

New playing conditions

Cricket

CRICINFO, Dubai

The changes to the playing conditions for different formats of cricket, which include amendments to Powerplays, DRS, no-balls and bouncers among others, took effect from October 30, when Sri Lanka played New Zealand in a Twenty20 international in Pallekele.

These recommendations were made by the ICC's Cricket Committee in June, and they were endorsed by its Chief Executives Committee later that month.

General changes

DRS (Test and ODIs)

An amendment has been made to the LBW protocols. The margin of uncertainty applicable to the point of impact with the pad has been increased so that it is the same as provided for determining the projected point of impact with the stumps. For example, if the centre of the ball is shown to be impacting in line within an area demarcated by a line drawn down the middle of the outer stumps (and the bottom of the balls), then the decision will always be out.

If the whole of the ball is shown to be impacting outside the line of the stumps, then the decision will always be not out. If there is anything in between, the original on-field decision will stand.

No-balls (All formats)

After every dismissal that is not permitted off a no-ball, and subject to the availability of technology, the third umpire will check for a foot

fault and advise the on-field umpire accordingly over a two-way radio.

Dead ball (All formats)

The playing conditions have been altered to include the use of the Spydercam, a camera that moves over the field on suspended cables, by broadcasters. If the ball, while in play, is hit by the batsman onto the camera or its cables, it will be called a dead ball.

Over-rates (All formats)

The allowances given to the fielding team because of time wasting by the batting team will be deducted from the allowances granted to the batting team in the determination of its over-rate.

Changes for Test matches

Day-night Tests

Participating countries can decide whether to play a day-night Test. The two boards will decide on the hours of play -- six hours per day -- and on the specifics of the ball that will be used.

Intervals

Although the duration of the lunch and tea intervals remain unchanged -- 40 and 20 minutes respectively -- the host team, with the consent of the other side, can apply to the ICC for an approval for intervals of 30 minutes each.

Changes for ODIs

Powerplays and fielding restrictions

There will be only two blocks of Powerplay overs, instead of three. For uninterrupted innings, the first block will be during the first ten overs and only two fielders will be allowed outside the 30-yard circle. The second block, comprising five overs, will be taken by the batting side and must

be completed by the 40th over. Only three fielders will be allowed outside the circle during the second Powerplay.

During non-Powerplay overs, a maximum of four fielders can be placed outside the circle, a reduction from the earlier five.

Short-pitched deliveries

Law 42.6 (a) has been amended to allow the bowler a maximum of two short-pitched deliveries per over in an ODI.

Changes for Twenty20 internationals

One-over per side eliminator

In both innings of the eliminator, the fielding side will choose which end to bowl from. Only nominated players in the main match may participate in the eliminator. Should any player be unable to continue to participate in the eliminator due to injury, illness or other wholly acceptable reasons, the relevant laws and playing conditions as they apply in the main match shall also apply in the eliminator. Any penance time being served in the main match shall be carried forward to the eliminator.

The fielding captain or his nominee shall select the ball with which he wishes to bowl his over in the eliminator from the box of spare balls provided by the umpires. The box will contain the balls used in the main match, but no new balls. The team fielding first in the eliminator shall have first choice of ball. The team fielding second may choose to use the same ball as chosen by the team bowling first. If the ball needs to be changed, then playing conditions as stated for the main match shall apply.



India A batsman Manoj Tiwari plays a delicate late cut as England wicketkeeper Matt Prior looks on during the first day of a three-day practice match at the Cricket Club of India (CCI) in Mumbai yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

Pak Premier League on course

AFP, Karachi

Pakistan cricket authorities insisted Monday that preparations were well on course for a Twenty20 league with international stars in March next year.

The Pakistan Premier League -- devised on the pattern of leagues in India, Australia, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka -- is seen as a key step towards reviving international cricket in the country, suspended since a deadly militant attack on the Sri Lankan team bus in 2009.

The incident prompted international teams to shun tours to Pakistan on security fears, forcing Pakistan to play their home series at neutral venues in the United Arab Emirates, England and New Zealand.

Bangladesh

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two wickets and scored 25 runs, was declared the player of the match

Pakistan now face arch-rivals India in the finals today. This will be the second time that the Asian giants will meet in this tournament. In the previous game, India defeated Pakistan by 8 wickets to top Group A. While Pakistan will be aiming for revenge, India will hope to continue their good run.

SCORES IN BRIEF

BANGLADESH: 82 for 7 in 20 overs (Farzana 28, Shuktara 16; Nida Dar 2/13)
PAKISTAN: 83 for 4 in 17.4 overs. (Bismah Maroof 27 not out, Nida 25; Shuktara 1/18)
Result: Pakistan won by 6 wickets.

Day-night

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regarded as suitable for playing at night, because it is not as visible as it is during the day, the white ball used in One Day Internationals was not durable enough for Tests, he added.

Experiments have included playing with pink, orange and yellow balls.

'Eng ready to defy odds'

Cricket

AFP, Mumbai

England's new Test captain Alastair Cook said on Monday his team was determined to defy history and win a Test series in India for the first time in 27 years.

England last won a series on Indian soil way back in 1985 when David Gower's men came from behind after losing the first Test to win 2-1, but Cook said the upcoming four-match series will be keenly fought.

"This is undoubtedly a huge challenge for us," Cook told reporters after the squad arrived in Mumbai for the double-leg tour which also includes two Twenty20 games and five one-day internationals.

"History suggests it is hard to win in India. After all we have not won a series here in almost 30 years.

"But we have a great squad determined to do well. We are aware of the challenges and look forward to the series.

"It is going to be a huge series because it is between two very good sides. Both sides have world-class players and whoever handles the conditions better will win."

Cook, 27, took over as skipper after Andrew Strauss retired at the end of the last home series against South Africa, which the tourists won 2-0 to take over from England as the top-ranked Test side.

The Essex opener has previously led England in two Tests in Bangladesh in 2010 when Strauss chose to rest, but the India series will be his first as a full-time captain.

It was in India in 2006 that Cook made a memorable Test debut, scoring 60 and an unbeaten 104 in Nagpur after being flown in from the A tour of the West Indies to replace Marcus Trescothick.

"I have some very good memories of India," he said. "It is a great place to play cricket and there is a lot of passion for the game here.

"I look forward to doing well here but all of us will have to contribute with bat and ball if we are going to win."

England will face a home team keen to make amends for the humiliating 4-0 defeat in England last year that dethroned Mahendra Singh Dhoni's men as the number one Test side.

Cook wanted his team to prepare for the Test series, which opens in Ahmedabad on November 15, by winning the three preceding warm-up matches.

"There is no better way to prepare than win these matches," he said. "They are not merely warm-up games, they are first-class matches. We need to get used to the conditions as early as possible."

The first warm-up match against India A starts at the Brabourne Stadium in Mumbai on Tuesday. This will be followed by another three-day fixture in Mumbai and a four-day game in Ahmedabad.

The four back-to-back Tests will be held in Ahmedabad, Mumbai, Kolkata and Nagpur.

The tourists, who will also play two Twenty20 matches after the Tests, will go home for Christmas before returning in the New Year for a five-match one-day series.

Indian govt clears

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security and logistical issues.

"We have discussed all security aspects. The tour is on," he told reporters here.

Apart from the security issues, the Home Ministry also gives visa clearance to Pakistani spectators. Several top Pakistani dignitaries are expected to visit India to watch the cricket matches.

The series would comprise three ODIs and two Twenty20 Internationals between December 2012 and January 2013. The ODI matches are likely to be played in Chennai, Kolkata and New Delhi and the Twenty20 games in Bangalore and Ahmedabad.

In July, the BCCI had decided to resume cricketing ties with Pakistan by inviting the neighbouring country for a short series in December 2012-January

2013, to be sandwiched between the Test and ODI legs of the England team's tour of India.

The arch-rivals have not played a bilateral series since Pakistan's tour of India in 2007 after cricket ties were snapped following the 2008 Mumbai terror attacks.

Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and his then Pakistani counterpart Yousuf Raza Gilani had watched the high-profile World Cup semifinal in Mohali last year.

Season starts

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The 37 players in the preliminary national squad includes 20 booters from the Under-23 side but three of them are yet to report as their club Sheikh Russell Krira Chakra declined to release them. The BFF are optimistic about resolving the issue soon.

Rajib takes

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Al Rakib followed the leader along with five other players with five points each.

GM Ziaur Rahman and IM Abu Sufian Shakil earned 4.5 points each, sharing third position along with eleven other players.

GM Niaz Murshed, FM Taibur Rahman and WIM Shamina Akter Liza earned 4 points each after the sixth round games.

In the other sixth round games, Rakib beat Utkal Ranjan Sahoo of India, Zia beat FM Sayantan Das of India, Parag lost to GM Davit G Petrosian of Armenia, Niaz drew with IM Murali Krishnan of India, Taibur drew with IM Karthikeyan of India, Shakil beat Abhilash Reddy of India, Debaraj lost to GM Gevorg Harutjunyan of Armenia, Nasir drew with Yogesh Gautam of India, Liza beat Trinadh Virothi of India, Sagar beat Toshali of India.

Haddin not surprised

INTERNET, Sydney

Wicketkeeper Brad

Haddin was not surprised by his failure to win back a place in the Australia squad.

Matthew Wade was chosen to wear the gloves for next week's first Test against South Africa in Brisbane and, at 35, Haddin's international career may now be at an end. The New South Welshman, who stood down from the Australia side earlier this year to be with his seriously ill daughter, says he is at peace with the situation.

Cox City

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consulting with the disciplinary committee while they considered every argument of the club.

He also said that the punishment could have been more lenient had the club informed BFF about their limitations rather than waiting for the governing body to contact them.

"Yes we and the disciplinary committee considered their problems but they could have informed us of the issue earlier. We could have replaced them with some other club in that case," said Salam.

The BFF however decided to consider all of the club's registered players as free agents and they are now allowed to join any other club. The BFF also decided to stop all kinds of donations for Cox City FC.

England toil on Day 1

Cricket

AFP, Mumbai

Paceman Steven Finn limped off the field with a thigh injury as England's bowlers struggled on the opening day of their Indian tour in Mumbai on Tuesday.

The tourists were kept on the field for the entire first day's play as India A, lifted by Manoj Tiwari's impressive 93, scored 369-9 in the three-day practice match at the Brabourne Stadium.

The lanky Finn, regarded as a certainty for the four-Test series starting in Ahmedabad on November 15, bowled four overs within the first hour before being confined to the dressing room for the rest of the day.

Finn is expected to have a scan to determine the cause of the discomfort in his right leg, but his absence from the field cost the tourists dearly.

The bowlers wilted under the hot sun as Tiwary and Irfan Pathan (46) put on 110 for the seventh wicket to build on sparkling half-centuries from opener Abhinav Mukund and Yuvraj Singh.

Tiwary, who turns 27 next month, put himself into Test reckoning after eight one-day appearances as he and Pathan helped the hosts recover from 186-6 in the

post-lunch session.

Tim Bresnan bowled Tiwary and Ashok Dinda off successive balls, but Vinay Kumar hit an unbeaten 25 to boost the total.

Mukund survived a confident shout for leg-before from James Anderson off the fourth ball of the match to hammer 16 boundaries in an aggressive 73 off 83 balls.

Yuvraj, dropped first ball at square leg by Samit Patel, hit 59 to enhance his claims for a Test comeback after being treated for germ-cell cancer between his lungs earlier this year.

The left-hander smashed seven boundaries and four sixes in front of the national selectors, who will meet on November 5 to pick the squad for Ahmedabad.

Yuvraj played the last of his 37 Tests in November last year and hit a double-century on his return to first-class cricket earlier this month.

Off-spinner Graeme Swann and Bresnan finished with three wickets each, but Patel's 20 overs of left-arm spin cost 95 runs.

SCORES IN BRIEF

INDIA A: First innings 369-9 (Mukund 73, Yuvraj 59, Tiwary 93, Pathan 46; Swann 3-90, Bresnan 3-59)

Tendulkar will get

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former Australia wicketkeeper, who said that blips in form are unavoidable in a long career like Tendulkar's.

"If you are up for 23 years, at some point of time there will be troughs. I am sure he is aware that he is not at the peak of his career and it is up to him to decide [on his retirement]."

He also joined in the controversy over Tendulkar being named for the Order of Australia award. There has been some criticism of the announcement of the award, made by Australian Prime Minister Julia Gillard during her visit to India two weeks ago, but Gilchrist was in favour.

"He is a true champion, fantastic for the game and the [Order of Australia] award indicates his high standing in both countries. I sent him a message welcoming him to the club and got a quick reply. We are fortunate to have him," he said. Gilchrist was in Mumbai to launch a scholarship in honour of Donald Bradman for Indian students in the University of Wollongong.

Djokovic to end year as number one

REUTERS, Paris

Novak Djokovic will move above Roger Federer to number one in the world rankings next week and is guaranteed to retain the top spot until the end of the year, the ATP Tour said.

The Serbian, who lost the top spot to Federer in July, will be the first player to top the men's singles rankings at the end of consecutive seasons since the Swiss did it four times from 2004 to 2007.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 Vim and vigor
4 Go by
8 Blueprint
12 Glass of NPR
13 Between jobs
14 Top-rated
15 Unreasonably suspicious
17 Deteriorates
18 Clumsy ship
19 Protective wall
21 Not quite boil
24 Greek consonants
25 Past
26 Two, in Tijuana
28 Sulked
32 First course, maybe
34 "Golden Girl" Arthur
36 Volcanic flow
37 First Little Pig's material
39 Blond shade
41 Prot. or Cath.
42 Disen-cumber
44 Expedition
46 Ideal
50 Tatter
51 — out (supple-mented)
52 Toxic herbicide
56 Missile shelter
57 Ostriches' kin
58 Bristle
59 Black quartz
60 Longings
61 Still
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21 Back talk
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23 Plagiarize stat
27 Red or Black
29 Land-locked country
30 Always
31 Limp-watch painter
33 Seeming contradiction
35 Donkey
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40 Bother repeatedly
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45 Online help pg.
46 Mexican money
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CRYPTOQUIP

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Yesterday's Cryptoquip: THAT UNKIND KITTY
SIMPLY WILL NOT ALLOW ANYONE TO STROKE
HIM. I'D SAY HE'S REALLY IM-PET-UOUS.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: S equals H