

Best ever season ahead!

JAMES EMMERSON, CHESHIRE COUNTY SCORERS OFFICER

Penalty Runs

It has been a sad time for cricket, being in the headlines for the wrong reasons. Personally I feel the reaction by the Australian hierarchy has been melodramatic, far too harsh and out of proportion for what went on at Cape Town. There are laws within the game to deal with changing the condition of the match ball – which, incidentally, the umpires did not avail themselves of during the match as they felt nothing untoward had actually gone on! Had they taken action, the scorers should have seen the umpires' hand patting their opposite shoulder to indicate

penalty runs to the batting side. The matter was further made a mockery of by the fact that the South Africans won by a whopping margin! The pledge



to change the 'culture' within the Australian team is an encouraging one at least, and hopefully good things will come out of this unhappy situation.

The penalty runs signal, however, is one that all scorers may be seeing much more of in 2018 – hopefully not because of ball tampering, or because of Level 3 and 4 offences, but because of the law changes that have seen warnings removed for some offences, and an offence of fielders deceiving the batsmen being included in law 41:5.

There has been much discussion about how umpires interpret 'deception', but one thing is clear – if you have never recorded penalty runs before, be prepared to break your duck in 2018! There's a list of things you may see during 2018 on the other page.

After a lot of hard work and many hours testing and trialling, I have chosen the confident headline for the Spring newsletter to reflect the fact that this season, scorers will have more choice than ever before about how they choose to record games. As you will perhaps be aware, Play-Cricket Pro has been launched, which for those who score on laptop will be an excellent option to choose. I have been involved in the testing process and, having finally got to the stage of a launched product, I'm extremely impressed with how it works. A range of options including customisable (and saveable) layouts for your screen, with a choice of how much information you record, full functionality with Play-Cricket and live scoring, official DLS software built in, and available for free – it really does not get any better for scorers! You can download yours from the ACO website (or email me for a link) and make a note of the demo night at Old Trafford in April to come and see/play for yourself. Alongside this, the much improved Play-Cricket Scorer (version 4.1.1 is now available for free download) is a great option for those using tablet or phone, and also has the accompanying Play Cricket Live app, which again enables anyone anywhere in the world to follow the action.



TCS has also re-emerged with version 11 available, although it is not compatible with Play-Cricket and live scoring is hosted via the CricHQ platform. I personally haven't investigated this any more fully as I haven't seen sufficient feedback and don't want to risk losing data stored on my current TCS version but I would be interested to hear from those that have taken the plunge. And of course – pen and paper scoring will still provide a valuable, reliable backup! So I hope you take advantage of a wonderful choice to make your 2018 season a really successful one!

James

Play-Cricket Pro Demonstration, Old Trafford Cricket Ground, Tuesday 10th April, 6.00-9.00pm

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Scorer Pro delivers free laptop scoring for recording and analysing cricket matches at international, domestic and recreational level.

PCS PRO

FIND OUT MORE

I know a number of you have already booked your place at the demonstration night, and it promises to be a really interesting and useful evening for anyone to try out the range of Play-Cricket scoring products, including 'Pro'. Representatives from ECBACO and NV Cricket (the developers of the programme), as well as myself and other scorer officers from adjoining regions, will be on hand to demonstrate and answer questions. Book your place now via the ACO website, or email me for a link. See you there!

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The two ECB scoring apps, 'Scorer' and 'Live' will be part of the demo.

Snow (doesn't) stop course!



I have run many courses for scorers but the Club Scorer Course earlier in March was the first time I have ever had to battle against snow! Thankfully, scorers being a tough bunch, we

were able to complete the second day of what was a well received and enjoyable time at Toft CC, an excellent venue. Congratulations to everyone who attended, all of whom went away with a lot more knowledge of and confidence in their scoring ability, as well as a brand new scorers backpack from ECBACO, which looked very smart. Don't forget that the assessment process ECBACO now have in place provides a clear set of benchmarks against which scorers can achieve an accredited standard, so if you are thinking of scoring games outside of your regular club environment, for example, please contact me for further details of the assessment process.

ECBACO National Conference....Saturday October 27th at Lords Cricket Ground.

RECOMMENDED WEBSITES

www.lords.org – get familiar with the laws of the game.

www.espncricinfo.com – search the amazing archive to find text commentaries of matches, ideal for scoring practice on new software or apps!

www.cultpens.com – the best pens website I have ever found. Try the Edding 1800 series! The 0.1 or 0.3 black pens are great for scorebooks.

New procedures in 2018

Remember that from this season, byes or leg byes accruing off no-balls are to be recorded as such. So, for example, a no-ball which goes for 4 byes will no longer be recorded as five no-balls, but as two separate incidents on the same ball – a no-ball, followed by 4 byes. Guidance sheets are available which outline how to record this and similar events in scorebooks. Email me for your copy.

Penalty Runs

Summary: 19 offences can attract penalty runs. 11 offences see an immediate award; 8 offences see a warning issued and penalties on repeat.

Immediate penalty runs offences include:

- ball hitting a helmet on the ground belonging to the fielding side (law 28:3)
- deliberate distraction, obstruction or deception of either batsman (41:5)
- changing the condition of the match ball (41:3)
- deliberate short running (18:5)
- any level 2, 3 or 4 offence (law 42:3-5)

Penalty runs after a warning include:

- time wasting by either side (41:9 & 10)
- players from either side causing avoidable damage to the pitch (41:12 & 14)
- striker taking guard in or too close to the protected area (41:15)
- any level 1 offence (42:2)

Don't forget the umpire signals you should receive – 'tapping' of the opposite shoulder for penalties to the batting side, or the hand placed on the opposite shoulder for penalties to the fielding side. And remember to acknowledge!

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