

PLAYING CONDITIONS – ROTHESAY COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP



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

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Application

The Laws of Cricket 2017 Code (3rd Edition - 2022), as amended by these Playing Conditions, apply to the Rothsay County Championship from the Effective Date.

Effective Date means 1 April 2026.

Note on Overriding Safety Concerns

If at any time the Designated Safety Officer at a venue that is hosting a game to which these Playing Conditions apply determines that there is or may be a safety risk to any person at the venue, they should inform the umpires and other match officials at the earliest possible opportunity. The Designated Safety Officer may take such action and implement such measures as they determine necessary to address that risk, consulting with the Head Grounds Manager and the umpires (and any other personnel they consider necessary) as appropriate to the nature of the risk identified.

Any requirements within these Playing Conditions may be overridden solely to the extent necessary to address the identified safety risk, and any action or measures taken to achieve this that would otherwise be incompatible with any requirement in these Playing Conditions shall not be deemed a breach of the relevant Playing Condition(s). So far as is possible, all reasonable steps should be taken to implement any necessary actions or measures in a way that mitigates any non-compliance with these Playing Conditions.

If it is alleged that any team has failed to act in good faith when taking certain actions as permitted by this section that would otherwise be in breach of any Playing Condition, or has failed to take adequate preparatory steps or provide sufficient resources to minimise any reasonably foreseeable breach of these Playing Conditions that arises from any action taken to address a safety risk, the matter may be referred to the Cricket Regulator for further investigation.

For the purposes of these Playing Conditions, **Designated Safety Officer** means the person that is designated as the "Venue Safety Officer" on the venue's safety certificate, or, if that person is not present or at venues with no such certificate, the person with overall responsibility for health and safety matters at the venue.

1 LAW 1 – THE PLAYERS

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

1.1.1 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.

1.1.2 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:

1.2.1 Each captain shall nominate their 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 Playing Conditions 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.

- 1.2.2 If after a captain has nominated their players, it is discovered that someone who was not on the list has commenced their batting innings or commenced their run up to bowl, as though a nominated player, the offender shall take no further part in the match and no replacement, including the original nominated player shall be allowed. If the identity of the original nominated player is not self-evident, that player shall be identified by the Captain for approval by the Match Referee (or ECB Domestic Cricket Operations should no Match Referee be present).

1.3 Rothesay County Championship Matches Only

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

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

If a player is either (a) with the England squad but omitted from the final XI, or (b) in exceptional circumstances returning from other England duty and if they are made available by England to play in a Rothesay County Championship match so that they can participate in at least two full days of the Rothesay County Championship match, then that player may return to their County's match and take the place of a nominated player who may or may not have already participated in the match. Each County that has representation in the England XI (or other England duty) must, if it wishes that a specified England player shall participate in the County match if released by England, specify which player the England player shall replace.

This shall be done at the nomination of teams to the umpires prior to the toss for innings. If no County player has been specified, then under no circumstances shall the England player be allowed to participate in the County match. For the avoidance of doubt, if a County has more than one representative in the England squad, then one player in the County team must be nominated in respect of each England player and the County player shall be considered as dedicated to that England player for the purpose of the replacement.

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

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

This Playing Condition 1.3.1 shall also apply to Unqualified Cricketers (see the Competitive County Cricket Registration Regulations) and the equivalent duty for their national team.

In no circumstances shall a player be allowed to bat more than once in an innings.

Note also that this Playing Condition 1.3.1 shall also apply, amended accordingly, to cricketers playing in Rothesay Blast Men's matches and in Metro Bank One Day Cup Men's matches.

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

Subject to the approval of the ECB Chief Executive Officer or their nominee, an Associate Member Country player may, under the ICC mandatory release

regulations, leave a Rothesay County Championship match to join an Associate Member Country match providing that they have been or will be available for at least two full days of scheduled play in the Rothesay County Championship match, and a replacement player may play a full part in the Rothesay County Championship match under the same terms as apply in the equivalent situation in 1.3.1.

1.4 Replacements for Concussion, other Injury, Illness, Significant Life Events and COVID

Replacements for Concussion, other Injury, Illness, Significant Life Events and COVID shall be allowed in accordance with the ECB's Replacement Player Regulations and COVID Replacement Regulations.

2 LAW 2 – THE UMPIRES

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

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

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

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

2.2 Player Review and Umpire Review

For matches which are televised and for which a third umpire is appointed, Umpire Review shall apply in accordance with the ECB's Decision Review System.

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 to any person, whether actual or perceived, comes to the attention of any umpire (including for example weather, pitch invasions, act of God, etc), then the players, officials and any other person should immediately be asked to either leave the field of play in a safe and orderly manner and relocate to a safe and secure area, or to remain on the field of play or to not enter the field of play, in each case depending on the particular threat and as instructed by the Designated Safety Officer in accordance with the Note on Overriding Safety Concerns which appears at the top of this document.

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

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

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

2.5.3 Floodlights

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

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

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

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

3 LAW 3 – THE SCORERS

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

3.2 Law 3.2 – Correctness of scores - shall apply. For the avoidance of doubt, a team innings score may only be corrected where necessary prior to the commencement of the subsequent team-innings of the match. See also Playing Condition 2.66 and Law 16.10.

4 LAW 4 – THE BALL

4.1 Balls to be used

Grade 1 Dukes red cricket balls conforming to the specifications laid down by the ECB shall be used, and spare used balls for changing during a match shall also be of the same brand and specification. Spare balls must be of 2026 manufacture. All spare balls shall pass both ring tests of the ball gauge. Except as provided for in Laws 4.5 and 41.2, the fielding captain, or their nominee, may select the ball with which they wish to bowl which shall be from the whole of the supply of new balls provided by the Ground Authority. Such selection must take place in the presence of the umpires, and the ball shall not be marked in any way.

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

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

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

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

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

5 LAW 5– THE BAT

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

6 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:

- 6.2.1 Captains, umpires and Head Grounds Managers 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.

- 6.2.2 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:

- (a) a ball must not be bounced on the pitch;
- (b) a key or knife may only be inserted in the pitch in the area between the popping and bowling creases.

- 6.2.3 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 ECB's Pitch Regulations shall apply as they refer to the Rothesay County Championship.

7 LAW 7 – THE CREASES

- 7.1 Law 7.3 (The popping crease) shall apply with the addition that in matches when a third umpire is present, the reference to “a minimum of 6 ft/1.83m” shall be replaced by “a minimum of 45 ft/13.72m” and when iHawk is present by “a minimum of 15 feet/4.57m”.

8 LAW 8 – THE WICKETS

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

- 8.1.1 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:

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

- 9.3 Drying of Pitch and Ground

- 9.3.1 Prior to tossing for choice of innings the artificial drying of the pitch and outfield shall be at the discretion of the Head Grounds Manager. Thereafter and throughout the match the drying of the outfield may be undertaken at any time by the Head Grounds Manager, 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 Head Grounds Manager 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 applicable 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(a) to 10.3.2(d) shall also normally be covered the night before the match.

10.2.2 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:

- (a) On each night of the match and, if necessary, throughout any rest days.
- (b) In the event of play being suspended on account of rain during the specified hours of play, and at lunch, tea and between innings on account of rain.
- (c) The covers shall be removed before 8.00am (7.30am in matches where the scheduled first day is in September, 2 hours prior to the commencement of Day/Night matches) on each morning of the match (including the first day) provided it is not raining at the time, but they will be replaced if rain falls prior to the commencement of play.
- (d) 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:

- (a) The bowler's 'run up' to a distance of at least 10 yards, with a width of 4 yards.
- (b) At least 20 feet either side of the length of the pitch.
- (c) The whole square including all worn patches.
- (d) The outfield, as much as is practicable.

10.3.3 Covering During Play

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

11 LAW 11 – INTERVALS

11.1 Lunch Interval

11.1.1 The Rothesay County Championship

The normal commencement time for the lunch interval, which shall be of 40 minutes' duration, will be:

All days1.00pm

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

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

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

11.2 Tea Interval

11.2.1 The Rothesay County Championship

- (a) Laws 11.6 (Changing agreed time for tea interval) and 11.7 (Lunch or tea interval – 9 wickets down) will not apply and are replaced by 11.2.2 and 11.2.3 below.
- (b) Law 11.9 (Agreement to forgo intervals) will not apply in so far as it relates to the tea interval.

11.2.2 Timing of tea interval

- (a) The tea interval shall be of 20 minutes' duration and shall normally be taken at either 3.40pm (3.10pm in matches where the scheduled first day is in September, 6.40pm in Day/Night matches) or at the conclusion of the over in progress at that time, provided 32 overs or less remain to be bowled. The over in progress at that time shall be completed unless a batter is out, or retires, either within three minutes, or after, the scheduled time for the interval.
- (b) In the event of more than 32 overs remaining to be bowled at 3.40pm (3.10pm in matches scheduled to start in September, 6.40pm in Day/Night matches) the tea interval will be delayed and play will continue until 32 overs remain to be bowled at which time the tea interval will commence. The over being bowled immediately before the start of the interval shall be completed unless a batter is out, or retires, during that over.
- (c) Unless 12.2.8 applies, whenever an innings ends or there is a stoppage in play caused by weather or light, or the players have cause to leave the field for any reason, either when 30 minutes or less remains before the scheduled time for the tea interval or during the period that the tea interval has been delayed (para 11.2.2(b) refers), the tea interval will commence immediately, irrespective of the number of overs still remaining to be bowled. Should a

change of innings occur, the tea interval will include the ten-minute interval between innings.

- (d) If nine wickets are down at the time for the tea interval (11.2.2(a) and 11.2.2(b) refer), tea will not be taken until either 8 more overs have been bowled or until the end of the over that is in progress 30 minutes after the originally agreed time for tea whichever is the later, unless the players have cause to leave the field of play or the innings is completed earlier.

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

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

11.2.3 Final day exception

Clause 11.2.2(b) and all other references to 32 overs or less remaining to be bowled regarding the timing of the tea interval shall not apply on the final scheduled day.

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

12 LAW 12 – START OF PLAY; CESSATION OF PLAY

12.1 Scheduled Hours of Play

12.1.1 Rothesay County Championship – normal timings shall be:

Daytime Matches

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

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

Day/Night Matches

All days.....2.00pm-9.00pm

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

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

12.2 Rothesay County Championship only – Minimum Overs in the Day

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

- (a) on days other than the last day – a minimum of 96 overs or;
- (b) on the last day – a minimum of 80 overs (or 16 overs per hour) for playing time other than the last hour when Playing Condition 12.2.5 below shall apply. Note however that in Day/Night matches, the cessation of play shall not extend beyond one hour after the original scheduled close of play or the completion of the over being bowled at that time.

12.2.2 Making up lost time – extra time

- (a) Subject to weather and light, in the event of scheduled playing time being lost on Days 1, 2 and 3, the scheduled close of play on that day shall be delayed by the amount of time lost up to a maximum of 30 minutes. If any time lost is unable to be made up on the day on which it was lost, it shall be carried forward to the next and subsequent day as appropriate, save that no time shall be carried forward to the fourth day. A maximum of 30 minutes of play may be made up on any day, whether that is time lost from the day itself or time carried forward. Time lost shall only be made up at the end of a day's play.
- (b) In Day/Night matches, in all circumstances, play shall not extend beyond one hour after the original scheduled close of play or the completion of the over being bowled at that time.
- (c) Any time unable to be made up due to weather or light shall be carried forward to the next and subsequent day as appropriate. When such time is carried forward, the minimum overs in the day shall be increased by 1 over for each full 3 minutes and 45 seconds.
- (d) No time is carried forward to the next or subsequent day in respect of any time lost after the latest rescheduled time for the close of play.

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

- 12.2.4 If interruptions for ground, weather or light occur, other than in the last hour of the match for which Playing Condition 12.2.5 makes provision, the minimum number of overs shall be reduced by one over for each full 3 minutes 45 seconds of the

aggregate playing time lost. As per Playing Condition 12.2.2 on Days 1, 2 and 3 no aggregate playing time is lost until the 30 minutes permitted for extra time, whether carried forward or from the day itself, has been applied.

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

- (a) The last hour shall commence when one hour of playing time of the match remains.
- (b) On the last day, if any of the daily minimum requirement of 80 overs, or as recalculated, have not been bowled at the commencement of the last hour, those overs shall be completed. A minimum of 16 overs shall then be bowled – the umpires shall signal such to the players and scorers and these shall be deemed to be the minimum number of overs to be bowled in the last hour as referred to in Law 12.9 (Conclusion of match). For the avoidance of doubt, the close of play remains as originally scheduled even if the final 16 overs commence less than 60 minutes prior to the scheduled close of play.

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

- (c) References to 20 overs shall be amended to 16 overs and references to 3 minutes shall be amended to 3 minutes 45 seconds.
- (d) If, however, both captains (the batters at the wicket may act for their captain) accept that there is no prospect of either side achieving a victory, they may agree to finish the match at any time after the scheduled time for the commencement of the last hour has been reached (regardless of the number of overs remaining to be bowled).

12.2.6 The captains may agree or, in the event of disagreement, the umpires may decide to play 30 minutes' (a minimum eight overs, though note also Playing Condition 12.1.3 regarding the cut-off in Day/Night matches) extra time at the end of the first, second and/or third day's play if, in their opinion, there was a reasonable prospect that it would bring about a definite result on that day. For the avoidance of doubt, should a wicket fall within 3 minutes of the scheduled or re-scheduled close of play, the extra 30 minutes is added to the scheduled or re-scheduled time of close of play, not to the time at which the wicket fell. If it is decided to play extra time on any or all of these days, the whole period shall be played out even though the possibility of finishing the match may have disappeared before the full period has expired. The scheduled time by which play is extended on any day shall be deducted from the total number of hours of play remaining in the match, and the match shall end earlier on the last scheduled day by the actual amount of scheduled time by which play was previously extended in aggregate (ie. the time for the commencement of the last hour will be adjusted accordingly and the minimum number of overs prior to the last hour will be correspondingly reduced at a rate of one over for each full 3 minutes 45 seconds of aggregate scheduled extra time). The scheduled time for the lunch and tea intervals on the last scheduled day shall be unchanged as a consequence of applying this clause.

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

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

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

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

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

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

This clause shall not apply when either Playing Condition 11.1.2 or 11.2.2(d) has already been applied to this interval, i.e. the total extra time remains at 30 minutes.

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

12.2.10 The scoreboard shall show:

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

12.3 Ringing of the Bell

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

12.4 Rothesay County Championship Over Rate Penalties

12.4.1 The minimum over-rate to be achieved by Counties will be 16 overs per hour. When calculating the over-rate, two minutes and thirty seconds will be allowed for each wicket taken which results in the subsequent batter immediately commencing his

innings. For the avoidance of doubt, no allowance shall be given for the final wicket in an innings or for a wicket that falls prior to any interval.

- 12.4.2 No allowances shall be given for drinks intervals. Any suspension of play for an injury to a player or for any other reason beyond the control of the players shall be a deductible allowance. The umpire at the bowler's end will inform the fielding captain, the batter and their fellow umpire of any time allowances as and when they arise and the scorers at the earliest opportunity. (This matter will not be subject to retrospective negotiation).
- 12.4.3 Overs will be calculated at the end of the match and penalties applied on a match by match basis. The relevant calculation to establish the match target is:
- (a) $(\text{Total minutes in the field} - 2 \text{ minutes } 30 \text{ seconds per allowable wicket} - \text{umpires' allowances}) / 3.75$ (fractions to be ignored).
 - (b) For example, a side that has been in the field for 491 minutes throughout the course of the match and that has taken 17 allowable wickets and been allowed 10 minutes by the umpires, has a match target of $(491 - (17 \times 2.5) - 10) / 3.75 = 116.93$ overs. Ignoring fractions, the match target is 116 overs.
 - (c) For the purpose of over-rate calculations, no single innings will be assessed at more than 24 overs per hour. In any such innings, any overs bowled in excess of a rate of 24 overs per hour will be disregarded.
- 12.4.4 For each over (fractions to be ignored) that a side has bowled short of the target number, 1 point will be deducted from their Rothesay County Championship total as follows:
- (a) 1 over short of the match target1 point deduction
 - (b) 2 overs short of the match target2 points deduction etc
- 12.4.5 Only matches in which a team has bowled for 8 hours or more (net of time allowed for wickets taken and umpires' allowances) in the match will be subject to over-rate penalties.
- 12.4.6 The scoreboard shall show the number of overs above or below the target overs for the bowling side.
- 12.4.7 This number is calculated by subtracting the number of overs that should have been bowled (calculated as above and ignoring fractions) from the number of overs that have actually been bowled (ignoring fractions in the total number of overs bowled in the match). This will be updated at the very minimum at the start of every session.

13 LAW 13 – INNINGS

13.1 Duration

13.1.1 The Rothesay County Championship

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

13.2 Any regulations or guidelines on fast bowling notified by the ECB from time to time shall apply. It shall be the responsibility of the captain of any player to whom the fast bowling regulations or guidelines apply to inform the umpires of such and to apply the regulations or guidelines.

13.3 Any deviation from the fast bowling regulations or guidelines (as applicable) shall have no implications on the course of the match or competition in question.

14 LAW 14 – THE FOLLOW-ON

14.1 Law 14 shall apply.

15 LAW 15 – DECLARATION AND FORFEITURE

15.1 Extraordinary Declarations and Forfeitures

15.2 An Extraordinary Declaration for the purposes of this rule is a declaration that does not enhance the batting side's prospects of winning or saving the match, or that does not enhance the batting side's prospects of achieving a greater number of points in the match. The former is usually, but not exclusively, a declaration aimed primarily at denying the bowling side the opportunity to acquire further First Innings Points in that innings, but without enhancing the batting side's prospects of winning or saving the match.

15.3 An Extraordinary Forfeiture for the purposes of this rule is any forfeiture that does not enhance the batting side's prospects of winning or saving the match, or that does not enhance the batting side's prospects of achieving a greater number of points in the match.

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

15.5 A captain who is contemplating a declaration or forfeiture which has potential to be deemed an Extraordinary Declaration or Extraordinary Forfeiture may, if they wish, first approach the umpires, providing due notice of their intention, in order to request an indicative ruling as to whether or not such a declaration or forfeiture is likely to be deemed an Extraordinary Declaration or Extraordinary Forfeiture with the potential for bringing the game into disrepute.

15.6 The umpires shall then request advice from ECB Domestic Cricket Operations who will provide an indicative ruling to the captain.

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

16 LAW 16 – THE RESULT

16.1 Law 16 shall apply with the exception of Law 16.4 (Matches in which there is an agreement under Law 13.1.2) which shall not apply.

16.2 Scoring of Points – Rothesay County Championship

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

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

- 16.2.3 In a drawn match, each side to score 8 points, plus any points scored in the first innings (see also Playing Condition 16.2.5).
- 16.2.4 First Innings Points (awarded only for performances in the first 110 overs of each first innings and retained whatever the result of the match except as provided for in Playing Condition 16.2.66, 16.2.88, 16.2.99 or 16.2.1010).
- (a) A maximum of five batting points to be available as below:
 - (i) 250 to 299 runs.....1 point
 - (ii) 300 to 349 runs.....2 points
 - (iii) 350 to 399 runs.....3 points
 - (iv) 400 to 449 runs.....4 points
 - (v) 450 runs or over.....5 points
 - (b) A maximum of three bowling points to be available as below:
 - (i) 3 to 5 wickets taken.....1 point
 - (ii) 6 to 8 wickets taken.....2 points
 - (iii) 9 to 10 wickets taken.....3 points
 - (c) For the avoidance of doubt, “wickets taken” shall relate exclusively to batters dismissed under Laws 32 to 40 inclusive and to batters retired out.
 - (d) If penalty runs are awarded to a team which at that time had faced less than 110 overs in their first innings, or completed their first innings before they had faced 110 overs, those penalty runs will be considered as counting towards the total as far as the award of First Innings Points is concerned.
 - (e) If penalty runs are awarded to a team which had already faced 110 overs or more in their first innings, or had previously completed their first innings after they had faced 110 overs, those penalty runs will not be considered as counting towards the total as far as the award of First Innings Points is concerned.
- 16.2.5 If a match is abandoned without a ball being bowled, each side to score 8 points.
- 16.2.6 In the event of a match being abandoned due to a pitch that has been rated unfit, or if the pitch is rated poor or below average and a Cricket Discipline Panel upholds a charge brought against the County, in each case in accordance with the ECB’s Pitch Regulations, the home team shall be awarded 0 points and any First Innings Points already achieved shall be rescinded. In the case of an Unfit pitch, the home team shall be credited with a loss and the away team a draw for tiebreaker purposes. In the case of a Poor or Below Average pitch, the home team will be credited with a loss and the away team its result for tiebreaker purposes. Note that this does not preclude the matter being referred to the Cricket Regulator. For the avoidance of doubt, over-rate penalties shall apply. Ref Playing Condition 12.4.

In the case of an unfit pitch, the visiting team shall be awarded 8 points in respect of a draw plus First Innings Points already achieved. In the case of a pitch rated poor or below average, the visiting team shall be awarded the points it gained in the match, regardless of the result of the match. Over-rate penalties shall apply. Ref Playing Condition 12.4.

16.2.7 The side which has the highest aggregate of points gained at the end of the season shall be the Champion County of their respective Division. Should any sides in the Championship table be equal on points, the following tie-breakers will be applied in the order stated:

- (a) most wins
- (b) fewest losses
- (c) when all teams that are equal on points have played each other the same number of times, teams will be ordered in accordance with the number of points achieved in the matches between those teams (over-rate penalties shall be included in this calculation). This tiebreaker shall be ignored if the teams that are equal on points haven't played each other the same number of times
- (d) most wickets taken
- (e) most runs scored.

16.2.8 County unable to field a team

This clause relates solely to circumstances where a County 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 County is not able to field a team for (or during) a match, or the Competition Technical Committee decides in accordance with Professional County Cricket Competition Regulation 10 that the match shall not continue due to the reduced availability of the County's players:

- (a) the match shall be cancelled or abandoned, as appropriate;
- (b) the County which is unable to field a team shall be awarded 0 points and any First Innings Points already achieved in that match shall be rescinded;
- (c) the other County shall be awarded 8 points, and any First Innings Points already achieved in that match;
- (d) the County which is unable to field a team shall be awarded a loss and the other County a draw for tiebreaker purposes; and
- (e) over-rate penalties shall apply to both Counties.

16.2.9 The application of 16.2.8 does not preclude the County which is unable to field a team being referred to the Cricket Regulator .

16.2.10 Any County awarded 0 points in accordance with 16.2.8(b) shall have the ability to challenge the application of this penalty on the basis that they acted in such a way to fulfil the fixture that any penalty in the circumstances would be manifestly unfair. The burden of proof shall be on the County. The County must issue the challenge to the Chair of the Cricket Discipline Panel in writing, copied to the Cricket Regulator, together with all supporting evidence, within 24 hours of the ECB confirming in writing that it has been awarded 0 points in accordance with 16.2.8(b). The Chair of the Cricket Discipline Panel will appoint a Disciplinary Tribunal Chair and two other members of the Cricket Discipline Panel to form a Disciplinary Tribunal. The Disciplinary Tribunal shall determine its own procedure and seek additional information where it considers necessary, including allowing the Cricket Regulator the opportunity to respond to the challenge. The Disciplinary Tribunal shall, wherever possible, consider the case within 48 hours of the match being cancelled or abandoned. If the Disciplinary Tribunal considers that the application of the penalty would be manifestly unfair, the County shall be awarded 8 points, and any First Innings Points already achieved and credited with a draw for tiebreaker purposes. The decision of the Disciplinary Tribunal shall be final.

16.2.11 Refusal to play by both teams

Should both teams refuse to play in circumstances where the umpires have determined that play should commence or re-commence, the match shall be abandoned as a draw and neither batting, bowling nor draw points shall be awarded to either team.

Note that this does not preclude the matter being referred to the Cricket Regulator.

17 LAW 17 – THE OVER

Law 17 shall apply.

18 LAW 18 – SCORING RUNS

Law 18 shall apply except that Laws 18.5.1 and 18.5.2 shall be replaced by:

18.1 If either umpire considers that one or both batters deliberately ran short at that umpire's end, the umpire concerned shall, when the ball is dead, call and signal Short run and inform the other umpire of what has occurred and apply 18.2.

A deliberate short run is an attempt by the batters to appear to run more than one run, while at least one batter deliberately does not make good their ground at one end.

Provided the umpires believe that there was no intention by the batter concerned to deceive the umpires, it will not be considered a deliberate short run if the batters abandon an attempted run.

18.2 The bowler's end umpire shall

- disallow all runs to the batting side

- signal No ball or Wide to the scorers, if applicable
- repeat the Short run signal to the scorers
- award 5 Penalty runs to the fielding side
- award any other 5-run Penalty that is applicable except for Penalty runs under Law 28.3 (Protective helmets belonging to the fielding side)
- inform the captain of the fielding side and, as soon as practicable, the captain of the batting side of the reason for this action.
- Instruct the fielding captain to decide which of the batters at the wicket, including the incoming batter if applicable, shall face the next delivery.

19 LAW 19 – BOUNDARIES

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

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

- (a) 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.
- (b) 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.
- (c) 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.
- (d) 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 it is removed for the subsequent over from that end. In Day/Night matches, sightscreens shall be white.

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

- 19.3 Law 19.5 (Fielder grounded beyond the boundary) shall apply except that Law 19.5.2 shall be replaced by:

19.3.1 A fielder who is not in contact with the ground is considered to be grounded beyond the boundary if, prior to their first contact with the ball, their final contact with the ground was not entirely within the boundary. This applies to any fielder who makes contact with the ball after it has been delivered by the bowler, whether or not the ball has previously been touched by another fielder.

19.3.1.1 If a fielder's first contact with the ball does not contravene 19.3.1, that fielder may then jump from outside the boundary in order to make contact with the ball whilst airborne. After making contact with the ball once airborne, all subsequent contact with the ground by that fielder, until the ball becomes dead, must be within the field of play. Any subsequent contact with the ground outside the boundary by that fielder during that delivery, whether or not in contact with the ball, will result in a boundary being scored.

19.3.1.2 If the ball is returned to the field of play, whether to another fielder or onto the ground, by a fielder who has jumped from outside the boundary, that fielder must land, and remain, within the boundary until the ball becomes dead. Otherwise a boundary shall be scored.

20 LAW 20 – DEAD BALL

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

20.1.2 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 amendments:

- 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's Bowling Review Regulations. These regulations are published in a separate document.
- 21.3 Law 21.15 (Penalty for a No ball) shall apply except that the penalty for a No Ball will be 2 runs.

- 21.3.1 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.
- 21.3.2 If the striker's end umpire is able to verify the breach they shall call and signal No Ball. If the striker's end umpire is unable to verify the breach then they shall confirm that the events of the delivery shall be unchanged.
- 21.4 Law 21.10 (Ball bouncing over head height of striker) shall not apply. (See Playing Condition 41.3.4).
- 21.5 Law 21.7 (Ball bouncing more than once, rolling along the ground or pitching off the pitch)
- Law 21.7 shall apply. The third umpire may be consulted and, if required, can review television replays to assist with the adjudication of No balls under this Law.

22 LAW 22 – WIDE BALL

Law 22 shall apply but in addition:

- 22.1 For bowlers attempting to utilise the rough outside a batter's leg stump, not necessarily as a negative tactic, the strict Limited Over Wide interpretation shall be applied.
- 22.2 For bowlers whom umpires consider to be bowling down the leg side as a negative tactic, the strict Limited Over Wide interpretation shall be applied.
- 22.3 In addition to Law 22.1 (Judging a Wide), any delivery, not being a No ball and not touching the striker's bat or person, that passes outside of the return crease on either side of the striker's wicket shall be called Wide. Law 22.4.1 shall not apply in this circumstance.

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 they are to substitute has been absent from the field for a period of two consecutive complete overs, with the exception that if a fielder 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 they are absent from the field for longer than 8 minutes. In such cases, the whole of the time that the player is absent from the field shall count as unserved Penalty time (though note Playing Condition 24.2.2 below).

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

25 LAW 25 – BATTER'S INNINGS; RUNNERS

Law 25 shall apply (note Playing Condition 24.2.2 above) with the following amendment:

25.1 In Law 25.4 (Batter retiring), Law 25.4.3 shall be replaced by:

If a batter retires for any reason other than as in Law 25.4.2, the innings of that batter shall not resume and that batter is to be recorded immediately as Retired – Out. This Playing Condition shall also apply should a batter retire during an interval or interruption.

26 LAW 26 – PRACTICE ON THE FIELD

Law 26 shall apply with the following additions:

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

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

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

26.4 Hitting Up

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

27 LAW 27 – THE WICKET-KEEPER

Law 27 shall apply.

28 LAW 28 – THE FIELDER

Law 28 shall apply with the following additions:

28.1 In order to eliminate any waste of playing time caused by the removal from the field of fielders' 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.

28.2 The exchanging of equipment between members of the fielding side on the field shall be permitted, subject to any applicable COVID protocols and provided that the umpires do not consider that it constitutes a waste of playing time.

28.3 Umpires are not to hold helmets.

28.4 The ECB's Head Protector Regulations shall apply. If the non-striker chooses not to wear their helmet, they must carry it personally all the time while play is in progress.

28.5 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

29.1.1 Law 29 shall apply.

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

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

41 LAW 41 – UNFAIR PLAY

Law 41 shall apply with the following additions/amendments:

41.1 Matches where a mutually convenient outcome is possible

41.1.1 Where the Match Referee (or if none, the umpires) is concerned that the match is being conducted in a manner that seeks to lead to a mutually convenient outcome, they will notify ECB Domestic Cricket Operations at the earliest opportunity, who in turn will refer the matter to the Cricket Regulator for further investigation in accordance with the ECB's Disciplinary Procedure Regulations.

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 their normal duties, a batter is not allowed to wilfully damage the ball. See also Law 5.5 (Damage to the ball).

A fielder may, however

- (a) polish the ball on their clothing provided that no artificial substance is used, that the only natural substance used is sweat, and that such polishing wastes no time.
- (b) remove mud from the ball under the supervision of an umpire.
- (c) 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 Playing Condition 41.2.2 or if the umpires consider that the condition of the ball is inconsistent with the use it has received.

The umpires shall then ask the captain of the opposing side if they 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.

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

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

- (a) Award 5 penalty runs to the opposing side.
- (b) if appropriate, inform the batters at the wicket and the captain of the fielding side that the ball has been changed and the reason for their action.
- (c) Inform the captain of the batting side as soon as practicable of what has occurred.
- (d) Together with the other umpire report the incident to ECB Domestic Cricket Operations, who in turn will refer the matter to the Cricket Regulator.

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

- (a) issue the captain with a first and final warning, and
- (b) advise the captain that the incident will be reported to ECB Domestic Cricket Operations, who in turn will refer the matter to the Cricket Regulator, and that should there be any further incident by that team during the remainder of the match, steps 41.2.4(a) to 41.2.4(d) above will be adopted, with the captain deemed to be the player responsible.

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

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

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

41.3.3 If a short pitched delivery either:

- (a) Passes or would have passed over head height of the striker standing upright at the popping crease; or
- (b) Passes or would have passed between shoulder height and head height of the striker standing upright at the popping crease; or
- (c) Passes between shoulder height and head height of the striker standing upright at the popping crease and wide of the striker so that in the umpire's opinion they are unable to hit it with their bat by means of a normal cricket stroke

it shall, although not necessarily threatening physical injury, be deemed dangerous in accordance with Law 41.6.1, and considered as part of the warning sequence in Laws 41.6.3 and 41.6.4.

41.3.4 Law 21.10 shall not apply. A delivery as described in 41.3.3(a), if not a No ball and not touching the striker's bat or person, shall be called and signalled Wide (refer Law 22).

41.3.5 A delivery as described in 41.3.3(c), if not a No ball and not touching the striker's bat or person, shall be called and signalled Wide (refer Law 22).

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

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

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

41.5 Electronic Equipment

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

42 LAW 42 – PLAYERS' CONDUCT

Law 42 shall apply with the following amendments:

42.1 In Laws 42.1.4, 42.2.2.2, 42.3.2.2, the batters at the wicket may deputise for their captain.

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

42.3 The ECB's Professional Conduct Regulations shall also apply as appropriate and as separately detailed.