

Before the toss can take place, you must be in possession of the both teams 'team sheets (Three of each, one for the scorers and one for each umpire) and the two similar match balls. Check you have two league balls or two T20 balls. You should also check if they both have six spare balls, of different quality, from nearly new to 15 overs. Talk to the two captains or their deputies at the toss. This is the way you set the parameters for the way the game will be played. The captain should of course inform his players of what was said at the toss, this way there is no misunderstanding between the officials and the players during the game. Make sure that you ask the captains if they have any questions. I know that saying the same thing day after day and weekend after weekend can get monotonous. But if one day you do not give the full talk at the toss and something happens in the game the captain could turn around to you and say: "I didn't know that! You didn't tell me". Even though you had informed him in the previous ten games that you had umpired him. Just be careful.

- **The Toss:** - Inform the captains that it is their responsibilities at all times for ensuring that play is conducted within the "Spirit of Cricket" as well as within the Laws. See 'The Preamble' – The Spirit of Cricket and Law 41.1 (Fair and unfair play – responsibility of captains).
- **No-Balls:** - All No-Balls are 'Free Hits'.
- If the ball bounces more than once it's a No-Ball. On the edge of off the mat is a No-ball.
- **Bouncers:** - Above the batsman's shoulder whilst he is upright at the crease is 'one for the over' a ball above head height is one for the over and a Wide-Ball! Any similar ball is a No Ball. Three in an over and the bowler is off for the over.
- **Beamers:** - Above waist height upright at the crease: Two in any innings and the bowler is taken off.
- **Wides:** - Off-side: - Tramlines / Leg-side: - Profile / Bouncer above head height.
- **Foot Faults:** - All foot faults (3) are free hits.
  - Front foot: The front foot lands over the inside line of the 'Popping Crease'.
  - Back foot: The back foot touching the 'Return crease'.
  - Invisible line from middle wicket to middle wicket. The bowler's foot must fully cross this line.
- **Protected Area:** - Bowler After 3 cautions *he is taken off!*  
**Batsmen and Fielder:** - One caution and then '5' Penalty Runs.
- **Under Age:** - Under age 18: - Cannot field close without protection & must wear a helmet whilst batting.
  - Shin pads, box & helmet.
- Wasting time and any stoppages of play go on the stopwatch (slow over rate).
- **Sledging:** - You can sledge the batsmen, but nothing personal / religious / race - Slip cordon – Distance.
- **Encroaching:** - The Wicket Keeper encroaching is a No-Ball.
  - Any part of the keeper or his clothing in front of the wicket is encroaching.
  - To have a better view. The leg-umpire should stand in line with the stumps and not the popping crease.

## THE CAPTAINS TALK AT THE TOSS

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- **Over Appealing:** - Over appealing is dissent! One, maybe two appeals from all the fielders is enough.
  - Approaching the umpire is dissent.
  - Shouting or screaming at the umpire is dissent.
  - Do not appeal if you know the player is not out, this is against the Spirit of Cricket.
  - Do not appeal every time the ball hits the pads.
  - If you have no reason to appeal. Do not appeal.
- **Scoreboard:** - Scorers do not update the scoreboard! This is done by the batting side every two overs the same for the second innings and for every ball for the last 30 runs.
- **Power Plays:** There are three power plays in 45 and 50 over league games.
  - There is only one power play in a T20 game, the first six overs.
- Only two players outside the outer circle; White discs set 8M apart.
- No more than 5 players on the leg side.
- No more than 2 players behind leg.
- **Timed Out:** - For the T20's: The new batsman has 90 seconds to arrive at the crease and ask for his guard!  
Any time after this if the fielding side appeal, the batsman can be given out: 'Timed Out'.
- All No-Balls are 'Free Hits' in the BCF League and T20 games.
- **Reportable Offences:** - There are now four levels of reportable offences. Five penalty runs for the first two offense levels. A player can be sent off for a fifth of the total overs played for a third level offence and sent off for the remainder of the game for a level four offence.