

ASSOCIATION DES CLUBS DE CRICKET DU SUD-OUEST

Siège social : Hôtel des Associations - 47160 DAMAZAN



UMPIRING MANAGER'S REPORT 2018

What a strange season! With only five teams in the league and seven in the T20 there was not a lot of cricket played.

Although there were only nine umpires registered this year we still managed to find two umpires for every league and T20 game played. And this despite several matches being rescheduled either because of the extreme heat - which persisted for most of the season - or because clubs were not able to field a team on the appointed date. My thanks to the umpiring community and my apologies to those umpires who put aside a Sunday to umpire a match only to find it cancelled or rearranged. Looking ahead to next season, if - as proposed - we have many more matches, we will need to recruit more umpires, especially in the extreme North and South of the region.

Discipline was markedly improved this season with only a handful of minor offences reported; none of which were deemed severe enough to warrant action by ACCSO. The dreaded law 42 stayed firmly sealed in its box - much to the relief of ACCSO committee.

The perennial problem of many players not understanding the laws, and in particular Law 36, arose yet again. I actually found myself hearing appeals for LBW from as remote a part of the field as deep mid-wicket. I urge next year's captains to ensure that players understand at least the basics of the LBW law.

At last year's AGM I was asked in my capacity as umpiring manager to prepare a document, to be used by the umpires to explain to how they were going to govern the match. In reality, with players spread all over the field, some eating, some practicing in the nets and others late arriving, it was difficult enough to get the two captains together let alone whole teams for this purpose. As this was a trial for season 2018 I would suggest it is unworkable and should be discontinued.

The change in the local Wides rule seems to have had a mixed reception within the umpiring community. In the two matches that I umpired I thought that it worked well, making the game flow better and reducing the incidence of nine-ball or even ten-ball overs. I'm aware that some clubs found that the new line fell either on the edge of the mat or even off the mat. I intend to write to all the umpires who stood this season asking their opinion of this rule, which will enable me to give more precise feedback to AGM.

Finally, cricket is a potentially dangerous game. It's given to the umpires to ensure player safety. Batsmen are particularly vulnerable, which is why we have strict rules on dangerous bowling. A bowler who bowls what our regulations define as a bouncer or a beamer will always be warned. Umpires have to decide only on the height and whether such a delivery is deliberate. Beyond that it

does not matter whether the delivery is accidental - it is still dangerous and will be treated as such.
So bowlers - if you don't want to be taken off, control must be the order of the day!

Malcolm Grant
25th October 2018.