

APPENDIX A

THE ROLE OF UMPIRES IN THE MACC

1. In 2004 the MACC decided to take the step of requiring two umpires, not affiliated with either team playing, to stand in each League match. Our long-term goal as a League is that this will always be the case, and that the two umpires will have received training. Occasionally it is not possible to have but one unaffiliated match, who then must stand at the bowlers' end with the other umpire being arranged by the teams playing. Sometimes it is unfortunately necessary for both umpires to be arranged by the teams playing. Common sense dictates that in some aspects it will be necessary to manage matches differently in these three different situations.

2. The Laws of Cricket and MACC Rules and Regulations gives three kinds of powers to umpires.

a. The power for one umpire to make certain decisions, within his legal jurisdiction, on his own. Examples of such powers include:

- i. Counting the balls of the over
- ii. Signaling to the scorers
- iii. Calling "time" and "play"
- iv. Calling short runs
- v. Awarding boundaries
- vi. Calling dead balls, wide balls and no balls
- vii. Signaling byes, leg byes, disallowing byes
- viii. Answering appeals for dismissals
- ix. Taking action against dangerous and unfair bowling
- x. Awarding five-run penalties after suitable warning

b. The power for an umpire to voluntarily consult with another on any matter that is actually within his own jurisdiction, when he thinks the other umpire may be in a better position to observe a point of fact (In our League an umpire might also consul! another who has a better knowledge of the Laws applying to a particular situation.)

c. The power to make decisions only after consultation between the two umpires has reached agreement between them. One umpire is not normally allowed to make these decisions by himself. Examples of these decisions include:

- i. Making pre-match agreements with the captains on the conditions of play
- ii. Determining the course of action of a team is late on arriving: whether to wait longer or forfeit the match
- iii. Determining when conditions are unsuitable or dangerous for play
- iv. Inspecting the condition of the ball and determining when it needs to be replaced

v. Checking the accuracy of the score with the scorers

3. All umpires in MACC matches regardless of their training or team affiliation have the powers listed in 2(a) above, provided that the decision is within their individual jurisdictions and the procedures required by the Laws and Regulations are followed. As long as the teams have agreed on using an umpire, they must accept his decisions on these matters.

a. Some common sense should be used by the umpires: there certainly may be times when asserting their powers to the fullest would be unwise. An example of this might be no-balling a bowler for throwing. Although this is within the powers of any umpire, it must be recognized that such a call will cause significant problems within our friendly League, and that in almost all cases it would be wiser to report the matter for further study than to call it on the field.

b. There are also times when the umpire is not required to consult with the other umpire but would do well to do so. This is especially noteworthy in matters of judgment such as dangerous and unfair bowling, time-wasting, distraction of batsmen or interference with fielders. Many of the five-run penalties fall within this advisory in addition, five-run penalties should not be imposed by umpires without an exact understanding of the procedures for them prescribed by the Laws, and these procedures must be followed exactly including all required warnings and notifications.

4. For matters listed in 2(c) and similar matters requiring consultation between the two umpires, umpires and captains should handle these matters differently depending on the nature of the umpiring for that match:

a. When there are two umpires who are unaffiliated with either team umpiring the match, they shall have the full powers given to them by the Laws and Regulations to act in consultation with each other and to issue a joint decision.

b. When there is only one such umpire and the other umpire is supplied by the teams, the one unaffiliated umpire shall have the final decision in any matters normally requiring consultation between two umpires. Whenever it is appropriate, he should consult with the appropriate captains and ascertain their wishes and attempt to bring the captains to agreement, issuing his own ruling only when the captains cannot agree. For some matters such as allowing a substitute or runner it may be more reasonable to consult only the opposing captain. This is urged as the common-sense best way to minimize disagreements and avoid forcing a single umpire to make a decision that would normally be made by two umpires in consultation. Nevertheless, when there is only one umpire available and a decision is necessary, that one umpire shall have the power to make it.

c. When there are two umpires furnished by the teams playing and no independent umpire, the umpires shall not have the power to decide the matters in 2(c): these must be

determined by agreement between the captains. Captains are expected to be fair and unbiased in discussing these matters and always be motivated to complete and decide a match on the field of play whenever possible. Although this is difficult to do, it is the only alternative when there are no independent umpires present. In case of reconcilable differences the matter should be referred to the Executive Council.

5. a. All judgment decisions made by all umpires must be accepted on the field of play and players showing dissent or refusing to follow the instructions of an umpire should be reported to the Executive Committee for appropriate action. That the umpire is a member of a playing side or that he has made the wrong decision will not be accepted as extenuating circumstances for improper behavior judgment decisions made by the umpires are not subject to review.

b. If an umpire has failed to follow the proper procedures specified in the Laws or the MACC Regulations say in imposing a five-run penalty, the captains are entitled to discuss that with the umpire in a reasonable manner without the participation of the other players in an attempt to correct the matter during the match and to refer the matter to the Executive Committee after the match if necessary.

c. Even though an umpiring decision made during a match may not be changed, the Executive Committee and Umpiring Panel should be informed of umpires who seem to be overly incompetent or biased, so that a review can be made of whether that umpire should be used again in the future.