

PROCEDURE FOR OPERATION ON SUSPECT BOWLING ACTIONS

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The aim of these procedures is to ensure that all bowlers playing cricket in Queensland have actions that comply with Law 21.2.
- 1.2 These procedures:
 - 1.2.1 Detail the process for dealing with players bowling with a doubtful action in all competitions affiliated with Queensland Cricket
 - 1.2.2 Provide for an additional mechanism for the reporting of players suspected of bowling with illegal bowling actions at Queensland Country Regional Championships and Under-Age Carnivals
- 1.3 Nothing contained herein shall override an umpire's responsibility and discretion to apply Law 21.

2 UMPIRES

- 2.1 Umpires have a duty to ensure the game is played within both the Laws and the Spirit of the game. Umpires must police Law 21.2 "Fair Delivery – The Arm", by notifying Queensland Cricket if they observe any bowler in a match situation who, in their opinion, possesses an action that may contravene these Laws.
- 2.2 Queensland Cricket has instructed umpires as follows:
 - 2.2.1 There are three categories of delivery:
 - a. Fair Delivery
 - b. Illegal Delivery (Blatant Throw) and
 - c. Doubtful Delivery

Illegal Delivery:

If an umpire believes a bowler has bowled a delivery that is clearly illegal (i.e. *deliberately and blatantly thrown*), the umpire shall call "no-ball" and Report the bowler on the Doubtful Bowling Action Report Form. To be considered an illegal delivery, the ball must be delivered with a markedly different action to the bowler's normal deliveries.

Doubtful Delivery:

If an umpire believes a bowler has bowled with an action that may be illegal, the umpire *should not "call"* the bowler, but record the bowler's name on the Doubtful Bowling Action Report Form. The Doubtful Bowling Action Report Form will offer the umpire two options;

Report: If an umpire believes that a bowler has bowled a ball with an action that *is illegal*, the umpire should "**Report**" that bowler on the Doubtful Bowling Action Report Form.

Mention: If an umpire is suspicious that a bowler has bowled a ball with an action that *may be illegal*, the umpire should "**Mention**" that bowler on the Doubtful Bowling Action Report Form.

Note: Umpires, in deciding whether to call or report a player under these regulations, should use the naked eye viewing the action live and/or on television at normal speed. Slow motion television replays should only be used to confirm initial suspicions.

- 2.3 If, in any of the competitions detailed in 1.2.1, a player is called by an umpire for throwing in accordance with Law 21.2 or is suspected by the umpire(s) for bowling with an action which contravenes Law 21.2 as read with Law 21.3 (a "Doubtful Bowling Action"), the following procedure shall apply.
- 2.4 "Umpire" in this procedure means a Cricket Australia accredited Umpire. Only a Cricket Australia accredited Umpire may "Mention" or "Report" a player under this procedure.

3 REPORTING PROCEDURE

- 3.1 At the conclusion of the match the umpires shall write a report (the Doubtful Bowling Action Report) detailing their concerns about the bowling action of the Player, including whether those concerns relate to the Player's bowling action generally or whether they relate to one or more specific types of delivery.

- 3.2 The umpires will notify the player, the Player's coach (if applicable), at the end of the days play on which the report is made or the Player is called and email Queensland Cricket a copy of the report form within 72 hours of the conclusion of the match.
- 3.3 Queensland Cricket will then write to the Secretaries of the Player's Club & Association to advise that the Player has been Mentioned or Reported, to include a copy of the Doubtful Bowling Action Report, and to describe the implications of this Mention or Report for the Player with respect to Queensland Cricket's Doubtful Bowling Action Procedures.
- 3.4 If a player is called for throwing, Reported or Mentioned by the umpire/s officiating in that match the following procedure will apply:
- 3.4.1 A **first mention** it is important the Club coach works with the bowler to rectify any doubtfulness in the bowler's action. Queensland Cricket will take no action at this stage.
- 3.4.2 A **second mention** of a bowler's action within the same season will automatically elevate the bowler to the next level in the procedure.
- 3.4.3 A first report will place the bowler at **LEVEL 1**. The Club coach works with the bowler to rectify any doubtfulness in the bowler's action. Queensland Cricket will assist the Club coach with coaching methods and drills to assist in the rehabilitation of the bowler.
- i. A second report will place the bowler at **LEVEL 2**. At this level a Queensland Cricket representative will attend a training session and take video evidence of the bowler's action. The Queensland Cricket representative will then provide video analysis of the action with recommendations for remedial work to be done on the bowler's action. At this stage there will be an **8 week "intervention period"** following the analysis to allow the remedial work to be undertaken. During this intervention period the player will be permitted to bowl in matches. They may still be reported, however such reports will not increase the bowlers level. When the 8 week intervention period is completed the Queensland Cricket representative will attend another session and review the bowler's action. (Any further work completed by Queensland Cricket shall be charged to the club at \$165.00 plus GST per session). *At no stage does the Queensland Cricket "clear" the bowler's action.*
- Should the bowler/club decide not to co-operate or participate in this part of the procedure the player will immediately be classified as Level 4, and will be suspended from bowling for 12 months.***
- ii. A third report will place the bowler at **LEVEL 3**. At this stage the bowler will **not be permitted** to bowl in any cricket matches for a period of 8 weeks from the date of the third report. This will allow any remedial work to be continued without the pressure of bowling in a match.
- 3.4.6 A fourth report will place the bowler at **LEVEL 4**. At this stage the bowler will **not be permitted** to bowl in any cricket matches for a period of **12 months** from the date of the third report.

"The procedure is ongoing and players do not return to Level 1 each season. Each mention will progress the procedure, irrespective of time. Each report (or two mentions in one season, as the case may be) will progress the procedure, irrespective of time". This is the same for Junior and Senior players treated.

SUBSEQUENT MENTION:

If a player suspended from bowling at Level 4 resumes bowling after the specified suspension period, and he is mentioned* again, he is immediately at Level 4 and suspension from bowling will apply forthwith.

*** THIS ENTIRE PROCESS DOES NOT PRECLUDE ANY UMPIRE FROM CALLING A BOWLER FOR THROWING, AT ANY TIME, IF THE UMPIRE IS IN NO DOUBT.**

Throughout the process clubs and coaches are to act in the best interests of the player and cricket in general with the overall welfare of the player and the game being the prime considerations.

HELMET POLICY ENFORCEMENT PROCEDURES

The following Enforcement Procedures provide further detail around Premier Cricket Regulation 25 Helmet Policy for Premier Cricket (Junior & Senior Cricketers)

Batting

1. After the fall of a wicket or the retirement of a batter, the incoming batter must, unless Time has been called, be in a position to take guard, or for the other batter to be ready to receive the next ball within 3 minutes of the dismissal or retirement and be wearing a helmet as required by Regulation 25.
2. If this requirement is not met the umpires(s)/Team Captains are to direct the batter to comply with Regulation 25.
3. If, having entered the field of play not wearing a helmet, a batter leaves the field in order to comply with Regulation 25, there shall be no loss of time/overs to the match solely due to this delay.
4. If a batter does not to comply with this direction:
 - 4.1 The umpire shall call time, if necessary
 - 4.2 The umpires shall summon and inform the offending players captain of his/her refusal to comply with clause 1.
 - 4.3 The umpire shall award 5 penalty runs to the fielding team
 - 4.4 The umpires together shall report the occurrence as soon as possible after the match to the Executive of the offending player's team and the Premier Cricket Committee (via email to the Premier Cricket Officer. The Premier Cricket Committee shall take such further action against the player, the captain, any other individuals concerned and, if appropriate, the team.
5. If after the action in clause 4 the batter continues to not comply with clause 1 then:
 - 5.1 The batter will be given out, Timed Out
 - 5.2 In the event of a Timed Out dismissal, the bowler does not get credit for the wicket.
6. In the event of an extended delay in which either no batter comes to the wicket wearing a helmet or a batter fails to wear a helmet as required by Regulation 25 and also fails to leave the wicket having been given out in accordance with clause 5, the umpires shall adopt the procedure of Law 16.3 (Umpire(s) awarding a match). For the purposes of that Law the start of the action shall be taken at end of clause 4.
7. Further to clause 4.4, the umpires shall also report the occurrence of clause 5.1 to the Executive of the offending player's team and the Premier Cricket Committee (via email to Premier Cricket Officer).
8. For the purpose of this law no time/overs shall be lost to the game after the completion of any of the actions described in Clauses 3-5.

Wicketkeeping

1. At anytime as required by Regulation 25 a wicketkeeper must wear a helmet.
2. Should a wicketkeeper fail to wear a helmet at anytime as required by the QLD Premier Cricket Regulations or as directed by an umpire(s), the umpire(s) shall not permit the game to continue until the wicketkeeper does one of the following:
 - 2.1 Wears a helmet.
 - 2.2 Moves his/her position to one that does not require him/her to wear a helmet
 - 2.3 The fielding team changes wicketkeeper to a different player who is complying with clause 1
3. In the event of an extended delay in which the wicketkeeper fails to wear a helmet and fails to comply with clauses 2.1 - 2.3, the umpire(s) shall adopt the procedure of Law 16.3 (Umpire(s) awarding a match).
4. Further, each wicketkeeper that fails to comply with clause 1 shall be reported to the Executive of the offending player's team and to the Premier Cricket Committee (via Premier Cricket Officer) by the umpire(s). The Premier Cricket Committee shall take any action it deems appropriate against each offending wicketkeeper.

Fielding

1. Should a fielder fail to wear a helmet at anytime as required by the Regulation 25 or as directed by an umpire(s), the umpire(s) shall not permit the game to continue until the fielder does one of the following:
 - 1.1 Wears a helmet.
 - 1.2 Moves his/her position to one that does not require him/her to wear a helmet.
 - 1.3 The fielding team changes the fielder in the position, to a different player who is complying with clause 1.
2. In the event of an extended delay in which the fielder fails to wear a helmet and fails to comply with clauses 1.1 -1.3, the umpire(s) shall adopt the procedure of Law 16.3 (Umpire(s) awarding a match).
3. Further, each fielder that fails to comply with clause 1 shall be reported to the Executive of the offending player's team and to the Premier Cricket Committee (via Premier Cricket Officer) by the umpire(s). The Premier Cricket Committee shall take any action it deems appropriate against each offending fielder.

Notes: Consultation between Umpires and Captains prior to the match in Sunday Legends and Over-40s Competitions

- Umpires and Captains in Sunday Legends and Over-40s competitions should consult before the start of the match in regarding bowlers who could be considered “fast”, “medium paced” or “slow”.
- This discussion should be completed following the sign-off of the Cricket Australia “Game Day Checklist”, to give context to the match conditions for that day.
- In matches without an Association appointed Umpire, this process should occur between both Captains.