

## Protocol of Reporting and Action on Suspect Bowling Actions

Version 2.0 – Club Cricket etc. - dated 2014 –1 0 – 01

The following is the protocol to be followed by all Umpires, Coaches, Clubs, Employment Sector, Institutions, Coaching Department and connected officials on suspect Bowling Actions for Cricket, other than below under 19 years of age or School Cricket, played under the auspices of Sri Lanka Cricket (Male/Female).

### INITIAL REPORTING AND ACTION

1)

In the event of an officiating umpire, in his opinion finding any of the deliveries of a bowler not conforming to the laws or regulations pertaining to the bowling action in a match, he should call "No Ball" or report for an illegal/suspect bowling action. A Match Referee too is empowered to report a bowler and this could be done, even if the Umpires have NOT detected a suspect action and made a report.

### WHERE MATCH REFEREE IS OFFICIATING IN A MATCH

2a) If a bowler has been called or reported in a match, the umpires officiating, will have to fill a SUSPECT/ILLEGAL ACTION FORM (SAF) in detail with their comments immediately on the completion of the game (In duplicate), and hand over a copy of same, to the Match Referee and obtain his acknowledgment.

2B) The Match Referee will fill in the Customary 'B' Report and together with the Umpire's SAF Report, hand over the reports to the Team Manager/Coach of the relevant team and obtain acknowledgment. The bowler and captain too must be informed verbally, preferably in the presence of the Team Manager and Coach.

2C) The Match Referee after taking a copy of the signed SAF Report for his files, should at the end of the match, submit a copy of the report by Hand Delivery or Fax or Scan and E. Mail to the Umpires Educator at the Umpires Department SLC. In addition it would be advisable to inform him by telephone.

Note - If the Report is hand delivered to SLC, the Data Entry Operator at the Umpires Department would have to scan the hard copy of the SAF and E. Mail it to the umpires Educator immediately, for action.

#### WHERE A MATCH REFEREE IS NOT OFFICIATING IN THE MATCH

3A) If a bowler has been called or reported in a match, the umpires officiating, will have to fill a SUSPECT/ILLEGAL ACTION FORM (SAF) in detail with their comments immediately on the completion of the game (in duplicate) and hand over a copy of the same, to the Team Manager/Coach of the relative team, obtaining acknowledgment on the second copy. The bowler and the captain too must be informed preferably in the presence of the Team Manager and Coach.

3B) The Umpires after obtaining a copy of the signed SAF Report for their files, should at the end of the match, submit a copy by Hand Delivery or Fax or Scan and E. Mail to the Umpires Educator at the Umpires Department of the SLC. In addition it would be advisable to inform him by telephone.

Note - If the Report is hand delivered to SLC, the Data Entry Operator at the Umpires Department would have to scan the hard copy of the SAF and E. Mail it to the Umpires Educator immediately, for action.

3. The Umpires Educator will immediately E. mail the report form to (a) Coaching Department – Head of Coaching (b) Umpires Department –Umpires Manager ( who will keep the umpires committee informed) (c)

Suspect Bowling Action Review Committee (SBARC) (d) Secretary Tournament Committee (e) Assistant Manager - Tournaments.

4) The Umpires Educator will immediately up date the records of the bowlers called or reported (THE GRID) and E. mail it to the Head of Coaching, and the Umpires Manager (those responsible for Assigning Umpires), to circulate amongst the officiating match officials (umpires and match referees) in that particular tournament, by the following day. Since the GRID would have up to date details of the reported players, those Assigning Umpires and Match Referees, would no doubt submit the GRID by E.Mail to all the Match Officials as a matter of priority.

5) The Match Referees /Umpires officiating in that particular tournament are required to study the up dated GRID and remind the Team Managers/Coaches/Captains of the Clubs concerned about any reported players in their teams during the pre-match meeting, in the next match, and any subsequent matches, so as to ensure that no suspended bowler, bowls in a match. At the same time a Match Referee/Umpires could see to it, that any bowler suspended and cleared, is allowed to bowl in the match.

## SCREENING

6) Any bowler reported will have to undergo a screening test at the Coaching Department of SLC within 14 days from the day he was reported . His coach will be required to accompany him and the screening will be conducted in the presence of the coach.

7) Results of the findings should be sent by the Coaching Department, to the Umpires Educator at the Umpires Department in writing within 21 days from the date of screening.

8) The Umpires Educator on receipt of the findings should immediately inform the club and the player of the results of the screening in writing. He should also inform the Umpires Manager, Secretary Tournament Committee, and the Assistant Manager Tournaments accordingly. At the same time the Umpires Grid should be up dated and sent to all concerned, so that the match officials could be kept informed.

9) If a player, who has been called or reported does not report to the coaching department for screening within the stipulated 14 days, he will be considered as having admitted that he bowls with an illegal bowling action and shall be immediately suspended from bowling. The Coaching Department is required to inform the Umpires Educator of such cases to take necessary action.

10) The Coaching Department may require to have a reported bowler filmed and scrutinized under match conditions, in order to have a called or reported bowler cleared in the first instance or during reassessment after remedial work. In such situations the Head of Coaching SLC or the person acting for him during his absence, has the sole authority to request in writing or by E.Mail, for the player to bowl in a match, despite not been cleared. The requirement from the Head of Coaching must be sent in writing through the Umpires Educator, to the Secretary Tournaments and Assistant Manager Tournaments,

Umpires Manager, at least 3 days before the game, so that the clubs and all those concerned, including the opposition, could be kept informed of it, before the commencement of the game and not in the middle of the match.

**FURTHER IMPORTANT POINTS TO NOTE, AFTER A BOWLER IS REPORTED AND UNTIL FINDINGS ARE ANNOUNCED**

11A) A bowler who has been called or reported for the first time, can continue bowling until such time as he is examined and findings made by the panel in the Coaching Department.

11B) If a bowler, according to the findings of the panel of the Coaching Department is found not to be conforming to a legal delivery action, he would be suspended immediately and will be recommended remedial work. The Coaching Department will convey this decision in writing to the Umpires Educator for appropriate action of updating the GRID and informing those required.

11C) If a bowler who has been reported or called and awaiting findings, is called thrice in a subsequent match, he will be suspended immediately on the third 'calling' and will not be able to bowl again until screened and cleared by the panel.

11D) If a bowler is reported or called for a second time in another match, before being screened by the Coaching Department, he will be suspended from bowling further, until the Coaching Department screens him and he is cleared. In such an event, if the second instance is a reporting, the Umpires or Referee need to confer and take steps to suspend the player from bowling, immediately the decision is taken during the course of match to report him. (The

suspension must not await the completion of the game)

## **REMEDIAL WORK AND CLEARING**

12)

Any bowler that has not been cleared by the Coaching Department will remain suspended. He will be recommended remedial work with Coaches of the Coaching Department, District Coaches or his Club Coach. The Coaching Department will offer advice on remedial work whenever required.

13)

A player who has been suspended and gone through the remedial procedure, could apply for a re assessment from the Coaching Department and obtain clearance. The request for a re assessment will not be turned down unless it is felt to be frivolous.

14)

If a reported player has remedied his bowling action and has been cleared by the Coaching Department in writing, and his bowling action is no longer illegal, the suspension will be lifted and he would be permitted to bowl in matches. All cases of clearing of suspended bowlers must be sent to the Umpires Educator in writing, to inform the Club, the player and Coach, and the SLC Secretary Tournaments and Assistant Manager Tournaments. The GRID too has to be immediately up dated by the Umpires Educator, so that the match officials would be kept informed

15)

The Head of Coaching reserves the right to carry out filming of re assessed and cleared bowlers in match situations without notice for purposes of surveillance, for a period of up to 60 days from date of clearance

## **GENERAL**

16)

Any bowler who has been called or reported during any tournament match or officially recognized match played under the auspices of SLC will not be permitted to bowl in any competitions including all SLC conducted competitions and school cricket until he is cleared by the Coaching Department or vice versa.

17)

In the case of ICC conducted tournaments and in matches played between Sri Lanka and another country or tour side matches, the ICC Illegal Bowling Protocol would apply.

18)

Any bowler reported or called in International matches or in an ICC tournament, on testing, if found not conforming to the limits laid down for a legal delivery, will not be permitted to bowl in any domestic cricket ( including School Cricket) until remedial work is done and cleared.

19)

Any bowler called or reported in School Cricket or any domestic age group tournament of under 19 years will be subject to the Schools Suspect Bowling Action Protocol.

20)

If any bowler is called or reported in any International match (mainly applies to Internationals, other than those played by the main National team) the umpires must inform the Managers of the local teams immediately after the match, and send a copy of the completed Suspect Action Form to the Umpire Educator in the usual manner, who would carry out the recommended steps and also inform Club represented by the player, and the Secretary and Assistant Manager Tournaments of SLC. All other steps applying to this protocol should be followed by the Umpires Educator and the Coaching Department.

21)

The Manager and Head Coach of any Sri Lanka National team, 'A' Team, Development and Emerging teams of any category, touring overseas for Internationals or other matches must inform the Umpires Manager/ Umpires Educator on return, of any case of a Sri Lankan bowler called or reported, so that those necessary could be informed and the recommended processes followed, before the player resumes bowling in competition.

### **SECOND OFFENCE AND AFTER - BOWLERS ALREADY SUSPENDED**

22)

In the event of a bowler being screened, and suspended from bowling for a second time within a period of two years (the two years to be counted from the first date of suspension after screening), the player will be suspended from bowling for a minimum period of 180 days. He will not be entitled to have his action cleared during this period.

22 A) The Coaching Department will inform the findings of the Panel in writing to the Suspect Bowling Action Review Committee (SBARC) and to the Umpires Educator. The Umpires Department through the Umpires Educator will then include this information in the GRID and inform the relevant Club/Team and the player of the position. The Tournament Committee, Secretary and Assistant Manager Tournaments and the match officials would also be informed.

22 B) Any further violations after the second screening and suspension, the bowler will be required to stay suspended for a further period of 90 days, until he is entitled to clear his action again.

### **PENALTIES**

23)

Both Umpires and Match Referee will be penalized 10% of the match fee, if they fail to implement recommended procedure in accordance with the Suspect Bowling Action GRID and permit a suspended bowler, to bowl in a match.

24)

If a suspended bowler, bowls in a match after suspension, before being cleared by the Coaching Department and the required formalities carried out by the Umpires Educator, he will be suspended from bowling for a period of one year, from the day of the commencement of the match.

25)

In the SriLanka Cricket conducted Premier, Emerging and Sara Tournaments, if a second bowler is suspended from the same club team for an illegal/suspect bowling action, the coach of the club team will be penalized 20% of one month's salary and the club would be penalized Rs. 10000/-. These penalties will apply and multiply in respect of every subsequent bowler of the same club that would be suspended from bowling.

### **IMPORTANT**

1)

The Protocol will be implemented on a trial basis for the 2014/2015 Cricket Season.

2)

Sri Lanka Cricket reserves the right to make any necessary amendments of any importance to cover any unforeseen situations, to the above, as and when required.

3)

The Panel for screening a bowler at the Coaching Department will consist of the Head of Coaching and two other Coaches highly experienced in identifying Illegal Bowling Actions and also specialized in remedial work. The Head of Coaching would act as the chairman of the panel. In the absence of the Head of Coaching the person acting for him will take his place.

In the case of re assessment a very experienced umpire selected by the SLC Suspect Action Bowlers Review Committee, in consultation with the Umpires Committee will join the panel.

4)

The decisions made by the Head of Coaching /Panel, Umpires Manager and the Umpires Educator would be binding in the implementation of the Protocol. However any player or affected party has the right of appeal to the Suspect Bowling Action Review Committee within 14 days of a decision being made , furnishing the case for review in writing.

5)

Any bowler suspended by the Panel of the Coaching Department who wishes to seek remedial work overseas or testing at an approved ICC Testing Centre could do so at his own cost. He would however for sake of monitoring be required to obtain permission from the Suspect Bowling Action Review Committee (SBARC). This permission will not be unfairly withheld. Any request for Testing at an ICC Centre after being endorsed by the SBARC, will need to be channeled through the Head of Cricket Operation of SLC.

Any reports submitted by ICC approved Testing Centers would be considered by the panel of the Coaching Department when evaluating bowlers during screening or re assessment.