

This document serves to explain the Regulations with regard to rain interruptions – by means of noting the principles that are to be applied and demonstrating them by means of calculations and worked examples.

Hours of Play

The hours of play are intended to run from 13h30 to 20h00 as per section 2.1. Where more than 15 minutes of aggregate playing time are lost due to unscheduled interruptions, the close of play time is extended to 20h15 as per section 3.2 a). This is a vital benchmark where calculations need to be made to establish whether the overs remaining in the match have to be reduced because of unscheduled interruptions.

Please note that whenever there is a suspension in play and:

- The time is between 13h30 and 20h15 (ie within the hours of play)
- Conditions become suitable for play per the umpires, or where the umpires consider the conditions have improved to unsuitable and both captains wish to play (ref Law 3)
- There is time for a result to be achieved per 3.3 b) – ie there will be time before 20h15 for both sides to have had the opportunity to receive at least 20 overs each
- A result (discounting any run rate result) has not already been arrived at

PLAY MUST RESTART IMMEDIATELY unless there is a scheduled interval in progress (ie either the mid innings break or a 10 minute break between innings).

It has to be accepted that – because we are playing an overs competition – there will be circumstances where play can and will take place beyond the hours stipulated (for instance where there has been a slow over rate, or where there are delays caused by lost balls, injuries, and the like). The umpires can only initiate a process of reviewing the number of overs left in the match (with the possibility to reduce them) when there is an unscheduled interval (ie weather related, but obviously not mid-innings, between innings, or drinks).

Where 0 - 15 minutes' in aggregate is lost

The innings of each side remains at 45 overs each and this will not be reduced even if play runs beyond the close of play time (20h00).

Where > 15 minutes have been lost

Whenever more than 15 minutes play has been lost, in aggregate, the umpires must review the number of overs for the match as a whole and make a calculation in case there has to be a reduction or further reduction of overs remaining in the match. **PLEASE NOTE THAT NOT EVERY UNSCHEDULED INTERVAL WILL RESULT IN OVERS BEING DEDUCTED, BUT THE UMPIRES MUST ALWAYS GO THROUGH THE PROCESS OF MAKING THEIR CALCULATIONS.**

When resuming the game, the umpires must tell both captains of the situation (even if this is to reconfirm that there is no change from the position when the unscheduled interval commenced).

If the first innings is in progress, the umpires must advise – before recommencing - the number of overs to be played for each side. If it is in the second innings of the match, the umpires must advise – before recommencing - the number of overs available for the second innings, and the victory target (perhaps emphasising that one run less than the victory target will be a tie).

Please note that once the revised parameters have been set (in terms of reduction of overs and, if applicable, a revised victory target) they cannot be changed in any circumstances unless there is a further unscheduled interval. This follows the principles of Sections 3 b) and 3 e) of the Regulations and if the mid innings interval is taken later than anticipated and/or play continues beyond 20h15 until the planned allocation of overs has been bowled or a result is reached, then this must take place in these circumstances.

Delayed Start by more than 15 minutes

Per section 3.2 a), please remember:

- We need to rearrange the overs so that both sides have the opportunity for batting the same number of overs when we start the match.
- We only consider a rearrangement of overs once more than 15 minutes in aggregate have been lost.
- We calculate the overs remaining on the basis of 15 overs per hour (one over per 4 minutes) between the revised start time and 20h15, taking into account intended time for intervals per 2.2 (between 10 and 20 minutes once time is lost).
- We apply 3.3 a) in the first innings when the calculation gives the overs remaining as an odd number (ie 69 is rounded down to lower even number 68 and divided by 2, 34 overs each).

Following these principles, for example:

- 45 overs a side, latest start time is 13h55. Each innings planned for 3h00 plus 0h20 interval. 6h20 between 13h55 and 20h15.
- 40 overs a side, latest start time is 14h35. Each innings planned for 2h40 plus 0h20 interval. 5h40 between 14h35 and 20h15.
- 35 overs a side, latest start time is 15h15. Each innings planned for 2h20 plus 0h20 interval. 5h00 between 15h15 and 20h15.
- 30 overs a side, latest start time is 15h55. Each innings planned for 2h00 plus 0h20 interval. 4h40 between 15h55 and 20h15.
- 25 overs a side, latest start time is 16h45. Each innings planned for 1h40 plus 0h10 interval. 3h30 between 16h45 and 20h15.

Looking at it – for example - over by over between 40 and 45 overs:

- 44 overs a side, start time between 13h56 and 14h03
- 43 overs a side, start time between 14h04 and 14h11
- 42 overs a side, start time between 14h12 and 14h19
- 41 overs a side, start time between 14h20 and 14h27
- 40 overs a side, start time between 14h28 and 14h35

NB if no play before 17h00 then the match is abandoned (per 3.3 c)).

First innings interrupted for more than 15 minutes

In most – but not all cases – a first innings interruption will result in the reduction of match overs. However, in each situation you must carry out the necessary calculations to establish this because a combination of a reduced interval (from 30 to 20 minutes) and a faster over rate than 15 per hour could mean (say) that a 30 minute interruption might not necessarily result in a loss of total match overs. Calculations must always be carried out.

For example, suppose play is suspended for the first time when Team A have batted exactly 25 overs and 30 minutes are lost. The time when play is suspended is crucial.

- Play suspended from 15h00 – 15h30. Upon resumption at 15h30, it is 4h45 to 20h15; deduct 0h20 mid innings interval leaves 4h25, or time for 67 more overs. NB 66 more overs would be 4h24 of playing time, but here take the extra over since under the principles of the Laws one would count the over in progress spanning the theoretical close of play if one arrived at that. So 25 have already been bowled, so since $25 + 67 = 92 > 90$, no reduction of overs from 45 per side is required.
- However if play is suspended from 15h15 – 15h45, it is 4h30 to 20h15, and deducting 0h20 mid innings interval leaves 4h10 or time for 63 more overs. $25 + 63 = 88$, so with the match total of overs now restricted to 88, the match is reduced to 44 overs per side.
- If things were going a bit slower still and play is suspended from 15h20 – 15h50, then it is 4h25 to 20h15, and deducting 0h20 mid innings interval leaves 4h05 or time for 62 more overs. $25 + 62 = 87$. We ignore the odd over per 3.3 a) and round down to 86, giving 43 overs per side.

If the first innings is interrupted and the calculations for when play is due to resume show that the first innings has used 50% or more of the total revised number of match overs (see 3.3 a)), then the first innings shall be terminated and the second innings commenced immediately.

Second innings interrupted where more than 15 minutes lost in the match

Here we need to be very careful – we are obliged to carry out the calculation where more than 15 minutes in aggregate has been lost but again it might not result in an initial or further reduction of overs if – for example – the side batting first has been bowled out inside its quota of overs, or if over rates have been faster than 15 overs per hour earlier in the match.

For example, suppose the first innings is concluded in a situation when it is still a match of 45 overs a side and the second innings is interrupted after 15 overs for a total of 20 minutes. Again the time when play is suspended is crucial as the following examples show.

- Suppose, as it not so unusual right now, flailing bats from Team A have seen it dismissed well before time at 15h40. The umpires would have taken a 10 minute break and had a 0h40 session before the interval which was taken between 16h30 and 17h00. Suppose 9 overs are bowled by the interval and, after a further 6 overs afterwards, the rain falls at 17h25. Play is set to resume at 17h45, 2h30 before the theoretical close of play at 20h15.

In 2h30 there is time for 38 more overs at the rate of 15 per hour. Since 15 overs have already been completed and thus only 30 more need to be bowled, there is no requirement for an over reduction because $38 > 30$ and thus there is more than enough time to complete 45 overs in the second innings. Indeed, the second innings overs would only have had to be reduced if play could not be resumed before 18h19 when there would be 1h56 time left representing exactly 29 overs (and $29 < 30$).

- Alternatively, one could witness a fast over rate where Team A bats for 45 overs and finishes at 16h20. The resumption of play would be at 16h50 and suppose it then rained at 17h45 for 20 minutes after 15 overs had been completed. Resumption of play would be at 18h05 or 2h10 before 20h15, time for 33 more overs. With only 30 more overs needing to be bowled as above, there is again more than enough time to complete the overs in the second innings.
- However if over rates were a bit slower (perhaps not helped by 5 minutes of lost balls) then one would have to reduce overs from the second innings. For example, Team A concludes its innings at 16h40, and the restart is at 17h10. After 15 overs, rain falls at 18h15 and play resumes at 18h35. There is 1h40 between 18h35 and 20h15 or time for 25 overs. With 15 overs already bowled, then there is time for $15 + 25 = 40$ overs in the second innings for Team B. A revised victory target from 40 overs must be calculated and communicated to all parties before play is resumed.
- Going on from above, suppose there is a further rain break at 19h05 after which 24 overs have been bowled and play can be resumed at 19h20. There is 0h55 playing time between 19h20 and 20h15, representing 14 overs. With 24 overs already bowled, then there is time for $24 + 14 = 38$ overs now available in the second innings for Team B. A revised victory target from 38 overs must be calculated and communicated to all parties before play is resumed.

Umpiring Techniques

When, as umpires, you are off the field for a rain break do try and anticipate what might happen. It will make your life later on much easier if you do know (for example) cut off times for when overs will start to be deducted, latest start times when one will be restricted to (say) 40, 35, 30, 25, and maybe 20 overs a side during a first innings interruption, the latest time the first innings can run before it has to be terminated, latest start times for (say) 40, 35, 30, 25 overs for the second innings, and the time after which it will not be possible for the second innings to run 20 overs. The list can be quite wide ranging and cannot be covered exhaustively here, and some questions will be applicable and others will not. But do try and be proactive and keep ahead of the game because you will be asked by the captains about the various scenarios that might unfold. In the period of time just before any resumption, you will be very busy so it is best to have these calculations done and in your pockets as soon as you can. Just like pitch inspections, reduced over calculations should be made unaccompanied by any player, scorer, or club supporter. Remember also **YOU SHOULD ONLY COMMUNICATE WITH THE CAPTAINS**. One is not advocating being unfriendly towards others who might ask, but if it gets to the point where a player, scorer, club official is clearly trying to influence your decisions, they should (as politely as possible) be asked to take a back seat and the captain should come forward if there is a question from his team and he wants you to talk him through the calculations.

Worked Examples – Q & A (Questions)

Question 1

The start of the match is delayed by bad weather until 15h15. How many overs a side will be played?

Team A is then bowled out for 109 at 16h40. Heavy rain falls at 16h45 and delays the resumption until 17h40. What is the victory target for Team B?

Play is suspended again at 18h40 with Team B at 57 for 4 from 14 overs and resumed again at 19h30. What is the revised victory target for Team B?

Question 2

Team C is bowled out for 180 at 15h40. Team D goes into bat at 16h00 and reaches 38 for 1 in 13 overs before the break which runs from 16h35 to 17h05 due to a long last over before the interval when the ball was temporarily lost after being hit for a boundary.

There is a 10 minute delay upon resumption due to bad weather – so play resumes at 17h15. What is the revised victory target for Team D?

There is a further 10 minute delay due to a sharp shower at 17h35 and play resumes at 17h45 and by this time Team D have reached 60 for 3 in 19 overs. What is the revised victory target for Team D?

There is a further rain break at 19h00 when Team D has reached 165 for 8 in 38 overs. The umpires set a resumption time of 19h40. What is the revised victory target for Team D now?

As the players take the field, there is a further light shower which delays the resumption to 19h55. What is the revised victory target for Team D now?

Question 3

Wet ground conditions delay the start of play until 16h45 when both captains are agreeable to play in conditions the umpires regard as unsuitable but with the sun shining brightly. How many overs a side will be played?

Team E is bowled out for 169 at 18h30. After the break, Team F scores 35 for 2 in 5 overs before it drizzles lightly at 19h00 and the umpires tell the fielding captain and the batsmen at the crease that in their opinion the conditions are unsuitable for play.

Both sides wish to play on, so play continues uninterrupted and the drizzle stops at 19h20. What would be the revised victory targets for Team F if:

- Rain stopped play for 10 minutes at 19h50 with Team F at 120 for 6 in 16.3 overs.

- Rain stopped play at 19h50 with Team F at 120 for 6 in 16.3 overs and the match could not be resumed.
- Rain stopped play at 19h50 with Team F on 140 for 4 from 19 overs and the match could not be restarted.
- Rain stopped play at 20h00 with Team F 134 for 5 in 20 overs and the match could not be restarted.
- Rain stopped play for 10 minutes at 19h55 with Team F at 160 for 8 in 20 overs.
- Due to a wet ball and three delays when the ball was hit into the bushes, rain stops play at 20h20 with Team F at 158 for 9 in 23.4 overs.

Suppose the players had left the field at 19h00 with at least one of the teams not wishing to play in unsuitable conditions and a restart could have been made at 19h30. What would have been the victory target for Team F?

Question 4

Team G bats first and scores 131 for 3 in 22 overs before play is suspended due to rain at 15h10 – two balls needing to be replaced after being hit for 6 and lost contributing to the slow over rate. Play resumes at 16h00. How many overs a side will be played?

Team G's innings concludes at 17h20 and they have scored 254 for 7 from their allotted overs. At 17h40 play resumes and Team H starts batting. Rain returns at 18h40 with Team H having made 71 for 3 from 13 overs. Play resumes at 19h05. What is the revised victory target for Team H?

Worked Examples – Q & A (Answers)

Answer 1

15h15 is exactly 5h00 before 20h15, scheduled close of play. Allowing for a 0h20 mid innings break, assuming the captains and umpires do not mutually agree to anything different (see Regulations 2.2 and 3.3 d)), this allows 4h40 of playing time – therefore 70 overs. $70/2 = 35$. Hence 35 overs per side will be played. Maximum 7 overs per bowler throughout the match per Regulations section 5 and 12 overs of fielding restrictions per Regulations 4.7.

17h40 is 2h35 before 20h15. As the mid innings interval would have been taken during the immediately preceding rain break, there are no further scheduled intervals that need to be allowed for. 2h35 of playing time should equate to 39 overs. Team A were all out for 109 when the match was scheduled to be a 35 over match, so their opponents are entitled to receive 35 overs to score 110 to win. Since $39 > 35$, the second innings does not need to be reduced from 35 overs and the victory target remains at 110 from 35 overs (exactly as it would have been without any interruption).

19h30 is 0h45 before 20h15. This equates to 12 more overs. As 14 overs have already been bowled, the second innings now has to be shortened to 26 overs, because $14 + 12 = 26$ and $26 < 30$. The first innings run rate is $109/35 = 3.1142857$. Over 26 overs, this gives 80.971428, so rounding up to the nearest whole integer the victory target is 81. Both captains should be advised that the revised target for Team B is 81 to win from 26 overs, and if Team B score only 80 then the result will be a tie. Team A are still allowed 7 overs per bowler per Regulations section 5.

Answer 2

17h15 is exactly 3h00 before 20h15, the scheduled close of play. 45 overs can be bowled in this time, as there are no further scheduled intervals to be taken. Since 13 overs of the Team D's (second) innings have already been bowled, there are no overs to be deducted from the second innings and hence the victory target for Team D will be 181 to win from 45 overs (exactly as it was before the interruption).

17h45 is 2h30 before 20h15, the scheduled close of play and there would be time for a further 38 overs. 19 overs of Team D's innings have already been taken, and since $19 + 38 = 57$ and $57 > 45$, there are no overs to be deducted from the second innings and hence the victory target for Team D will be 181 to win from 45 overs (exactly as it was before the interruption).

19h40 is 0h35 before 20h15, the scheduled close of play and there would be time for a further 9 overs. 38 overs of Team D's innings have already been taken, and since $38 + 9 = 47$ and $47 > 45$, there are no overs to be deducted from the second innings and hence the victory target for Team D will be 181 to win from 45 overs (exactly as it was before the interruption).

19h55 is 0h20 before 20h15, the scheduled close of play and there would be time for a further 5 overs. 38 overs of Team D's innings have already been taken, and since $38 + 5 = 43$ and $43 < 45$, overs now have to be deducted from Team D's innings which is shortened to 43 overs because $38 + 5 = 43$. The first innings run rate is $180/45 = 4$. Over 43 overs, this gives 172 exactly. As 172 is a whole number, the victory target will be $172 + 1 = 173$. Both captains should be advised that the revised target for Team D is 173 to win from 43 overs, and if Team D score only 172 then the result will be a tie. Team C are still allowed 9 overs per bowler per Regulations section 5.

Answer 3

16h45 is exactly 3h30 before 20h15, scheduled close of play. Allowing for a 0h10 mid innings break, (see Regulations 2.2 and 3.3 d)), this allows 3h20 of playing time – therefore 50 overs. $50/2 = 25$. Hence 25 overs per side will be played. Maximum 5 overs per bowler throughout the match per Regulations section 5 and 8 overs of fielding restrictions per Regulations 4.7.

At the break the umpires should note the Team E run rate which was $169/25 = 6.76$.

Rain stops play for 0h10 so play can resume at 20h00 which is 0h15 before 20h15, time for 4 more overs. As 16.3 overs have already been bowled (ie we have started the 17th over), convention has it that the 4 overs will commence from the conclusion of the 17th over (standard practice in international cricket). Therefore the second innings will be reduced to $17 + 4 = 21$ overs, since $21 < 25$. Over 21 overs, first innings run rate gives 141.96, so rounding up to the nearest whole integer the victory target is 142. Both captains should be advised that the revised target for Team F is 142 to win from 21 overs, and if Team F score only 141 then the result will be a tie.

Where rain stops play at 19h50 with Team F on 120 for 6 from 16.3 overs and the match cannot be resumed, it shall be declared a "no result" since both teams did not have the opportunity to receive a minimum of 20 overs.

Where rain stops play at 19h50 with Team F on 140 for 4 from 19 overs and the match cannot be resumed, it shall be declared a "no result" since both teams did not have the opportunity to receive a minimum of 20 overs.

Where rain stops play at 20h00 with Team F on 134 for 5 from 20 overs and the match cannot be resumed, there shall be a result because both teams have had the opportunity to receive a minimum of 20 overs. A notional victory target for 20 overs must be calculated using the first innings run rate of 6.76, and this comes to 135.2, meaning the victory target is 136 and the score to tie is 135. As $134 < 135$, Team F's opponents, Team E, will be declared winners on run rate. Had Team F scored 135 for 5, the match would be declared a tie, and had they scored 136 for 5 or more runs that that, then they would be declared winners on run rate.

Rain stops play for 0h10 so play can resume at 20h05 which is 0h10 before 20h15, time for 3 more overs. Therefore the second innings will be reduced to $20 + 3 = 23$ overs, since $23 < 25$. Over 23 overs, first innings run rate gives 155.48, so rounding up to the nearest whole integer the victory target is 156. Since Team F have reached 160 for 8, they shall be declared winners on run rate since $160 > 156$, the match shall be concluded and in this instance there will be no need to bowl the remaining 3 overs.

Where rain stops play at 20h20 with Team F on 158 for 9 from 23.4 overs the match cannot be resumed because there is an unscheduled interval and play cannot restart beyond the time of the scheduled close of play at 20h15 (20h20 being later than 20h15). There shall be a result because both teams have had the opportunity to receive a minimum of 20 overs. A notional victory target for 23.4 overs must be calculated using the first innings run rate of 6.76, and this comes to 159.98666, meaning the victory target is 160 and the score to tie is 159. As $158 < 159$, Team F's opponents, Team E, will be declared winners in run rate. Had Team F scored 159 for 9, the match would be declared a tie, and had they scored 160 for 9 or more runs that that, then they would be declared winners on run rate. NB please take care when doing the partial over calculations to remember that 23.4 overs means $23 + 4/6$ and not $23 + 4/10$!

In all of the above examples, Team E are allowed 5 overs per bowler per Regulations section 5.

In the situation where the players leave the field at 19h00 and return at 19h30, there is 0h45 between 19h30 and 20h15 or time for a further 12 overs. 5 overs have already been bowled at 19h00, so there is time for only $5 + 12 = 17$ overs is Team F's innings. As this means both teams would not have the opportunity to receive a minimum of 20 overs, the match shall be declared as a "no result".

Answer 4

16h00 is 4h15 before 20h15, scheduled close of play. Allowing for a 0h20 mid innings break, assuming the captains and umpires do not mutually agree to anything different (see Regulations 2.2 and 3.3 d)), this allows a further 4h05 of playing time – therefore 62 more overs. 22 overs have already been bowled; therefore total overs for match shall be $22 + 62 = 84$. $84/2 = 42$. Therefore 42 overs a side will be played.

At the mid innings interval, the first innings run rate will be confirmed as $254/42 = 6.047619$. 19h05 is 1h10 before 20h15, the scheduled close of play and there would be time for a further 18 overs. 13 overs of Team H's innings have already been taken, and since $13 + 18 = 31$ and $31 < 42$, overs now have to be deducted from Team H's innings which is shortened to 31 overs because $13 + 18 = 31$. Over 31 overs, the first innings run rate extrapolates to 187.47, so rounding up to the nearest whole integer the victory target is 188. Both captains should be advised that the revised target for Team H is 188 to win from 31 overs, and if Team H score only 187 then the result will be a tie. Per section 4.7 fielding restrictions are immediately lifted (we are beyond the 10 overs applicable to a 31 over innings, and Team G are still allowed 9 overs per bowler per Regulations section 5.