

DECISION MAKING - LBW

Law 36 LEG BEFORE WICKET

1. Out LBW

The striker is out LBW in the circumstances set out below.

- (a) the bowler delivers a ball, not being a no ball
- and (b) the ball, if it is not intercepted full pitch, pitches in line between wicket and wicket or on the off side of the striker's wicket.
- and (c) the ball not having previously touched his bat, the striker intercepts the ball, either full pitch or after pitching, with any part of his person
- and (d) the point of impact, even if above the level of the bails
 - either (i) is between wicket and wicket
 - (ii) is either between wicket and wicket or outside the line of the off stump, if the striker has made no genuine attempt to play the ball with his bat
- and (e) but for the interception, the ball would have hit the wicket

2. Interception of the ball

- (a) In assessing points (c), (d) and (e) in 1 above, only the first interception is to be considered.
- (b) In assessing point (e) in 1 above, it is to be assumed that the path of the ball before interception would have continued after interception, irrespective of whether the ball might have pitched subsequently or not.

3. Off side of the wicket

The off side of the striker's wicket shall be determined by the striker's stance at the moment the ball comes in to play for that delivery.

DECISION MAKING

You have about 2 or 3 seconds to consider all the evidence and make a considered decision.
(You should not be any quicker or slower)

THE BATSMAN MUST ALWAYS GET THE BENEFIT OF THE DOUBT

When you are considering an LBW appeal you must take in to account the evidence presented on each occasion. Be **CONSISTENT**, tough but fair.

Some of the matters for consideration are: -

Bowlers:

- The point of delivery. Assess the angles
- Wide on the crease or close to the stumps
- Over or around the wicket
- Left or right arm to a right or left handed batsman

Batsman:

- Stance, well forward, just forward, on or behind the popping crease
- Movement either forward or back to play the ball
- His movement after the ball has struck his person
- Playing a shot or not
- Right or left handed facing a right or left handed bowler

General:

- Assess the angle of delivery and subsequent trajectory.
- Did the ball deviate/straighten? Movement of 1inch (per foot) over 9 feet, if the ball is intercepted at the protected area marking, is sufficient for the ball to deviate the width of the stumps.
- Did the ball pitch? or where did the ball pitch? (outside off/ in line/outside leg)
- Was there any spin, bounce, swing or seam?
- What did the ball first strike? (bat or person)
- The position of the batsman when first struck (forward/back/on crease etc)

WERE ALL THE ASPECTS OF THE LBW LAW SATISFIED?

Techniques:

- Read and re read the Law until you fully understand it.
- Assess all appeals on merit.
- Do not be swayed by the strength of an appeal.
- When at square leg assist your colleague if the striker is taking stance in front of the crease. A simple unobtrusive signal will suffice.
- Determine the angles based on the delivery point
- Concentrate on the ball once delivered to determine where it pitched, what it struck first, where it struck the batsman, spin, bounce, swing etc. Was it hitting the stumps?
- Use your experience of cricket and the day (state of the pitch etc) to make your judgement.
- Do not give them out just because they are close!!
- Give them out if they are there.
- Apply the Law consistently without fear or favour.

Be consistent with your application of the Law.

Do not give them easily (tough but fair).

LBW should not be the primary form of dismissal in a match.

If you are consistent and are seen to be giving LBW appeals due consideration, you will generally find that the captains and players will be more respectful of your decisions.

The previously mentioned judgements and techniques can be shortened to the following acronym that will assist you in making your judgement within the proposed 2 or 3 second time frame.

- P** Where did the ball PITCH?
I Where was the first point of INTERCEPTION?
P Did the ball strike the PERSON first?
S Was the ball definitely going to hit the STUMPS?

The answers to the above questions must all be yes to satisfy the law in full and give an out decision.

BE CONSISTENT AT ALL TIMES

THE BATSMAN MUST GET THE BENEFIT IF THERE IS ANY DOUBT!!

GENERAL TECHNIQUES

- . Wait for the appeal to subside before answering
- . Maintain your position when answering appeals
- . Show due consideration (silent count - 1..2..3..)
- . May notice additional evidence (batsman walking, fielder disclaims catch...)
- . You appear in control
- . Respond confidently with a raised finger or a clear not out call (never just a nod or shake of the head alone)
- . Don't give decisions on the run
- . Try to be stationary and properly positioned for run outs
- . Don't show emotion when answering appeals
- . Keep your head up after decision is made
- . Shows confidence
- . Don't avoid eye contact with fielding side after a not out decision
- . Be prepared to look batsman in the eye after an out decision
- . Consult with colleague if necessary (low catches etc)
- . Maintain decorum and concentration if there is a perception that you have made a wrong decision
- . Never attempt to justify your decision
- . Don't enter in to discussions about decisions
- . Never "square up" (no beer shouts after play)
- . Don't guess, adjudicate on the evidence

DECISION MAKING MATRIX

LBW

(Based on a presentation from Dick Mack, Umpires' Advisor Castlemaine District Cricket Association)

ACCOUNTS FOR ABOUT 65% OF ALL APPEALS

The umpire must apply the following process:

