

THE LAWS OF CRICKET (2000 CODE 4TH EDITION - 2010)

These are notes on the recent law changes that were explained by Stan Bennett to those present at the pre-season seminar on 13th April 2011. They are reproduced in the order that Stan presented them as he saw them in order of importance.

Law 3.8 Captains are now nothing to do with decisions regarding the fitness for play; the decision is entirely for the umpires to make. The only real issue is if it is dangerous, but unreasonable (meaning not sensible) has been left in to cover exceptional circumstances.

Law 17 Practice on the Field. The description of the area adjacent to the pitch is now more explicit. Stan talked about bowling practice (3.b (ii)) He urged colleagues to intervene early and sensibly if a bowler bounced the ball in his warm up. It now comes under Law 42.3 regarding changing the condition of the ball. He stressed how umpires must think hard how to address this change.

There is no direct reference to fielders deliberately returning the ball by bouncing it in hard, but this is covered by Law 42.3 if deemed a deliberate attempt to change the condition of the ball.

Between the calls of Play and Time, players on the field are now prohibited from engaging in any form of practice with anyone beyond the boundary.

Law 19 Boundaries. The key change here is a common sense one in 19.4. The key is now to forget the fielder and follow the ball! If the first contact with the ball is by a fielder whose last contact with the ground was outside the boundary, even though he is off the ground at the instant of contact with the ball, then a boundary is scored.

Law 23.4b(v) If the batsman backs away before the ball is delivered call dead ball, but ensure there is an adequate reason. If umpires believe there is no adequate reason that ball will count as one in the over. Stan warned colleagues of a situation where batsmen might take advantage, e.g. a number 11 facing the sixth ball, with an established batsman at the other end. Stan's advice is to inform the batsman you may not call dead ball a second time!

Law 24 No ball. Added to this law is requirement for the front foot or part of it to land on the same side of an imaginary line between the middle stumps as the return crease.

Law 29.1 Batsman out of his ground. Again a common sense change. Once a batsman has grounded some part of his foot behind the popping crease, he cannot be given run out even if he subsequently is off the ground. No doubt brought about by eagle-eyed cameramen and commentators!

Law 37.1 Obstructing the Field. Read the second paragraph carefully and note the last line. "*This shall apply whether or not there is any disadvantage to the fielding side.*" This Law should be used if a batsman, in running, deliberately gets his body in the way of a throw from a fielder. If the ball misses the batsman or his bat he can still be given out on appeal, but will the fielding side know this! Stan recommended using Simon Taufel's suggested interpretation of the batsman's intent - if the batsman makes a significant and unnecessary change of direction. If there is no appeal, there is a likelihood that umpires can get him for damaging the pitch!

Law 42.1.4 Batting side damaging the pitch. Another anomaly corrected with a first and final warning now the law to match the penalty for bowlers and fielders. However please note that ECB directive cards are still being issued with the previous law!

Law 39. Stumped. Another anomaly changed.

Law 12.4 The toss has to take place in the presence of at least one of the umpires, by a nominated player if captain not available, and the decision to bat or bowl has to be made known immediately.

Law 3.14 All communication of signals should be done by the bowler's end umpire, including short run, even when that is first signalled by striker's end; bowler's end umpire makes sure the scorer knows how many runs to record.

Appendix D Bat in hand. This is now confirmed as being any contact between bat and hand. Stan recommends everyone reads all of Appendix D carefully as there are several other subtle changes.

Law 10.1c Only one roller can be chosen!

Law 10.2 There is a change of emphasis here by talking more about clearing debris.

Law 15.6(c) Intervals. Confirms that the time for lunch can be changed. The only requirement is that captains and umpires agree.

Law 22.5(b) The Over. If an umpire miscounts and the 7th ball is not valid he may still call over, usually because his colleague has pointed it out.

Law 23 Calling time. Again, tidying up by not calling time or over until the ball is dead.

Law 26.2 Confirms the original intention that, if the ball strikes the body and then the bat, provided an attempt was being made to hit the ball, then any runs scored should be credited to the batsman.

There are a few others that Stan mentioned, but they all tidy up previous wording that were open to misinterpretation.