**MCC Law Changes – Applicable from 1st April 2019**

In 2018 the MCC made over 200 changes to the Laws of Cricket. They have made further changes which will be applicable from April 2019. In total there are 22 changes. Most of these changes will make no material difference to the game as it is played as they are minor corrections or clarifications. But there are a few significant changes. I have picked out the changes that you may come across.

**Law 21.12**

The batting side will still get the benefit of a no-ball if there is deliberate distraction, deception or obstruction of the batsman.

**Explanation:**

The Law previously stated that if there is an instance of a deliberate attempt to distract under either of Laws 41.4 (Deliberate attempt to distract striker) or 41.5 (Deliberate distraction, deception or obstruction of batsman), a call of No ball should be revoked. It was felt that this was unfair and that the batting side should still get the run for the No ball.

**Law 37.3**Which ever batsman obstructs a fielder when there was a call of no-ball will be given out.

**Explanation:**

Under the Laws, if the non-striker obstructs a fielder taking a catch then the striker is out. However, the striker cannot be out caught off a no-ball. The Law has been re-written to reflect that when the delivery is a no-ball, then whichever batsman causes the obstruction will be given out.

**Law 16.3.3 and Law 42.1**

Time lost in dealing with player misbehaviour will be added on to the scheduled close of play (i.e. from the calling of time to the calling of play). No overs will be deducted for time lost in the last hour

**Explanation:**

As originally written, Law 42.1 did not allow for time to be added on if it was lost due to umpires intervening to deal with player behaviour. This meant that, potentially, a side could risk committing an oﬀence under Law 42, knowing that the time taken out of the game to deal with it would work in their favour. It was felt that this was unfair, and should be rewritten.

**Law 41.2**

This Law has been rewritten.

Umpires can act if they consider that any action by a player, not covered by the Laws, is unfair. The Law requires the umpires to give the Captain a first and final warning that any further occurrence will result in penalty runs being awarded to the opposition. It may be that the umpires together, as a way of helping to manage the match, decide to give an informal warning to the captain. This informal warning will be reported on the match card.

The Captain will be subject to a full Discipline Report if he is given an official ‘first and final warning’

What might the Umpires consider to be unfair?

The Spirit of the Game involves RESPECT for:

• Your opponents

• Your own captain and team

• The role of the umpires

• The game’s traditional values

It is against the Spirit of the Game:

• To dispute an umpire’s decision by word, action or gesture

• To direct abusive language towards an opponent or umpire

• To indulge in cheating or any sharp practice, for instance

a) appeal knowing the batsman is not out

b) advance towards an umpire in an aggressive manner when appealing

c) seek to distract an opponent either verbally or by harassment with persistent clapping or unnecessary noise under the guise of enthusiasm and motivation of one’s own side.

Some of these transgressions may be deemed worthy of formal discipline action and will be dealt with by the Umpires on the field in accordance with the Laws and the LDCC Disciplinary Regulations e.g. discipline report, warning and/or imposition of penalty runs.

There will be others where the Captain will be warned as to the unfair behaviour of his players. This can be formal with the threat of penalty runs for further transgressions or an informal warning given by the umpires to allow the Captain to bring his players into line.

**Law 41.7**

From 1st April 2019, the Law allows umpires to make a more subjective decision over which full pitched above waist height deliveries are dangerous. Every delivery above waist height is a no-ball. If not considered dangerous then no-ball and no further action. If dangerous then no-ball and first and final warning. (Any further such delivery then the Captain will be asked to remove the bowler from the attack)

**Law 41.16**

The non-striker out of his ground when a bowler breaks the stumps in his delivery stride, with his hand holding the ball, can be given out on appeal.

**Explanation:**

It has long been the position of MCC that, if a non-striker leaves his/her ground early, he/she is liable to be Run out. An extension of this has come to light principally on the back of TV replays, meaning that, if a bowler accidentally puts down the wicket with the ball held in his/her hand during the bowling action, and the non-striker is out ofhis/her ground, the non-striker would be dismissed if there is an appeal. The previous wording referred to an ‘attempt’ to run out the non-striker, which some people do not feel allows for such accidental run-outs. This new change clariﬁes MCC’s interpretation of the Law.

**Appendix A - A6.7**

For the first time, the MCC have included within the Laws a definition of waist height.

Waist height is defined as the point at which the top of the batsman’s trousers would conventionally be when he/she is standing upright at the popping crease.

**MCUA Matters**

1. There will be a shortage of umpires in 2019. We have gained a couple of umpires, but we have also lost a couple. MCUA will continue to use umpires from other leagues where their appointments allow. We will do the best that we can to ensure that all LDCC 1st X1 matches have two umpires but there will be occasions that this will not be possible.

The shortage of umpires is not unique to MCUA but is evident across most leagues in Lancashire and the country

1. The completion of an umpire report card is mandatory in the LDCC. These cards are used by MCUA to see how an umpire is performing and are used, where we can, to help with umpire development. For the better umpires who aspire to the National Panel and stand in matches outside of LDCC, the marks are critical. One of the prerequisites for advancement is that an umpire’s marks place them in the top quartile of the MCUA Panel. Of course, this only impacts on a small number of umpires but without the marks, an umpire would not even be considered for selection to the National Panel.

Cards are to be returned to Kevin Wilson. The marks are confidential, the umpires do not see their individual mark only a season average. MCUA also select their ‘Umpire of the Year’ from the Captains marks. If you do not send in a card, then this will be reported to LDCC who have within their remit to issue a fine.

1. If clubs are arranging cup matches either on a Sunday or during the week, please contact Kevin Wilson if you require umpires. Please give him as much notice as you can it helps with the appointments and saves a lot of time and energy.
2. John Farrell will continue to appoint umpires to league matches.