

by your finished ability, even though this may be your own individual opinion. Such conduct brings a club into bad repute, and has no right to be permitted.

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The practice of borrowing good cricketers to strengthen a team for a good match is to be discountenanced in the strongest manner. It is not only unjustly bolstering up a weak spot, but it is acting unfairly towards the club you oppose, and entirely does away with the significance of the result. If the practice were universal no status of any club would be obtainable. The Guelph Club has more than once put itself in a questionable position from this point of view. On its western tour last week it made as many as five separate individual attempts to secure a good man from Toronto to help represent it; and on a previous occasion Morphy of St. Mary's played for them, on the pretext that he was going to live there in the fall or next year. When Guelph plays that way it is not Guelph that wins or loses, and there can be no satisfaction in the result. This practice is all the more to be wondered at in the case of the club mentioned, as it is so strong within itself.

CRICKET, AND HOW TO EXCEL IN IT.

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CHAPTER VI.—LAWS.—Continued.

XXII.—This rule ought to form part of No. XVIII, it being another case of hit-wicket. It is rather hard for a man's hat or cap falling on the wicket to put him out, but I suppose it is best so. It renders very apparent the advantage of wearing caps, instead of hats, helmets, and such things, which are constantly getting in the way and obstructing the sight. If a ball is hit high your hat may give you great difficulty in seeing it, and in a rough wind, just as you are trying to catch the ball, away may go your head-gear, and put you off your catch.

XXIII.—Should a batsman, to defend himself from a bumpy ball, guard it off with his hands, he would be out by the strict letter of the law, though it is never acted on in this case by the umpires. The ball is not "in play" when over is called, until the bowler starts to bowl the next over, and the batsman is not out if he then takes up the ball and hands it to any one.

In a match between Gloucestershire and Surrey, the ball was thrown up from long-off as I was making a third run. The front of my shirt was flapping open in the wind, and as the ball passed the wicket it bounded into this opening, and rolled round to my back. Of course we went on running until collared by the fieldsmen, one of whom wanted me to give him the ball, which I failed to see the force of, telling him to get it out himself. The question arose as to how many runs should be scored for the hit, and the umpire decided that we should only score the three we had made before the ball found its way into my shirt. By the strict letter of the law I ought to have been given out.

XXIV.—It should be clearly understood that a man is not out l. b. w. unless the ball pitches in a straight line from wicket to wicket, and this does not mean in a straight line from where the bowler delivers the ball to the wicket, as many people imagine, for the ball is generally delivered at or beyond the return crease, and the line from that point to the wicket is another thing altogether. It can be proved by demonstration that unless a ball breaks back it is absolutely impossible for any man to be l. b. w. when the bowler is bowling round the wicket, should the bowler's hand in delivering the ball be more than fifteen inches over the return crease. The rule therefore but seldom applies except in cases in which the bowler is bowling over the wicket.

XXV.—If they have not crossed, the one nearest the wicket put down is out; and where two are in the same ground, the man who has last got there is out. It has been suggested that if either of the runners is obstructed by one of the opposite side in making a run, and the wicket is put down, he should not be given out, the umpire, under Rule XXXVI., having the power to give such a decision.

XXVI.—Runs made while the ball is in the air are therefore not to be counted. It is very seldom that any are made, though I know of two instances this season; the first, which I saw myself, happened at the Oval during the Surrey and Gloucestershire match. Mr. Shuter, who is undoubtedly one of the quickest of men between wickets, ran two runs before his partner was caught off a tremendous skyer. The other case happened at Southampton, in a match against the Australians, where a gentleman declares he ran three runs before being caught in the long-field.

XXVII.—Here "striker" should obviously read "batsman," as the rule applies to both. Though the run they are attempting does not count, the others made from the hit do.

XXVIII.—A lost ball is one out of sight of the fieldman, and not obtainable by him until after considerable delay. Consequently "lost ball" should never be called for simply a big hit which the fielder can secure by running after.

XXIX.—The bowler ought to put down the wicket of the non-striker, should he catch him out of his ground, with the ball in hand, and not throw at the wicket. There ought to be some rule to say how runs are to be scored in the event of a bowler missing the wicket under such circumstances, and runs being made.

XXX.—It is usual to give consent, as men rarely retire except when hurt. The rule is, however, important to prevent unfair proceedings.

XXXI.—The substitute is in the position of the batsman, and should he touch the ball, get out of his ground, etc., the batsman is out, though the substitute may alone be to blame. It is an understood thing to allow a substitute for a man who is hurt during the match, but not to allow one to run if the man was hurt before the match commenced, or is well enough to bowl.

XXXII.—A popular idea prevails that there is a law against substitutes fielding at point, wicket-keeping, long-stopping, etc.; but the old rule in which this was mentioned has been done away with.

XXXIII.—"Hat" here includes pocket-handkerchiefs, coats, etc. This rule is frequently broken by boys. It was made in the old days when players wore chimney-pot hats, and were not, I suppose, particular about keeping in the crowns of them. Anyhow, I fail to see the advantage of trying to catch a ball in this fashion, as it must be about twice as difficult to do so as to catch it with the hands.

XXXIV.—A ball may be hit hard down, and twist back into the wicket, in which case it should be stopped with the bat or leg, and not hit at with the object of scoring. I once saw a man get out for stopping the ball from rolling into his wicket with his hand. A very silly thing to do.

XXXV.—The wicket-keeper has no business to guide a ball into the wicket, and umpires should be very careful that his hands are always kept behind the stumps. The rule says, "If any part of his person is in front of the wicket;" and a remarkably smart reading of this occurred when we were playing in Australia. In an up-country match, I think at Castlemaine, our wicket-keeper, J. A. Bush, stumped a man, but much to our astonishment the umpire gave him "not out," and excused himself for doing so in the following terms:

"Ah! ah! I was just watching you, Mr. Bush! You had the tip of your nose just over the wicket! and the rule says, 'any part of,' etc., etc."

XXXVI.—An umpire's decision is final, and there should be no hesitation in accepting it. After once being given out, either rightly or wrongly, there is no appeal, and the only thing for you to do is to walk away at once as cheerfully as you can.