

# South Canterbury Cricket Umpires & Scorers Association

## Players leaving the field & returning

### A brief explanation

There are occasions when umpires need to explain to players some of the provisions of the Laws of Cricket.

**Law 1** requires that each team must be nominated in writing to the umpires before the toss. This confirms the number of players in each side – usually eleven.

Thus the umpires are officially informed of who the players are in the match.

When fielding ALL the nominated players of the fielding side must be on the field.

However, players may leave the field provided some provisions are observed.

**Law 2** requires the captain or the player concerned to inform the bowler's end umpire of this; giving the reason why the player is leaving.

If one of the nominated players fails to take the field at the start of the match or after an interval, the captain must inform the umpire; giving an explanation for the absence.

The umpire does not have the right to prevent the player from leaving the field, but he must record the time and the reason this occurs; this to enable him to decide if a substitute player is permitted.

A substitute is NOT permitted if a player:

- Wishes to change an item of clothing, or
- To have a 'comfort stop'.

The umpire has the sole discretion to permit a substitute for a wholly acceptable reason, other than the above, to permit a substitute to act for the absent player, but that substitute is not permitted to Bat, Bowl, Keep-wicket or act as the Captain.

What happens when an absent fielder seeks to return?

He no longer has to wait until the end of the over and can return, by invitation only from the bowler's end umpire when the ball is dead. The player must take his place on the field and without undue delay thus ensuring time is not wasted.

If a player is absent for more than 15 minutes, he must use up his '**away time**' before he may bowl again in the innings. If the absence is for less than 15 minutes, no restriction applies.

**Note:** the playing conditions of **ICC, NZC, SCC** and many others have reduced this time to 8 minutes – the provisions of Law and restriction above, being reduced accordingly.  
(Other restrictions apply if there is a change of innings during a player's absence)

What happens if a player returns to the field without the umpire being informed?

If any player breaches this provision and he comes in contact with the ball-in-play, the umpire must act.

The ball becomes immediately dead and all runs scored of that delivery are scored including the run in progress if the batsmen have crossed.

That ball is not counted as a ball of the over and must be re-bowled.

**5 Penalty runs** are awarded to the batting side.

**Report** the matter to the Governing body who may take action against the offender concerned.

**South Canterbury Cricket** does not permit player/umpires to award Penalty runs for this offence.