



This module contains a brief précis

of the principle amendments of the 4th edition 2010 Laws to become the 5th edition 2013

Some of the amendments are significant and materially alter the 4th edition while others provide more clarity and consistency

This presentation gives a brief explanation of the more significant changes

This is not intended to be a definitive reference

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The 5th edition 2013

Umpires have a duty of care to the game
They are expected to know the laws and have a comprehensive knowledge of all amendments

To this end ...
they should ensure whenever necessary that players and captains are aware of any amendments

This is particularly relevant if the amendments include new offences or penalty provisions

Thus umpires should always take a helpful approach when advising captains or players should an offence occur

Only if it is a serious offence should umpires act officially

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Substitutes & Runners – Law 2.1

The Laws permit an injured batsman to have a Runner

NZC does not permit runners in any of its competitions

NZC gives the umpires discretion to allow for other Wholly Acceptable Reasons ...
a substitute fielder to act for a nominated player at the start of the match or at any subsequent time

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Substitutes & Runners – Law 2.1

The Laws permit a Substitute fielder in cases of injury illness or other wholly acceptable reasons

NZC requires Wholly Acceptable Reason to be limited to extreme circumstances which should **NOT** include what is commonly referred to as a 'Comfort break'

Cramp is considered a Wholly Acceptable Reason

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Batsman with a Runner – Law 2.8

The conditions for a **striker who has a runner** (informally referred to as an injured striker) to be Out in any way has been revised

Because an injured striker has only one end he cannot 'make good his ground from end to end' therefore he cannot be considered to be attempting a run

However if the injured striker or his Runner is out of his ground when his wicket is put down he can still be Run out

There have been many occasions when an injured batsman has forgotten he has a Runner and decided to run making himself subject to being dismissed Run-out

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Batsman with a Runner – Law 2.8

When his wicket is put down by the wicket-keeper alone the question of him being Stumped arises

The umpire must judge whether any movement the injured striker makes towards the bowler's end is solely in receiving or playing at the ball or actually attempting a run

If the injured striker is out of his ground when his wicket is put down by the wicket-keeper alone he can still be out Stumped

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Batsman with a Runner – Law 2.8

Thus the dismissal of the striker remains fundamentally unchanged if he or his Runner is out of his ground when his wicket is put down

He can be dismissed Run out if either he or his Runner is attempting a run off a NO BALL

But if either he or his Runner is out of his ground and his wicket is properly put down by the wicket-keeper he can be dismissed Stumped off a WIDE

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The ball – Law 5

Two fundamental changes have been made

The first change clarifies that the Governing body for the match makes the decision when a new ball may be taken Previously it was the Governing body for the country

The second change clarifies the rare occasion when a third new ball may be taken in an innings

If a new ball is taken mid-over the balance of that over is NOT counted towards the life of the new ball - the count of overs must start at the first FULL over

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The ball – Law 5

Example

The Governing body for the match has decreed that a new ball may be taken after 80 overs has been bowled with the old

The fielding captain decides to take a new ball when 80.3 overs has been bowled in the innings

A third new ball may be taken at the start of the 162nd over

As the second new ball was taken DURING the 81st over

the life of that ball is counted from the start of the 82nd over

NZC requires a complete 80 overs to be bowled with the old ball before a new ball may be taken

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Practice on the field – Law 17

‘Match time’

To make this Law easier to follow we introduce the term – ‘Match time’

‘Match time’ is that time starting 30 minutes before the scheduled or rescheduled time to start play and concludes at the final call of TIME for the day

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Practice on the field – Law 17

Outside ‘Match time’ there are restrictions on practice taking place

Practice shall not take place if the umpires believe that it might impair the surface of the playing area

Practice shall not take place on the Pitch or the strips alongside the pitch to be used – Law 17.1(a)



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Practice on the field – Law 17

Outside ‘Match time’ there are restrictions on practice taking place

Practice shall **not take place** if the umpires believe that it might impair the surface of the Square – Law 17.1(b)

If the umpires believe such practice is likely to impair the surface they must advise both captains to suspend their on-field activities



Another reason why umpires should arrive at a match venue on-time

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Practice on the field – Law 17

During ‘Match time’ only nominated players are permitted to practice on the field

Practice **may take place** during all intervals and between innings but it must cease 5 minutes before play is to resume – Law 17.2

Practice may include ...

- **Batsmen:** running or playing strokes
- **Fielders:** running, jumping or throwing an imaginary ball
- **Keeper:** catching imaginary deliveries
- **Bowlers:** trial run-ups, soft throw-downs to another fielder

These shall not be regarded as practice provided there is no contravention of the Laws on Time wasting or Damaging the ball

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Practice on the field – Law 17

During ‘Match time’ only the match ball may be used ...
Players are not permitted to bring another ball onto the field – Law 17.3(b)

When the ball is not being used ... at the fall of a wicket or during an interval or interruption to play the umpires are required to take possession of the ball

This leaves little time for players to engage in any substantive form of practice – thus eliminating potential breaches of the Laws on time wasting or damage to the ball

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Practice on the field – Law 17

Unlawful practice might include ...

- **Batsmen:** Receiving some throw-downs from a coach
- **Fielders:** Bringing another ball onto the field
- **Keeper:** Breaking his stumps during practice
- **Bowler:** Taking a trial run-up when the batsman is ready and/or bowling the ball to the keeper
During throw-downs to another fielder hurling the ball into the ground
- **Coach:** Entering the field of play and practicing with his players during ‘Match time’

Should a coach or non-nominated player engage in unlawful practice the umpires should intervene to prevent this and if necessary REPORT the offence to the match Governing body

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Penalties – Law 17.5(a)

A fielder contravening this Law – each offence

ACTION	INFORM
The offender may not bowl until: 30 minutes of playing time, or for 60 minutes after the offence Whichever is the sooner	Your colleague The fielding captain

A bowler contravening this Law – each offence

ACTION	INFORM
Suspend the bowler forthwith ... Another fielder to complete the over The offender may not bowl until: 30 minutes of playing time, or for 60 minutes after the offence Whichever is the sooner	Your colleague The fielding captain

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Penalties – Law 17.5(b)

A batsman contravening this Law – each offence

ACTION	INFORM
Warn the batsman concerned This is a First & Final warning	Your colleague The fielding captain The other batsman at the crease
The warning applies to his whole side for the balance of the innings	Each new batsman at the start of his innings ASAP; The batting captain

A repetition during the innings – each offence

ACTION	INFORM
Award 5 Penalty runs to the fielding side	Your colleague The other batsman at the crease
The warning applies to his whole side for the balance of the innings	The fielding captain ASAP; The batting captain ASAP; Report the incident to: The fielding side's Executive The match Governing Body

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Scoring runs – Law 18

Changes to other Laws meant
this Law required amending

- Law 18 clauses 6, 9, 10 & 11 where all references to Handled the ball have been removed
- Law 33 Handled the ball
This can now only occur when the striker is playing or trying to play at the ball
At other times such action are to be considered as Obstructing the field

As a result, no question of scoring runs or batsmen returning to a particular end can arise

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Boundaries – Law 19

The basics of scoring a boundary are unchanged

Some outstanding catches have been made on the boundary ... such athleticism must be applauded

When a fielder catches the ball after it has crossed the boundary the first fielder making contact with the ball must not only have some part of his person within the boundary he must not be grounded on or beyond the boundary

To have an effective catch he must jump up from a position within the boundary

Another fielder completing the catch does not have this restriction

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Boundaries – Law 19

Another fielder completing the catch

Another fielder anticipating the flow of play may jump up from a position beyond the boundary provided in deflecting the ball or completing the catch he lands within the boundary with either ball in hand or tosses it up enabling the ball to be caught by another

From the moment he jumps up from a position outside the boundary the other fielder must not have any contact with the ball and the ground outside the boundary

*Such action is bound to attract comment
however such athleticism must be rewarded*

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DEAD BALL – Law 23

If for any reason while bowling the ball the ball does not leave the bowler's hand the umpire must call & signal DEAD BALL

But what happens if the bowler breaks the stumps in his delivery stride?

Should the bowler do this one of two things can happen

If he fails to deliver the ball either umpire must call & signal DEAD BALL – Law 23.4(b)

If the ball is delivered the bowler's end umpire must call & signal NO BALL – Law 24.6 (New provision)

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NO BALL – Law 24

Bowler breaking the stumps on delivery

The ball comes into play when the bowler starts his run-up or if he has none, his bowling action – Law 23.5

What to do if the bowler breaks the stumps in his delivery stride or the one after has resulted in the clarification of a number of Laws including Appendix D (Slide 38)

Unless there is an attempt to run out the non-striker before entering his delivery stride the umpire must call & signal DEAD BALL if the bowler does not release the ball

If the bowler does break the wicket in this way but does not release the ball either umpire must call & signal DEAD BALL

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NO BALL – Law 24

Bowler breaking the stumps on delivery

If the ball does not leave the bowler's hand either umpire must call & signal DEAD BALL (Unchanged)

If the ball is delivered
The bowler's end umpire must call & signal NO BALL (New requirement)

If playing without bails either umpire should call & signal DEAD BALL or NO BALL as applicable if he is confident that the bowler made contact with the wicket

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WIDE – Law 25

While the ball is in-play ...
if the striker handles the ball while playing at it ...
logically the ball cannot be out of his reach
Therefore the delivery cannot qualify as a WIDE
Thus it is impossible to be out Handled the ball off a
WIDE meaning there can be only four possible
methods of him being dismissed off a WIDE

- **Hit-wicket** Law 35
- **Obstructing the field** Law 37
- **Run out** Law 38
- **Stumped** Law 39

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Bowled – Law 30.1

This law states that once the ball has been touched by a
fielder or an umpire ...
the striker will not be out Bowled and goes on to list
the ways in which he could be out

However, the striker is not allowed to play at the ball
once it has been touched by a fielder or an umpire

Therefore he cannot be out Handled the ball
as this can happen only when he is playing at the ball

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Caught – Law 32

This Law mirrors the conditions of the ball being caught
on the boundary Law 19 where only the actual
fielding of the ball is relevant

Law 32 relates to the catching of the ball

A fielder can claim a fair catch beyond the boundary providing
that at any time of making the catch he is not in contact with
the boundary or the ground beyond it at the same time

If he is the first fielder to touch it after it has been struck by the
bat he must have some contact with the ground within the
boundary (and none on or beyond it) or he has
jumped up from such a position

²⁷ A second catching fielder does not have these limitations



Handled the ball – Law 33

There has been a major change to this Law

This includes defining what constitutes handling the ball in play
without the consent from a fielder or the wilful use of a hand
that is not holding the bat

Handling the ball to avoid injury is permitted without penalty

This Law applies only during the time when the ball is in-play
and the striker is playing or attempting to play at the ball
either as a first or as a subsequent stroke

In all other situations Handling the ball becomes ...
Obstructing the field - Law 37 (Slide 31)

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Hit the ball twice – Law 34

If the striker legitimately hits the ball a second time to
guard his wicket, he has claimed an advantage

**He cannot gain an additional advantage ...
by scoring runs as a result of an overthrows**

The basic facts remain unchanged

The striker is permitted to make a second stroke
(and subsequent strokes) if ...

- it is solely an attempt to prevent the ball striking his wicket
- he uses his bat or his person but not a hand holding the bat
- it does not obstruct a fielder attempting to take a catch

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Hit the ball twice – Law 34

The procedures here are exactly the same should the
batsmen attempt to take illegal Leg byes

The only question is on penalties being applied depends on
whether the umpire is satisfied that the first strike was on
the bat or, if on the person and that the striker made a
genuine attempt either to play at the ball with his bat or
to avoid being hit by the ball

In all cases, the penalty for a NO BALL applies

If the umpire is not satisfied and should the ball contact a helmet
on the ground **penalty runs shall not be scored**
whatever the circumstances

³⁰ Law 33 (Handled the ball) will apply in the case of a second
or subsequent stroke if a catch is prevented

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Obstructing the field – Law 37

This Law permits a batsman to protect himself from potential injury

This is in line with Law 33 (Handled the ball)

Playing at the ball includes any second or later stroke in defence of his wicket and 'person' includes a hand not holding the bat

It is obstruction, although not the only form, once the striker has finished playing at the ball if either batsman wilfully strikes the ball with his bat or person

This applies if the illegal strike was after the ball has been touched by a fielder

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Obstructing the field – Law 37

This Law confirms that obstructing a fielder from making a catch it is always a case of Obstructing the field even if the action is by a hand not holding the bat and/or if it arose from the striker making a second or subsequent stroke in defence of his wicket

While the ball is in-play should either batsman return the ball to a fielder without consent it must always be regarded as Obstructing the field irrespective how this occurs

If however he returns the ball to a fielder believing it to be dead he is not deemed to be playing at the ball

An appeal for Obstructing the field must be declined

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Run out – Law 38

Here some clauses have been renumbered

and clarifies that, in the respective circumstances ... the striker will not be Run out if he is out Stumped while another clause clarifies the reverse ... if he is out Run out he is not-out Stumped

If there are situations in which all the conditions for Stumped are not satisfied he can be out Run out if it was a NO BALL

Law 2.8(e) covers the situation of a striker having a Runner

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Run out – Law 38

Run out or Stumped?

Consider this example ...

The striker plays the ball and it goes 2 or 3 metres towards mid-wicket on the leg side

He sets off for a run but changes his mind and turns back

Meanwhile the wicket-keeper runs and collects the ball

He throws the ball back at the stumps and the ball breaks the wicket – the striker is out of his ground

The striker is out Run out - not Stumped

He was attempting a run

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Stumped – Law 39

This Law has been reworded and amended to add and to better cross reference other amended Laws

For example ...

On the effect on a Stumping on a call & signal of NO BALL if a batsman has a Runner – Law 2.8

or ...

On the effect on a Stumping on a call & signal of NO BALL if a batsman does not have a Runner – Law 38.2

This aside ...

there is no significant change in this Law

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The fielder – Law 41.3

Amendments to this Law

(Protective helmets belonging to the fielding side)

the words *except in the circumstances of Law 34 (Hit the ball twice)* have been added to clarify an exception to when penalty runs are not awarded

This ties in with the amendments of Law 34

if the striker attempts to gain more runs after Hitting the ball twice

The procedure are exactly the same should the batsmen attempt to take illegal Leg byes (Slide 30)

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The delivery stride Appendix D

The definition of a bowler's delivery stride has been extended to include his next step ...
the first step of his follow-through (**now 3 steps**)

This is because of the introduction of Law 24.6
(Bowler breaking the stumps on delivery)



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→ → → → Steps 1 → → → → 2 → → → → 3



Runs disallowed/not scored Appendix D

This is an addition to Appendix D

It has been inserted for the avoidance of doubt and distinguishes between runs disallowed and runs not scored described in other Laws

There is an important distinction as the batsmen are to be returned to their original ends in one case - but not in the other

Each of the relevant Laws states whether sending back is to apply or not – for example ...

- A deliberate short-run are disallowed and the batsmen sent back
- An accidental short-run is not scored and there is no sending back

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To summarise

It will be seen that some of the changes to the 4th edition create more clarity or consistency with other Laws while other changes are significant and materially different

The explanations given here are by nature brief précis and are designed as a guide for further study towards a better understanding, interpretation and application on the field

As servants to the game umpires have the responsibility of not only applying the Laws on the field but also to assist captains and players better understand the Laws and their application

Umpires should always be circumspect and respectful in fulfilling their very important role

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Additional information



The MCC provides some additional information and animations on their web-site ...

<http://www.lords.org/mcc/laws-of-cricket/>



The NZC First-class playing conditions are available in PDF on the NZCUSA web-site ...

<http://www.nzcusa.org.nz/uploadGallery/Final%202013-14%20NZC%20Playing%20Conditions.pdf>

Click on these links to learn more

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This module

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