

VTCA POLICY on SUSPECT BOWLING ACTIONS

Participants need to be aware that this has the potential for emotional responses and can be a very sensitive topic most particularly during the emotions of a match; hence unless absolutely necessary, any suspected illegal bowling action should be reported on the relevant paperwork and forwarded to the association within 24 hours of the conclusion of the day's play rather than calling the bowler during the game.

The Reporting of a Suspect Action Form can be emailed, photographed and sent via text or faxed to the relevant Association representative as prescribed above.

Step 1 First Mention

Mention of a suspect action by an umpire must go discreetly to the Association through completion of the Suspected Illegal Action Form sent to the Association President who will then contact the club. At no time should the umpire(s) or the Umpires Department contact the club.

Upon a first mention it is the responsibility of the club or individual to arrange a private session with an accredited coach, supplying evidence on completion to the Association that assistance has been sought.

The player can continue to bowl during this period under private coaching and any further reports during this time will not be counted as progressive mentions.

(Allocated window for compliance – 2 weeks or unless a mutually agreed period between Association & Club has been determined)

Step 2 Second Mention

Following the above procedures if a second mention is made then the Association will contact the VMCU to arrange Technical Analysis with expert, accredited and independent coaches.

The VMCU will meet the cost of initial and approved analysis.

Step 3 Level 2 Intervention Period

If remedial work is required, then the player commences 8 weeks of a Level 2 Intervention period and is expected to be working constructively to ensure his bowling action is within the rules.

Remedial work done during this period must be documented and the Association kept informed of any progress made. A report on completion must be presented to the Association.

The player can continue to bowl during this period under private coaching and any further reports during this time will not be counted as progressive mentions.

Umpires will be advised of the player's situation.

*** Should the bowler/club decide not to cooperate or participate in this part of the procedure, the player will immediately be classified as Level 4, and will be suspended from bowling for 12 months.**

Step 4 Further mention following Level 2 Intervention Period.

Commence a further 8-week Level 3 Intervention Period and undertake additional remedial work. Remedial work done during this period must be documented and the Association kept informed of any progress made. A report on completion must be presented to the Association.

During this Intervention Period the bowler is suspended from bowling in all matches.

Umpires will be advised of the player's situation.

Step 5 Further mention following Level 3 Intervention Period.

Player is now at Level 4 and is suspended from bowling for a period of 12 months. As a courtesy the VMCU must be advised of this situation.

Remedial work done during this period must be documented and the Association kept informed of any progress made. A report on completion must be presented to the Association.

Umpires Department will be advised of the player's situation.

Subsequent Mentions

If a player has been suspended from bowling at Level 4 and resumes bowling after the suspension period has expired, then is subsequently mentioned again, the bowler is then **at Level 5 and will immediately be suspended for a period of no less than 3 years.**

***Note This procedure is ongoing, and players do not return to Level 1 each season. Each mention will progress the procedure, irrespective of time.**

****In games where no official VTCA umpire is standing, a Suspect Action Report can be filed by either a player acting as an official umpire at the time of the delivery(s) being bowled or by the opposition captain or a club official who may have witnessed the suspect action.**