

Applying the Player Behaviour Law 3A to 6B

Background

Match rule 6 (d) provides for the new law on player behaviour to apply in Divisions 3A to 6B where there is at least one non-playing Qualified Umpire standing. An umpire who has completed both the Stage 1 and Stage 2 courses will be regarded as 'qualified' for the purposes of the match rules.

For the avoidance of doubt neither an unqualified club umpire nor an umpire who has received dispensation nor a player umpire is permitted to apply any aspect of Law 42.

The Law

The law sets out four levels of offence (Levels 1 to 4) and specifies the actions to be taken by the umpires in the event of an offence.

Guidance

1. Two qualified non-playing umpires:

If both umpires are qualified and non-playing then the provisions of law 42 shall be applied.

2. One qualified non-playing umpire:

Where there is only one qualified non-playing umpire if he considers that there has been an offence under law 42 he must take responsibility for applying the law. In particular he must:

- i) Consult with the other umpire in order to confirm the event(s) and explain as necessary the process that will be followed.
- ii) Inform the captain(s) of the offence(s) that have occurred, remind them of their responsibilities for the actions of their players, and follow the applicable course of action set out in the law.

3. No qualified non-playing umpires:

The captains are responsible for the behaviour of the players in their team. Where there are no qualified umpires standing in the match and an incident occurs that may be an offence under law 42 it is the responsibility of the captain(s) of the player(s) concerned to cooperate with the umpires as necessary to deal with the situation in accordance with the law.

In the event that a serious offence occurs that requires the suspension or removal of a player then both captains, cooperating with the umpires as necessary, must use their best efforts to agree the appropriate course of action. A player may only be suspended or removed from the game with the agreement on both captains. The law specifies the following:

Suspension: Intimidating an umpire by language or gesture; threatening to assault a player or any other person at the ground (except an umpire).

Removal: Threatening to assault or making inappropriate and deliberate physical contact with an umpire; physically assaulting a player or any other person at the ground.

Any alleged offence must be reported, by the captains together, under the disciplinary procedures. Action will be taken if the Disciplinary Committee becomes aware of an incident in a match that has not been reported by the captains.