

Attempting to Run out the Non-striker

Background

This note gives guidance following a recent incident in the League where a non-striker was run out by the bowler.

The Law

The Laws of cricket deal specifically with this situation under Law 41.16:

“If the non-striker is out of his ground from the moment the ball comes into play to the instant when the bowler would normally have been expected to release the ball, the bowler is permitted to attempt to run him out. Whether the attempt is successful or not, the ball shall not count as one of the over. If the bowler fails in an attempt to run out the non-striker the umpire shall call and signal Dead ball as soon as possible.”

Guidance

The key aspect of the law is the expression “the bowler would normally have been expected to release the ball”.

This is the point in the delivery action when the bowler would normally release the ball.

For the bowler to attempt to run out the non-striker he must stop his run up before his arm reaches the point when the ball would normally be released. Provided he does this and breaks the wicket with the non-striker out of his crease and there is an appeal then the non-striker is out. Once his arm has passed the vertical in the delivery swing he is not permitted to run out the non-striker and the umpire must call and signal dead ball as soon as possible.

Spirit of Cricket

Neither the bowler, nor any other member of the fielding side, is under any obligation to issue a warning to the batsman if he is leaving the crease early. Nonetheless it is recommended that on the first occasion the captain of the fielding side should be asked by the umpire if he wants the appeal to be withdrawn. If not then the appeal must be answered and the non-striker given out, if applicable.

Position of umpire at Bowler' End

It is recommended best practice that the umpire at the bowler's End should stand at least 3 yards back from the wicket whenever possible. This is particularly important if there is an attempt to run out the non-striker because of the need to observe the bowling action and determine whether the attempt has been carried out correctly under the law.