

## **BPL AND ECB PROTOCOL FOR SUSPECT BOWLING ACTIONS –**

The following is the recommended BPL process in the event that an umpire has reason to believe that, in his/her opinion, an individual player's bowling action is suspect and may not conform to the Laws of Cricket.

\* NB - this process does not deal with a deliberate throw of a cricket ball on delivery to a batsman, which shall at all times be called a "No Ball."

### **1) ON THE FIELD OF PLAY:**

a) On the first occurrence of what appears to be a suspect action the umpire should make a note, to be used as a formal record if required in future, containing the name of the player, over and ball. b) Upon a second occurrence (recorded as above) the umpire concerned should first establish if his colleague has similar concerns / recordings. At this point, and whether the other umpire has any specific input or not, the captain of the fielding side must be alerted in the presence of both umpires as to the nature and recorded facts of the observations and informed that a report will be made in writing to the League Secretary immediately following the completion of the game. It is the responsibility of the captain to inform the player concerned and the game should continue without undue delay.

The calling of subsequent "no balls" should be discouraged as finite assessment would not have been made at that time. If in the opinion of BOTH umpires their concern regarding the suspect bowling action is of such a nature that it could affect the game itself, then TOGETHER they may agree to:

- i) **COMMUNICATION:** Speak with the fielding captain and suggest that the bowler is taken off or; ii) Inform the captain, who will inform the bowler, that each subsequent delivery, considered suspect, WILL be called "no ball."
- ii) **POST MATCH REPORT:** A concise report must be written by the observing umpire(s) and signed by both officials. This written report must be sent to the League Secretary within 48 hours of the conclusion of the game.
- iii) **REPORT MANAGEMENT:** Upon receipt the League Secretary will investigate whether there are any similar reports on file and in any event write to the secretary of the club concerned recording that a report has been received and an investigation commenced. If the report is the first received regarding the player and his bowling action the League will notify the club as indicated above but there will be no further action taken by the League. If the report is the second regarding the player and his/her bowling action within any 12 month period, the League will notify the club, ECB Competitions Executive, ECB ACO Senior Executive Officer and the League Match officials Organisation that the player must not bowl until an assessment of the bowling action has taken place. The responsibility, enforcement and any costs incurred will reside with the club and/or the player.
- iv) **ASSESSMENT:** Assessment will take place at the most appropriate venue to be determined by the ECB and/or Yorkshire Cricket Board in discussion with the league and club. Video footage will be taken of the player's action and an 'opinion report' produced. Following the assessment and 'opinion report' the player, club and league will be informed of the outcome simultaneously. The cost of this process will be advised at the outset with the player or his club to be responsible for payment.

- v) **POST ASSESSMENT:** In response to the 'Opinion Report' the League has one of the following options:
  - To allow the player to resume bowling immediately as the action was considered to be within acceptable limits.
  - To recommend that the player completes a course of remedial action under the supervision of a professional bowling coach, at own/club cost before bowling again. If this option is chosen then upon the completion of the remedial action work the player is to be referred for further assessment and 'Opinion Report', the details of which to be agreed by the League, ECB and/or Yorkshire Cricket Board.
- vi) **PRIMARY NOTIFICATION:** It is the responsibility of the League to communicate with the affected parties on the course of action to be followed. This will include the degree of acceptance of the 'Opinion Report', the remedial work to be completed or the referral process to be followed:

- a) Both the club and the player will be advised within 7 days following receipt of the Assessment.
- b) The Chairman and Match Officials Association chairman will be copied into the communication for completeness. Any subsequent updates to this Primary Notification shall be at the discretion of the league and be driven by the needs of cricket and the status of the issue. At all times the aim of all parties must be to address any issues with sympathy and understanding for the player concerned, but not to the exclusion of the Laws of Cricket.

**APPEALS** Any player or club may appeal the decision of the League on any substantive matter relating to the suspect action, or their findings, or conclusions. Such an appeal should be made in the first instance to the League Secretary. Any costs involved in further investigations and analysis of bowling actions will be borne by the club and/or player as this may involve referral through the ECB processes as described in the ECB regulations for the review of bowlers reported with suspected illegal bowling actions in non-first class cricket.