



NEW LAWS AMENDMENTS WITHIN THE RECREATIONAL GAME – 2018 SEASON

INTRODUCTION

Following the release of the new Laws of Cricket, in October 2017 by the MCC, Cricket Ireland's Cricket Committee has considered a number of amendments to these new Laws, to apply across the Recreational Game, which includes all national and provincial cricket, below Men's Inter-Provincial and Women's Super 3s level.

BAT SIZE – LAW 5.7

Concerns were raised by the NCU about the management of this new Law. This concern has also been voiced in England by players, parents and equipment providers.

The Cricket Committee agreed on a phased approach to the introduction of this Law, as outlined below, which would apply in club, youth and schools cricket:

- 2018 Season – A moratorium of this Law across the recreational game.
- 2019 Season – The new Law would apply across the top two divisions in each Provincial Union for men's cricket, but the moratorium would remain in place at all other levels.
- 2020 Season – The new Law would apply across all cricket.

CATEGORIES OF BAT – LAW 5.8

By extension, Law 5.8 applies on the same basis, and subject to the phased approach as outlined above.

BOWLING OF DANGEROUS AND UNFAIR NON-PITCHING DELIVERIES – LAW 41.7

Under the new Laws, any bowler bowling a high full toss, which passes the batsman above waist height on the full, is now punished with a call of No ball as well as a first and final warning. If the bowler repeats this delivery, he is unable to bowl for the remainder of the match. Again, one of the unintended consequences of this new Law is that at youth level, a young bowler might be withdrawn from the attack were the ball to slip out of his hand twice, noting that playing conditions might be more inclement at that level. MCC have made it clear that the question of dangerous/uncontrolled deliveries and the likelihood of injury is foremost in their thinking.

The Cricket Committee discussed this issue and agreed that, whilst it was unfair to be so strict on such bowlers, there was also a need to ensure that the Laws were introduced in their entirety at an appropriate level. In adult cricket, there was a reasonable expectation that no such dispensation would exist.

It was agreed that at all levels below U15 cricket, the warning system for the bowling of high full-tosses would not apply. At all levels from U15 upwards, the Law would apply in full, including in situations where a bowler aged under 15 might be bowling.

It was agreed that Law 41.7.4 would continue to apply at all levels of the game, namely that if the umpire felt such a delivery was bowled deliberately, the bowler would be removed from the attack immediately, without the warning process applying.

PLAYER CONDUCT – LAW 42

The new Law 42, relating to player conduct, brings to the fore two issues for consideration around the recreational game.

On-field Sanctions in Open & Youth Cricket (U15 and above) – the new laws provide for on-field sanctions to be available to umpires to control player discipline, if required. However, this created the potential for problems in recreational matches where the players themselves were umpiring. It was therefore agreed that the on-field sanctions, provided for in Law 42, would not apply in matches where the players were acting as umpires.

On-field Sanctions in Youth & Schools Cricket (below U15) – Law 42 lays out a number of occasions where the umpires are empowered to ask the captain of either side to request an improvement in the behaviour of his/her team. At junior levels, this was felt to not be good enough and, as such, the Cricket Committee agreed that in these instances, the umpires shall be empowered to ask both the captain and the team manager, coach or master in charge for an improvement in the team's behaviour. If necessary, the umpires would stop the game in order to communicate same.

BOWLING OF DELIBERATE FRONT-FOOT NO BALL – LAW 41.8

Consideration of the above Law was also given, in matches where the players themselves are umpiring. The Cricket Committee agreed that this Law could be open to misuse or abuse by the players if they themselves were controlling the match. The Cricket Committee agreed that this Law should not apply in matches where the players were acting as umpires.

SUMMARY

These Law amendments are strongly recommended for use across all cricket by Cricket Ireland. It is the responsibility of Provincial Unions and their competition organisers to provide the final sign off and adopt the above amendments ahead of the 2018 season.