

WORLD TEST CHAMPIONSHIP PLAYING CONDITIONS

Concussion Replacement Guidance Note

1. Background

Teams will have the option of replacing a player who has sustained a head or neck injury during an international match and has subsequently been diagnosed with concussion or suspected concussion.

This change has been introduced to allow players to receive the best possible treatment once they have sustained a concussion by lessening the cricketing consequences of a decision to rule a player out of the rest of a match by making available a batting and/or bowling replacement.

2. Playing Condition

The playing condition that covers the use of the Concussion Replacement is in Clause 1.2 (Nomination and Replacement of Players) of the ICC playing conditions.

- 1.2.7 If a player sustains a concussion or suspected concussion as a result of a head or neck injury during the course of the relevant match, a Concussion Replacement may be permitted in the following circumstances:
 - 1.2.7.1 the head or neck injury must have been sustained during play and within the playing area described in clause 1.2.5.2 above;
 - 1.2.7.2 a concussion or suspected concussion must have been formally diagnosed by the Team Medical Representative;
 - 1.2.7.3 the Team Medical Representative or Team Manager shall submit a Concussion Replacement Request to the ICC Match Referee on a standard form, which shall:
 - 1.2.7.3.1 identify the player who has sustained the concussion or suspected concussion;
 - 1.2.7.3.2 specify the incident in which the concussion or suspected concussion was sustained, including the time at which it occurred;
 - 1.2.7.3.3 confirm that, following an examination, the Team Medical Representative believes or suspects that the player has sustained a concussion as a result of the incident specified in 1.2.7.3.2 above; and
 - 1.2.7.3.4 identify the requested Concussion Replacement, who shall be a like-for-like replacement for the player who has sustained the concussion or suspected concussion.
 - 1.2.7.4 The Concussion Replacement Request must be submitted within 36 hours of the incident specified in 1.2.7.3.2 if a Concussion Replacement is to be permitted.
- 1.2.8 The ICC Match Referee should ordinarily approve a Concussion Replacement Request if the replacement is a like-for-like player whose inclusion will not excessively advantage his team for the remainder of the match.
 - 1.2.8.1 In assessing whether the nominated Concussion Replacement should be considered a like-for-like player, the ICC Match Referee should consider the likely role the concussed player would have played during the remainder of the match, and the normal role that would be performed by the nominated Concussion Replacement.
 - 1.2.8.2 If the ICC Match Referee believes that the inclusion of the nominated Concussion Replacement, when performing their normal role, would excessively advantage their team, the Match Referee may impose such conditions upon the identity and involvement of the Concussion Replacement as he/she sees fit, in line with the overriding objective of facilitating a like-for-like replacement for the concussed player.
 - 1.2.8.3 The ICC Match Referee may, in reviewing a Concussion Replacement Request made in accordance with clause 1.2.7.3, request any such further information as may be required in order to make the determination required under clauses 1.2.8.1 and 1.2.8.2.
- 1.2.9 The decision of the ICC Match Referee in relation to any Concussion Replacement Request shall be final and neither team shall have any right of appeal.
- 1.2.10 Once the Concussion Replacement has been approved by the ICC Match Referee, the replaced player shall play no further part in the match.
- 1.2.11 Both the Concussion Replacement and the replaced player shall be considered to have played in the match for records and statistical purposes.

3. Assessment of Concussion

Each team is responsible for the welfare of its players.

Each Team must ensure that it has an appropriately qualified Team Medical Representative present at the match who is capable of diagnosing and managing concussion.

The diagnosis and management of concussion should be in accordance to the ICC Concussion Management Guidelines.

There will also be a match day doctor at each venue who will be available (at the request of the Team Medical Representative or Team Management) to assist the Team Medical Representative in diagnosing and treating a concussion. The Team Medical Representative will make the final determination whether a player has sustained a concussion or suspected concussion.

4. To be eligible for a Concussion Replacement

For a team to be able to apply for a Concussion Replacement, the injured player must be;

1. diagnosed with a concussion or a suspected concussion by the Team Medical Representative, and
2. the incident that caused the concussion must have taken place on the field of play during the relevant match.

5. Requesting a Concussion Replacement

If a player is eligible to be replaced, and the team wishes to replace the concussed player, a written request must be submitted to the ICC Match Referee on a standard ICC form within 36 hours of the incident, detailing the following information;

- The name of the player to be replaced
- A description of the incident that caused the concussion.
- The symptoms, type of assessment performed, and the diagnosis
- The name of the nominated Concussion Replacement

6. Nominating and Approving a 'Like-for-Like' Concussion Replacement

A player does not have to be nominated on the team sheet prior to the toss to be eligible to be named as a Concussion Replacement.

Any player proposed as a Concussion Replacement must be eligible to play for that team under the ICC Player Eligibility regulations.

The Match Referee needs to approve the Concussion Replacement before that player can bat or bowl in the match. The nominated Concussion Replacement should be as close as is practical to 'like-for-like' for the replaced player.

The following principles should be taken into consideration by the Match Referee when approving or rejecting the replacement;

- The concussed player will take no further part in the match and is therefore entitled to be replaced, so the Match Referee should be looking to approve an appropriate replacement player.
- The abilities of the Concussion Replacement should not provide his / her team with an excessive advantage, or substantially change the selection balance of the team with respect to the relative numbers of batters / all-rounders / pace bowlers / spin bowlers.
- As soon as is practical following the request, the Match Referee should assess the likely role the replaced player would have played in the remainder of the match when considering a like-for-like replacement, for example;
 - If a fast bowler is to be replaced, but his team only has a batting innings left in the Test match, it would be acceptable to replace that player with a spin bowler of similar batting ability.
 - If a fast bowler is to be replaced, but his team only has a bowling innings left in the Test match on a deteriorating pitch, it should not be acceptable to replace that player with a spin bowler, rather he should be replaced by another fast bowler.

- The Match Referee should also bear in mind that the;
 - Home team may be disadvantaged by only having a small number of squad players at the ground, even though a more appropriate replacement can be summoned from within the country.
 - Touring team may be disadvantaged by only having a finite number of squad players with the team.
- The Match Referee may put limitations on the role that the Concussion Replacement can play in the match, for example;
 - An all-rounder may replace a batter, but approval is only given on the condition that the Concussion Replacement shall not be permitted to bowl.
- Once approval is given, the Match Referee must notify the other team of the change, and then advise the umpires and scorers, and, with the assistance of the Host Board, spectators, broadcaster and media.

7. Playing Role of the Concussion Replacement

Once a Concussion Replacement has been approved, that player can play any role in the game (while observing any restrictions placed on his involvement by the Match Referee).

The replacement is considered a unique player in the match. He does not have to;

- Resume the innings of the concussed player
- Serve any outstanding Penalty Time accrued by the concussed player
- Assume any bowling warnings the concussed player may have been given (eg. For following through in the danger area)

The replacement can bat anywhere in the order.

In a limited-overs match, the replacement can only bowl the remaining overs yet to be bowled by the concussed player, up to the maximum overs allowed per bowler.

8. Scoring & Statistics

Both the replaced player and the replacement player will be recorded as having played in the match, and their individual performances will be separately recorded.

9. Other Questions

- Once a concussed player has been replaced, can that replaced player take any further part in that match, even if a subsequent assessment clears him of concussion?
 - No.
- Can more than one Concussion Replacement be activated by a team in any given match?
 - Yes, if multiple players are diagnosed with concussion, multiple 'like-for-like' replacements can be requested.
- Does a concussed player have to be replaced by a Concussion Replacement?
 - No, a concussed player can be withdrawn from a match and a substitute fielder can take his place on the field without a Concussion Replacement being activated.
- If a player is concussed as a result of an accident at the team hotel after a day's play, during the warm-up, or in the dressing room during the lunch interval, can a Concussion Replacement be activated?
 - No, only if the injury occurs on the field of play during a match.