

EAST OF SCOTLAND CRICKET ASSOCIATION

Suspect Bowling Action Policy & Reporting Form



Rev 0 – June 2022

Introduction

This policy outlines the policy and process associated with raising concerns around player(s) with potentially suspect bowling actions (i.e. throwing), during the course of any match under ESCA jurisdiction.

The below outlines what we expect captains and clubs/teams to do on the day, in games with player umpires, followed by the process to report and actions to assess.

Clubs

1. If the player umpires or members of the batting team believe a bowler may have a suspect bowling action, such that it potentially contravenes the Laws of Cricket, from the first point that it is observed, the umpires and batting team captain shall monitor the situation to assess whether it is the case. The umpires and captains should assess whether it is a 'one off' or whether it is a persistent issue with one or more forms of the bowler's delivery.
2. If it becomes clear that there is a persistent issue, then the Captain of the batting team should speak to the Captain of the fielding team to advise that they believe there is an issue. The captains should look to rectify the issue on the field of play, which may include discussions with the bowler and further monitoring (particularly if the issue is inconsistent or with only one form of delivery). If continuing to bowl, the captain of the fielding side and the bowler should make every effort to ensure there are no further issues.
3. If it becomes clear that there is a persistent issue, then the Captain of the batting team should again speak to the Captain of the fielding team to advise that they believe there is still an issue and discuss potentially removing the bowler from the bowling attack.
4. Under no circumstances should a player umpire call 'No ball' against the bowler with the potential suspect action, excepting for no balls covered by other laws within the game (e.g. front foot no ball).
5. Upon completion of the match, the Captain of the batting side shall raise a notification of a potential suspect bowling action to the Divisional Rep and Competitions Committee Lead, within seventy two hours of that match using the appropriate form. The report must be fully detailed, setting out the reason for reporting, including examples of the suspect action and actions undertaken by both Captains and umpires on the day.

Div Rep & Competitions Committee Requirements

1. Upon receipt of a suspect action reporting form, the Divisional Rep shall acknowledge the report and advise the reporting club that ESCA will review.
2. The Divisional Rep shall record that a report has been made against a player and check the database to establish whether the player concerned has been reported for a similar issue within the last 12 months.
3. If the player concerned has no previous reported issues, then the Rep shall:
 - a. Write to the club of the player concerned and advise them that a report of a suspect bowling action has been made in relation to one of their players.
 - b. Ask for acknowledgement from the club of the email that they have received the communication and that they have advised the player concerned.
 - c. The Divisional Rep shall record the action in the reporting database.
 - d. The Divisional Rep shall advise both club of the actions undertaken and the outcome.
 - e. The aim should be for the above actions to be completed within one week of the submittal of the report.

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4. If the player concerned has a previously reported issue, then the Rep shall:
 - a. Write to the club of the player concerned and advise them that a second report of a suspect bowling action has been made in relation to one of their players.
 - b. Note that the player concerned will be suspended from bowling in any ESCA, or ESCA affiliated competition until the action can be reviewed independently.
 - c. Ask for acknowledgement from the club of the email that they have received the communication and that they have advised the player concerned.
 - d. Request that the player's action is videoed and sent to ESCA within seven days for consideration.
 - e. Two members of the Competitions Committee (inclusive of Divisional Reps) will review the video and assess whether they believe there is an issue.
 - i. If they believe there is an issue, then the Competitions Committee Lead shall liaise with Cricket Scotland to ask that a further review is undertaken, which may also include a review of the bowling action in a live 'net / practice' scenario.
 - ii. If after CS review, there is a proven issue, then the player shall be suspended from bowling in any ESCA, or ESCA affiliated competition until it can be proven that the action is no longer an issue, as agreed through independent review.
 - iii. If the ESCA or CS representatives (if escalated) do not believe there is an issue, then the player concerned will be eligible to resume bowling in any ESCA, or ESCA affiliated competition.
 - f. The Divisional Rep shall record the action in the reporting database.
 - g. The Divisional Rep shall advise both club of the actions undertaken and the outcome. This shall include a note to the club of the player concerned, that any further reporting of a suspect bowling action in a 12 month period will automatically trigger a CS based review (in line with 4.e.i & ii) and suspension of the player from bowling accordingly.
 - h. The aim should be for the above actions to be completed within one month of the submittal of the report.

Wording of communications to clubs

1. The following wording should be used as a basis for communications to the club(s) concerned.

"Dear **[insert contact name]**,

Following your match against **[insert opposition name]** on **[insert date]**, ESCA has received a report from the **[insert opposition name]** captain highlighting concerns about the bowling action of **[insert player name]**. You will be aware from the ESCA guidance that a bowler should not be no balled in a game by a player umpire but there is a duty on ESCA in the circumstances to review the action.

Could you therefore please arrange for **[insert player name]** to be videoed bowling in the next seven days, with the video being sent to ESCA. At this point, ESCA's Competitions Committee will review the footage and ascertain whether there is a need to escalate the review to Cricket Scotland and a qualified coach to review the action.

It is important this matter is dealt with quickly. If you are not able to comply with the time limit please respond immediately explaining the reasons.

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If you do not provide the video ESCA will consider its options which may include suspending the player from bowling in any ESCA, or ESCA affiliated competition until the action can be reviewed.

Please can you acknowledge this message within 72 hours of receipt.

Regards,

[insert Div Rep name]