

Sydney Shires Umpires Guidance

“The Style Guide”

Umpires must at all times apply the Laws of the Game strictly and correctly. However there are always subtleties that have an impact on the way that these laws are applied.

This document is to help you work with your partner and the captains to ensure that you and every player has an opportunity to enjoy their day at the game and to play the game in the true spirit and in the culture that has developed over decades of Shires Cricket.

These Guidelines are provided to help in areas where either the interpretation of the law is not clear, or where umpiring tradition has muddied the water. We would recommend that all umpires read the latest edition of Tom Smith's analysis of the Laws and how to interpret them.

Please note:

- These are not instructions
- If you already have a way of doing these then please feel free to continue that way
- When you umpire in other associations, they may well have different (if any) style for these issues

However, if you are unsure on how to apply the laws in these situations, you may well find these guidelines useful, and following them will improve consistency (and hopefully the perception of consistency) between umpires.

Law	Topic	Issue	Suggested Shires Style
2	Substitute fielder	What are "other wholly acceptable reasons"?	Acceptable includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emergency workers called away • Domestic emergency Does not include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Domestic arrangements or re-arrangements • Work arrangements or re-arrangements
2	Substitute fielder	Do we allow a substitute if the situation is not covered by the law, but the other captain agrees to allow a substitute?	Yes – But umpires should NEVER put an opposing captain "on the spot" asking for him to clear the use of an illegal sub fielder. The issue must be discussed between both captains who must make the first approach to the umpires
2	Runner	Are you allowed a runner for cramp?	Yes
2	Runner / substitute	Are you allowed a runner or substitute if you aggravate a condition you already had at the toss?	Yes Note, a hangover is not an acceptable reason for a substitute or runner. Cramp is acceptable.
3	Position of the umpires	At striker's end, if a fielder asks us to move back, do we move?	Yes, within reason, we are happy to accommodate this request.
3	Consultation between umpires	What do you do if you think your partner has said something incorrect?	Do not contradict your partner in front of players. Deal with this quietly away from the players.
3	Consultation between umpires	Do we consult with our partner about appeals?	Only on a limited number of issues of fact including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Did the ball carry? • Was the catch completed? But excluding: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Did the striker hit the ball? • Was the ball going over the stumps?
3	Consultation between umpires	Do we signal 'bat/pad/nothing' from square leg	Yes, we signal, except where there is an appeal. We signal if we think we can assist in helping the bowler's end umpire rule on byes or leg byes.
3	Consultation between umpires	What are our signals to from square leg?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • '2 to go'; 1 to go if you missed 2-to-go • Reconfirm balls to go in the over after: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ No Ball ○ Wide ○ Dead Ball during bowler's run up • Only for balls down leg side <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Leg byes tap the leg ○ 'Off the bat' fold hands ○ 'No contact' cross arms • If requested, indicate the striker is standing this far out of the popping crease. • Height of beamer, bouncer <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Note for these indicate the height actively (eg not just a static hand on the hip for a high full toss) Confirm all these with your partner before the game, and confirm that he wants you to do all these.
5	The ball	When do we change a wet ball?	Only when it has become swollen out of shape, or <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the seam is damaged • it is so slippery that it is dangerous to use • it is so damaged that it provides an unfair advantage to the bowling side.

15	A player (esp batsman) requests a drink	Do we allow this?	Yes, we never stop a person having a drink. But we make sure it does not hold up play. The player should ask/inform the opposing captain or the batsmen at the crease.
16	Start of play	Can we start early if both sides are ready?	Yes, within reason (ie up to 2 minutes). But if you start early, you MUST deduct that time from the finish time at the end of the day. If you start 2 minutes early, then your stumps time should finish 2 minutes early. Make it known to all before starting play of this decision.
18	One short	Do we care?	Yes, we do.
19	Boundaries	Do we believe the fielder when he says the ball did not cross the boundary?	Yes, we believe the fielders. We do however where applicable check that they know the relevant law.
22	The over	Do we check with the scorers if the umpires don't agree on the number of balls ?	Yes we can.
23	Umpire leaving his position	Do we call Dead Ball when we go to consult our partner?	Wait for the ball to be dead. Then there is no need to call Dead Ball unless a player is injured.
24	Almost a front-foot no ball	Do we tell the bowler he's getting close to the line?	Yes, that's fine. Ask the bowler whether he wants a reminder, some bowlers will say yes, some say no
24	Back foot No Ball	Do we look for and call back foot no balls.	Yes, we do.
24	No ball – the arm	Do we call doubtful bowling actions Apply Law 24.2. Either umpire should call and signal No ball if in his opinion the ball is thrown.	Firstly, work with your partner. Inform the captain that the action is illegal. If he persists with the bowler and the action remains doubtful, then inform the captain you will No Ball. If he still persists with the bowler and the action remains doubtful, then yes, we do call actions we believe to be illegal. Also submit a mention or report in your match report. If the bowler's action is doubtful but you cannot be sure that it is illegal, you can work with your partner and the captain, but do submit a doubtful action report.
25	Leg side wides	Normal game – how wide is Wide? Outside the Return Crease on the leg side?	Although it is not possible to be prescriptive, it is likely you should be calling a wide slightly within the return crease on the leg side.
25	Leg side wides	1 day game – can a batsman step inside a ball that would otherwise have hit him to create a wide?	Yes. However, check with your partner before the game. Make sure you both take the same approach.
27	Appeals	Do we allow appeals other than "How's That?"	Yes, we answer anything which seems like an appeal. If the appeal is for a specific form of dismissal (eg "Obstruction, Ump!"), we treat that as a general "How's That?"
32	Catch	Do we take the word of a fielder if he says he took the catch fairly?	No, we only dismiss a batsman if <u>we</u> are certain, not on the word of a fielder. Note there is nothing to stop the batsman taking the fielder's word.
36, 26	LBW and leg byes	What does 'not offering a shot' look like	Any significant movement of the bat towards the ball is considered playing a proper stroke. Not offering a shot is 'a definite leave'.
36	LBW	How do we adjudge LBWs when the striker does not offer a shot?	Strict application of the law. The ball must still <u>obviously</u> be hitting the stumps.

40	Position of the wicket-keeper	Do we call No Ball for encroachment by the keeper when standing up?	We tell the keeper that he needs to stand a few inches further back. If he continues to encroach (or if he takes the ball not-behind-the-stumps for a stumping), then we call No ball.
40	The wicket-keeper's gloves	Do we report illegal gloves?	No, we allow the old gloves to be replaced by natural attrition.
41	1 day fielding restrictions	Do we warn them or wait and call no ball?	No warning, just call No Ball (And note, even if you adopt another style, under no circumstances do we stop play for this once the bowler has started his run up.)
41	Movement by close-in fielders	Do we care?	Yes, if a very close-in fielder moves while the bowler is delivering the ball, talk to the fielder and insist he is completely stationary until the striker has played the ball. Tell the captain, and inform him that if this happens again we will invoke Law 24.4 ie we will deem it to be deliberate.
41	Movement by fielder	Do we care?	Yes, we call Dead Ball for significant movement by fielders, but not for minor adjustments. The criterion is that the striker has the right to know where the fielders are to within his ability to control where the ball goes.
42	Time wasting by the fielding side	Do we care?	Mostly we don't care, as this is only to the detriment of the fielding side's over rate. However, if this is deliberate and intended to obtain an unfair advantage, then yes, we issue caution and penalty. This includes transparent unnecessary indecisiveness about bowling changes and field positions.
42	Time wasting by the batsmen	Do we care?	We mostly deal with this informally. However, if this is deliberate and intended to obtain an unfair advantage, then yes, we issue caution and penalty. (Note – requiring movement of the sightscreens for over-around the wicket to left-right batting combinations is not time wasting.)
42	Bowler running in the protected area	Do we care? How many times before we go to formal caution etc? If damage is caused to the pitch you must apply Law 42.12.	We are fairly strict on this matter. If the pitch is hard, then we may give the bowler one or two (no more) friendly cautions. But if the pitch is soft or otherwise fragile, and in any case once we have given the friendly cautions, tell the captain, tell your partner and then if necessary issue formal caution, warning and penalty.
42	Bowler running in the protected area	If a bowler runs in front of us, do we care?	Yes, we tell the bowler that he is obstructing our view. Also inform the captain you have spoken to the bowler. If our view is obstructed when there is an appeal, call not out – also if relevant, caution the bowler for running in the protected area. (Note if our view of the striker and where he usually strikes the ball is obstructed, the bowler is almost certainly in (or in line with) the protected area.)
42	Batsman running on the pitch	Do we care?	Yes, we do. However, try to deal with this informally. Only go to formal warning etc if there is (or is a likelihood of) damage to the pitch (only applies between the 5ft marks).

42	Striker causing avoidable damage to the pitch	Do we care?	The striker can take his guard anywhere, however it is incumbent upon the batsman to ensure he doesn't cause damage to the protected area when running. The further out of his crease he bats the harder it is for him to not run in the protected area. Encourage the batsman to take guard further back, however you cannot force him to do so. If damage is caused to the protected area when he sets off for a run, issue warning and penalties
42	Damaging the pitch	Player's boots do not have sprigs	Batsmen and bowlers must have sprigs. Usually they will borrow a pair of proper boots however you cannot force a player to borrow a sprigged pair of shoes. If a player is not wearing sprigs in his shoes and doesn't have a doctors letter, an SCA fine of \$25 is applicable. Report this on your match report.
1	Spirit of Cricket	What is reportable?	<p>We report moderate or strong or sustained dissent or disrespect, but not disappointment. This means in practice that a loud swear on the way back or even on being given out is not generally reported.</p> <p><u>Work with your partner.</u></p> <p>Most low-moderate behaviour can be overlooked if followed in cooler moments by an apology. However, strong dissent or other strong behaviour must still be reported even if there is an apology (though note the apology in your report).</p>