

NORTH OTAGO CRICKET

PLAYER UMPIRES CODE OF PRACTICE

28 FEBRUARY 2012

ALL GRADES

This applies to all matches not officiated by an appointed umpire.

Many of the rules of cricket put responsibilities on the umpires for independently determining areas of law requiring independence and judgement. In the absence of appointed umpires these responsibilities shall fall on the captains of each side.

As stated in Law 1

The captains are responsible at all times for ensuring that play is conducted within the spirit and traditions of the game as well as within the Laws.

Captains shall prior to a match commencing (generally at the toss):

- Agree where the boundaries are.
- Agree on the balls to be used if not new balls.
- Agree on playing times and the official timepiece.
- Agree on any player comings and goings during a match and the use of substitute fielders.
- Agree on any non-playing umpires if requested.
- Agree on any other special conditions for the match (eg what happens when the ball hits the edge of an artificial pitch).

During a match the captains may need to consult on:

- Changing umpires should there be major concern about a players understanding of the rules of cricket. (This is to avoid unnecessary conflict. As a rule captains should use experienced players to umpire, should a situation become out of hand the batting umpire should change the umpire to avoid unnecessary on –going conflict. As a guide this is not intended to see umpires replaced who have a good understanding of the rules.)
- Agree on stoppages for rain. (A match should not start or re-start in rain or drizzle. Play can continue in drizzle or rain, so long as it's not dangerous for the batting or fielding side or unreasonable. Both Captains should agree that conditions have become dangerous or unreasonable for cricket. In the event that captains don't agree play should continue. Dangerous should consider matters such as slipping or sliding, loss of control of the ball or for players wearing glasses, being able to see. When it has been drizzling for a period of time (5 overs or more) it is likely that conditions

have become unreasonable to continue. If a shower of rain is expected to affect the game for a short period captains should agree to come off early, to keep the ball and pitch in reasonable order, and restart as soon as it stops raining (with a possible adjustment to overs). In the event the ball becomes unfit for play due to it getting to the “ball of soap” stage, captains should agree on a replacement. A ball that has lost its shine, become wet in the seams is not sufficiently wet to be replaced.)

- Agree to stoppages for bad light. A match should be stopped when in the opinion of both captains the light is dangerous or unreasonable to either fielders or batters. Play should continue if the captains fail to agree. Recent law changes have been made to increase the amount of cricket played. Captains should only be considering light when passing car lights are regularly on, or clubroom lights shine brightly. The conditions for light can change quickly and play should restart as soon as the captains agree the light has improved. Batters should remain padded up ready to go.
- In the event of stoppages the captains should agree on the calculation for adjustment of overs and if applicable revised target or target run rate.
- Before the start of the team batting seconds innings captains should agree on the target score. (It is common that club scorebooks don't add up between, batters, bowlers and what's crossed off).
- Agree on any other matters necessary to complete the game fairly.