



**JUNE
2010**

Bassetlaw and District Umpires' Association

NEWSLETTER

Website: www.bdua.co.uk

Fitness of Ground, Weather and Light

The start of the season could not have been worse in terms of poor weather. Unfortunately it has highlighted inconsistencies of interpretation of the Laws governing suspension of play by umpires.

Law 3.8—Fitness of Ground, weather and light.

The Umpires shall be the final judges of the fitness of the ground, weather and light for play.

There it is gentlemen clearly stated in the Laws you and only you are the judges of what is fit or unfit.

How do we as umpires determine whether the ground is fit or not for play. We are advised that there are three levels of fitness that the laws refer to.

Suitable (level 1) This means that, in the umpires opinion, conditions are perfectly acceptable and play **has** to take place.

Unsuitable (level 2) This means that the umpires consider that conditions are not ideal for play but are not actually dangerous. The umpires are of the opinion that play should be suspended, or not restarted, but they will accede to any agreement that the captain(s) may come to with regards to play continuing, starting or restarting. (In other words if the Captains agree to play then we play, if however one Captain does not wish to play then we don't play).

Unreasonable or Dangerous (level 3) This means that the umpires consider that the conditions are such that any reasonable person could foresee the likelihood of injury to those on the field of play. The umpires will, **in no circumstances**, allow play to take place.

What should umpires take into consideration when reaching their decision as to what level of fitness the ground is?

Conditions - Fielding side; Umpires must ensure that the bowlers run-ups, footholds and run-offs are safe. The prerequisite for safety is the ability of a bowler to deliver the ball without the risk of serious injury. The ground conditions must not be so wet and slippery as to deprive fielders of free movement when fielding, or attempting to field, the ball. There should be no puddles or water hazards anywhere on the playing area.

Conditions - Batting side; There must be secure footholds around the popping crease so that the batsmen can receive a delivery and play their shots without fear of slipping. The ground must be firm enough so that the batsman can set off for a run without slipping. Batsmen must have the freedom to run between the wickets and to turn for subsequent runs.

The decision to suspend or to continue play is, on occasions, the cause of much controversy. It will often depend on the state of the game as to whether players of both or just one side wish to come off the field. The umpires must remain totally neutral in the matter—the state of the game is of no consequence to them. Their decision as to whether play should continue or be suspended should be based purely on grounds of safety and to a large extent, common sense.

It is always understood in the Bassetlaw League that play will **NOT** start if it is raining no matter how light the rain may be, e.g. Spotting. If play is already in progress and the rain is only light then play should continue; if however it becomes in the umpires opinion unsuitable then the Captains should be consulted and play suspended if they agree to suspension and suspended if they disagree about playing on. If they agree to play on then you play on until the conditions become unreasonable or dangerous then play **MUST** be suspended. Always remember that you have to stand out in it for 2 to 3 hours! Do not be pressurized to take the field in the rain because if you do you will not be consistent with what will be happening in the rest of the league.

If you have a copy of **Tom Smiths** then please refresh your memory by reading Law 3.

WEBSITE

The revamped website is now up and running, please use it. Just type in on 'google or yahoo' Bassetlaw Umpires and it will direct you to the site. It is much easier to navigate around. The HOME page displays the latest news, views, etc. There is a DOWNLOAD page where the latest meetings minutes can be found. If you have anything which is suitable for inclusion in the news section or any photographs please let me know I will be happy to post them on the site.

CHILD WELFARE

This thorny subject has again raised it's ugly head with an incident of which you are all probably now aware. The umpires acted entirely as they should and dealt with the situation that they saw. Unfortunately further incidents occurred that they did not see and these have been dealt with by the League Management Disciplinary Committee.

All I wish to say to you is be vigilant; make sure you have the signed team sheet with young players ages clearly shown; when young players are either batting or bowling be extra aware of the possibility of adverse comments / sledging. Adhere strictly to the fielding and bowling of over's limitations. Helmets should always be worn by under 18's when batting or if wicket keeping when stood up.

We all know that there is no place on a cricket field for violent conduct of any kind directed at anyone let alone young people. We are becoming a more litigious society and incidents of violence may lead to Police involvement and much more. Therefore we must act early to ensure that these situations do not arise. If it happens then you must act as a pair; you must immediately report the incident to the League Secretary and myself and provide a written report prepared by both umpires.

Having said all of that these incidents are thankfully few and far between. Hopefully by being proactive and stopping sledging etc before it gets out of hand we will not have to deal with this type of incident. You will not be criticized by this Association or the LMC for warning players during a game to moderate there behaviour it is expected that you will do this.

For a copy of the ECB Safe Hands—Cricket's Policy for Safeguarding Children—visit the ECB website.

OSCA Nomination for Gerry Graney

The BDUA Management Committee agreed unanimously to nominate Gerry for an OSCA. The Outstanding Service to Cricket Award for Umpires and Scorers will be presented in September to volunteers who have made a real difference in recreational cricket in Nottinghamshire. We believe Gerry's contribution to recruiting and training Umpires over the past decade gives him a real chance of gaining recognition at this years awards ceremony. I will of course keep you all informed.

Umpires clothing

The Association have arranged a range of umpires clothing available from local suppliers; these include umpires blousons, long sleeved and sleeveless sweaters, and shirts all with the Association badge. If you are interested visit the website to view photographs and for further details; alternatively contact the Secretary.