

## A SUMMARY

From time to time the Executive Committee will issue a direction to the membership. This can take the form of an instruction on how members are to action a certain task, how to handle a certain situation, or guidance on how to interpret match situations that are not completely or necessarily covered by the Laws of the Game or the Competition Playing Conditions. Each of these instructions is to be referred to as a By Law of this Association. All members shall adhere to any By Law in the same manner as any item that appears in the Association's Constitution.

*All Association By Laws refer to both the Shires Competition as well as the Masters and Classics Competitions, unless otherwise specified.*

## 1 APPOINTMENTS

The most recently updated version of the match appointments is always available on the Associations website. If during the week leading into a match a member cannot accept an appointment it is the responsibility of that member to contact the appointments officer to inform him of ones intention to withdraw from the match in question as well as supplying a valid reason for the need to withdraw. Contact must be by way of a person to person phone call (also refer section 19b of the Constitution).

## 2 CONTACTING YOUR PARTNER

It is Association policy that members must make a phone call to their umpiring partner prior to match day to ensure that both members are aware of the fact that they are umpiring together for the upcoming round, the location of the match, and the relevant starting time.

## 3 ASSOCIATION POLO SHIRTS

For all matches members are expected to wear to and from the game the green Association polo shirt, or otherwise arrive and depart the ground in their full umpiring attire (ie, Blue Field Shirt and Black pants).

Any member without one of the Green Association polo shirts needs to advise the Honorary Secretary and then make arrangements to be supplied one.

## 4 UMPIRES ON THE GROUND BEFORE THE START OF PLAY

At ALL times no individual umpire should be on the field of play without his umpiring partner. If a member arrives at the ground early he shall not enter the field of play, nor enter into any discussion about pitch or weather conditions, until his partner arrives. Common sense to this rule should be applied if an umpire is running late requiring the other umpire to conduct the toss or put the stumps in.

## 5 THE TOSS AND TEAM SHEETS

At the toss, the umpire that collects both team sheets is responsible for the safe keeping of these items until the end of the season. Both umpires are to record on their match result sheet which umpire holds both team sheets. Team Sheets are not required in Masters and Classics matches.

## 6 MATCHES BEING CALLED OFF EARLY DUE TO WEATHER CONDITIONS

*This By Law does not apply to the Masters and Classics competition. Refer to the Masters and Classics Playing Conditions regarding this topic.*

Once control of the ground has been handed to the umpires by the grounds person (or in the absence of the grounds person the pitch is prepared and there is no advice that the ground is closed) and there is either a delay in play commencing on time on any day, or there is a rain or bad light delay during any day, the follow shall occur.

### **In all Two Day Games played under SCA Game 1, 2 and 5:**

- a) The umpires shall not abandon play for the remainder of the day in question unless a time is reached that is 90 minutes or less before the scheduled (or re-scheduled) time for stumps.
- b) The only exception to this rule is if BOTH captains as well as the umpires all agree that the chance of play starting or re-starting is impossible and that ALL parties wish the remainder of the days play to be abandoned. If ALL parties cannot agree then the umpires must wait until 90 minutes or less before the scheduled (or re-scheduled) time for stumps before considering abandoning the rest of the days play.

### **In Limited Overs Matches Played under SCA Game 3:**

- c) The umpires shall not abandon play for the remainder of the day in question until a time is reached where there is insufficient time remaining to constitute a match – Refer SCA Handbook Playing Condition Game 3 Law 16.2 (a) (i) (ii) & (iii).
- d) The only exception to this rule is if BOTH captains as well as the umpires all agree that the chance of play starting or re-starting is impossible and that ALL parties wish the remainder of the days play to be abandoned. If ALL parties cannot agree then the umpires must wait until a time is reached that meets the provisions of paragraph (c) above.

*This By Law was requested by the Sydney Shires Competition Sub Committee in 2003 after a series of matches were allegedly called off prematurely by the umpires when one or both captains wanted to wait at the ground to see if conditions might improve.*

## 7 WIDE CALLS IN LIMITED OVER MATCHES

*This By Law does not apply to the Masters and Classics competition. Refer to the Masters and Classics Playing Conditions regarding this topic.*

This By Law relates to matches conducted under SCA playing condition game number 3 which covers limited overs fixtures.

The purpose of this By Law is to make sure all members are going to apply the same interpretation for one day wides. In that respect, LEG SIDE wides are to be called very strictly using this wording for interpretation “A delivery that passes outside the leg stump without making any contact with the striker’s bat or person shall be called and signalled Wide Ball, unless the ball passes between the striker and the stumps”.

For off side wides the 750mm mark that is about halfway between the off stump and the return crease should be used as the guideline for off side wide calls.

## 8 SLOW OVER RATES IN SHIRES TWO DAY MATCHES

For any innings of 210 minutes (3.5 hours) duration or more, that was involved in a days play that ends later than the scheduled time for stumps, umpires will strictly apply the playing condition as it is written in the SCA playing condition booklet and MUST apply slow over rate penalties for all innings of more than 210 minutes duration involved in a days play that finishes late. Umpires are instructed that they cannot create fictional time allowances to ease or negate the number of penalty overs to be applied as has been the case in previous seasons. Umpires maybe asked to justify time allowances if deemed excessive. Umpires are encouraged to use a stop watch during the day to keep an accurate record of time allowances.

a) The only justified circumstances for time adjustments are:

Each Drinks Break in a Session (as a guide, umpires should restrict each drinks break to no more than four minutes).

Lost Balls up to a maximum of 5 minutes per occasion at which time a replacement ball should be called for.

Injury to players that cause a stoppage to play up to a maximum of 5 minutes at which time the umpires will ask for the player to remove himself from the field and allow play to continue. Exceptions to this being if the injury is very serious and the player cannot be moved or an ambulance needs to be called.

b) Circumstances that are not allowable time adjustments are: Repetitive sight board movements; the fall of wickets; and where the fielding team isn’t ready to start when the umpire is ready to commence (ie, teams slow to come out on the field at the start of a session).

c) To counteract slow over rates and to encourage teams not to be tardy with over rates the following should be observed:

i. All umpires are to interpret teams not bowling at the required over rate to not be playing the game within the spirit of cricket.

ii. Team Captains are responsible for conducting their side in a manner that will allow the minimum quota of overs per hour to be bowled. If over rates can not be maintained at the required rate umpires are to take this fact into consideration when awarding Captains their “Captain of the Year” match mark.

iii. Umpires are required to be mindful of teams that during the day are falling behind in their over rates. Umpires must be pro-active in letting captains know when this is happening. Umpires should also be prepared to let captains know the progress of their over rate when approached with this question at any time.

iv. Bowling overs too slowly is a form of time wasting. Umpires may in a last resort consider the use of time wasting Laws that are covered in Law 41 of the game. Members are however asked to be very conservative before going down the path of issuing penalty runs. Often a quiet word to the captain that time wasting has the potential to generate penalty runs will result in the situation being improved requiring no further action by the umpires.

## 9 LIGHT METER POLICY

### General

The Association owns a total of 14 ULM Black Box Light Meters. These are distributed amongst established members of the Association and maybe from time to time re-distributed to suit the needs of the Association. An Asset Register held by the Honorary Secretary shall at all times be kept up to date to ensure an accurate record is held as to who at any point in time holds possession of one of the 14 light meters. Members holding a Light Meter for more than one year shall ensure that the battery in the Light Meter is replaced.

### Post Season

Upon the completion of each playing season the Honorary Secretary shall write to each member holding a Light Meter and ask that they respond acknowledging that they will safely keep possession of the item until the following season. If a member is unwilling to hold a Light Meter through the off season then arrangements must be made to return the item to a member of the Executive Committee.

### Usage During Play

A Light Meter reading shall NOT be used to suspend play for the first time in any match. The decision to suspend play due to bad light for the first time in a match shall be made by the umpires using their own eye sight only. Once the decision to suspend play has been made by the umpires, only then shall a Light Meter reading be taken at both ends of the ground pointing the Meter in the two directions that a batsman would be facing the incoming bowler. Each Meter reading shall be recorded by the umpires and then those readings shall become the benchmark for the rest of the match in the event that bad light intervenes for a second or subsequent occasion.

Once play has been suspended due to bad light, play shall not resume unless the reading on the Light Meter has improved from the benchmark reading as described above.

### Personal Light Meters

If a member chooses to purchase his own light meter, the above protocol in paragraph (c) shall also apply regardless of the light meters make or model.

## 10 ASSOCIATION ATTIRE DURING PLAY

### a) Cold Weather

To ensure uniformity across all SCA competitions, the cold weather sky blue jacket is now official SSCUA uniform and is the only allowable piece of clothing that should be visible on the field over the top of the blue field shirt. Under no circumstances should a situation arise where one member wears the jacket and the other does not while play is in progress. If there is disagreement between the two umpires re wearing the jacket, the Executive Committee wishes to see the needs of the umpire wanting to wear the jacket to be accommodated. All members must always carry the jacket to matches regardless of the weather forecast for the day in question.

**b) Grey Membership Cap**

All members are expected to be wearing their grey Association membership cap at anytime while on the ground before play commences. This includes ground and pitch inspections or when the umpires attend the toss.

Once the game has commenced, all members are expected to be wearing their grey Association membership cap when on the field with play not in progress (ie, play is suspended due to a weather related delay and a pitch inspection is required). Any member who has lost his cap must contact the Honorary Secretary to make arrangements to get another one ordered.

**11 COMPLETING THE UMPIRE MATCH RESULT SHEET (SHIRES MATCHES ONLY)**

At the completion of the match both umpires are required jointly to complete an Umpire's Match Result Form. Fully complete the form with your partner to ensure each umpire writes down the same information. Once each umpire gets home the information on the paper form has to be copied onto the online version of the Match Result Form.

The match result form is your proof that you umpired a particular match. The completed online form is required to be emailed to the SSCUA appointments officer by no later than MIDDAY on the Monday after the match is completed. However to ease the workload of the appointments officer it is preferred that result form be emailed by the Sunday night after the match is concluded.

**a) Ground Assessment**

Where there is no play throughout the day due to a "washout", umpires shall mark all ground condition categories zero out of 10 on their match report form for that particular day. Submission of match report forms must have "0" inserted into each category and not left blank. This By Law requested by the Sydney Shires Competition Sub Committee is to encourage clubs to get on the ground and play wherever possible.

**b) Spirit Of Cricket Assessment**

Any assessment of 10/10 requires a specific example in the result sheet notes why a perfect score was awarded.

A significant deduction is recommended to any Spirit of Cricket mark where any player or players refuse or fail to shake hands at the end of the game with opposing players or umpires. A maximum score of 4/10 is recommended for such occurrences.

Slow over rates is a form of time wasting and not in the spirit of the game. Take this issue into account when assessing a team's spirit of cricket mark.

**c) Match Result Sheet Comments Section**

The comments section on the Match Result Sheet is not under any circumstances to be used as a platform to comment on poor player behaviour. Any comments on player behaviour are to be reported to the Code of Conduct Commissioner.

**d) Player Of The Year Assessment**

Umpires appointed to Shires First Grade and Frank Gray Shield matches are to provide a 3-2-1 Player of the Year Assessment on their match result form. Umpires at the end of a game when assessing the 3-2-1 points are to consider this issue as a "Best and Fairest"

award. Therefore, a player who excels with the bat or ball but does not play the game within the Spirit Of Cricket Guidelines should NOT be awarded Player of the Year points under any circumstances.

### **e) Captain Of The Year Assessment**

This assessment is required in ALL grades. Umpires are to use the guidelines as described on the back page of the paper based Match Result Form. Umpires when assessing what mark to award are to also hold captains to account for slow over rates.

### **f) Recording the Match Scores**

When batting, if a team does not have 11 players present and is bowled out, then for the sake of team averages (which might affect final places on the competition table) the team is considered to have lost 10 wickets regardless of the number of wickets actually taken. Umpires must record 10 wickets being lost on their Result Sheet in this situation.

For a completed innings to be deemed as less than 10 wickets lost, a declaration must come at a time when there are either two not out batsmen at the crease, or one not out batsman at the crease with at least one player physically at the ground ready to bat.

## **12 COMPLETING THE UMPIRE MATCH RESULT SHEET (MASTERS & CLASSICS CRICKET ONLY)**

At the completion of the match the appointed umpire/s must fill in a Masters & Classics result sheet. Once each umpire gets home the information on the paper form has to be copied onto the online version of the Match Result Form.

The match result form is your proof that you umpired a particular match. The completed online form is required to be emailed to the SSCUA appointments officer by no later than MIDDAY on the Monday after the match is completed. However to ease the workload of the appointments officer it is preferred that result form be emailed by the Sunday night after the match is concluded.

### **a) Match Result Sheet Comments Section**

The Masters Competition Ruling committee wants feedback from umpires on certain topics. The topics that feedback is required for is listed on the Umpire Result Sheet and should be utilized as much as possible.

### **b) Player Of The Year Assessment**

At the completion of each match the appointed umpire is to consult with each captain and jointly decide upon a 3-2-1 points allocation for EACH TEAM for the Player of the Year Award. The umpire consults with the captain of team "A" to decide the 3-2-1 points for the opposing team "B". The umpire then consults with the captain of team "B" to decide the 3-2-1 points for the opposing team "A". If a captain is not available or unwilling to engage in this discussion then the umpire will be the sole judge of the points. If there is disagreement between umpire and captain regarding the allocation of the points, then the opinion of the umpire will prevail. The appointed umpire must then accurately record the six players names (Full Given Name and Full Surname) and accurately supply this information on the Umpire match result sheet.

### **c) Recording the Match Scores**

When batting, if a team does not have 11 players present and is bowled out, then for the sake of team averages (which might affect final places on the competition table) the team is considered to have lost 10 wickets regardless of the number of wickets actually taken. Umpires must record 10 wickets being lost on their Result Sheet in this situation.

## **13 CAPTAINS ASSESSMENTS ON UMPIRE PERFORMANCE**

During the course of the season captains assess the performance of umpires via the “My Cricket” system. Members are permitted to request to view their captain’s marks at anytime after they have officiated in at least five matches, or at the end of the season (whichever occurs first). Captain’s marks will not be sent to any member unless a request is received from a member seeking to view their marks. If a member does not request to see their marks but an issue of concern is raised by one or both captains in a match, a member of the Executive Committee (or an Association mentor) may make contact with that member to discuss the issue that was reported.

## **14 BLUE FIELD SHIRT**

The long sleeve blue field shirt sold to members by this Association can only be worn when umpiring matches in the Sydney Masters and Classics cricket competitions.

Permission of the Honorary Secretary must be sought to wear the SSCUA Blue Field Shirt in any other competition.

NSWCUSA has entered into a sponsorship arrangement 017/18 that sees members wear a shirt imprinted with a sponsor logo for “Beastwear” sports apparel. These shirts are not to be worn when umpiring matches outside of the SCA Premier or Shires competitions.

## **15 REPORTING CODE OF CONDUCT BREACHES**

The Executive Committee expects all members to take a tough stance on poor player behaviour and to report breaches of the Code of Conduct where necessary. Members who fail to report clear breaches are letting the Association down by passing the issue onto the Umpire in the next match. The Executive Committee will have no hesitation in asking a member to explain his actions, if a clear breach of the Code of Conduct is not reported to the Sydney Cricket Association.

### **a) Assistance**

The Association offers assistance to any member who needs help in compiling a Code of Conduct Report. In the first instance, a member should make a phone call to either the Association President or Secretary to advise that a Code of Conduct Report will be forthcoming. This phone call should ideally be made by no later than the Sunday night on the same weekend that the incident occurred.

### **b) Report Compilation**

Once a member has completed a written Code Of Conduct Report it should in the first instance be emailed to the Association President or Secretary who will overview the report and provide feedback on whether there is information in the report that is relevant

or not to the matter. Members can choose to take on board any feedback supplied to make required changes to their written report, or not. When compiling a report it is important that the reporting umpire should:

- Quote exact words used by the player (even if the words are foul language).
- Indicate estimated distances between the person using reported words as well as the tone and volume used.

### **c) Submission of Report**

Once the reporting umpire has completed the process in Section b) above, and is happy with the final draft report, he must then email a copy to the Secretary of the Sydney Cricket Association. It also needs to be sent to both the Executive Officer of NSW Cricket Umpires & Scorers Association as well as the Secretary of this Association.

*This By Law only applies to Shires Competition matches. If a players behaviour needs to be reported in a Masters or Classics match the umpire must advise this matter using the comments section of his online match report form.*