



MEMO TO: Member Countries

DATE: 28th September 2008

New Law 6 – The Bat

MCC has changed the Law on bats and it will be effective in all levels of cricket worldwide from 1st October 2008.

The rationale behind tightening up Law 6 is a means of retaining the balance between bat and ball and to prevent Cricket facing the problems encountered by Golf and Tennis in particular.

One important aspect of the new Law 6 is the grading of cricket bats. This grading system defines the differences between pure top-quality bats at Grade A and the lower level entry bats at Grade C.

The decision about which grades of bat are to be used at different levels of cricket is to be made by the National Governing Bodies.

For International cricket that decision rests with ICC and following a recommendation from the Cricket Committee, the Chief Executives Committee has determined that only Grade A bats can be used in the following international cricket:

- Tests, ODIs and T20Is
- ICC U/19 Cricket World Cup and ICC U/19 Cricket World Cup qualifiers
- ICC Intercontinental Cup matches
- Matches played between Associates and Affiliates in the ICC World Cricket League Division 1 and ICC Cricket World Cup Qualifier

Other categories may be used at lower levels of Associate and Affiliate matches and in other U19 matches.

MCC has issued a set of guidelines on the implementation of the new Law. The guidelines are addressed to the manufacturers, retailers and umpires and a copy of each of the guidelines is attached.

A guide for players is being finalised and will be with you shortly.

The manufacturers have been instructed to ensure that all bats used in professional cricket from 1st October 2008 should be graded and this grading should be clearly shown.

Action by Umpires in International Matches

The guideline for umpires was distributed to the referees and umpires at their conference in Dubai on the 23rd to 25th September 2008.

As per the guideline, if a player is using an ungraded bat or a bat of Grade B or C in an international match where only Grade A bats are permitted, he should be told that he is not allowed to use it. In such circumstances the umpire will report the matter to the ICC Match Referee who will advise ICC. In turn ICC will notify the player's home Board.

For Noting and Action by Members

Please review the guidelines attached herewith.

We have clarified the position in respect of international cricket as outlined above.

Members are responsible for notifying their players accordingly.

In respect of cricket played at domestic level in Member countries CEC agreed that a uniform approach be adopted by all Members and that only Grade A bats be permitted for all professional cricket i.e. all first-class and List A matches.

It will be for the Governing Bodies to decide what Grades of bats may be used in different levels of domestic cricket.

We have already established that only Grade A bats may be used in professional cricket.

Grade B bats only differ from Grade A bats by the virtue of having toe or side inserts for extra protection – as a guide MCC feel that these should be able to be used in all amateur cricket, including the top levels such as minor counties, premier leagues, grade cricket etc.

Grade C bats should be allowed to be used in most cricket, although some Governing Bodies may wish to outlaw their use from the very top amateur levels.

The most difficult job is getting the word out to all the retailers and manufacturers. MCC have sent the relevant guidelines to over 60 manufacturers and 500 retailers but there are obviously more who MCC have not been able to contact.

It will help to get the message across if you can to distribute these guidelines to as many relevant stakeholders as possible in your country.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me.

You can also contact MCC directly by speaking to:

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You can also find information on the Laws & Spirit section of the MCC website www.lords.org

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