

Law Changes – A Players Guide

This guide has been produced for Captains and Players in the Liverpool Competition. It is a summary of the Law changes that are most likely to impact on players during a match. It is not exhaustive and more details on all the Law changes, which Captains and Players are encouraged to read, can be found on the MCC web site using the following link

<https://www.lords.org/mcc/laws-of-cricket/new-code-of-laws-october-2017/>

Law 2	Ground Conditions
	If one umpire thinks conditions are dangerous or unreasonable then play will not start or resume until both agree conditions are safe. Note: Where two MCCA appointed umpires not present then decision to play will rest with the Captains.
Law 21	No Ball
	A ball bouncing more than once before reaching the popping crease is a no-ball. A ball pitching off the pitch is a no-ball.
Law 24	Fielders Absence
	A substitute fielder can act as wicket keeper with the umpires permission A fielder who is absent during playing time will incur 'Penalty Time'. That fielder cannot bowl again until he has been on the field for the equivalent of the Penalty Time. If his team is batting then he cannot bat until the penalty time is served unless at least 5 wickets are down. There is a maximum of 90 minutes Penalty Time and a player will not incur Penalty Time if he has to leave the field because of an external blow usually by the ball. A player off the field during an unscheduled break must inform the umpires if he becomes fit to take the field.
Law 25	Runners
	A runner is only allowed if the batsman's injury affects their ability to run. The runner must remain behind the line of the popping crease until the ball reaches the striker or the popping crease. Runs will be disallowed if the runner leaves early.
Law 30	Batsman Out of his Ground
	If a batsman makes his ground when running and his bat then bounces up or his feet have left the ground then he cannot then be run out
Law 33/38/39	Helmets
	A batsman can be caught, stumped or run out after a ball strikes a helmet worn by a fielder or wicket keeper. He is also out if the ball lodges in the helmet.
Law 41	Unfair Play
	It is unfair play to deliberately attempt to distract the striker. If, in the opinion of the umpires, such a deliberate attempt has been made then there is no warning and 5 penalty runs will be awarded to the batting side. Trying to deceive the batsman has also be included in the Law, and again, such action will result in the award of penalty runs. Examples of such deception includes 'mock fielding' (pretending to pick up and throw the ball), wicket keeper holding the ball and pretending that it has gone past him or a fielder making a clapping sound to make the batsman think the ball has been stopped. This list is not exhaustive and any act that the umpires consider to be deception will be penalised.
Law 41	Bouncers
	If the umpires considers a short pitched delivery to be dangerous then no-ball will be called and the bowler warned. A second such delivery and the bowler will be stopped from bowling for the rest of the innings. The umpires will take into account the skill of the striker. Too many short pitched deliveries may be considered unfair by the umpires. If this occurs then the umpire can call no-ball and issue a first and final warning to the bowler.
Law 41	Beamer
	All high full toss, irrespective of speed, above the waist height of the striker standing upright at the crease will be called no-ball. The bowler will be given a first and final warning.
Law 41	Deliberate Front Foot No-Ball
	This is considered to be dangerous and are now illegal. The offending player will be removed from the attack for the remainder of the innings

Law 41	Striker in the Protected Area
	It is an offence for the striker to take a guard or stance so close to the protected area that frequent encroachment is inevitable. He can move into the protected area to play a shot, e.g. going down the pitch to a spinner, but he must move off the pitch immediately
Law 41	Bowler Running Out the Striker
	The non-striker can be run out by the bowler up to the point that he would normally deliver the ball
Law 42	Player Conduct (These changes only apply where there are two MCUA appointed umpires)
	<p>The changes to Law 42 are designed to help players and umpires to ensure that all 22 players and the umpires enjoy the game. Poor player conduct detracts from the enjoyment of the game and captains, umpires and players have a duty and responsibility to ensure that the game is played within the 'Spirit of the Game'. Umpires will continue to manage the match and its players in a proactive and preventative way but the Law changes give them additional sanctions that can be applied where there are instances of poor player conduct.</p> <p>In the LDCC there will be 5 levels of poor player conduct that can bring about sanctions from the umpire.</p> <p>Accumulated Bad Behaviour (ABB) – minor offences which will be reported by the umpires on the match card</p> <p>Level 1 – incidents of unacceptable behaviour will result in a first and final warning which will be applied to the whole team for the rest of the match. Examples of Level 1 offences include: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Abuse of ground and/or equipment • Aggressive appealing • Obscene, offensive and insulting language and gestures • Dissent by word or action <p>If a second offences occurs then 5 penalty runs will be awarded to the non-offending team</p> <p>Level 2 – incidents of unacceptable behaviour will result in an immediate award of 5 penalty runs to the non-offending team and the offence also counts as a first warning for any future Level 1 offence. Example of Level 2 offences include: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inappropriate and deliberate physical contact • Throwing the ball at someone • Obscene language or gesture aimed at someone • Serious dissent <p>Level 3 – incidents of unacceptable behaviour will result in a player being removed from the field for a pre-determined time, 5 penalty runs will be awarded to the non-offending team and the offence also counts as a first warning for any future Level 1 offence. Examples of Level 3 offences include: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Intimidating an umpire • Threatening to assault another player, team official or spectator • Using language or gestures that offend • Deliberate bowling a dangerous non-pitching delivery <p>Level 4 - incidents of unacceptable behaviour will result in the player being removed from the match, 5 penalty runs awarded to the non-offending team and the offence also counts as a first warning for any future Level 1 offence. Examples of Level 4 offences include: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Threaten to assault an umpire • Make inappropriate and deliberate physical contact with an umpire • Physically assault a player or any other person or commit any other act of violence • Using language or gestures that seriously offend <p>A full list of offences in relation to poor player behaviour can be found in the LDCC handbook. All incidents, at whatever level, will subject to a disciplinary report to the LDCC</p>