



**Protocol to address a
suspect bowling action**
in non first class cricket
Premier League and ECB
cup competition cricket

Field of Play

An Umpire suspects that, in his/her opinion, an individual player's bowling action may not conform to the Laws of Cricket

On first occurrence that the umpire suspects an illegal 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.

Upon a second occurrence (recorded as above) the umpire concerned should first establish if his / her colleague has similar concerns / recordings.

If ONE Umpire is concerned (whether the other umpire has any specific input or not) regarding the player's bowling action the umpire may...

If BOTH Umpires are concerned regarding the player's bowling action they may agree to....

Inform the Captain of the fielding side in the presence of both umpires as to the nature and recorded facts of the observations. A written report will be submitted to the League / cup organiser at the end of the match.

Advise the Fielding Captain of concerns and recommend that he / she takes appropriate action, which could mean amending delivery action or remove from bowling attack.

It is the responsibility of the Captain to inform the player concerned and the game should continue without delay.

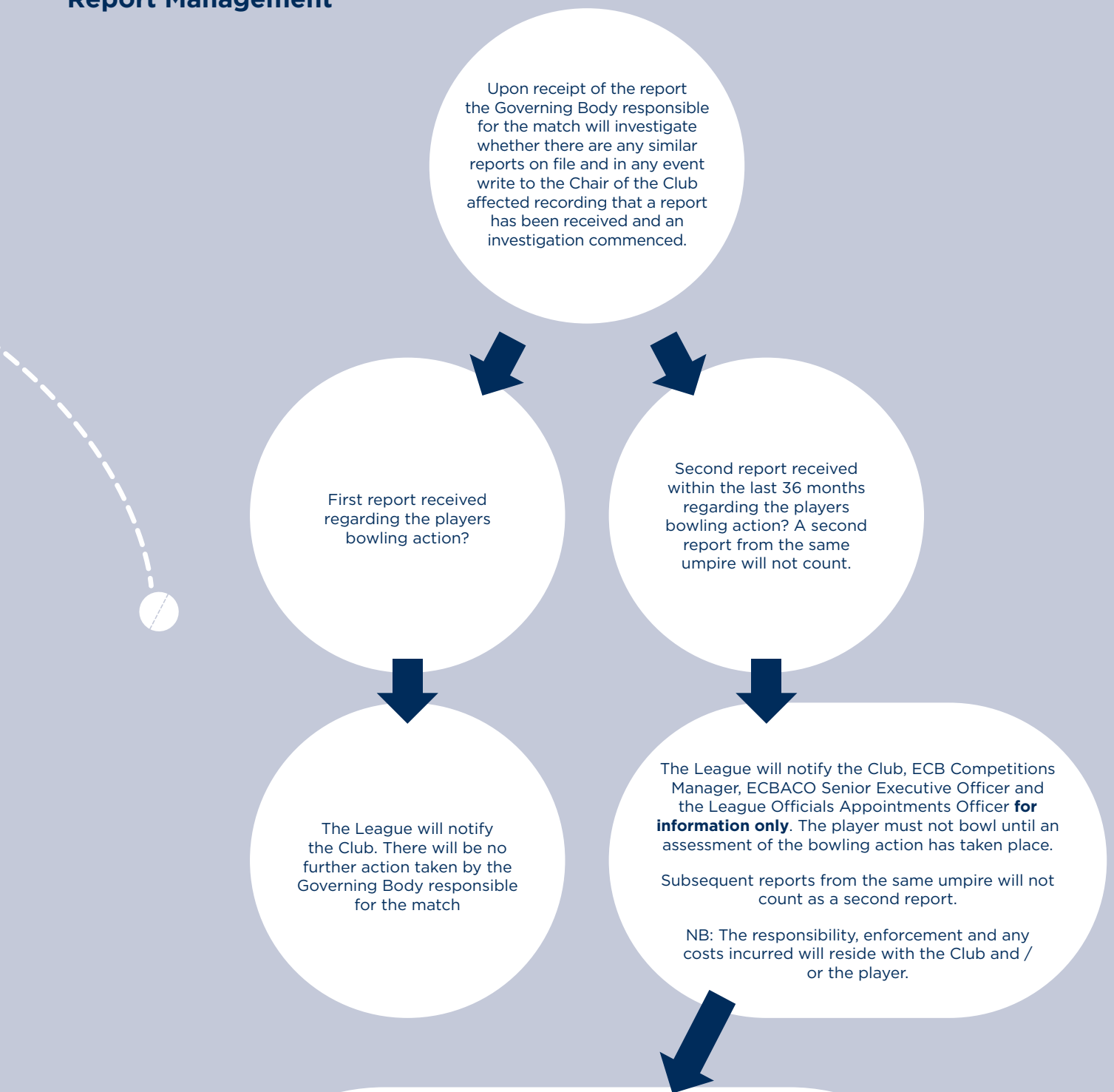
The calling of subsequent "No Balls" should be discouraged as finite assessment would not have been made at that time.

Inform the Captain, who will inform the bowler, that each subsequent delivery, suspected to be illegal, WILL be called "No Ball."

Post Match

A concise report must be written by the observing Umpire(s) and signed by both Officials, sent within 48 hours of the match ending to the Governing Body responsible for the match (League/Cup Organiser). Inform the home captain that a report will be filed to the governing body.

Report Management



Assessment

The club needs to gain permission from the player and then submit high speed video** footage from a practice or match of a minimum of 2 and maximum 4 deliveries of each ball from the four angles described below. The bowler must wear a short sleeved top ensuring the elbow is clearly visible in the video footage. This footage would contain the stock delivery plus either faster or slower ball and action variation.

1. From behind the bowler
2. From side-on
3. From mid-on
4. From mid-off

**** 200 Hz high speed video recordings from a rear camera view** If using independent assessment as described above, ECB will forward the footage to an independent observer or his nominated deputy currently, Mark King, Reader in Sports Biomechanics, Sports Biomechanics Laboratory, Loughborough University, Ashby Road, Loughborough, Leicestershire, LE11 3TU for initial observation and the booking of an appointment for assessment of the footage.

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graph TD; A[If using independent assessment the footage should be sent to Aaron Campbell, ECB Competitions Department, Lord's Ground, London, NW8 8QZ, or by email to aaron.campbell@ecb.co.uk with a signed cheque for £300.00 (includes VAT). If the Independent Assessment takes place outside of Loughborough University any additional costs for travel and set up may be levied. If a League wishes to commission their own assessment using a local County Cricket club then local costs or charges may occur.] --> B[Following the assessment and Opinion Report the player, club and Governing Body responsible for the match will be informed by a member of ECB Competitions Department.]; B --> C[In response to the 'Opinion Report' the League / cup organiser has one of the following options:]; C --> D[Based on the results of the 'Opinion Report' allow the player to play cricket (within the recommendations).]; C --> E[Player referred to ECB for further assessment.]; E --> F[ ];
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Following the assessment and Opinion Report the player, club and Governing Body responsible for the match will be informed by a member of ECB Competitions Department.

In response to the 'Opinion Report' the League / cup organiser has one of the following options:

- i. To allow the player to resume bowling immediately as the action was considered to be within acceptable limits.
- ii. To allow the player to bowl within a defined limitation such as only 'stock' ball or 'off-spin'.
- iii. 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.
- iv. Upon completion of the remedial action work the player shall be referred to the ECB for further assessment and 'Opinion Report'.

Based on the results of the 'Opinion Report' allow the player to play cricket (within the recommendations).

Player referred to ECB for further assessment.



If the player is referred to ECB for a further assessment the new footage and a cheque for £250.00 (including VAT) shall be sent to Aaron Campbell, ECB Competitions Department, Lord's Ground, London, NW8 8QZ. Once received ECB will forward the footage to an independent observer or his nominated deputy currently, at Loughborough University, for initial observation and the booking of an appointment for assessment of the footage.



Where a player, who has been identified as having an action outside of acceptable limits, plays or has been playing at a higher level than an ECB Premier Division, that player must play in the higher level environment for a minimum of one match, if selected. E.g. in County 2nd XI, Minor Counties' side before playing again in the Premier League. If exceptional circumstances exist then the situation will be managed in consultation between the ECB and the relevant Premier League Chairman. If the player is not selected in the higher level environment then it is expected that having been assessed and if in the opinion of the league they allow the player to bowl then they may play in the Premier League.



Primary notification

It is the responsibility of the Governing Body (league or cup organiser) for the match to communicate with the affected parties on the course of action to be followed.

