

2017-18 ICC MEN'S PLAYING CONDITIONS – MAJOR CHANGES

Effective for series starting on or after 28 September 2017.

PLAYING CONDITION	TEST	ODI	T20I
1 The Players	Number of named substitutes increased to 6 (formerly 4).		
5 The Bat	Restriction on the size of the edge and thickness of bats. The permitted size of the bat is now defined, with the width and length unchanged, but with added restrictions on the thickness of the edges (40mm) and the overall depth (67mm). Umpires will be issued with a new bat gauge, which they can use to check a bat's legality.		
8 The Wickets	Tethered bails. In response to injuries sustained by wicket-keepers in particular, the use of specially designed mechanisms which tether the bails to the stumps, thereby restricting the distance that they can fly off the stumps, but without limiting their ability to be dislodged. Decision as to whether such wickets are used lies with the host Board.		
11 Intervals	An interval will be taken immediately if a wicket falls within 3 minutes of the interval (formerly 2 minutes).		
13 Innings			Maximum overs per bowler in an interrupted match. In an interrupted match, the quota for a bowler in an innings reduced to 10 overs or less shall not be less than 2 overs.
19 Boundaries	All airborne fielders making their first contact with the ball will need to have taken off from within the boundary, otherwise a boundary is scored. A boundary will be scored if a fielder in contact with the ball makes contact with any object grounded beyond the boundary, including another fielder.		
20 Dead ball	Now incorporates the old Law for "Lost Ball", which has been removed.		
21 No ball	Ball bouncing more than once. It will be a No ball if the ball bounces more than once before reaching the popping crease (formerly more than twice). Not landing on the pitch. When a ball lands off the pitch then No ball will be called and signalled immediately. Fielder intercepts the ball. No ball and Dead ball are to be called immediately if a fielder intercepts a delivery before it reaches the striker.		
23 Bye and Leg Bye	Byes and Leg Byes scored off a No ball will now be scored separately. The bowler will be debited with one No ball, and additional runs will be scored as Byes or Leg Byes. Previously any Byes or Leg Byes scored off a No ball were all scored as No balls.		
30 Batsman out of his/her Ground	Bouncing Bat. If the batsman grounds the bat (held by the hand) or another part of his/her person within his/her ground (the elbow when diving, for example), and provided that the batsman has continued forward momentum through running or diving, and subsequently inadvertently loses this contact with the ground, or contact between the bat and the person when the wicket is put down, the batsman will be protected from being Run out. In addition, the same protection will apply to a striker diving back into his/her ground to avoid being Stumped.		
31 Appeals	An appeal can now be withdrawn or the umpires recall a batsman at any time before the ball comes into play for next delivery, not once the batsman has left the field as before.		
32 Caught	Boundary Catches. Any fielder making contact with the ball must either be grounded within the boundary, or his/her last contact with the ground before first touching the ball must have been within the boundary. Caught off a fielder's / wicket keeper's helmet. The ball can now be caught after it strikes a helmet which is being worn by a fielder or the wicket-keeper.		
37 Obstructing the Field	Now incorporates the old Law for "Handled the Ball", which has been removed.		

38 Stumped & 39 Run Out	Stumped or Run Out of a fielder's / wicket keeper's helmet. A batsman can now be Out Stumped or Run Out if the ball bounces off the helmet worn by a fielder or wicket-keeper.		
41 Unfair Play	<p>41.5 Deliberate distraction, deception or obstruction of batsman. It is unfair to try and deceive the batsman after he/she has received the ball. Examples such as mock fielding, or any other action that is designed to deceive the batting side are now able to be penalised.</p> <p>41.8 Bowling a deliberate front-foot No ball. This is now considered unfair play, and the bowler will be removed from the attack for the rest of the innings.</p> <p>41.15 Batsman taking strike in the protected area. Just as a bowler is not allowed to repeatedly run in the protected area, it is now considered unfair for a batsman to take strike in the protected area.</p> <p>41.19 Unfair actions. A catch-all Law has now been introduced to give umpires the power to deal with any conduct they believe is unfair that is not covered elsewhere in the Laws.</p>		
42 Players' Conduct	A player can be sent off. A player can now be sent from the field for the rest of a match for serious misconduct. This will apply to most Level 4 offences, with Level 1-3 offences continuing to be dealt with under the ICC Code of Conduct.		
Decision Review System	Not losing a review on Umpire's Call. Any decision that remains unchanged, solely as a result of an Umpire's Call, will not result in a Review being lost.		
	<p>No more top-up reviews after 80 overs. Each team will have 2 unsuccessful reviews available each innings.</p>		<p>DRS can now be used in T20Is. One unsuccessful review per team per innings. Third umpire to be a host Board appointment.</p>

The ICC playing conditions will now incorporate the relevant clauses from the MCC Laws of Cricket (2017 Code), meaning that all the playing regulations will be captured in one document for each format.