MCC 2017 Laws / NoSCA 2018 Playing Conditions - Clarifications

The following document is offered as simplified guidance to the changes introduced by the new MCC Laws of Cricket 2017 and the NoSCA Playing Conditions 2018 for adult hardball cricket. It is NOT intended as a substitute for these documents.

1. **Fitness for Play** - if one Umpire now considers that conditions are dangerous or unreasonable then play will be suspended. Similarly, both umpires must agree that conditions are safe for play to resume.

2. **No Ball for height (non-pitching deliveries or 'beamers')**:
   a. Any ball which passes (or would have passed) above the waist of a batter when standing at the crease is a No Ball.
   b. This is judged by the strikers end umpire, who should signal to the bowlers-end umpire for them to call and signal 'No Ball' and issue a first and final warning to the bowler, the fielding captain and the batters. [1]
   c. A second No Ball for height by the same bowler in the same innings results in a second 'No Ball' and the removal of the bowler from the attack for the duration of the innings. [1]

3. **Short-pitched deliveries (bouncers)**:
   a. A delivery which, after pitching, passes <u>over the head</u> of the batter standing upright at the crease should be called and signalled 'No Ball' (<u>NOT</u> a 'Wide Ball')
   b. A bowler is allowed a maximum of 2 short pitched deliveries (over shoulder height of the batter standing upright at the crease) per over. Subsequent short-pitched deliveries in the same over will be called and signalled 'No Ball'.

4. **Double bounce** - a delivery which bounces more than once before reaching the batter's popping crease shall be called and signalled 'No Ball'.[2]

5. **Breaking the wicket at the non-striker's end** - if a bowler breaks the wicket at the non-strikers end in their delivery stride it will be called and signalled 'No Ball' (no change from 2017).

6. **The Protected Area** (12" either side of middle stump and 5' in front of each popping crease)
   a. Bowlers must not enter the 'protected area' in their follow through, unless fielding the ball.
   b. Batters may not take their guard so far out of their crease as to be likely (in the umpire's opinion) to encroach into the 'protected area'.
   c. Encroachment into the 'protected area' applies to both grass and artificial wickets alike.

7. **'Run Out' at the bowler's end**:
   a. A batter can be run out as soon as the ball becomes live (i.e. at the start of the bowlers run up).
   b. A bowler may now 'Run Out' a batter at the bowler's end up until the point in their action where they may be expected to release the ball (i.e. at the top of their delivery swing).

8. **Runners:**
   a. A runner will be allowed so long as the umpires are satisfied that the injury affects the batters ability to run **and** that the injury occurred during the game.
   b. If possible, the appointed runner should have already batted during the game.
   c. If a batter's runner at the striker's end leaves their ground early the umpires will call dead ball and 5 penalty runs will be awarded to the fielding side with no runs scored to the batting side.

9. **Helmets** – are now just another part of the player's kit. Therefore a batter may be dismissed caught, stumped or run-out off a ball which either deflects off or lodges in a fielder's helmet.

10. **Penalty Time**:
    a. Penalty Time is limited to 90 minutes maximum but does <u>NOT</u> apply to a batter arriving late for a match.
    b. There is now no 'grace time' – e.g. a bowler or fielder leaving the field for one over must wait the equivalent amount of time after returning to the field before they can bowl again.
    c. A fielder arriving late must wait the equivalent amount of time after arriving on the field before they can bowl or bat (see below).
    d. Unspent penalty time carries over into the batting innings (e.g. a fielder arrives 90 minutes late but the innings is over in 2 hours. That player may not bat for 60 minutes into his side's innings (or until 5 wickets have fallen)).
    e. Penalty Time is NOT incurred by a player who sustains an external injury during a game, nor by players leaving the field of play due to a pre-existing medical illness (e.g. diabetes, etc.) informed to the umpires and opposition captain before the start of play.

11. **Timed Out** – the incoming batter must be ready to receive the next delivery within 3 minutes of the fall of the wicket (90 seconds for T20 games). Failure to be ready will result in the batter being 'Timed Out' on appeal.

12. **Deliberate Distraction** – the Law previously allowed for a first and final warning but this has been removed and five penalty runs will be awarded for the first and each subsequent offence.

13. **Mock Fielding** – as per the above, five penalty runs will be awarded for the first and each subsequent offence.

14. **Extras off No Balls** - the way that No Balls which also result in Byes or Leg-Byes are entered into the scorebook has changed. A No Ball off which Byes or Wides are scored is entered into the scorebook as one No Ball against the bowler plus the relevant number of Byes or Leg-Byes.

15. **Handled Ball** no longer exists – it is now included in Obstructing the Field. Batters should be aware that they should **NOT** pick up the ball unless clearly and audibly requested to by the fielding side.

16. **Maximum bat sizes** - As per ECB directives, this new law is NOT enforced in 2018.

17. **Tethered Bails** - any club wishing to use tethered bails in a NoSCA match MUST obtain prior approval from the Exec before doing so.

18. **Players Conduct –** the on-field sanctions detailed in the new Law 42 (penalty runs, suspensions, etc.) are **ONLY** available to umpires appointed by NoSCA/ESCOA. However, all such offences are to be notified to the League Secretary.

(1) Junior players in Reserve Competitions are allowed a second (and final) warning for high, non-pitching deliveries, but will be removed from the attack after a third instance (as per the old Law).

(2) Junior players in Reserve Competitions are allowed two bounces before a No Ball is called (as per the old Law).