



IICUS Raising Standards throughout the Cricketing World

*An opening bowler is a young player who is under 17 and allowed to bowl 6 overs in a spell and 18 overs in a day. (ECB directives) He opens the bowling in inclement weather and bowls 4 and 2 balls when the umpires decide the rain is too heavy to continue. The players are off the field for 1 hour. The ECB directives state that the young bowler can now start a 6 over spell again because 40 minutes have elapsed. Can the bowler finish the 2 balls of the unfinished over and then start a new 6 over spell?*

The ECB directive limits the bowler to a maximum number of overs in a spell and in a day.

Law 22 says that, other than in cases of injury, illness, suspension or the conclusion of an innings, an over, once commenced, must be completed. The bowler must, therefore, bowl the 2 ball from the incomplete over. If he then bowls the next over available to him, and continues to bowl, after having bowled another 5.4 overs he will have bowled the 36 deliveries envisioned in the limit of 6 overs.

But, as he now cannot complete that last over he should not have been allowed to start it. In other words, he can bowl the 2 balls plus another 5 overs.

A better solution might be to bowl the 2 balls and then start his next 6-over spell after 3 overs have been bowled. (He's bowled a part over and has to have an over rest before he can bowl another spell).

Regarding the number of overs he has bowled in the match, the 4 balls before the break plus the 2 balls after it comprise one over for the purposes of the match statistics - at least, that what scorers tell me.