Subject to the availability of the Appointed Specialist, this initial assessment will be carried out within 7 days of the Reported Player's Team receiving notice of the Match Officials' Report (in accordance with Regulation 2.6).
- 3.2 The Appointed Specialist will review the footage and provide an opinion to the ECB on whether the Reported Player's bowling action is at risk of being an Illegal Bowling Action (the "**Expert Opinion Report**"). The Expert Opinion Report will state one of three available conclusions:
 - 3.2.1 Low/No Risk – where the Appointed Specialist has a high degree of certainty that the Reported Player has not used an Illegal Bowling Action.
 - 3.2.2 Medium Risk – where the Appointed Specialist considers it to be arguable that the Reported Player has used an Illegal Bowling Action.
 - 3.2.3 High Risk – where the Appointed Specialist considers it is more likely than not that the Reported Player has used an Illegal Bowling Action.
- 3.3 If the Expert Opinion Report concludes that the Reported Player's bowling action is Low/No Risk no further action will be taken against the Reported Player. If the Expert Opinion Report concludes that the Reported Player's bowling action is Medium Risk or High Risk, the Reported Player will be required to undergo an Independent Assessment. In either case the Expert Opinion Report will be shared with the Reported Player and the Chief Executive (or other equivalent senior representative, as applicable) of the Reported Player's Team.
- 3.4 Throughout the period from the date of the Match Officials' Report which triggers the Expert Opinion Report up to the date of receipt by the Reported Player and/or the Chief Executive (or other equivalent senior representative, as applicable) of the Reported Player's Team of the Expert Opinion Report, the Reported Player is permitted to continue bowling for any England Representative Team and/or any Professional County Club competing in Competitive County Cricket and/or the Tier 1 Competitions and/or any Hundred Team (as applicable). At any time throughout this period, the Reported Player remains open to being called on the field by any umpire for breach of Law 21.2 and the consequences of such Law must continue to apply.

Referral to Independent Assessment

- 3.5 Where the Expert Opinion Report concludes that the Reported Player's bowling action is Medium Risk or High Risk, or in cases where an Appointed Specialist is unable to provide an Expert Opinion Report whether because there is no footage of the relevant Match or the footage available is not of appropriate quality, the ECB will instruct an Appointed Specialist (who may be the same person that provided the Expert Opinion Report) to carry out an Independent Assessment in accordance with the ICC Illegal Bowling Regulations as specified in the ECB Standard Analysis Protocols at Appendix 1, and on the following terms (an "**Independent Assessment**"):
 - 3.5.1 The Independent Assessment will be carried out as soon as reasonably possible and,

subject to the availability of the Appointed Specialist and the venue to be used for the Independent Assessment, will in any event take place within the following time frames:

- (a) within 14 days of the Reported Player's Team receiving notice of the Match Officials' Report (in accordance with Regulation 2.6) where the Reported Player was playing in Competitive County Cricket or the Tier 1 Competitions; or
 - (b) within 7 days of the Reported Player's Team receiving notice of the Match Officials' Report (in accordance with Regulation 2.6) where the Reported Player was playing in the Men's Hundred or the Women's Hundred.
- 3.5.2 The Independent Assessment will review the Match Officials' Report and determine whether the concerns relate to the Reported Player's bowling action generally or whether they relate to one or more specific types of delivery.
- 3.5.3 The ECB will specify the time and place at which the Independent Assessment will be carried out, and as far as practicable, will give reasonable notice of the Independent Assessment to the Reported Player's Team. The Reported Player must submit to the Independent Assessment, which will take priority over any playing commitments the Reported Player may have (for example, if the Independent Assessment coincides with a match being played by the Reported Player's Team). It is recommended that the coach or director of cricket of the Team the Reported Player was representing at the time of the Match Officials' Report, attend the Independent Assessment. Alternatively, or in addition, the Reported Player will be entitled to be accompanied by a representative at the Independent Assessment, who will be permitted to observe the Independent Assessment but must not interfere or otherwise be involved in any aspect of it unless invited by the ECB and/or testing team to do so (see paragraph 9 of the ECB Standard Analysis Protocols at Appendix 1).
- 3.5.4 If the Reported Player has any concerns or complaints regarding the circumstances or conduct of the Independent Assessment, they must make these known to the Appointed Specialist before the conclusion of the Independent Assessment. The Appointed Specialist must make a written note of the relevant concern or complaint and agree the contents of the written note with the Reported Player, which will then be appended to the Independent Assessment Report.
- 3.5.5 In the event that the Reported Player fails to submit to the Independent Assessment as required by Regulation 3.5.3, such failure will be regarded as an admission that they bowl with an Illegal Bowling Action and they will immediately be suspended from bowling for any England Representative Team and/or any Professional County Club competing in Competitive County Cricket and/or the Tier 1 Competitions and/or any Hundred Team, until such time as they have submitted to a Re-Assessment (in accordance with this Regulation 5) which has concluded that their bowling action is legal.
- 3.5.6 Within 14 days of completion of the Independent Assessment, the Appointed Specialist will submit to the ECB a written report (the "**Independent Assessment Report**") in the format as set out in the ICC Standard Analysis Protocols and which will include the following:
- (a) where the Independent Assessment Report concludes that the Reported Player employed an Illegal Bowling Action during the Independent

Assessment, it must indicate whether the Reported Player employed an Illegal Bowling Action generally or in respect of specific type(s) of delivery only;

- (b) where the Independent Assessment Report concludes that the Reported Player did not employ an Illegal Bowling Action during the Independent Assessment and video footage is available (as outlined in Regulation 2.10), it must indicate whether, in the opinion of the Appointed Specialist, the Reported Player's bowling action during the Independent Assessment was materially different to their action in the relevant video footage and whether this material difference was general or in respect of the specific type(s) of delivery (if any) identified in the Match Officials' Report;
- (c) the Independent Assessment Report must also include any notes of concerns or complaints of the Reported Player made under Regulation 3.5.4.

3.6 The ECB will provide the Reported Player and the Reported Player's Team with a copy of the Independent Assessment Report as soon as practicable following receipt.

3.7 Subject to Regulation 3.93.9 below, if the Independent Assessment Report concludes that:

3.7.1 the Reported Player employed an Illegal Bowling Action during the Independent Assessment and that, where relevant, such conclusion is consistent with the relevant video footage obtained in accordance with Regulation 2.10; or

3.7.2 the Reported Player's bowling action during the Independent Assessment was materially different to their action in the relevant video footage,

the Reported Player will immediately be suspended from bowling for any England Representative Team and/or any Professional County Club competing in Competitive County Cricket and/or the Tier 1 Competitions and/or any Hundred Team (as applicable) under these Regulations or a previous version of these Regulations (a "**Bowling Suspension**"). The Bowling Suspension will remain active until such time as the Reported Player has submitted to a Re-Assessment (in accordance with the provisions as set out in Regulation 5) and that Re-Assessment has concluded that the Reported Player has remedied their bowling action as necessary. The Bowling Suspension will apply from the date of receipt by the Reported Player or the Reported Player's Team (as applicable) of a copy of the Independent Assessment Report in accordance with Regulation 3.63.6.

***Note:** The ECB Standard Analysis Protocols (Appendix 1) contain reference to a level of acceptable elbow extension. Should the Independent Assessment Report conclude that the Reported Player's action exhibits a degree of elbow extension of the bowling arm higher than the acceptable level; the action of the Reported Player will be deemed to be an Illegal Bowling Action. In order for the action to be classified as a legal action, the degree of elbow extension recorded for **each delivery**, which is not materially different to the Reported Player's action in the relevant video footage, must be within the level of acceptable elbow extension.*

3.8 In circumstances where the Independent Assessment Report concludes that the Reported Player employed an Illegal Bowling Action or used a materially different bowling action during the Independent Assessment in respect of a specific type of delivery only, the Reported Player will be allowed to continue bowling for any England Representative Team and/or any Professional County Club competing in Competitive County Cricket and/or the Tier 1 Competitions and/or any Hundred Team, as applicable, but subject to the warning (a "**Warning**") that, if they continue to bowl any of the specific type(s) of delivery for which they have been found to have an Illegal Bowling Action, they will run the risk of being reported again. In these

circumstances further reports resulting in an Independent Assessment concluding that the Reported Player has employed an Illegal Bowling Action (whether in respect of a specific type of delivery or more generally) will result in the immediate Bowling Suspension of the Reported Player, and such Bowling Suspension will be considered a Second Suspension under the provisions of Regulation 6 below.

***Note:** This applies in circumstances where a bowler employs a different technique to deliver a specific type of delivery e.g. propelling the ball out of the back of the hand to produce a “googly” or “doosra”. It does not apply in the situation where the same basic technique is used to produce a different type of delivery e.g. more effort to produce a “bouncer” or a “yorker”.*

3.9 Throughout the period from the date of the Match Officials’ Report which triggers an Expert Opinion Report and/or Independent Assessment up to the date of receipt by the Reported Player and/or the Reported Player’s Team of the Independent Assessment Report, the Reported Player is permitted to continue bowling for any England Representative Team and/or any Professional County Club competing in Competitive County Cricket and/or the Tier 1 Competitions and/or any Hundred Team (as applicable). At any time throughout this period, the Reported Player remains open to being called on the field by any umpire for breach of Law 21.2 and the consequences of such Law must continue to apply. However, during this period pending the outcome of the Independent Assessment, a further Match Officials’ Report regarding the Reported Player’s bowling action in another Match (or the section of the Match Officials’ Report relating to such) will not result in a further Independent Assessment.

3.10 A Reported Player will only be entitled to appeal the Independent Assessment in the following circumstances:

3.10.1 where the required process for an Independent Assessment (as set out in the ECB Standard Analysis Protocol at Appendix 1) was not followed. In such circumstances, a Reported Player must have made a complaint in respect of the process followed at the time of the Independent Assessment (in accordance with Regulation 3.5.4), unless there were exceptional circumstances meaning it was not reasonably practicable for them to do so; or

3.10.2 where the Appointed Specialist came to a decision in the Independent Assessment Report which was so unreasonable that no reasonable decision-maker could have come to it (for example, because the data collected during the Independent Assessment in no way supports the conclusion reached in the Independent Assessment Report).

If any of the above circumstances apply, the Reported Player will be entitled to a hearing of the matter to be carried out by the Bowling Review Group (a “**BRG Hearing**”). The conclusions of the Independent Assessment Report, together with any Bowling Suspension or Warning imposed as a result of those conclusions, will stand pending the decision of the Bowling Review Group.

3.11 The ECB will be responsible for the costs of any Expert Opinion Report, and the first Independent Assessment, excluding the costs incurred by the Reported Player (and any coach, director of cricket or representative) to attend the Independent Assessment. The ECB will be responsible for the costs of any Independent Assessment ordered by the Bowling Review Group under Regulation 4, unless otherwise specified by the Bowling Review Group.

4 BOWLING REVIEW GROUP AND BRG HEARING

4.1 Any Reported Player who is entitled to and wishes to have a BRG Hearing (in accordance with

- Regulation 3.10 above), must send a formal written request to the Cricket Regulator within 14 days of receipt of the Independent Assessment Report.
- 4.2 Upon receipt of the written request for a BRG Hearing in accordance with Regulation 4.1, the Cricket Regulator will convene a Bowling Review Group. If there is a dispute as to the suitability of any nominees appointed to the Bowling Review Group, the BRG Chair will be responsible for approving any replacement members.
- 4.3 The Bowling Review Group will determine the procedure for the BRG Hearing, which will be held as soon as reasonably practicable and in any event within 21 days of receipt of the Reported Player's written request referred to in Regulation 4.1, unless exceptional circumstances apply.
- 4.4 The BRG Chair is responsible for determining the time and place of the BRG Hearing and will ensure that the Reported Player is given reasonable notice.
- 4.5 The Reported Player is entitled to attend the BRG Hearing and to have a representative present. However, if the Reported Player has received notice of the BRG Hearing in accordance with Regulation 4.4 and fails to attend, the BRG Hearing may proceed in the absence of the Reported Player at the absolute discretion of the BRG Chair.
- 4.6 At the BRG Hearing, the Bowling Review Group will consider the following:
- 4.6.1 the Match Officials' Report;
 - 4.6.2 the Expert Opinion Report (if any);
 - 4.6.3 the Independent Assessment Report, together with any video-based evidence accompanying such assessment;
 - 4.6.4 where relevant, the video-based evidence referred to in Regulation 2.10 above;
 - 4.6.5 any further evidence that the Reported Player and/or their representative wishes to present in the Reported Player's defence. This may include a written report, a verbal or written submission, any expert evidence and/or relevant video-based evidence;
 - 4.6.6 any reasonably relevant evidence that the Reported Player's Team wishes to be considered on behalf of the Reported Player;
 - 4.6.7 any relevant evidence that the ECB deems it is necessary for the Bowling Review Group to consider; and
 - 4.6.8 any other evidence the Bowling Review Group requests.
- 4.7 The Reported Player and/or their representative and the ECB will be entitled to question any person called to give evidence at the BRG Hearing on any issue relevant to the BRG Hearing. The members of the Bowling Review Group will be entitled to question the Reported Player and/or any person called to give evidence.
- 4.8 After all the evidence and argument has been presented, the Bowling Review Group will adjourn the BRG Hearing to deliberate on its decision.
- 4.9 The standard of proof will be on the balance of probabilities and the Bowling Review Group will reach a decision by a simple majority vote. In the case of equal votes, the BRG Chair has the casting vote.

- 4.10 The Bowling Review Group will consider the matter, taking account of the documentation and evidence detailed at Regulation 4.6 and decide:
- 4.10.1 whether or not it is possible to determine if the Reported Player has an Illegal Bowling Action or used a materially different bowling action during the Independent Assessment and, if it is possible to make such a determination, make a decision about whether or not the Reported Player has an Illegal Bowling Action or used a materially different bowling action during the Independent Assessment; and
- 4.10.2 the appropriate action to take as a result of their determination:
- (a) maintaining the Warning or Bowling Suspension of the Reported Player; or
 - (b) lifting the Warning or Bowling Suspension of the Reported Player; or
 - (c) lifting the Bowling Suspension of the Reported Player but imposing a Warning on the Reported Player in respect of a particular type of delivery; or
 - (d) finding that the Reported Player must submit to a Re-Assessment in accordance with the procedures in Regulation 5 and/or to specify a maximum period of up to 1 year during which the Reported Player will not be entitled to approach the ECB for a Re-Assessment; and/or
 - (e) any other reasonable condition the Bowling Review Group considers appropriate at the determination of the BRG Hearing.
- 4.11 The Bowling Review Group may consider any submissions from the Reported Player or their representative regarding substantive procedural (or analytical) irregularities of the Independent Assessment, but any suggested irregularities will not automatically invalidate any aspect of the outcome of the Independent Assessment or any resulting action imposed unless the Bowling Review Group determines that its ability to make a decision (as required by Regulation 4.10) was unreasonably impaired.
- 4.12 The Bowling Review Group must, in each case, set out the reasons for their decision, including a summary of the evidence on which the decision was based.
- 4.13 The Cricket Regulator will communicate the decision of the Bowling Review Group, in writing, to the Reported Player and/or the Reported Player's Team (where applicable) and the ECB, as soon as reasonably practicable after the BRG Hearing.
- 4.14 Subject to the right of the Reported Player to take part in a Re-Assessment in accordance with Regulation 5, the decision of the Bowling Review Group is final and binding.
- 4.15 Unless otherwise ordered by the Bowling Review Group, each party will bear their own costs associated with the BRG Hearing (including the costs of any representation they obtain) and the ECB will be responsible for the costs of convening the BRG Hearing.

5 RE-ASSESSMENT OF REPORTED PLAYER'S ACTION

- 5.1 A Reported Player who has received a Bowling Suspension under these Regulations may be permitted, under the supervision of their Team and with the consent of the ECB (and approval of the relevant competition organiser, if different to the ECB), to continue to bowl in other types of cricket, such as second XI cricket, that are not Matches.
- 5.2 Subject to the provisions of Regulations 4.10.2(d) and 6, a Reported Player who has received a

Bowling Suspension under these Regulations and has attended an Independent Assessment, may at any time apply to the ECB for a re-assessment of their bowling action (a “**Re-Assessment**”).

- 5.3 A Re-Assessment will be carried out in the same manner as the Independent Assessment referred to in Regulation 3 above.
- 5.4 In the event of such Re-Assessment concluding that the Reported Player has remedied their action, and that their action is no longer an Illegal Bowling Action, the Bowling Suspension will be lifted and they will be permitted to continue bowling for any England Representative Team and/or any Professional County Club competing in Competitive County Cricket and/or the Tier 1 Competitions and/or any Hundred Team (as applicable).
- 5.5 The findings of a Re-Assessment will stand in the place of the preceding Independent Assessment, and the provisions of Regulations 3.5, 3.6, 3.7, 3.10 and 4 will apply in respect of it.
- 5.6 The ECB will be responsible for the costs of the first Re-Assessment under this Regulation 5 (subject to a maximum of one Re-Assessment within a period of 2 years) of any Reported Player, excluding the costs incurred by the Reported Player (and coach, director of cricket or representative) to attend.

6 SECOND AND SUBSEQUENT BOWLING SUSPENSIONS AND/OR WARNINGS

- 6.1 Any player suspended from bowling in International Cricket, or in receipt of a warning regarding a particular type of delivery by the ICC (including any provisional suspension from bowling), will also be deemed to be suspended from bowling or warned against bowling that particular type of delivery for any England Representative Team and/or any Professional County Club competing in Competitive County Cricket and/or the Tier 1 Competitions and/or any Hundred Team, as applicable. The ECB may, in exceptional circumstances and in its absolute discretion, permit the player to continue to play in certain defined competitions within the domestic cricket programme whilst undergoing remedial coaching and/or supervision as the ECB deems appropriate. If the ICC lifts a suspension on a bowler, then any bowling suspension imposed by the ECB as a result of that ICC suspension or warning, will also be deemed to have been lifted.
- 6.2 In the event of a Reported Player receiving a Bowling Suspension or Warning for a second time within a period of 2 years from the date of commencement of the first Bowling Suspension or Warning, the Reported Player will be suspended from bowling for any England Representative Team and/or any Professional County Club competing in Competitive County Cricket and/or the Tier 1 Competitions and/or any Hundred Team for a minimum period of 1 year (a “**Second Suspension**”). Only after the expiry of this 1-year period is the Reported Player entitled to approach the ECB for a Re-Assessment of their action in accordance with Regulation 5.
- 6.3 In the event of a Reported Player receiving a Bowling Suspension or Warning on a third or subsequent occasion within a period of 3 years from the date of the commencement of a previous Bowling Suspension or Warning, the Reported Player will be suspended from bowling for any England Representative Team and/or any Professional County Club competing in Competitive County Cricket and/or the Tier 1 Competitions and/or any Hundred Team for a minimum period of 1 year each time (a “**Further Suspension**”). Only after the expiry of this 1-year period is the Reported Player entitled to approach the ECB for a Re-Assessment of their action in accordance with Regulation 5.

APPENDIX 1

ECB STANDARD ANALYSIS PROTOCOLS

INTRODUCTION

The ECB has introduced a revised process for the review of bowlers with suspected illegal bowling actions (the “**Bowling Review Process**”). The Bowling Review Process is in accordance with the ICC Standard Analysis Protocols.

In order for the Bowling Review Process to be conducted in a fair and consistent manner, the following standard protocols for the collection of data and the assessment and analysis of bowling actions have been introduced. The overall purpose of the process, and the report produced as a result of the process, is to confirm the legality / or not, of the action of the player as used in the match situation. Thus, the protocols are provided not only for how the action should be analysed in the laboratory setting, but also to highlight the need for a detailed comparison between the action performed during match situations and the bowling action analysed in the laboratory.

It has been determined that it is the degree of elbow extension, as opposed to hyperextension or abduction / adduction that is prohibited. An Illegal Bowling Action is a bowling action where a player’s elbow extension exceeds 15 degrees, measured using the ECB Standard Analysis Protocols, from the point at which the bowling arm reaches the horizontal until the point at which the ball is released. Any elbow hyperextension will be discounted for the purposes of determining an Illegal Bowling Action. Elbow hyperextension and elbow abduction / adduction are involuntary movements that cannot be controlled by the individual during the bowling action.

EQUIPMENT FOR INDEPENDENT ASSESSMENTS

- 1 The centre used for the Independent Assessment will be equipped with high-speed video cameras, a 3D motion analysis system, a standardised kit of markers and calibration tools (the “**Testing Centre**”).
- 2 The data collection and camera system will be standardised by calibration tools used in accordance with the instructions of the Appointed Specialist.
- 3 Standardised software packages will be used by the testing team to analyse the data from the Independent Assessment and produce the Independent Assessment Report.

PREPARATION FOR INDEPENDENT ASSESSMENTS

- 4 Prior to the Independent Assessment, the ECB will provide the Appointed Specialist with video footage of the Reported Player’s bowling action from the Match in which the relevant Match Officials’ Report was submitted and/or other relevant video footage of the Reported Player’s bowling action (as prescribed by Regulation 2.10). This video footage will be used to compare the Reported Player’s match bowling action with the Reported Player’s bowling action during the Independent Assessment.
- 5 The testing team may, at the sole discretion of the Appointed Specialist, include a relevant cricketing expert (for example a former player, umpire or coach) to help determine if the Reported Player is accurately reproducing their match bowling action during the Independent Assessment.
- 6 Prior to the Independent Assessment the testing team will provide the Reported Player with an explanation of the requirements for the Independent Assessment under these Standard

Analysis Protocols, including the deliveries that the Reported Player will be required to bowl in accordance with paragraphs 19-22.

- 7 The testing team, prior to the Independent Assessment, will:
 - (a) record the Reported Player's age, injury status, bowling arm and bowling style (Standard Delivery Type and any Specific Variations)
 - (b) measure the Reported Player's height and weight and record this information on the Independent Assessment Report; and
 - (c) assess the Reported Player for joint hypermobility using the Beighton scale.
- 8 Prior to the Independent Assessment, the testing team will give the Reported Player the opportunity to present to the Appointed Specialist any medical and/or scientific information relevant to the Independent Assessment.
- 9 The Reported Player may, at the cost of the Reported Player and/or Team, be accompanied to the Independent Assessment by an individual or individuals approved in advance by the ECB and/or testing team. Such person(s) may include a chaperone, the Reported Player's coach or a member of the Reported Player's Team's support staff. This individual or individuals will be permitted to observe the Independent Assessment, and if agreed by the ECB/testing team, perform the role of a batsman, wicketkeeper and/or umpire to replicate a match environment but cannot interfere in any aspect of the Independent Assessment.

CALIBRATION AND WARM-UP

- 10 Male Reported Players will undertake the Independent Assessment with a bare torso; female Reported Players will wear appropriate clothing as agreed with the testing team. The testing team may require shaving of some areas of the Reported Player's skin for the purpose of securely attaching the marker set.
- 11 The testing team will:
 - (a) place the marker set on the Reported Player's bowling arm and torso;
 - (b) take photographs of the placement of the marker set; and
 - (c) perform a series of shoulder and arm movements (system calibration) before and after the Reported Player has bowled deliveries during their warm-up
- 12 The process described in paragraph 11 will be repeated until the testing team is satisfied that the testing equipment is adequately calibrated.
- 13 The testing team will provide the Reported Player with the opportunity to conduct their normal pre- bowling warm-up routine, which will comprise as many deliveries and be of such duration as the Reported Player may require.
- 14 The testing team will indicate clearly to the Reported Player when the calibration process is complete and will establish from the Reported Player when their warm-up is complete and when the Reported Player is ready to commence the Independent Assessment.

PROCEDURE FOR INDEPENDENT ASSESSMENTS

- 15 The Independent Assessment will be completed in one day.
- 16 Wherever possible, the Independent Assessment will be conducted indoors on a full-length cricket pitch with creases marked in accordance with Law 7 and with a full run-up available to the Reported Player.
- 17 The testing team will provide the ball to be used during the Independent Assessment, which may be new or used and will be of the approved standard under the relevant ECB Playing Conditions.
- 18 The Reported Player will be required to replicate their match bowling action (including full length run- up), position on the crease, and pace of delivery in bowling the mode and quantity of deliveries specified by the testing team in accordance with paragraphs 19-26 below (as applicable).
- 19 In respect of all deliveries the Reported Player will be required to bowl a minimum of 18 and a maximum of 48 deliveries during the Independent Assessment. The testing team will in their sole discretion determine the number of deliveries to be bowled using the Reported Player's Standard Delivery Type and any Specific Variations.
- 20 The Reported Player will be required to bowl a minimum of 6 deliveries of any mode of delivery that has been mentioned on the Match Officials' Report (Standard Delivery Type or Specific Variation) during the Independent Assessment.
- 21 Where the Reported Player's Standard Delivery Type is that of a fast/medium pace bowler, the deliveries to be bowled using their Standard Delivery Type will, unless the testing team determines otherwise, be equally divided between deliveries of the following lengths (subject to a small margin of error at the testing team's discretion in accordance with paragraph 25(c)):
 - (a) good length;
 - (b) yorker length; and
 - (c) bouncer length.
- 22 Where the Reported Player's Standard Delivery Type is that of a spin bowler, the deliveries to be bowled using their Standard Delivery Type will, unless the testing team determines otherwise, be good length deliveries (subject to a small margin of error at the testing team's discretion in accordance with paragraph 25(c)).
- 23 The Reported Player will, for the purposes of enabling the testing team to make the judgement required under paragraph 25(b) (wide delivery), verbally notify the testing team at the commencement of the Independent Assessment as to whether they wish their deliveries to be assessed as being delivered to a right or left-handed batsman. The Reported Player may inform the testing team at any stage of the Independent Assessment if they wish to change this earlier notification. In the absence of any such notification, the Independent Assessment will be conducted on the basis of a right-handed batsman.
- 24 The Reported Player may at any time during the Independent Assessment request a break and/or refreshments, which the testing team will accommodate wherever reasonable.

- 25 The testing team will require the Reported Player to repeat any of the following deliveries, which consequently will not comprise part of the Independent Assessment:
- (a) any delivery which would be deemed a no ball under Law 21.5 (the feet) or Law 21.6 (breaking wicket in delivering ball);
 - (b) any delivery which would be deemed a wide under Law 22; or
 - (c) any delivery which, allowing for a small margin of error on the part of the Reported Player in terms of length, does not correspond to the length of delivery specified by the testing team accordance with paragraph 21.
- 26 The testing team will have complete discretion in judging (in respect of both the Reported Player's Standard Delivery Type and all applicable Specific Variations):
- (a) whether the Reported Player has accurately complied with the requirements of the Independent Assessment (including but not limited to the replication of their match bowling action, length of run-up, position on the crease, and pace of delivery); and
 - (b) whether any deliveries are required to be repeated under paragraph 25 above in order for the Independent Assessment to be completed by the Reported Player.

INDEPENDENT ASSESSMENT REPORTS

- 27 The Independent Assessment Report will be presented to the ECB as soon as reasonably possible after the Independent Assessment and, unless exceptional circumstances exist, no later than 14 days from the date of the Independent Assessment.
- 28 The Independent Assessment Report will include:
- (a) a statement as to whether, in the opinion of the Appointed Specialist, the Reported Player accurately replicated their match bowling action in the Independent Assessment (including in respect of any Specific Variations); and
 - (b) the legality of the action with respect of the amount of elbow extension measured in comparison to the 15-degree elbow extension threshold.
- 29 Where the Independent Assessment Report records the degree of Elbow Extension on any delivery of the Reported Player's Standard Delivery Type to be in excess of the level specified in paragraph 28(b), the Reported Player will be determined to have used an Illegal Bowling Action. Where the Independent Assessment Report records the degree of Elbow Extension on any delivery of a Specific Variation to be in excess of the level specified in paragraph 28(b), the Reported Player will be determined to have used an Illegal Bowling Action in respect of that Specific Variation.
- 30 Accordingly, in order for a Reported Player to be determined to have used a legal bowling action (in respect of both their Standard Delivery Type and any applicable Specific Variations), the degree of Elbow Extension recorded for every delivery from each mode of delivery during the Independent Assessment must be within the level specified in paragraph 28(b).