



# **DOUBTFUL BOWLING ACTIONS PROCEDURES**

**Effective 1st September 2023 (v3)**



## 1 Introduction

- 1.1 The aim of these procedures is to ensure that all bowlers playing cricket in Queensland have actions that comply with Law 21.2.
- 1.2 These procedures:
  - 1.2.1 Detail the process for dealing with players bowling with a doubtful action in all competitions affiliated with Queensland Cricket
  - 1.2.2 Provide for an additional mechanism for the reporting of players suspected of bowling with illegal bowling actions at Queensland Country Regional Championships and Under-Age Carnivals
- 1.3 Nothing contained herein shall override an umpire's responsibility and discretion to apply Law 21.

## 2 Umpires

- 2.1 Umpires have a duty to ensure the game is played within both the Laws and the Spirit of the game. Umpires must police Law 21.2 "Fair Delivery – The Arm", by notifying Queensland Cricket if they observe any bowler in a match situation who, in their opinion, possesses an action that may contravene these Laws.
- 2.2 Queensland Cricket has instructed umpires as follows:
  - 2.2.1 There are three categories of delivery:
    - a. Fair Delivery
    - b. Illegal Delivery (Blatant Throw) and
    - c. Doubtful Delivery

**Illegal Delivery:** If an umpire believes a bowler has bowled a delivery that is clearly illegal (i.e. ***deliberately and blatantly thrown***), the umpire shall call "no-ball" and Report the bowler on the Doubtful Bowling Action Report Form. To be considered an illegal delivery, the ball must be delivered with a markedly different action to the bowler's normal deliveries.

**Doubtful Delivery:** If an umpire believes a bowler has bowled with an action that may be illegal, the umpire ***should not "call"*** the bowler, but record the bowler's name on the Doubtful Bowling Action Report Form. The Doubtful Bowling Action Report Form will offer the umpire two options;



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- Report:** If an umpire believes that a bowler has bowled a ball with an action that ***is illegal***, the umpire should “**Report**” that bowler on the Doubtful Bowling Action Report Form.
- Mention:** If an umpire is suspicious that a bowler has bowled a ball with an action that ***may be illegal***, the umpire should “**Mention**” that bowler on the Doubtful Bowling Action Report Form.
- Note:** Umpires, in deciding whether to call or report a player under these regulations, should use the naked eye viewing the action live and/or on television at normal speed. Slow motion television replays should only be used to confirm initial suspicions.
- 2.3 If, in any of the competitions detailed in 1.2.1, a player is called by an umpire for throwing in accordance with Law 21.2 or is suspected by the umpire(s) for bowling with an action which contravenes Law 24.2 as read with Law 24.3 (a “Doubtful Bowling Action”), the following procedure shall apply.
- 2.4 “Umpire” in this procedure means a Cricket Australia accredited Umpire. Only a Cricket Australia accredited Umpire may “Mention” or “Report” a player under this procedure.

### 3 Reporting Procedure

- 3.1 At the conclusion of the match the umpires shall write a report (the Doubtful Bowling Action Report) detailing their concerns about the bowling action of the Player, including whether those concerns relate to the Player’s bowling action generally or whether they relate to one or more specific types of delivery.
- 3.2 The umpires will notify the player, the Player’s coach (if applicable), at the end of the days play on which the report is made or the Player is called and email Queensland Cricket a copy of the report form within 72 hours of the conclusion of the match.
- 3.3 Queensland Cricket will then write to the Secretaries of the Player’s Club & Association to advise that the Player has been Mentioned or Reported, to include a copy of the Doubtful Bowling Action Report, and to describe the implications of this Mention or Report for the Player with respect to Queensland Cricket’s Doubtful Bowling Action Procedures.
- 3.4 If a player is called for throwing, Reported or Mentioned by the umpire/s officiating in that match the following procedure will apply:
- 3.4.1 A ***first mention*** it is important the Club coach works with the bowler to rectify any doubtfulness in the bowler’s action. Queensland Cricket will take no action at this stage, except to notify the Club and Association, as per 3.3.



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- 3.4.2 A **second mention** of a bowler's action within 12 months of the first mention will automatically elevate the bowler to the next level in the procedure.
- 3.4.3 A first report will place the bowler at **Level 1**. The Club coach works with the bowler to rectify any doubtfulness in the bowler's action. Queensland Cricket will assist the Club coach with coaching methods and drills to assist in the rehabilitation of the bowler.
- 3.4.4 A second report will place the bowler at **Level 2**. At this level a Queensland Cricket representative will attend a training session and take video evidence of the bowler's action. The Queensland Cricket representative will then provide video analysis of the action with recommendations for remedial work to be done on the bowler's action. At this stage there will be an **8 week "intervention period"** following the analysis to allow the remedial work to be undertaken. During this intervention period the player will be permitted to bowl in matches. They may still be reported, however such reports will not increase the bowlers level. When the 8 week intervention period is completed the Queensland Cricket representative will attend another session and review the bowler's action. (Any further work completed by Queensland Cricket shall be charged to the club at \$165.00 plus GST per session). *At no stage does the Queensland Cricket "clear" the bowler's action.*

***Should the bowler/club decide not to co-operate or participate in this part of the procedure the player will immediately be classified as Level 4, and will be suspended from bowling for 12 months.***

- 3.4.5 A third report will place the bowler at **Level 3**. At this stage the bowler will **not be permitted** to bowl in any cricket matches for a period of 8 weeks from the date of the third report. This will allow any remedial work to be continued without the pressure of bowling in a match.
- 3.4.6 A fourth report will place the bowler at **Level 4**. At this stage the bowler will **not be permitted** to bowl in any cricket matches for a period of **12 months** from the date of the third report.

### 3.5 **De-Escalation Procedure (effective 1 September 2023)**

- 3.5.1 A player who has been placed at Level 1 and subsequently does not receive a mention or report for a period of three (3) years will revert to having no level in the Doubtful Bowling Action Procedures.
- 3.5.2 A player who has been placed at Level 2 or above and subsequently does not receive a mention or report for a period of three (3) years will revert down one (1) level in the Doubtful Bowling Action Procedures.
- 3.5.3 A player who is placed at Level 3 or Level 4 would de-escalate one level for each period of three (3) years that they do not receive a mention or report.



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- 3.5.4 For the avoidance of doubt, the three (3) years referred to in 3.5.1, 3.5.2 & 3.5.3 is measured from the date of the match where the most recent mention or report originated from.

**“The procedure is ongoing and players do not return to Level 1 each season. Each report (or two mentions within 12 months, as the case may be) will progress the procedure, irrespective of time”. This is the same for Junior and Senior players treated.**