

Summary Sheet for Law 42 (Players' Conduct)

Law 42 PLAYERS' CONDUCT

If either umpire considers that the conduct of a player is unacceptable, the umpire concerned shall call and signal Dead ball. This call may be delayed until the umpire is satisfied that it will not disadvantage the non-offending team.

The umpires together decide if misconduct has occurred and if so at which level. The umpires will then call Time and summon the offending player's captain to inform him/her of the matter and implement the appropriate sanction.

Level 1. The Law lists 6 typical examples for Level 1, followed by a general comment "*any other misconduct, the nature of which is, in the opinion of the umpires, equivalent to a Level 1 offence.*" On the first occasion, the umpires summon and inform the offending player's captain that an offence at this level has occurred and issue a first and final warning which shall apply to all members of the team for the remainder of the match. Thereafter, for another Level 1 offence, 5 penalty runs are awarded to the opposing team following the same procedure (and report).

Level 2. The Law lists 4 typical examples followed by the same "catch all" phrase – (see above). The umpires summon and inform the offending player's captain that an offence at this level has occurred. Then award 5 penalty runs to the opposing team (and report).

Level 3. The Law describes this level as "*intimidating an umpire by language or gesture. Threatening to assault a player or any other person except an umpire*". The umpires summon and inform the offending player's captain (as above). The umpires direct the captain to remove the offending player from the field of play for 10 overs or if the innings is limited to a number of overs, the player is suspended for one fifth of the overs allocated to the innings at its commencement. If a fielder, no substitute is allowed, he/she may return at the end of the suspension and could bowl immediately. If a batsman, he/she may return having served the suspension, only at the fall of a wicket. If no batsman is available to bat during the suspension, the innings is completed. If the offender does not continue his/her innings for any reason, he/she is recorded as Retired – not out. Any overs remaining to be served from a suspension shall be carried forward to the next innings. Award 5 penalty runs to the opposing team. Signal the Level 3 offence to the scorers (and report).

Level 4. The Law lists 4 examples. Serious offences which we hope seldom if ever to see. All the previous instructions are repeated. The captain will be instructed to remove the offending player from the field of play for the remainder of the match. No substitute shall be allowed. If the offender is a batsman, or has still to bat in another innings he will be recorded as Retired – out. Award 5 penalty runs to the opposing team. Signal the Level 4 offence to the scorers (and report).

If a captain refuses to implement the umpires' instructions, the match is awarded. If both captains refuse to implement the umpires' instructions in the same incident the match is a no result. A nominated player who has a substitute or runner, will also suffer the penalty for any Level 3 or 4 offence committed by his/her substitute or runner, but will not be reported.

Summary Sheet for Law 42 (Players' Conduct) – definitions and penalties

The Laws of Cricket (2017 Code) – Players' Conduct

From 1 October 2017, the umpires shall act upon any unreasonable conduct.

- **Level 1**
 - Warning, then 5 penalty runs to the opposition
- **Level 2**
 - 5 penalty runs to the opposition
- **Level 3**
 - Offending player is suspended for a number of overs depending on the length of the innings plus 5 penalty runs to the opposition.
- **Level 4**
 - Offending player is removed from the field for the rest of the match plus 5 penalty runs to the opposition.

Definitions of offences under Levels 1 to 4 as detailed in Law 42

Any of the following actions by a player shall constitute a Level 1 offence:

- wilfully mistreating any part of the cricket ground, equipment or implements used in the match
- showing dissent at an umpire's decision by word or action
- using language that, in the circumstances, is obscene, offensive or insulting
- making an obscene gesture
- appealing excessively
- advancing towards an umpire in an aggressive manner when appealing
- any other misconduct, the nature of which is, in the opinion of the umpires, equivalent to a Level 1 offence.

Any of the following actions by a player shall constitute a Level 2 offence:

- showing serious dissent at an umpire's decision by word or action
- making inappropriate and deliberate physical contact with another player
- throwing the ball at a player, umpire or another person in an inappropriate and dangerous manner
- using language or gesture to another player, umpire, team official or spectator that, in the circumstances, is obscene or of a seriously insulting nature
- or any misconduct, the nature of which is, in the opinion of the umpires, equivalent to a Level 2 offence.

Either of the following actions by a player shall constitute a Level 3 offence:

- intimidating an umpire by language or gesture
- threatening to assault a player or any other person except an umpire.

Any of the following actions by a player shall constitute a Level 4 offence:

- threatening to assault an umpire
- making inappropriate and deliberate physical contact with an umpire
- physically assaulting a player or any other person
- committing any other act of violence.

Summary Sheet for Law 42 (Players' Conduct) – checklist for umpires

A checklist for the necessary sequence of actions for Law 42 offences.

1. Call "Dead ball".
2. Collect the ball.
3. Talk to colleague. Decide if and which level of offence has occurred.
4. Call "Time" (if necessary).
5. Request player's captain to come and talk to you.
6. What do you do – for each Level 1 to 4.
7. What happens if captain(s) will not do what you ask.
8. Record what happened and what actions were taken.
9. Call "Play" once the required actions are completed.
10. Record all the necessary timings of the stoppage.

The Spirit of Cricket – and new Law 42

Historically, cricket has been a game where respect for your opponents and officials was behaviour expected from every player.

The game has a moral code, above the Laws and regulations, which defines how to play.

Over time this moral code has eroded to the point where it hardly exists.

Verbal abuse is in danger of becoming the norm, even the threat of, or actual physical assault, is not uncommon.

Hence – and sadly – new Law 42.