



## CRICKET WELLINGTON



### DOUBTFUL ACTIONS BOWLING POLICY Enacted December 2008

#### INTRODUCTION

The application of Law 24.2 “Fair Delivery – The Arm” has always been the responsibility of the umpires. Prior to the Year 2000 Version of the Laws of Cricket, the umpires were required to call a no-ball for any delivery they considered to be of questionable legality. In the 2000 re-write of the Laws of Cricket, the Law was changed to calling no-ball if, in the opinion of the umpire, the ball has been thrown, removing the requirement to call when in doubt.

Cricket Wellington has implemented a process to assess whether a bowler’s action is legal, should the umpire have his or her concerns, but not be totally sure. The purpose of this process is to ensure that all bowlers playing Pearce Cup or Hazlett Trophy cricket have actions that comply with Law 24.2.

This goal can be achieved if:

- Law 24.2 is clearly understood by the umpires and they are prepared to report bowlers with actions they consider may breach the law; and
- The umpires act according to the guidelines set out in this document; and
- The correct process is followed once a bowler is reported or “called”.

#### JURISDICTION

This Policy covers all adult club cricket (men’s and women’s) played under the jurisdiction of Cricket Wellington.

#### **LAW 24: No Ball (in part)**

##### **2. Fair delivery – the arm**

*For a delivery to be fair in respect of the arm the ball must not be thrown. See 3 below.*

*Although it is the primary responsibility of the striker's end umpire to assess the fairness of a delivery in this respect, there is nothing in this Law to debar the bowler's end umpire from calling and signalling No ball if he considers that the ball has been thrown.*

- (a) *If, in the opinion of either umpire, the ball has been thrown, he shall call and signal No ball and, when the ball is dead, inform the other umpire of the reason for the call.  
The bowler's end umpire shall then*

- (i) *Caution the bowler. This caution shall apply throughout the innings.*
  - (ii) *Inform the captain of the fielding side of the reason for this action.*
  - (iii) *Inform the batsman at the wicket of what has occurred.*
- (b) *If, after such caution, either umpire considers that, in that innings, a further delivery by the same bowler is thrown, the procedure set out in (a) above shall be repeated, indicating to the bowler that this is a final warning. This warning shall also apply throughout the innings.*
- (c) *If either umpire considers that, in that innings, a further delivery by the same bowler is thrown, he shall call and signal No ball and when the ball is dead inform the other umpire of the reason for the call. The bowler's end umpire shall then*
  - (i) *Direct the captain of the fielding side to suspend the bowler forthwith. The over shall, if applicable, be completed by another bowler, who shall neither have bowled the previous over or part thereof nor be allowed to bowl any part of the next over. The bowler thus suspended shall not bowl again in that innings.*
  - (ii) *Inform the batsmen at the wicket and, as soon as practicable, the captain of the batting side of the occurrence.*
- (d) *The umpires together shall report the occurrence as soon as possible after the match to the Executive of the fielding side and to any Governing Body responsible for the match, who shall take such action as is considered appropriate against the captain and the bowler concerned.*

### **3. Definition of fair delivery – the arm**

*A ball is fairly delivered in respect of the arm if, once the bowler's arm has reached the level of the shoulder in the delivery swing, the elbow joint is not straightened partially or completely from that point until the ball has left the hand. This definition shall not debar a bowler from flexing or rotating the wrist in the delivery swing.*

#### **Note: Levels of Tolerance**

This is set at a maximum of 15 degrees "elbow extension" for all bowlers and all types of deliveries. This specifically refers to the extension of the forearm relative to the upper arm in the straight position. Elbow hyperextension or adduction is not included in the 15 degree tolerance threshold. It should be noted that in order for the action to be classified as a legal action, the degree of elbow extension recorded for each delivery should be within the 15 degree limit.

## UMPIRES

Umpires appointed by CWUSI and standing in Cricket Wellington-sanctioned matches have a duty to ensure the game is played within both the Laws and the Spirit of the Game. Umpires will police Law 24.2 “Fair Delivery – The Arm” by notifying authorities if there are any bowlers they have viewed in a match situation who they consider possess an action that may contravene Law 24.3 – “Definition of Fair Delivery”.

NZC has previously instructed umpires as follows:

There are three categories of delivery:

- Fair Delivery;
- Doubtful Delivery; and
- Illegal Delivery (Blatant Throw)

**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 Umpires’ Match Report under the section for Illegal Deliveries. To be considered an illegal delivery, the ball must be delivered with a markedly different action to his 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 Umpires’ Match Report under the section for Doubtful Bowling Actions.

### **Premier & Premier Reserve Grade matches**

A bowler can only be reported by a CWUSI-appointed umpire in the match that they are standing in.

Once a bowler has been reported by two different CWUSI-appointed umpires in the same season, they will be subject to the Cricket Wellington Doubtful Bowling Action Procedures. The bowler’s action will then be analysed by the Cricket Wellington Bowling Action Committee (“BAC”), and the results of this analysis and any determination on the playing future of that bowler will be communicated to all CWUSI umpires.

### **All other grades**

A bowler can only be reported by the captain of the opposition team in that match. The captain must report the bowler’s name, club and match date to Cricket Wellington (Club Cricket Administrator), within 48 hours of the conclusion of the day’s play.

Any bowler reported must be the subject of three separate reports by three different captains within the same season, before CW will initiate the process outlined below, starting from paragraph 4.

## **DOUBTFUL ACTION BOWLING PROCEDURES**

[Note: references to the male below are intended to include the female]

### **REPORTING PROCEDURE**

#### **Introduction**

1. If a player is called for throwing, or reported by two different CWUSI-appointed umpires in the same season for a suspect bowling action, the following procedure will apply.

#### **Notification of Report**

2. The umpire(s) will complete the section of the Umpires' Match Report on doubtful bowling actions, detailing their concerns about the bowling action of the player.
3. The report will be forwarded to Cricket Wellington at the conclusion of the match.

#### **Action required of Cricket Wellington when the report is notified**

4. Cricket Wellington will immediately inform the player's club in writing of the report. The report will be sent to the Chairmen of the player's club and, if applicable, the first team coach.

### **TESTING PROCESS**

5. If a player is called on the field, or reported by any umpire, the reporting procedure above will apply. Thereafter, the following testing process will apply.
6. CW will invite the player to visit the Cricket Wellington Academy (or nominated venue) where he will undergo a bowling action assessment and be filmed by the BAC. Testing will involve two camera angles (back and side views) to determine the degree of straightening of the elbow.
7. The BAC will be constituted by the CEO of Cricket Wellington (or his representative) and will include no more than five persons with expertise and experience in the area of coaching and player development.
8. The BAC will rule on whether the bowler's action is legal or not. If considered legal, he will be able to bowl immediately and the BAC will notify both his club and the CWUSI in writing immediately.
9. Should the bowler's action be found to be illegal, he will be immediately suspended from bowling in any Cricket Wellington sanctioned competition. This suspension will last until the bowler's action is deemed legal by the BAC.
10. Should the bowler's action be deemed illegal, Cricket Wellington will make available a six week corrective programme, supervised by a Cricket Wellington Coach, to assist the bowler in correcting his action.

11. Where the assessment concludes that the player employed an illegal bowling action during the analysis, it should indicate whether the player employed an illegal bowling action generally or in respect to a specific type(s) of delivery.
12. In the event the player fails to submit to assessment from the BAC within the designated time, the bowler will be suspended from bowling in all Cricket Wellington controlled competitions.
13. In circumstances where the analysis concludes that the player employed an Illegal Bowling Action during the analysis in respect of a specific type of delivery only, the player will be allowed to continue bowling in Cricket Wellington controlled competitions but subject to the warning that should they continue to bowl any of the specific type(s) of delivery for which they have been found to have an Illegal Bowling Action, they will run the risk of being reported a second time. A further report resulting in an assessment concluding that the player has employed an Illegal Bowling Action will result in the immediate suspension of the player.

Note: This is intended to cover the circumstances where a bowler employs different technique to deliver a specific type of delivery e.g. propelling the ball out the back of the hand to produce a 'googly' or 'doosra'. It is not intended to cover the situation where the same basic technique is used to produce a different type of delivery e.g. more effort to produce a bouncer or yorker.

## **APPEAL PROCESS**

14. In the event that the player does not accept the conclusion of the BAC, he or his club may appeal. In the event of an appeal, New Zealand Cricket's testing procedures will be adopted; this involves onsite testing by the University of Auckland. Any costs associated with an appeal will be the responsibility of the player and/or his club.

## **SECOND AND FURTHER REPORTS**

15. In the event of a player being suspended from bowling under these regulations for a second time within a period of two years from the date of commencement of the first period of suspension, the player shall be suspended from bowling in Cricket Wellington controlled competitions for a minimum period of one year. Only after expiry of this period will the player be able to approach Cricket Wellington for re-assessment of their action.