

MCL Suspected Illegal Bowling Action Policy

Definitions – In this Policy the following words and phrases have the following meanings:

MCL. Masters Champions League

Cleared is the outcome, following an Official Assessment, when the Official Assessment Report states that the Player's Bowling Action no longer contravenes Law 24.2 (as read with Law 24.3) of the Laws of Cricket.

Committee. The MCL Suspect Bowling Action Committee.

Home Board. A national or regional entity which is a member of the ICC or is recognised by the ICC as the entity governing the sport of cricket in a country (or collective group of countries associated for cricket purposes).

Franchisee. An entity which owns and operates a Team in MCL.

Illegal Bowling Action. A bowling action which contravenes Law 24.2 (as read with Law 24.3) of the Laws of Cricket.

Initial List. As defined in clause 1.5.

MCL COO. The person appointed by MCL from time to time to act as Chief Operating Officer of MCL (or his/her designee).

League. The Twenty20 cricket league (known at the date of adoption of this policy as the Oxygen Masters Champions League) which has been established by MCL and which shall take place in Jan/Feb of each year (or such other time as may be determined by MCL).

Match. Any cricket match (including any part or aspect thereof) in the League including the Play-Off Matches.

Match Officials means the group comprising the Match Referee and the four Umpires for the relevant Match.

Match Referee. The person appointed by the MCL as the official match referee for a Match.

Official Assessment is the assessment undertaken by the Committee to determine the legitimacy of a Player's Bowling Action under clause 4 and the report published by the Committee following such Official Assessment shall be the **Official Assessment Report**.

Player. Any cricketer who is selected to represent a Franchisee in any Match or who forms part of such Franchisee's squad of players.

Play-Off Match. The four Matches which take place at the end of the regular League Season to determine the winner, runner-up and third placed team of the League for the Season.

Policy. This MCL Suspected Illegal Bowling Action Policy.

Report. As defined in clause 2.1.

Season. In each year, the period of time during which the League shall take place.

Team. Any team participating in the League from time to time.

Umpire(s). The umpire(s) appointed by the MCL for the relevant Match.

1 Introduction

1.1 This Policy is effective from 20 January 2016 and details the process for dealing with a Player who is called by an Umpire for throwing in accordance with Law 24.2 or is suspected by the Umpire(s) and/or Match Referee for bowling with an Illegal Bowling Action in a Match.

1.2 Nothing contained herein shall override an Umpire's responsibility and discretion to apply Law 24, which Umpires are urged to apply with vigilance.

1.3 The Umpires and Match Referee, in deciding whether to report a Player under this Policy, should use the naked eye for viewing the relevant Player's bowling action during the Match – either live or on television at normal speed. Slow motion video footage or other technological support should only be used to confirm initial suspicions.

1.4 If a Player is called by an Umpire for throwing in accordance with Law 24.2 or is suspected by the Umpire(s) and/or Match Referee for bowling with an Illegal Bowling Action during a Match, the procedures in clause 2 shall apply.

2 Reporting procedure

2.1 Pursuant to the circumstances in clause 1.4, at the conclusion of the Match, the Match Officials shall meet to discuss the action of the Player whose action has raised suspicion. During this post Match meeting, it is expected, although not a requirement, that the Match Officials will watch TV replays and/or slow motion replays to assist the Match Referee to determine whether or not he should write a report detailing his concerns about the Player's bowling action (a "Report" and "Reported" and "Reporting" shall be construed accordingly). The Report shall be in the form prescribed by MCL from time to time.

2.2 If appropriate, at the conclusion of the Match Officials' meeting, the Match Referee shall write a Report, including, where relevant, whether those concerns relate to the Player's bowling action generally or whether they relate to one or more specific types of delivery.

2.3 In the case where there is disagreement amongst the Match Officials regarding the Player's bowling action, any member of the Match Officials' group may make a written submission to the Match Referee detailing his concern about the bowling action of the Player, including, where relevant, whether those concerns relate to the Player's bowling action generally or whether they relate to one or more specific types of delivery. The Match Referee shall decide in his absolute discretion whether to make a Report in such circumstances.

2.4 As soon as practicable, the Match Referee shall give a copy of the Report to the MCL. For expediency, such Report may be handed over to the Tournament Operations Manager for the Match, who will deliver the Report to the MCL COO. MCL will as soon as practicable provide a copy of the Report to the Player's Team Manager / CEO / COO.

2.5 In the event that the Player's Team Manager / CEO / COO has left the ground prior to the Report being available, MCL shall attempt to make contact with the Player's Team Manager / CEO / COO to inform him of the Report and will use all reasonable endeavours to ensure that it is provided to the Player's Team Manager / CEO / COO as soon as is practically possible.

2.6 MCL will arrange for a copy of the available television footage of the Player's bowling action from the Match to be produced and made available to the Player and Player's Team Manager / CEO / COO, as soon as is practically possible.

2.7 Upon receipt of the Report from the Match Referee, MCL shall write to the Committee confirming that the Player has been Reported, enclosing a copy of the Report and the television footage of the Player's bowling action from the Match.

2.8 As soon as practicable once the Player's Team Manager / CEO / COO has received a copy of the Report, MCL may make a media statement to the effect that the Player has been Reported.

2.9 MCL shall send all Match Referees and those Umpires who are to officiate in subsequent Matches involving a Reported Player, the relevant Report and the television footage.

3 Post Report Procedure

3.1 A player whose name is on the Initial List or who is Reported during the Season (and in such latter case whose name was not on the Initial List for the Season) is regarded as being on the Warning List.

3.2 MCL recommends that any Player who is on the Warning List should undergo a course of bowling rehabilitation and/or corrective measures taken to ensure that the Player's bowling action does not contravene Law 24.

3.3 While on the Warning List, the Player may continue to be selected to play for his Team in a Match and may bowl in any Match.

3.4 If a Player receives a Report while on the Warning List, the Player shall be suspended from bowling for the remainder of the Season and from bowling in any matches organised by the MCL until such date as he is cleared. A Player suspended from bowling may continue to be selected to play in Matches; however, he will not be entitled to bowl.

3.5 In the event that a Player is suspended from bowling under this Policy, MCL will, in writing, inform the Player, the Player's Team Manager / CEO / COO, the relevant Franchisee, all Match Officials officiating during the Season.

3.6 MCL may, following the Reporting of any Player, make a media statement as soon as practicable to the effect that the Player has been suspended from bowling for the rest of the Season.

4 Official Assessment

4.1 From the conclusion of a Season until 30 days before the start of the next Season, a Player whose name was on the Warning List during the previous Season may request an Official Assessment, such request to be put in writing and addressed to the MCL COO (with a copy of any request sent by email to be delivered to MCL office). MCL will use all reasonable endeavours to ensure that the Committee holds an Official Assessment within 21 days of the date on which such written request is received by the MCL COO.

4.2 Official Assessments will not be carried out during the Season.

4.3 The Official Assessment will take place at a place as per the discretion of MCL Governing Council.

4.4 One or more members of the Committee will conduct Official Assessments for MCL.

4.5 Having received a request for an Official Assessment from a Player, MCL shall be responsible for arranging the Official Assessment, in conjunction with the Committee, the Assessment Centre and the Player. The Player will be given reasonable notice of the date, time and place that he needs to be present for the Official Assessment.

4.6 No less than 5 days before the start of the Official Assessment, the Player is required to submit an analysis of his bowling action to the MCL COO who shall forward the same to the Committee. This analysis can take the form of one or more of the following, but is not be limited by this list:

- a) A report prepared by the Player;
- b) A report from the Player's Coach, a bowling coach, biomechanical expert, doctor or any other relevant specialist;
- c) A report from any bowling rehabilitation centre where the Player has undergone corrective work on his action;
- d) A report from any other assessment undertaken worldwide, including any of the Approved Cricket Centres used for assessing Suspect Bowling Actions.

4.7 The Official Assessment need not involve the detailed analysis as prescribed in the Standard Analysis Protocols but should, as a minimum, involve a genuine effort to assess the legality of the Player's bowling action taking into account the provisions of Law 24.3 and using the experience and technical expertise of the persons appointed to conduct the Official Assessment. Where possible, the Player's bowling action should be reviewed in both a practice and match environment.

4.8 Following the Official Assessment, the Committee will use all reasonable endeavours to submit a summary report in writing of the outcome of the Official Assessment within 48 hours and a full report (the latter being the "Official Assessment Report") within 5 days. Both reports will be issued to the Player, the Player's Team Manager / CEO / COO and MCL.

4.9 The summary report will state that the Committee has concluded that either (a) the Player's Bowling Action contravenes Law 24.2 (as read with Law 24.3) of the Laws of Cricket and therefore the Player remains on the Warning List; or (b) the Player's Bowling Action no longer contravenes Law 24.2 (as read with Law 24.3) of the Laws of Cricket and the Player is Cleared and his name should be removed from the Warning List. The Official Assessment Report will give more detailed analysis supporting the Committee's decision.

4.10 In the event of a Player failing to submit to, or appear at, the Official Assessment (other than due to exceptional circumstances), such failure will be regarded as an admission that he bowls with an Illegal Bowling Action and the Committee will confirm this in their Official Assessment Report.

4.11 The Player / Franchisee shall be responsible for the costs of the Official Assessment (as approved by MCL) which shall include the reasonable accommodation and travel costs of the Committee member(s) appointed to conduct the Official Assessment but shall not include the accommodation and travel costs of the Player.

5 Right of Appeal

No right to Appeal