

JCA Suspect Bowling Action Policy

Established: 17 March 2015

Revised: 7 February 2019

The Japan Cricket Association (the “JCA”) issues this Japan Cricket Association Suspect Bowling Action Policy (this “**Suspect Action Policy**”) to provide guidelines for dealing with suspect or illegal bowling actions in all matches and competitions played under the authority of the JCA. This Suspect Action Policy applies to all teams, players, and umpires involved in JCA-authorized matches, and the captains and representatives of all teams in JCA competitions and all umpires participating in JCA-authorized matches are required to read this Suspect Action Policy. The JCA also recommends that all players and team officials involved in JCA-authorized matches be familiar with this Suspect Action Policy.

Notes on Reading this Suspect Action Policy:

When reading this Suspect Action Policy, please do the following:

- *read all references to “the Competition” to mean the JCA-authorized competition in which your team participates (e.g., if your team plays in the Japan Cricket League (the “JCL”), read “the Competition” as “the JCL”); and*
- *read all references to “the Committee” to mean the JCA-authorized governing authority or committee for the Competition in which your team participates (e.g., if your team plays in the Japan Cricket League (“JCL”), read “the Committee” as “the JCL Committee”).*

1. Law and application

The Laws of Cricket provide as follows:

Law 21.2 Fair delivery – the arm

A ball is fairly delivered in respect of the arm if, once the bowler’s arm has reached the level of the shoulder in the delivery swing, the elbow joint is not straightened partially or completely from that point until the ball has left the hand. This definition shall not debar a bowler from flexing or rotating the wrist in the delivery swing.

The JCA has formulated this Suspect Action Policy in order to apply **Law 21.2** in

Competitions. This Suspect Action Policy is intended to be in the best interests of both the players involved and the Competitions in general.

Notes on application:

- (1) This Suspect Action Policy addresses a very sensitive issue in cricket. Umpires are requested to use common sense at all times and, where possible, seek to avoid no-balling players for an unfair delivery with respect to the arm (“**throwing**”) during a match. Players are also requested to respond calmly when this issue arises.
- (2) At the same time, this Suspect Action Policy does not preclude any umpire from no-balling a bowler for throwing if the umpire is absolutely certain that the bowler has thrown when bowling.
- (3) When this issue arises, teams and coaches are requested to act in the best interests of the player in question and cricket in general, with the overall welfare of the player and the game being the prime consideration.

2. Umpires’ actions

(1) **When the umpire is certain the ball has unquestionably been thrown**

If an umpire is absolutely certain a bowler has unquestionably thrown the ball when bowling, the umpire will call “No-ball.” In such a case, the umpires will comply with the provisions of “**Law 21.3 Ball thrown or delivered underarm – action by the umpires,**” which provides instructions for actions to be taken on the field by the umpires. The umpire will also report the incident to the Committee after the match. The Suspect Action Process set out below will be initiated upon the umpire’s reporting of the incident to the Committee.

**Note: As mentioned earlier, where possible the umpires will avoid calling a no-ball for throwing during matches, unless it is patently obvious that the bowler is throwing (e.g., in the case of an inexperienced bowler who is making little or no effort to bowl with a straight arm).*

(2) **When the umpire merely “strongly suspects” that the ball has been thrown**

If an umpire is not certain, but strongly suspects, that a bowler has thrown the ball when bowling, the umpire will immediately express his concern to the bowler in question and the captain of the bowling side. The umpire will then report the incident to the Committee after the match. The Suspect Action Process

set out below will be initiated upon the umpire's reporting of the incident to the Committee.

3. Suspect Action Process

The following process for a bowler will be initiated if an umpire reports that the bowler has bowled a no-ball for throwing or if the umpire reports that he suspects that the bowler has thrown when bowling (these incidents collectively are referred to below as using a “**Suspect Action**”).

Stage 1

- The umpire submits his report to the Committee after the match. In the report, the umpire names the bowler, states that the bowler has used a Suspect Action, and provides details about the incident.
- Upon receipt of the report by the Committee, the Committee will email the team representative and ask the team to investigate the matter and to take remedial action if necessary.

Stage 2

- If a player is reported for a Suspect Action in a subsequent match, the Committee will request the bowler to undergo video analysis. The team will be asked to send a video of the bowler's action to the Committee for analysis by a JCA-approved coach or adviser. The bowler and team will be given feedback on the analysis.
- There will be a 4-week intervention period following this analysis (the “**Intervention Period**”) to allow the bowler to conduct remedial work. During the Intervention Period, the bowler will be permitted to bowl in matches.
- Umpires will be advised of the bowler's situation.
- During the Intervention Period, if the bowler again uses a Suspect Action, the umpire in that case will report the Suspect Action.
- If the bowler or team decides not to co-operate or participate in this stage of the process, the player will immediately be classified as falling under Stage 4 (see below), and will be suspended from bowling for 12 months.

Stage 3

- Following the Intervention Period under Stage 2, if the bowler is reported again for a Suspect Action, he will not be permitted to bowl in the Competition for a

period of 8 weeks. This is to allow any remedial work to be continued, without the pressure of bowling in matches.

Stage 4

- Following Stages 1, 2 and 3, if the bowler is reported again for a Suspect Action in at least two separate matches by at least two separate umpires, he will not be permitted to bowl in the JCL for a period of 12 months.
- The process is ongoing, and players do not return to Stage 1 at the beginning of a new season. Each report of a Suspect Action will advance the process, irrespective of time.

Subsequent reporting of Suspect Action

If a player who is suspended from bowling under Stage 4 resumes bowling after the specified suspension period and then is again reported for a Suspect Action, he will immediately return to Stage 4, and a suspension from bowling under Stage 4 will immediately apply.