

Presentation by Graeme Lloyd @ RDCAUA meeting 5 Feb 2018

**MANAGING DANGEROUS AND UNFAIR SHORT PITCHED BOWLING –  
A SUMMARY**



The Law (41.6.1) states that: *“the bowling of short pitched deliveries is dangerous if the bowler’s end umpire considers that, taking into consideration the skill of the striker, by their speed, length, height and direction, they are likely to inflict physical injury on him/her.”*



Further, Law 41.6.2 states that whilst balls passing above head height may not be dangerous, they can be considered *“unfair”*.

Laws 41.6.3 and 41.6.4 Outlines the actions expected of umpires in order to manage and police the use of dangerous and unfair and short pitched bowling.

Other than the reference to balls passing over the head of the striker as being “unfair”, the rest of the Law is, to say the least, subjective. It requires interpretation and development of a policy that is understood and consistently applied to and by all stakeholders in the game.

The policy of the RDCAUA that is to be applied in the jurisdiction of matches conducted in the Ringwood District Cricket Association is:

- (a) In a two-day game, a bowler is permitted to bowl two (2) fast short pitched deliveries per over
- (b) A fast, short pitched delivery is defined as a delivery that passes or would have passed *above the shoulder of the striker standing upright at the crease.*
- (c) All fast-pitched deliveries passing above the head of the striker are to be called No balls and are counted as one of the two such deliveries allowed in the over.

In adjudicating:

If, when the bowler’s end umpire considers that a dangerous or unfair short pitched delivery has been delivered then he/she will adopt the following procedures

In the first instance during an over he/she will

- (a) Confirm the height of the delivery by glancing to his/her square leg colleague who will indicate the height of the ball as it passed the striker
- (b) If the ball has passed over the head of the striker, will call and signal No ball
- (c) Will advise the bowler that he/she has bowled what is regarded as an unfair/dangerous delivery and that this is one of the two he/she is allowed to bowl in the over.
- (d) Indicate to the batsman on strike that such a delivery has been bowled and that the bowler has been advised.

In a second instance of such a delivery being bowled in the over will follow steps (a), (b), (c) and (d) as set out above, with the exception that at Step (c) he/she will advise the bowler that two such deliveries have been bowled in the over and that his quota has been reached.

Should a third such delivery be bowled in the same over, the umpire at the bowler's end will, after confirming the height with his colleague, will

- (a) Call and signal No ball
- (b) Advise the bowler that this is a first and final warning for dangerous bowling
- (c) Advise his colleague, the Captain of the fielding team and the batsmen at the crease that a warning for dangerous bowling has been given.

Should a fourth such delivery be bowled in this over or a third such delivery in a subsequent over by the same bowler, then the umpire will

- (a) Call and signal No ball
- (b) As soon as the ball is dead, advise the Captain of the fielding team to suspend the bowler immediately from bowling for the rest of the innings and if necessary, have the over completed by another eligible bowler
- (c) Inform his colleague and the batsmen at the crease of what has occurred
- (d) As soon as practical, inform the Captain of the batting team what has occurred
- (e) As soon as possible after the match, report the incident to Executive who may take action against the bowler, the Captain of the bowling team or the team, depending on circumstances.

**PLEASE NOTE THAT SHOULD ANY BOWLER BE PEPPERING A NON-COMPETENT BATSMAN WITH PERSISTENT SHORT PITCHED BOWLING DIRECTED AT THE BODY, UMPIRES ARE ABLE TO INTERVENE UNDER Law 46.6.1 AS THIS PRACTICE IS ALSO DEEMED "UNFAIR" AND "DANGEROUS".**

#### TIPS TO MINIMISE SUCH OCCURRENCES

1. At the toss, ensure that the Captains of both teams are aware of this interpretation and the consequences.
2. Prior to the start of play, discuss with your colleague how you will signal each other with regard to the height of each short-pitched delivery
3. For each batsman visualise a feature in the background that defines shoulder and head height Eg a tree branch, a roof line a high fence.
4. Deliver your adjudications to the bowler in a firm but friendly manner. Whether he/she agrees with your interpretation or not it has been made. It is up to him/her to deal with it and any subsequent determinations.

It is important that umpires forego their personal opinions on the merit of the Law and its interpretation. We need to enact the policy consistently across all matches. To not do so compromises colleagues who follow in future matches and brings the umpiring fraternity in some form of disrepute.

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THE END