DOUBTFUL BOWLING ACTION POLICY

1 INTRODUCTION

Law 21 (No Ball) states in part as follows:

Law 21.2 Fair delivery – the arm

For a delivery to be fair in respect of the arm the ball must not be thrown. See 3 below.

Although it is the primary responsibility of the striker's end umpire to ensure the fairness of a delivery in this respect, there is nothing in this Law to prevent the bowler's end umpire from calling and signalling No ball if the umpire considers that the ball has been thrown.

a) If, in the opinion of either umpire, the ball has been thrown, the umpire shall call and signal No ball and, when the ball is dead, inform the other umpire of the reason for the call.

The bowler's end umpire shall then,

(i) Caution the bowler. This caution shall apply throughout the innings.
(ii) Inform the captain of the fielding side of the reason for this action.
(iii) Inform the batters at the wicket of what has occurred.

b) If, after such caution, either umpire considers that, in that innings, a further delivery by the same bowler is thrown, the procedure set out in (a) above shall be repeated, indicating to the bowler that this is a final warning.

This warning shall also apply throughout the innings.

c) If either umpire considers that, in that innings, a further delivery by the same bowler is thrown, the umpire shall call and signal No ball and when the ball is dead inform the other umpire of the reason for the call.

The bowler's end umpire shall then,

(i) Direct the captain of the fielding side to suspend the bowler forthwith. The over shall, if applicable, be completed by another bowler, who shall neither have bowled the previous over or part thereof nor be allowed to bowl any part of the next over.

The bowler thus suspended shall not bowl again in that innings.

(ii) Inform the batters at the wicket and, as soon as practicable, the captain of the batting side of the occurrence.

d) The umpires together shall report the occurrence as soon as possible after the match to a representative of the fielding side and to any Governing Body responsible for the match, who shall take such action as is considered appropriate against the captain and the bowler concerned.

DOUBTFUL BOWLING POLICY

Law 21 Definition of fair delivery – the arm

A ball is fairly delivered in respect of the arm if, once the bowler's arm has reached the level of the shoulder in the delivery swing, the elbow joint is not straightened partially or, completely from that point until the ball has left the hand. This definition shall not prevent a bowler from flexing or rotating the wrist in the delivery swing.

The International Cricket Council and Cricket Australia have procedures relating to the above Law's application. It is appropriate that the Country Cricket NSW also develops, promotes and applies a procedure for application in its own competitions. Such a procedure should be in the best interests of both the player, and the competition as a whole.

2 OBJECTIVES

a) To ensure that every bowler playing in a CCNSW competition has a delivery action that complies with Law 21.

b) To assist any bowler with an "illegal" action to comply with Law 21.

3 APPLICATION

This procedure shall automatically apply in the event that as follows:

a) A CCNSW-appointed umpire formally "reports" to the Country Cricket NSW a player who has bowled what the umpire considers to be a clearly "illegal" delivery in breach of Law 21, two times during the same innings; and/or

b) Two different Country Cricket NSW appointed umpires, during at least two different matches during any 12-month period, each formally "mention" to the Country Cricket NSW a player who has bowled what each umpire considers to be one "illegal" or "doubtful" delivery during a match.

In forming an opinion as to whether a bowler's delivery is clearly "illegal", or is "doubtful", an umpire shall be guided by Law 21.

Country Cricket NSW particularly notes that under the provisions of Law 21, an umpire must call and signal "no ball" for each delivery that, in the umpire's opinion, a bowler has delivered "illegally."

4 REVIEW PROCESS

4.1 Report to Country Cricket NSW

a) Following a match, an umpire shall formally "report" or "mention" to the Country Cricket NSW any "illegal" or "doubtful" delivery by a bowler. The umpire shall provide as much written information as possible regarding the timing, circumstances and nature of any such delivery.

b) An umpire must advise the player's Zone, as Law 21 requires.

c) The Country Cricket NSW shall immediately provide the player's Zone with a copy of each such "report" or "mention".

d) Upon the Country Cricket NSW receipt of one "report" or two "mentions", that player shall not bowl again in an Country Cricket NSW competition match, for a period of one month.

e) Following that one-month period, a player may re-commence bowling in Country Cricket NSW matches until such time as he has accumulated another "report" or a further two "mentions."

f) Upon the Country Cricket NSW receipt of a second "report" or a further two "mentions", that player shall not bowl again in an Country Cricket NSW competition match, for a period of three months.

g) Following that three-month period, a player may re-commence bowling in Country Cricket NSW matches until such time as he has accumulated another "report" or a further two "mentions."

h) Upon the Country Cricket NSW receipt of a third "report" or a further two "mentions", that player shall not bowl again in an Country Cricket NSW competition match, for a period of 12 months.

4.2 Notes to Process

a) Law 21 makes officiating umpires solely responsible, on a delivery-by-delivery basis, for the determination of each individual delivery's fairness during a match.

b) Accordingly, there is no limit on the number of times that an umpire may provide the Country Cricket NSW with a "report" or "mention" for the same player, or on the number of times that an umpire may "no-ball" the same bowler during a match, except as limited by Law 21.

c) Neither the Country Cricket NSW nor any other person or body can certify that a player has a permanently "fair" bowling action, on the basis of an assessment of a bowler's delivery action.

d) Country Cricket NSW cannot undertake biomechanical analysis of a bowler's delivery action, such as the ICC or CA would undertake in corresponding circumstances.

e) By continuing to bowl with an "illegal" action", a player delays the process of rendering that action "fair", and thereby satisfying the provisions of Law 21.

f) Accordingly, the Country Cricket NSW strongly encourages a player's club, during any period in which that player is not permitted to bowl, to assist the player by all means possible to develop a delivery action that is more likely to, in the opinion of umpires, comply with the provisions of Law 21.

g) The Country Cricket NSW will prepare, and regularly update, a register of "reports" and "mentions" of bowlers arising from Law 21. The CCNSW will provide the NSWCUSA with a copy of that updated register, following each such update.

h) A player has no right of appeal to any course of action by an umpire or the Country Cricket NSW relating to this procedure, other than on a point of law.