

## **Annual General Meeting – Season 2022**

**Damazan 26 November 2022**

### **MCC Laws Edition 2022 – Overview of ACCSO-relevant changes**

#### **1. Target readership for this document :**

- Umpires, captains, players

**2. Acknowledgements :** With thanks to Stephen Harrison for providing a copy of Issue 40 of the ECB-ACO Magazine which is the authoritative source for the content of this document. The summary of the changes on the MCC Web site is highly recommended.

#### **3. Major changes in terminology – aimed at eliminating masculine bias :**

This 3rd Edition of the Code first introduced in 2017 has « batter » as the generic term for what we have always known as « batsman ». And universally replaces « his » with « his/her » or « their ». All perfectly respectable.

For your information, I hope to make all the necessary changes to the French-language version in time for season-start. But I can tell you now that the question of gender in the French is a real nightmare – « wicketkeeper » and « umpire » may be gender-free in English but they are not so in French, where you have both « gardien » and « gardienne », « chasseur » and « chasseuse ».

#### **4. Law 1 : Replacement players :**

A new clause now means that anybody who comes on as replacement for an injured batter or fielder automatically « inherits » any sanctions imposed on the original player during the match. This particularly applies to a replacement coming on for an injured bowler – if that injured bowler had been warned, say, for running on the pitch during delivery, those warnings now also apply to any replacement.

#### **5. Law 18 : What happens when a batsman (batter !) is out Caught :**

From now on, when a batter is out caught, the fact that the batters crossed while the ball was in the air no longer matters. The new batter comes in to the same end as the dismissed batter and faces the next ball (unless the dismissal was off the final ball of the over).

#### **6. Law 20 – Call of Dead Ball :**

Several changes here. Umpires will probably need to study the full text. However, the two major changes are clear enough :

i) If one of the two sides is distracted or disadvantaged by an external event (a dog running on to the pitch, a pitch invasion (!), etc.), the umpires can call Dead Ball.

ii) Sometimes it is not possible for an umpire to call Dead Ball quickly enough to prevent further action on the part of either the batters or the fielding side. From now on, the ball will be considered Dead from the moment the incident occurred.

#### **7. Law 21.4 – Bowler throwing ball towards striker’s end before delivery :**

Previously, when the bowler saw the striker coming down the pitch before the ball is delivered, he/she could throw the ball towards the striker’s end in order to try to get a Run out. This is no longer possible and Dead Ball will be called if he/she tries it.

#### **8. Law 22.1 – Judging a Wide :**

We have all seen batters taking up guard well outside the line of the stumps and then moving across to play the ball. This made the calling of Wide a problem. The new wording now allows the umpire to take account of where the batter has stood at any time during the bowler’s run up.

#### **9. Law 25.8 – Striker’s right to play the ball :**

Previously, it was possible for a batsman to try to exploit a poor, misdirected delivery by effectively chasing after it (before the ball came to rest). This potentially put close fielders at risk of injury if they were to get hit by the bat. From now on, the batter can only do this if some part of his/her bat or body remains within the pitch surface. If he/she has to leave the pitch to play the ball, the umpire will call Dead Ball followed by No Ball.

How to apply this (extreme) case in ACCSO-land ? The classic definition of pitch surface width is 10 feet/3.05m. To make life simple for all concerned, ACCSO regs will define pitch width as the width of the carpet.

#### **10. Laws 27.4 and 28.6 – Unfair movement by the fielding side :**

Until now, wicket keepers and fielders are not allowed significantly to alter their position relative to the striker during the bowler’s run up. This remains in force in the new Edition. But the penalty for moving has now changed. Before, any such incident resulted in a call of Dead Ball. Now, the fielding side is penalised by seeing 5 Penalty runs awarded to the batting side.

#### **11. Law 41.3.2 – Polishing the ball :**

It is now an offence for any member of the fielding side to use saliva when polishing the ball. The penalty for such ball-tampering remains – 5 Penalty runs awarded to the batting side

The only permitted substance is good old-fashioned sweat !

#### **12. Running out the non-striker:**

There is no structural change involved here – it remains legitimate for a bowler to run out a non-striker who tries to gain advantage by advancing down the pitch. But the MCC have moved this from Law 41.16 (Unfair Play) to Law 38.3 (Run Out).

However, it remains an offence for the batsmen (batters !) to attempt to steal a run during the bowler’s run-up to the wicket. This is now re-numbered as Law 41.16 (it was 41.17).

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On behalf of ACCSO Committee,

Peter Townsend, Interim president.

Xx November 2022.