



TATA WPL Suspected Illegal Bowling Action Policy – 2024

Definitions – In this WPL Suspected Illegal Bowling Action Policy (“Policy”), the following words and phrases have the following meanings:

BCCI. The Board of Control for Cricket in India.

BCCI CEO. The person appointed by BCCI from time to time to act as Chief Executive Officer of the BCCI (or his/her designee) including any interim Chief Executive Officer.

Cleared. The outcome, following an Official Assessment, when the Official Assessment Report states that the Player’s bowling action no longer contravenes Law 21.2 (as read with Law 21.3) of the Laws of Cricket. For the avoidance of doubt, the fact that a bowling action may be Cleared (i) does not mean that the relevant Player may not be called by an umpire under paragraph 1.4, the subject of a Report under paragraph 2.3 or subject to a further assessment of her bowling action under this Policy during the same or any subsequent Season (or under any other such policy in relation to any other tournament), and/or (ii) will not prevent the Committee from determining that the Player has an Illegal Bowling Action under this Policy in the same or any subsequent Season.

Committee. The BCCI Suspect Bowling Action Committee, as the same may change from time to time.

Franchisee. An entity which owns and operates a Team.

ICC. The International Cricket Council.

ICC Approved Cricket Centres. The sports science centres accredited by the ICC to conduct 3D biomechanics analysis of the bowling action of cricketers, being, as of date, the SRASSC and the centres located in Loughborough and Cardiff, United Kingdom, Brisbane, Australia and Pretoria, South Africa.

ICC Member Authority. Any full or associate member of the ICC from time to time.

Illegal Bowling Action. A bowling action which contravenes Law 21.2 (as read with Law 21.3) of the Laws of Cricket.

Laws of Cricket. The Laws of Cricket (2017 Code (2nd edition - 2019)) or such further revisions thereof as may come into force from time to time under an ICC regulation or as adopted by the Marylebone Cricket Club, and “Law” shall be construed accordingly.

League. The Twenty20 cricket league (known at the date of adoption of this policy as the Women’s Premier League) which has been established by BCCI and which shall take place in February/March of each year (or such other time as may be determined by the BCCI at its sole and absolute discretion).

Match. Any cricket match (including any part or aspect thereof) in the League including the Playoff Matches.

Match Officials. The group comprising the Match Referee and all Umpires for the relevant Match.

Match Referee. The person appointed by the BCCI as the official match referee for a Match.

National Cricket Board. A national or regional entity which is a member of the ICC or is recognised by the ICC as the entity governing the sport of cricket in a country (or collective group of countries associated for cricket purposes).

Official Assessment. Either (i) an assessment undertaken by the Committee to determine the legitimacy of a Player's bowling action under paragraph 4 or, where appropriate, (ii) an equivalent assessment undertaken by an ICC Approved Cricket Centre other than SRASSC and in each such case the report published by the Committee or ICC Approved Cricket Centre following any such Official Assessment shall be the **Official Assessment Report**.

Player. Any cricketer who is selected to represent a Franchisee in any Match or who forms part of such Franchisee's squad of players.

Playoff Match. The Matches which take place at the end of the Season to determine the winner, runner-up and third placed teams of the League for the relevant Season.

Policy. This WPL Suspected Illegal Bowling Action Policy.

Report. As defined in paragraph 2.1.

Season. In each year, the period of time during which the League shall take place.

SRASSC. The Sri Ramachandra Arthroscopy and Sports Sciences Centre in Chennai.

Team. Any team participating in the League from time to time.

Team Manager. The person appointed by the Franchisee from time to time as the manager of the Team.

Venue Manager ("VM"). The person appointed at each Match to liaise with Match Officials with regard to the operation of each relevant Match.

Umpire(s). The umpire(s) appointed by the BCCI for the relevant Match.

Warning List. In respect of each Season a list of Players whose names are either on the Warning List circulated before the start of such Season or who are Reported during such Season (and in such latter case who were not on the Warning List circulated before the start of such Season) and in either case, whose bowling actions have not been subsequently Cleared.

1 Introduction

1.1 This Policy is effective from February 1, 2024 and details the process for dealing with a Player who is called by an Umpire for throwing in accordance with Law 21.2 or is suspected by the Umpire(s) and/or Match Referee for bowling with an Illegal Bowling Action in a Match.

1.2 Nothing contained herein shall override an Umpire's responsibility and discretion to apply Law 21, which Umpires are urged to apply with vigilance.

1.3 The Umpires and Match Referee, in deciding whether to report a Player under this Policy, should use the naked eye for viewing the relevant Player's bowling action during the Match – either live or on television at normal speed. Slow motion video footage or other technological support should only be used to confirm initial suspicions.

1.4 If a Player is called by an Umpire for throwing in accordance with Law 21.2 or is suspected by an Umpire and/or Match Referee for bowling with an Illegal Bowling Action during a Match, the procedures set out in this Policy shall apply.

1.5 Thirty (30) days or more before the start of each Season, BCCI will circulate to all Match Officials and the relevant Franchisees a list of Players who (a) either were on the Warning List at any time in the previous Season and/or (b) have been reported in cricket organised by the BCCI (other than the League) or the ICC for a suspected Illegal Bowling Action and in either case whose bowling actions have not been Cleared (and such list shall be the “**Warning List**” at the start of such Season). The Warning List will include those Players for whom only a specific delivery (e.g. the bouncer or the faster ball) has been banned.

Note: Where a Player is Reported during a Match and is subsequently banned from bowling in Matches then for the purposes of this Policy, she can only be Cleared following an Official Assessment Report published by the Committee.

1.6 Any Player suspended from bowling by the ICC or any ICC Member Authority shall not be allowed to bowl in Matches until such date as her bowling action has been Cleared.

2 Reporting procedure

2.1 At the conclusion of any Match, where a Player has been called for throwing or is suspected of bowling with an Illegal Bowling Action under paragraph 1.4, the Match Officials shall meet to discuss the action of the Player who has been called or whose action has raised suspicion. During this post Match meeting, it is expected, although not a requirement, that the Match Officials will watch TV replays and/or slow motion replays to assist the Match Referee to determine whether or not he/she should write a report detailing his/her concerns about the Player’s bowling action (a “**Report**” and “**Reported**” and “**Reporting**” shall be construed accordingly). The Report shall be in the form prescribed by BCCI from time to time.

2.2 If at the meeting referred to in paragraph 2.1 there is disagreement amongst the Match Officials regarding the Player’s bowling action, any member of the Match Officials’ group may make a written submission to the Match Referee detailing his/her concern about the Player’s bowling action, including, where relevant, whether those concerns relate to the Player’s bowling action generally and/or whether they relate to one or more specific types of delivery. The Match Referee shall decide in his/her absolute discretion whether to make a Report in such circumstances.

2.3 If the Match Referee has concerns about the Player’s bowling at the conclusion of the Match Officials’ meeting referred to in paragraph 2.1, the Match Referee shall write a Report, including, where relevant, whether those concerns relate to the Player’s bowling action generally and/or whether they relate to one or more specific types of delivery.

2.4 If a Report is made in respect of a Player under paragraph 2.3 then as soon as practicable the Match Referee shall give a copy of such Report to the BCCI. For expediency, such Report may be handed over to the Venue Manager for the Match, who will deliver the Report to the BCCI CEO. BCCI will as soon as practicable provide a copy of the Report to the Player’s Team Manager.

2.5 If a Player’s Team Manager has left the ground prior to a Report relating to such Player being available, BCCI shall attempt to make contact with the relevant Player’s Team Manager to inform her of the Report and will use all reasonable endeavours to ensure that it is provided to such Player’s Team Manager as soon as is practically possible.

2.6 BCCI will arrange for a copy of the available television footage of the Player’s bowling action from the Match to be produced and made available to the Player and Player’s Team Manager, as soon as practically possible.

2.7 Upon receipt of the Report from the Match Referee, BCCI CEO shall write to the Committee confirming that the Player has been Reported, enclosing a copy of the Report and the television footage of the Player’s bowling action from the Match.

- 2.8 As soon as practicable once the Player's Team Manager has been sent a copy of the Report, BCCI shall make a media statement to the effect that the Player has been Reported.
- 2.9 BCCI shall send all Match Referees and those Umpires who are to officiate in subsequent Matches involving a Reported Player, the relevant Report and the television footage.

3 Post Report Procedure

- 3.1 BCCI will circulate the Warning List to all Match Officials and Franchisees from time to time during the Season as it is updated as Players are Reported or Cleared.
- 3.2 BCCI recommends that any Player who is banned from bowling in Matches pursuant to paragraph 1.6 or who is on the Warning List should undergo a course of bowling rehabilitation and/or corrective measures taken to ensure that the Player's bowling action does not contravene Law 21. In order to assist this process, it is recommended that BCCI facilitate an initial 3D biomechanical analysis of the bowler's action at the SRASSC or another ICC Approved Cricket Centre.
- 3.3 While on the Warning List, the Player may continue to be selected to play for her Team in a Match and may bowl in any Match.
- 3.4 If a Player receives a Report while on the Warning List, the Player shall be suspended from bowling in any matches organised by the BCCI until such date as her bowling action is Cleared. A Player suspended from bowling may continue to be selected to play in Matches; however, she will not be entitled to bowl.
- 3.5 In the event that a Player is suspended from bowling under this Policy, BCCI will, in writing, inform the Player, the Player's Team Manager, the relevant Franchisee, all Match Officials officiating during the Season and the relevant National Cricket Board (if she is an overseas player) or the state cricket association (if she is an Indian player) with which the Player is registered.
- 3.6 BCCI shall, following the suspension of any Player under this Policy, make a media statement as soon as practicable to the effect that the Player has been suspended from bowling.

4 Official Assessment

- 4.1 Any Player (i) whose name is on the Warning List or (ii) who is banned from bowling in Matches pursuant to paragraph 1.6 may request an Official Assessment.
- 4.2 Before a Player can request an Official Assessment, she is required to visit one of the ICC Approved Cricket Centres for a 3D biomechanical analysis of her bowling action. The ICC Approved Cricket Centre will produce a detailed report of such analysis for the Player. **Note:** If a Player is placed on the Warning List or Reported as a result of her participation in Matches then in order to be Cleared for the purposes of this Policy, she should request an Official Assessment based on an analysis of her bowling action at SRASSC or one of the other ICC Approved Cricket Centres. If the Player elects to go to SRASSC, BCCI will use best efforts to arrange such an analysis at SRASSC. At any such analysis the Player will be required to bowl any and all deliveries for which she is seeking to be Cleared.
- 4.3 A request for an Official Assessment should be in writing, addressed to the BCCI CEO (with a copy sent by email to hemang.amin@bccitv) at Cricket Centre, Wankhede Stadium, Mumbai 400 020. The request must enclose the ICC Approved Cricket Centre report referred to in paragraph 4.2.

- 4.4 BCCI will use all reasonable endeavours to arrange that the Committee holds an Official Assessment within 5 days of the date on which the request referred to in paragraph 4.3 is received by the BCCI CEO and will give notice to the Player and her Team Manager of the date of such Official Assessment.
- 4.5 BCCI shall be responsible for arranging the Official Assessment with the members of the Committee. If the Committee requires the Player to attend the Official Assessment in person, she will be given reasonable notice of the time and place of the Official Assessment. If it believes it to be useful, the Committee may request that a further analysis of the Player's bowling action be prepared by the SRASSC.
- 4.6 Following the Official Assessment, the Committee will issue a report in writing of the outcome of the Official Assessment (the **Official Assessment Report** as soon as practicable. The Official Assessment Report will be issued to the Player, the Player's Team Manager and BCCI.
- 4.7 The Official Assessment Report will state that the Committee has concluded that either:
- (a) the Player's bowling action contravenes Law 21.2 (as read with Law 21.3) of the Laws of Cricket and therefore the Player remains on the Warning List or, subject to paragraph (c) below, is suspended from bowling in Matches and matches organised by BCCI (as appropriate); or
 - (b) the Player's bowling action no longer contravenes Law 21.2 (as read with Law 21.3) of the Laws of Cricket and the Player's bowling action is Cleared and her name should be removed from the Warning List; or
 - (c) the Player's bowling action for certain deliveries contravenes Law 21.2 (as read with Law 21.3) of the Laws of Cricket and therefore the Player is banned from bowling that specific delivery in Matches and matches organised by the BCCI (as appropriate).
- 4.8 If a Player fails to (a) provide a 3D biomechanical analysis of her actions from an ICC Approved Cricket Centre, or (b) appear (if requested by the Committee) at the Official Assessment, such failure will be regarded as an admission that she bowls with an Illegal Bowling Action and the Committee will confirm this in its Official Assessment Report.
- 4.9 A Player whose action is Cleared may bowl in Matches after receipt by the Player of the Official Assessment Report and have her name removed from the Warning List. However, any Player who is Reported after having been Cleared during the Season will be banned from bowling for the rest of the Season.
- 4.10 The Player/Franchisee shall be responsible for the cost of the analysis and report prepared by the ICC Approved Cricket Centre.
- 4.11 If the Official Assessment Report produced under paragraph 4.6 states that the Player's action contravenes Law 21.2 (as read with Law 21.3) then the Player may request further Official Assessment of her action only after the end of the Season in which the Official Assessment was undertaken and this paragraph 4.11 shall apply to the arrangements for and timing of such further Official Assessment. The Player may request further Official Assessment before the start of the next Season.

Any further Official Assessment must be supported by a 3D biomechanical analysis of the bowler's rehabilitated or corrected action from the SRASSC or another ICC Approved Cricket Centre. This 3D biomechanical analysis of the Player's rehabilitated or corrected action shall take place only after the end of the Season in which the Official Assessment Report was received under paragraph 4.3. BCCI will use all reasonable endeavours to arrange that the Committee holds the further Official Assessment within 5 days of the date on which it receives the report of the 3D biomechanical analysis from SRASSC or another ICC Approved Cricket Centre. It is clarified that the Player whose Official Assessment Report states that the Player's action contravenes Law 21.2 (as read with Law 21.3), will not be able to bowl in that Season.

5 Right of Appeal

5.1 A Player, who has been Reported and/or subsequently suspended from bowling during a Season, shall have no right of appeal against the Report or the outcome of any Official Assessment.