



LAW CHANGES 2022

Full explanation of changes

Since the publication of the 2017 Code of the Laws of Cricket, the game has changed in numerous ways. The 2nd edition of that Code, published in 2019, made relatively minor changes. The 2022 Code, however, makes some rather bigger changes, from the way we talk about cricket to the way it's played. These changes will come into effect on 1 October 2022 for cricket played all around the world.

Listed below are all the material changes, in Law order.

Text in blue shows explanation of the changes.

Text in black shows existing, unchanged wording.

Text in red shows changes made in the 2022 edition.

Batters

The most striking change, which affects almost every Law, is the replacement of the gendered terms batsman and batsmen, to batter and batters. This was announced in September 2021. MCC believes that the use of gender-neutral terminology helps reinforce cricket's status as an inclusive game for all. The amendments are a natural evolution from work already undertaken in this area as well as an essential part of MCC's global responsibility to the sport.

LAW 1 - Replacement players

Up until now, it was not clear whether warnings, suspensions, and even dismissals applied to a replacement player. The introduction of a new clause, Law 1.2.3, explains that replacements are to be treated as if they were the player they replaced, inheriting any sanctions or dismissals that player has done in that match.

This is particularly relevant at a time when COVID replacements and concussion replacements have become prevalent - the point of a replacement is to mitigate the disadvantage of losing a player, but should not produce any extra advantage.

1.2 Nomination and replacement of players

- 1.2.1 Each captain shall nominate his/her players in writing to one of the umpires before the toss.
- 1.2.2 No player may be replaced after the nomination without the consent of the opposing captain.
- 1.2.3 Any replacement player shall be considered the same player as the nominated player he/she replaced for the purposes of these Laws.
 - 1.2.3.1 A replacement may not bat in an innings in which the nominated player he/she is replacing has completed his/her innings.
 - 1.2.3.2 Any unserved Penalty time, warnings or suspensions, that applied to the original nominated player will be inherited by his/her replacement.

LAW 2

There has been a minor change to Law 2.12, to reflect the change made to Law 20.6. Nothing an umpire does, including revoking his/her decision, can make the ball live again after it has been called Dead.

2.12 Umpire's decision

An umpire may alter any decision provided that such alteration is made promptly and does not contradict Law 20.6 (Dead ball not to be revoked). This apart, an umpire's decision, once made, is final.

LAW 6

The length of a junior pitch was previously defined in Law 8, along with the size of the wickets. This has now been split up, so that the length of the pitch falls under Law 6, and only the size of the wickets fall under Law 8.

6.6 Junior Cricket

The Governing Body for cricket in the country concerned shall determine the length of the pitch for junior cricket.

LAW 8

See Law 6.

8.4 Junior cricket

The Governing Body for Cricket in the country concerned shall determine the dimensions of the stumps and bails and the distance between the wickets.

LAW 11

The Laws governing declaration during an interval or interruption should always have included forfeiture as well. This was an oversight that has now been corrected.

11.3

- 11.3.2 if a captain declares an innings closed or forfeits an innings during an interruption in play of more than 10 minutes duration, provided that at least 10 minutes remains of the interruption, no adjustment shall be made to the time for resumption of play on account of the 10 minute interval between innings, which shall be considered as included in the interruption. If less than 10 minutes remains of the interruption when the captain declares the innings closed, or forfeits an innings, the next innings shall commence 10 minutes after the declaration or forfeiture is made.
- 11.3.3 if a captain declares an innings closed or forfeits an innings during any interval other than an interval for drinks, provided that at least 10 minutes remains of the interval, the interval shall be of the agreed duration and shall be considered to include the 10 minute interval between innings. If less than 10 minutes remains of the interval when the captain declares the innings closed, or forfeits an innings, the interval shall be extended as necessary and the next innings shall commence 10 minutes after the declaration or forfeiture is made.

LAW 16

Law 42.6.2 is clear that there is no result if both captains refuse to remove a player from the field. This is now reflected in the definition of a Draw, in Law 16.

16.5.2 A Draw

The result of a match shall be a Draw when it is not determined in any of the ways stated in 16.1, 16.2, 16.3, 16.4, 16.5.1, or when Law 42.6.2 (Captain refusing to remove a player from the field) is applied.

LAW 17

An umpire who is to suspend a bowler will always do so once the ball is dead - whether the umpire has to call Dead ball first, or if the umpire waits until the ball is dead to suspend the bowler. Therefore there is no need to call Dead ball under Law 17.8.

17.8 Bowler incapacitated or suspended during an over

If for any reason a bowler is incapacitated while running up to deliver the first ball of an over, or is incapacitated ~~or suspended~~ during an over, the umpire shall call and signal Dead ball. ~~If a bowler is incapacitated or suspended during an over~~, another bowler shall complete the over from the same end, provided that he/she does not bowl two overs consecutively, nor bowl parts of each of two consecutive overs, in that innings.

LAW 18

There are five changes in this Law.

The most significant is to Law 18.11. First trialled by the ECB in The Hundred, Law 18.11 has now been changed so that, when a batter is out Caught, the new batter shall come in at the end the striker was at, i.e. to face the next ball (unless it is the end of an over).

Under the previous Laws, a bowler could take a wicket, and still have to bowl at a set batter if the batters managed to cross. It was felt that the bowler should be rewarded with the chance to bowl at the new, incoming batter, if balls remain in the over.

This also applies to the obstruction of a catch.

18.11 Batter returning to original end

18.11.1 When the striker is dismissed in any of the circumstances in 18.11.1 to 18.11.8, the not out batter shall return to his/her original end.

- 18.11.1 A dismissal in the circumstances of Law 25.6.4 or 25.6.5 (Dismissal and conduct of a batter and his/her runner).
- 18.11.2 Bowled.
- 18.11.3 Stumped.
- 18.11.4 Hit the ball twice.
- 18.11.5 LBW.
- 18.11.6 Hit wicket.
- 18.11.7 Caught.
- 18.11.8 Obstructing the field, where the obstruction or distraction prevents the striker being out Caught.

The second significant change is to Law 18.4. In the past, if a batter had run short, the umpire was instructed to ignore that short run should the ball go to the boundary. This remains the case in almost all cases. However, should that boundary come from an overthrow, the batters should not be credited with that short run. There has therefore been a minor change to amend this.

18.4.2 if, after either or both batters run short, a boundary is scored the umpire concerned shall disregard the short running and shall not call or signal Short run, ~~unless the boundary is a result of an Overthrow or wilful act of a fielder (see Law 19.8 - Overthrow or wilful act of fielder).~~

There has also been a change to standardise the language around runs disallowed and runs not scored - it is a change Law 18.2 and is reflected elsewhere in the Laws.

18.2 Runs disallowed and runs not scored

Wherever in these Laws provision is made for the scoring of runs or awarding of penalties, such runs and penalties will be subject to any provisions that may be applicable ~~for a run to be disallowed or a run not to~~

~~be scored (see Appendix A.11) for the disallowance of runs~~ or for the non-award of penalties.

When runs are disallowed, the one run penalty for No ball or Wide shall stand and 5 run penalties shall be allowed, except for Penalty runs under Law 28.3 (Protective helmets belonging to the fielding side).

There have also been minor changes to Laws 18.5.2, 18.6 and 18.12.

LAW 19

Law 19.2.7 has been amended so that it now also covers an object, as well as any person or animal, that comes onto the field of play.

19.2.7 A person, animal ~~or object~~ coming onto the field of play while the ball is in play shall not be regarded as a boundary unless the umpires determine otherwise at the time that contact between the ball and such a person, animal ~~or object~~ is made. The decision shall be made for each separate occurrence. ~~See also Law 20.4.2.12 (Umpire calling and signalling Dead ball).~~

LAW 20

The new edition sees a number of changes to the Dead ball Law.

The most significant of these is the calling of Dead ball if either side is disadvantaged by a person, animal or other object within the field of play. From a pitch invader to a dog running onto the field, sometimes there is outside interference - if this is the case, and it has a material impact on the game, the umpires will call and signal Dead ball.

This Law is not to be confused with, but works alongside, Law 19.2.7, which says that if the umpire believes a ball, which comes into contact with a person, animal or object coming onto the field, would have reached the boundary, a boundary is awarded.

There is also a new clause relating to a bowler throwing the ball towards the striker's end (20.4.2.9, which will be explained below under Law 21), and one relating to a striker leaving the pitch to play the ball (20.4.2.13, which will be explained below under Law 25).

There is a significant change to the timing of the ball becoming dead. Under the new 20.4.2, the ball will become dead not when the umpire calls it, but (except for in some specific examples listed) when the incident causing the ball to become dead occurs.

All of the changes to Law 20.4.2 can be seen here:

20.4.2 ~~Where either umpire is required to call and signal Dead ball under 20.4.2.1 to 20.4.2.14, the ball will be considered to be dead at the instant of the incident causing the ball to become dead. However, where the Law specifically provides for the call to be delayed, so as not to disadvantage the non-offending side, under Law 25.7 (Restriction on the striker's runner), Law 34.4 (Runs permitted from the ball lawfully struck more than once), Law 41.2.1 (Unfair actions) and Law 42.1.2 (Unacceptable conduct), the ball will be considered to be dead at the point of the call.~~

Either umpire shall call and signal Dead ball when

- 20.4.2.1 intervening in a case of unfair play.
- 20.4.2.2 a possibly serious injury to a player or umpire occurs.
- 20.4.2.3 leaving his/her normal position for consultation.
- 20.4.2.4 one or both bails fall from the striker's wicket before the striker has had the opportunity of playing the ball.
- 20.4.2.5 the striker is not ready for the delivery of the ball and, if the ball is delivered, makes no attempt to play it. Provided the umpire is satisfied that the striker had adequate reason for not being ready, the ball shall not count as one of the over.
- 20.4.2.6 the striker is distracted by any noise or movement or in any other way while preparing to

- receive, or receiving a delivery. This shall apply whether the source of the distraction is within the match or outside it. Note also 20.4.2.7. The ball shall not count as one of the over.
- 20.4.2.7 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 batter). The ball shall not count as one of the over.
- 20.4.2.8 the bowler drops the ball accidentally before delivery.
- 20.4.2.9 the bowler throws the ball towards the striker's end before entering his/her delivery stride
- 20.4.2.10 the ball does not leave the bowler's hand for any reason other than an attempt to run out the non-striker under Law 38.3 (Non-striker leaving his/her ground early).
- 20.4.2.11 satisfied that the ball in play cannot be recovered.
- 20.4.2.12 he/she considers that either side has been disadvantaged by a person, animal or other object within the field of play. However, if both umpires consider the ball would have reached the boundary regardless of the intervention, the boundary should stand. See Law 19.2.7 (Identifying and marking the boundary).
- 20.4.2.13 the striker attempts to play the ball and no part of his/her person, whether grounded or raised, remains within the pitch as defined in Law 6.1 (Area of pitch).
- 20.4.2.14 he/she is required to do so under any of the Laws not included above.

Elsewhere in Law 20, there is a clarification in the new Law 20.6 that, once the ball is dead, it cannot be brought back into play for that delivery. While this may seem self-evident, there have been incidents, particularly in games using technology, where this has not been clear.

20.6 Dead ball not to be revoked

Once the ball is Dead no revoking of any decision can bring the ball back into play for that delivery.

LAW 21

There are two major changes in Law 21 - relating to two relatively rare occurrences.

It has long been the case that a bowler who sees the striker advancing down the pitch, before the bowler has entered his/her delivery stride, could throw the ball to attempt to run him/her out.

However, this has fallen out of practice, and is more often a source of confusion than anything else (does the striker have the right to hit that throw? Is the bowler throwing for a run out, or simply bowling with an illegal action?). Given that, MCC has decided to remove the possibility with a change to Law 21.4. If a bowler throws the ball towards the striker's end before entering his/her delivery stride, it will now be Dead ball under Law 20.4.2.9.

21.4 Bowler throwing towards striker's end before delivery

If the bowler throws the ball towards the striker's end before entering the delivery stride, it is not a No ball, and the procedure stated in 21.3 shall not apply. However, the umpire shall call and signal Dead ball under Law 20.4.2.9. ~~either umpire shall call and signal No ball. See Law 41.7 (Batsmen stealing a run). However, the procedure stated in 21.3 of first and final warning, informing, action against the bowler and reporting shall not apply.~~

The second change is to Law 21.8, and limits the striker's right to play the ball. This will be explained fully under Law 25.8.

LAW 22

In the modern game, batters are, more than ever, moving laterally around the crease before the ball is bowled. There are examples of a batter starting three feet outside leg stump, walking across to outside off stump, and back again, all before the bowler has released the ball.

It was felt unfair that a delivery might be called 'Wide' if it passes where the batter had stood as the bowler entered his/her delivery stride. Therefore, Law 22.1 has been amended so that a Wide will apply to where the batter is standing, where the striker has stood at any point since the bowler began his/her run up, and which would also have passed wide of the striker in a normal batting position. This provides more leeway for bowlers when a batter is moving laterally at the crease.

22.1 Judging a Wide

- 22.1.1 If the bowler bowls a ball, not being a No ball, the umpire shall adjudge it a Wide if, according to the definition in 22.1.2, the ball passes wide of where the striker is standing **or has stood at any point after the ball came into play for that delivery**, and which also would have passed wide of the striker standing in a normal **guard-batting** position.

LAW 24

There is a minor change to Law 24.4 which standardises the language around the awarding of No ball or Wide penalties when an offence has occurred.

LAW 25

There are three changes to Law 25, two of which are very minor. A runner is now permitted for any other wholly acceptable reason - the return of a clause to Law 25.5 which was omitted in error in 2017. It is also clarified that, where possible, not only should a runner have already batted, but that they should already have completed their innings. The most significant change to this Law is found in a new clause, Law 25.8.

We have seen, over the past few years, more and more attempted slower balls which go wrong, and land nowhere near the batter. Under the old Laws, the striker could run after these deliveries to play them, so long as the ball had not come to rest. This could potentially be unsafe - especially if fielders are approaching - as well as not reflecting how cricket is designed to be played.

The new Law 25.8 allows the striker to play the ball so long as some part of his/her bat or person remains within the pitch. Should they venture beyond that, the umpire will call and signal Dead ball. As recompense to the batter, any ball which would force them to leave the pitch will also be called No ball. This ties into Laws 20.4.2.13 and 21.8.

25.8 Striker's right to play the ball

The striker has a right to play the ball, or to make a legitimate second strike, after it has been delivered, without interference from the wicket-keeper or any other fielder (See Law 27.5 - Restrictions on actions of wicket-keeper and 27.6 - Interference with wicket-keeper by striker).

However, the striker may only attempt to play the ball if some of his/her bat or person, whether grounded or raised, remains within the pitch, as defined in Law 6.1.

Should no part of the striker's bat or person remain within the pitch, whilst the striker is playing the ball, either umpire shall immediately call and signal Dead ball.

21.8 Ball causing the striker to leave the pitch, or ball coming to rest in front of striker's wicket

If a ball delivered by the bowler comes to rest in front of the line of the striker's wicket or is so far from the pitch that the striker would need to leave the pitch to attempt to play the ball (see Law 25.8), without having previously touched the bat or person of the striker, the umpire shall call and signal No ball and immediately call and signal Dead ball.

- 20.4.2.13 the striker attempts to play the ball and no part of his/her person, whether grounded or raised, remains within the pitch as defined in Law 6.1 (Area of pitch)

LAW 26

There is a clarification in Law 26.2.2. It is possible that an offence under Law 26 could also be an offence under Law 41, as recognised in the Law. However, what the Laws did not specify is what would happen in such cases - would a team be penalised under both Laws, or only one? If one, which?

This has been clarified so that teams will only be sanctioned under Law 41 in this scenario. However, a team that is, for example, timewasting by practicing on the field, will receive warnings under both Laws - any further timewasting will attract a sanction, as will any further practice on the field.

- 26.2.2 Between the call of Play and the call of Time, practice shall be permitted on the outfield, providing that all of the following conditions are met:
- only the fielders as defined in Appendix A.7 participate in such practice.
 - no ball other than the match ball is used for this practice.
 - no bowling practice takes place in the area between the square and the boundary in a direction parallel to the match pitch.
 - the umpires are satisfied that it will not contravene either of Laws 41.3 (The match ball - changing its condition) or 41.9 (Time wasting by the fielding side). **If there is such a contravention, the sanctions in Law 41 shall be applied. However, any warning given shall apply to further instances under both Law 26 and Law 41 (Unfair play).**

LAWS 27.4 AND 28.6 - Unfair movement by the fielding side

Neither the wicket-keeper, nor any other fielder, is permitted to significantly alter their position while the bowler is running in to bowl. This has long been the case - the batter has a right to know where the field is placed. However, until now, any member of the fielding side who moved unfairly, was punished only with a 'Dead ball' - potentially cancelling a perfectly good shot by the batter. Given the action is both unfair and deliberate, it will now see the batting side awarded 5 Penalty runs.

27.4 Movement by wicket-keeper

- 27.4.1 After the ball comes into play and before it reaches the striker, it is unfair if the wicket-keeper significantly alters his/her position in relation to the striker's wicket, except for the following:
- 27.4.1.1 movement of a few paces forward for a slower delivery, unless in so doing it brings him/her within reach of the wicket.
- 27.4.1.2 lateral movement in response to the direction in which the ball has been delivered.
- 27.4.1.3 movement in response to the stroke that the striker is playing or that his/her actions suggest he/she intends to play. However the provisions of Law 27.3 shall apply.
- 27.4.2 **In the event of unfair movement by the wicket-keeper, either umpire shall call and signal Dead ball and inform the other umpire of the reason for doing so. The bowler's end umpire shall then:**
- 27.4.2.1 award the one-run penalty for Wide or No ball, if applicable
- 27.4.2.2 award 5 Penalty runs to the batting side
- 27.4.2.3 inform the captain of the fielding side of the reason for this action.
- 27.4.2.4 inform the batters and, as soon as practicable, the captain of the batting side of what has occurred.
- The umpires together shall report the occurrence as soon as possible after the match to the Executive of the offending side and to any Governing Body responsible for the match, who shall take such action as is considered appropriate against the captain, any other individuals concerned and, if appropriate, the team.

28.6 Movement by any fielder other than the wicket-keeper

- 28.6.1 Any movement by any fielder, excluding the wicket-keeper, after the ball comes into play and before the ball reaches the striker, is unfair except for the following:
- 28.6.1.1 minor adjustments to stance or position in relation to the striker's wicket.
- 28.6.1.2 movement by any fielder, other than a close fielder, towards the striker or the striker's wicket that does not significantly alter the position of the fielder.
- 28.6.1.3 movement by any fielder in response to the stroke that the striker is playing or that his/her actions suggest he/she intends to play.
- 28.6.2 In all circumstances Law 28.4 (Limitation of on side fielders) shall apply.
- 28.6.3 **In the event of such unfair movement, either umpire shall call and signal Dead ball and inform the other umpire of the reason for doing so. The bowler's end umpire shall then:**
- 28.6.3.1 award the one-run penalty for Wide or No ball, if applicable
- 28.6.3.2 award 5 Penalty runs to the batting side
- 28.6.3.3 inform the captain of the fielding side of the reason for this action.
- 28.6.3.4 inform the batters and, as soon as practicable, the captain of the batting side of what has occurred.
- The umpires together shall report the occurrence as soon as possible after the match to the Executive

of the offending side and to any Governing Body responsible for the match, who shall take such action as is considered appropriate against the captain, any other individuals concerned and, if appropriate, the team.

LAW 28

There are two other small changes to Law 28. There is a slight re-organisation of Law 28.3, while Law 28.2.2 has been amended so that a piece of clothing dropped by an umpire is treated as if it had accidentally fallen from a player, rather than having been wilfully discarded.

- 28.2.2 It is not illegal fielding if the ball in play makes contact with a piece of clothing, equipment or any other object which has accidentally fallen from the fielder's person, **or been dropped by an umpire.**
- 28.3.1 Protective helmets, when not in use by fielders, may not be placed on the ground, above the surface except behind the wicket-keeper and in line with both sets of stumps.
- 28.3.2 If the ball while in play strikes the **protective** helmet, placed as described in 28.3.1, **the ball shall immediately become dead and, unless 28.3.3 applies:**
- the umpire shall signal No ball or Wide to the scorers, if applicable
 - the umpire shall award 5 Penalty runs to the batting side
 - any runs completed by the batters before the ball strikes the protective helmet shall be scored, together with the run in progress if the batters had already crossed at the instant of the ball striking the protective helmet
- 28.3.3 If the ball while in play strikes a helmet, placed as described in 28.3.1 and the circumstances of Law 23.3 (Leg byes not to be awarded), 25.7 (Restriction on the striker's runner) or Law 34 (Hit the ball twice) apply, the umpire shall
- disallow all runs to the batting side
 - return any not out batter to his/her original end
 - signal No ball or Wide ball to the scorers if applicable
 - award any 5-run Penalty that is applicable except for Penalty runs under 28.3.2.

LAW 29

In order to make the Laws more accessible, particularly to those for whom English may not be a first language, MCC have simplified some of the terms. In keeping with this, the phrases 'the wicket is down' and 'putting down the wicket' have been replaced by 'the wicket is broken' and 'breaking the wicket fairly'. This has an impact on a great number of Laws, not all of which are listed here. However, the whole of Law 29 is shown here by way of an example.

LAW 29 THE WICKET IS BROKEN

29.1 The wicket is broken

The wicket is broken when at least one bail is completely removed from the top of the stumps, or one or more stumps is removed from the ground.

29.2 Breaking the wicket fairly

- 29.2.1 The wicket is **broken fairly** if a bail is completely removed from the top of the stumps, or a stump is struck out of the ground,
- 29.2.1.1 by the ball.
- 29.2.1.2 by the striker's bat if held or by any part of the bat that he/she is holding.
- 29.2.1.3 for the purpose of this law only, by the striker's bat not in hand, or by any part of the bat which has become detached.
- 29.2.1.4 by the striker's person or by any part of his/her clothing or equipment being worn, or by any part of the striker's clothing or equipment becoming detached from his/her person. **However, any detached equipment shall not include the striker's protective helmet, or any part thereof, as defined in Appendix A.2.3.**

29.2.1.5 by a fielder with his/her hand or arm, providing that the ball is held in the hand or hands so used, or in the hand of the arm so used.

29.2.1.6 The wicket is also **broken fairly** if a fielder strikes or pulls a stump out of the ground as in 29.1.1.5.

29.2.2 The disturbance of a bail, whether temporary or not, shall not constitute its complete removal from the top of the stumps, but if a bail in falling lodges between two of the stumps this shall be regarded as complete removal.

29.3 One bail off

If one bail is off, it shall be sufficient for the purpose of **breaking the wicket** to remove the remaining bail or to strike or pull any of the three stumps out of the ground, in any of the ways stated in 29.2.

29.4 Remaking wicket

If a wicket is **broken while** the ball is in play, it shall not be remade by an umpire until the ball is dead. See Law 20 (Dead ball). Any fielder may, however, while the ball is in play,

- replace a bail or bails on top of the stumps.
- put back one or more stumps into the ground where the wicket originally stood.

29.5 Dispensing with bails

If the umpires have agreed to dispense with bails in accordance with Law 8.5 (Dispensing with bails), it is for the umpire concerned to decide whether or not the wicket has been broken.

29.5.1 After a decision to play without bails, the wicket has been **broken fairly** if the umpire concerned is satisfied that the wicket has been struck by the ball, by the striker's bat, person or items of his/her clothing or equipment as described in 29.1.1.2, 29.1.1.3 or 29.1.1.4, or by a fielder in the manner described in 29.1.1.5.

29.5.2 If the wicket has already been **broken**, 29.4.1 shall apply to any stump or stumps still in the ground. Any fielder may replace a stump or stumps, in accordance with 29.3, in order to have an opportunity of **breaking the wicket fairly**.

LAW 36

Again, in keeping with our attempt to simplify the language of the Laws, the words 'stance' and 'guard' have been removed. Neither term was clear, and there was a great overlap in their use. Instead, the Laws now refer to a batting position and a normal batting position (see Appendix A.6.8).

36.3 Off side of wicket

The off side of the striker's wicket shall be determined by the striker's **batting position** at the moment the ball comes into play for that delivery. See Appendix A.13.

LAW 37

There are a number of clarifications made to this Law relating to a batter preventing a catch.

37.3.3 If an obstruction or distraction takes place from a No ball, then the batter who caused the obstruction or distraction will be out Obstructing the field.

However, neither batter is out if the obstruction of a catch is caused by the striker while defending his/her wicket from a No ball with a lawful second strike.

37.5 Runs scored

When either batter is dismissed Obstructing the field,

37.5.1 unless the obstruction **or distraction prevents the striker being out Caught**, any runs completed by the batters before the offence shall be scored, **together with any one-run Penalty for No ball or Wide, or any other award of 5 Penalty Runs to either side**. See Laws 18.6 (Runs awarded for penalties) and 18.8 (Runs scored when a batter is dismissed).

37.5.2 if the obstruction **or distraction prevents the striker being out Caught**, any runs completed by the batters shall not be scored **but any award of 5 Penalty Runs to either side shall stand**.

LAW 38

As well as a number of more minor changes, there is one significant addition to this Law. The old Law 41.16 (non-striker leaving his/her ground early) has been moved to Law 38.

This clause remains one of the most controversial clauses in the Laws of Cricket, despite MCC having changed the emphasis of this Law, so that responsibility is put on the non-striker to stay in his/her ground until the ball is released.

This latest change goes a little further, removing this Law from 'unfair play' and moving it to Run out. After all, this is simply a run out, and there is nothing unfair about it.

LAW 40

An incoming batter used to have to be in a position to take guard within three minutes. They are now required to be ready to receive the ball in this time. This is a small, but significant change which should both simplify this Law and speed up incoming batters.

40.1.1 After the fall of a wicket or the retirement of a batter, the incoming batter must, unless Time has been called, be **ready to receive the ball**, or for the other batter **to-be-ready** to receive the next ball within 3 minutes of the dismissal or retirement. If this requirement is not met, the incoming batter will be out, Timed out.

LAW 41.3

The use of saliva to polish the ball has long been a concern for MCC. It is both unhygienic and open to abuse, with players using various types of sweet to alter their saliva.

During COVID-19, playing regulations were written in most cricket to state that saliva could no longer be applied to the ball. Data from international cricket has shown that this change had very little impact on the amount of swing. Players were using sweat to polish the ball, and this was equally effective.

With both of those in mind, the new Law will not permit the use of saliva on the ball. Using saliva will be treated the same way as any other unfair methods of changing the condition of the ball.

LAW 41

There are also minor changes to Laws 41.4, 41.5, 41.12, 41.14, 41.15 and 41.17. These are all for the sake of clarity and few of them have much material impact.

LAW 42

In Law 42.7 the language has been clarified to demonstrate that, even when an offence is committed by a substitute or runner, his/her captain is also reported.

APPENDICES

There are a number of changes in the Appendices. In Appendix A.2.3 neck protectors are included in the definition of helmets. In A.6 there are new definitions added for the striker and non-striker, while, as noted above, A.6.8 has been changed significantly. A.10.2 has been removed to reflect that 'rebounds directly' is no longer a term used in the Laws.

A.2.3 A protective helmet is headwear made of hard material and designed to protect the head, **neck and/or** the face. For the purposes of interpreting these Laws of Cricket, such a description shall include faceguards, **grilles and neck guards**.

A.6 Batters

- A.6.1 **Batting side** is the side currently batting, whether or not play is in progress.
- A.6.2 **Member of the batting side** is one of the players nominated by the captain of the batting side, or any authorised replacement for such nominated player.
- A.6.3 **The striker is the batter who receives the ball delivered by the bowler.**
- A.6.4 **The non-striker is the batter whose ground is at the bowler's end when the ball is delivered.**
- A.6.5 **A batter's ground** - at each end of the pitch, the whole area of the field of play behind the popping crease is the ground at that end for a batter.
- A.6.6 **Original end** is the end where a batter was when the ball came into play for that delivery.
- A.6.7 **Wicket he/she has left** is the wicket at the end where a batter was at the start of the run in progress.
- A.6.8 **A batting position** is the position and posture adopted by the striker to receive a ball delivered by the bowler. **A normal batting position** is one from which a striker could be reasonably expected to defend his/her wicket.
- A.6.9 For the purposes of these Laws, **waist height** is defined as the point at which the top of the batter's trousers would conventionally be when he/she is standing upright at the popping crease.
- ~~A.10.2 – Rebounds directly/strikes directly and similar phrases mean 'without contact with any fielder' but do not exclude contact with the ground:~~

The full Laws can be found here [lords.org/mcc/about-the-laws-of-cricket](https://www.lords.org/mcc/about-the-laws-of-cricket)