



# **MAHARASHTRA CRICKET ASSOCIATION**

**Illegal and Suspect Bowling Action Policy**  
Effective from 1<sup>st</sup> October 2025



# Maharashtra Cricket Association

## Illegal & Suspect Bowling Action Policy

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**Definitions** – In this Policy the following words and phrases have the following meanings:

**MCA** : The Maharashtra Cricket Association

**The Tournament** : All tournaments conducted under the jurisdiction of the MCA

**Bowling action deemed to be legal** : 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.

**Team** : The teams representing the Districts/Clubs/Academies participating in MCA Tournaments

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

**Match** : Any cricket match organized and conducted by the MCA in which the Illegal/suspect bowling action process is applied.

**Match Referee** : The person appointed by the MCA as the official match referee for a Match.

**Match Officials** : The group comprising the Match Referee and the Umpires for the relevant Match. It shall mean the Match Umpires, for matches in which a Referee has not been appointed.

**Official Assessment** : The assessment undertaken by the MCA to determine the legitimacy of a Player's bowling action under clause 4 and the report submitted by the appointed assessors to the MCA shall be the **Official Assessment Report**.

**Player** : Any cricketer who is selected to represent a team in any MCA match

**Policy** : The MCA Suspect/Illegal Bowling Action Policy.

**Report** : As defined in clause 2.1.

**MCA Technical Committee** : A committee appointed by the MCA to interpret and rule on issues regarding technicalities and Playing Conditions before and during MCA Tournaments

**The Committee** : **The Illegal and Suspect Action Committee**. A 3-man committee appointed by the MCA to examine and decide on the legality of the bowling actions.

**Team Manager** : The person appointed by the Team as Manager of the Team.

**Umpire(s)** : The umpire(s) appointed by the MCA for the relevant Match.

**Warning List** : A list of Players whose bowling actions are **Reported as Suspect** once during the Tournament.

**Suspension List** : A list of Players who have been suspended from bowling in the tournament following after their bowling actions are reported as Suspect two times in two different matches, or have been reported as illegal and called on the field of play.



# Maharashtra Cricket Association

## Illegal & Suspect Bowling Action Policy

Effective from 1<sup>st</sup> October 2025

### 1 Introduction

1.1 This Policy is effective for all MCA Tournaments from the Season 2025-26 onwards 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 and reported 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 21.3**, which Umpires are urged to apply with vigilance.

1.3 The Umpires and Match Referee (if appointed), in deciding whether to report a Player under this Policy, should use initial evidence that they get with the naked eye for viewing the relevant Player's bowling action during the Match – either on field or on video footage if available.

The Television Broadcast footage (for live / live streamed matches) or footage from the tournament camera set-up (if provided by MCA for that match) with slow motion and other technological support should only be used to confirm initial suspicions **to report**.

In the absence of television/video footage, the Match Officials shall report on the basis of observations by the naked eye on the field of play.

1.4 If a Player is called by an Umpire for throwing in accordance with **Law 21.2** or is suspected and reported by the Umpire(s) and/or Match Referee for bowling with an Illegal Bowling Action during a Match, the procedures in clause 2 shall apply.

### 2. Reporting procedure

2.1 Pursuant to the circumstances in clause 1.4, at an appropriate time, the Match Officials shall meet to discuss the action of the Player whose action has raised suspicion. During this meeting, it is expected, although not a requirement, that the Match Officials will watch TV replays and/or slow-motion replays (only if available) to assist them to determine whether or not they should write a report detailing his concerns about the Player's bowling action (a "**Report**" and "**Reported**" and "**Reporting**" shall be construed accordingly). The Report shall be made online on the MCA ODMS.

2.2 If appropriate, at the conclusion of the Match Officials' meeting, the Umpires/Referee shall write an online Report, including all details that are relevant, including concerns relating to the Player's bowling action in general or whether they relate to one or more specific types of delivery.

2.3 In the case where there is disagreement among the Match Officials/Umpires regarding the Player's bowling action, any member of the Match Officials' group may make a written submission online detailing his concern about the bowling action of the Player, including all details that are relevant, including concerns relating to the Player's bowling action in general or whether they relate to one or more specific types of delivery.

The Match Referee (if appointed) shall in his/her absolute discretion, decide whether to make a Report in such circumstances.

2.4 As soon as practicable, the Match officials shall inform the team of the concerned player at the venue that a report regarding the Player's action will be / has been filed.

2.5 In the event that the Player's Team has left the ground prior to being informed about the report, the MCA shall attempt to contact the Player's Team to inform them of the Report.



# Maharashtra Cricket Association

## Illegal & Suspect Bowling Action Policy

Effective from 1<sup>st</sup> October 2025

2.6 The MCA shall send all Match Officials (Umpires) the details of the received report for their information and action (if necessary) in the further matches in which the reported bowler is expected to play.

### 3 Post Report Procedure

3.1 The MCA will circulate the Warning List to all **Match Officials (Umpires)** from time to time during the tournament as it is updated on Players being Reported or on their actions being cleared by MCA after assessment.

3.2 While on the Warning List, **for bowling with a suspect action as per law 21.2, (as read with law 21.3)**, the Player may continue to be selected to play for his/her Team in a Match and may bowl in any Match.

3.3 If a Player is called on field even once or again found to be suspect while on the Warning List, the Player shall be suspended from bowling immediately, in this case the law 21.3 will not be applicable as per MCA Illegal and Suspect Bowling Action Policy.

The Player will not be allowed to bowl in any further matches conducted by MCA for any age group / tournament until such date as his/her bowling action is deemed to be legal.

E.g. If the Umpires decide that a player from the Warning list is again to be reported as suspect, the player will not be allowed to bowl further in the match from the time that the Umpires decide that his action is suspect and warrants a second report.

For the sake of clarity, the second report should be made by a team of Match Officials with at least one Member(Umpire) different from the team of officials making the first report.

**3.4 If an on-field call happens in a match, the player shall not be allowed to bowl further from the time of the call.**

A Player suspended from bowling as above or as per clause 3.3 above may continue to be selected to play in Matches; however, he/she will not be entitled to bowl.

3.5 In the event that a Player is suspended from bowling under this Policy, the MCA will via email inform the Player, the Player's Team as soon as possible.

### 4 Official Assessment

4.1 Any Player (i) whose name is on the Warning List or (ii) who is banned from bowling in Matches after 2 reports

4.2 A request for an Official Assessment should be made by the Player's team in writing or email, addressed to The Chairman, Technical Committee, MCA, Pune.

4.3 The MCA will appoint a team of assessors including 2 accredited MCA Coaches and 1 MCA Umpire (BCCI / A+ Category) to conduct an assessment of the bowling action of the Player reported. This assessment will be held at a venue decided by MCA.

MCA will provide a camera set up to help the team of assessors conduct the official assessment of the player's bowling action.

4.4 The MCA shall be responsible for arranging the Official Assessment by the Team of Assessors at a suitable indoor/outdoor venue. The Player shall be given reasonable notice of the date and time of the Official Assessment.



# Maharashtra Cricket Association

## Illegal & Suspect Bowling Action Policy

Effective from 1<sup>st</sup> October 2025

4.5 Following the Official Assessment, the Team of Assessors shall issue a report in writing of the outcome of the Official Assessment (the “**Official Assessment Report**”) as soon as practicable to the MCA. The MCA shall forward the **Official Assessment Report** to the Team of the player concerned.

4.6 The Official Assessment report shall contain that -

Either

- (a) the Player’s bowling action contravenes **Law 21.2** of the Laws of Cricket and therefore the Player continues to be suspended from bowling in the Tournament

Or

- (b) The Player’s bowling action no longer contravenes **Law 21.2** of the Laws of Cricket. The Player’s bowling action is deemed to be legal and his/her name should be removed from the Warning List/ Suspension list.

4.8 In the event of a Player failing to appear for the Official Assessment (other than due to exceptional circumstances), such failure will be regarded as an admission that the player bowls with an Illegal Bowling Action.

4.9 If a Player’s action has been deemed illegal as in 4.6(a) above, he/she has to undergo rectification/ modification of his/her bowling action so that his/her action does not contravene **Law 21.2**. Post this rectification, the Player may after a reasonable time period request for a reassessment of his/her modified bowling action. The process for reassessment will be the same as detailed in clause 4.3 to 4.6 above.

4.10 A Player whose action is deemed to be legal may bowl in Matches after receipt of the Official Assessment Report and has had the Player’s name removed from the Warning List/Suspension list. However, any Player who is called on-field/reported again after his/her action being deemed legal shall be suspended from bowling in MCA Tournaments.

## 5 Right of Appeal

5.1 A Player, who has been called on field/reported and / or subsequently suspended from bowling , shall have no right of appeal against the Report or the outcome of any Official Assessment.