

## No Ball.

X. The Ball must be bowled, not thrown or jerked, and the hand must not be above the shoulder in delivery; and whenever the Bowler shall so closely infringe on this rule in either of the above particulars as to make it difficult for the Umpire at the Bowler's wicket to judge whether the ball has been delivered within the true intent and meaning of this rule or not, the Umpire shall call "No Ball."

The decision of what is a "no ball," from the bowler's foot not being on the ground, behind the bowling crease, and within the return crease, is one of the most difficult, as well as unpleasant duties the umpire has to perform. The actual delivery of the ball, from the hand, is so intimately connected with the motion of the foot at the same time, that it needs a good deal of experience to determine whether the foot leaves the ground before, or at the time, or after, the ball leaves the hand. Most men bowl with a spring, and in three cases out of four, *seem* to leave the ground before delivery; but a more attentive observation will generally show that it is only appearance, and not reality. In calling "no ball," do so the moment the toe is over or on the crease, or the batsman will lose his chance of a hit. If the toe is not over or on the crease, the umpire need not trouble himself about its seeming lifted off the ground at the moment of delivery; for careful experiment has proved that it is impossible for a round-arm bowler to deliver a ball effectually *unless his toe is actually on the ground*. The experienced umpire's practical knowledge will stand him in good stead, and he will refrain from harassing the bowler by calling "no ball," unless the Law is clearly violated. In deciding when a breach of Law X. takes place, the large discretion invested in the umpire renders the task comparatively easy. But a practised umpire will refrain from calling "no ball," under Law IX., unless on *sure grounds*, always giving the bowler the benefit of the doubt; for few things breed strife more readily than an umpire vexatiously "no balling" the bowler.

XI. He may require the Striker at the wicket from which he is bowling to stand on that side of it which he may direct.

This, and Law No. XII., have recently (June 2nd, 1845) been substituted by the Mary-le-bone Club, instead of Laws No. X and XII., as they formerly existed. The wording of No. X, as it stands now, seems well calculated to attain the object desired, viz., keeping the bowler's hands within due bounds. The salutary effect of the change in the Law has been already experienced in England; while, at the same time the efficiency of the bowling has not been impaired. This was strikingly evinced in the great match, played June 7th. at Lord's, between the Mary-le-bone Cricket Club and ground, against the County of Sussex, when Lillywhite and Hillyer, for Mary-le-bone, bowled nine "overs" without a run being made, though the batsmen were Mr. Napper, Dean (who lost his wicket at the eighteenth ball,) and Box, the flower of the Sussex eleven. By means of the modern scoring book, each bowler's "overs" are now registered and analyzed, so that his faults thus stand in judgment against him for future reference; the immediate result being that greater attention is paid to *accuracy in bowling*. Most men know a throw or a jerk when they see one, though perhaps they could not exactly define in what it consists; and the umpire should allow small latitude to the bowler in this respect. The action termed "delivery" can be defined;