

LBW - A Guide for Parent Umpires

VERY IMPORTANT: What follows below is a summary of the current ECB Rules Leg Before Wicket (LBW) Law 36.

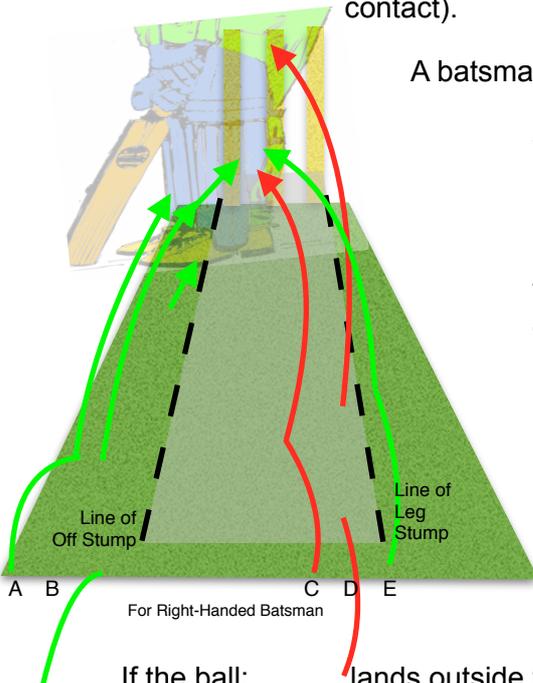
Where LBW does apply, what we really want to see in all our competitions is consistency of umpiring in any one match. We suggest that the two umpires agree how closely they are going to follow these rules; if there is to be some leniency to be given to players then it must be consistently applied.

The umpire will consider an lbw decision if he believes the ball would have hit the stumps had its path not been obstructed by the batsman's pads or body (but only considering the ball's first contact).

A batsman cannot be given out lbw if:

- a) the ball hits the bat before the pad or
- b) if either umpire calls a no-ball.

The most important factor when an umpire considers an lbw decision is whether the ball pitched outside leg stump.



If the ball:

lands outside the line the of the off stump and would not have hit stumps (A) or

lands outside the line the of the off stump, then touches the batsman/pad outside of the off stump and would have hit stumps but the batsman attempts a stroke (if he did not attempt a stroke he's out) (B) or

lands outside the line of the leg stump (E) and would have hit stumps then the batsman IS NOT out.

If the ball:

has not pitched outside the line of leg stump and has not struck the batsman outside the line of off stump (C) and

providing it would not have gone over stumps (D)

then the batsman IS out.

In making his judgement, the umpire must also consider four other variables:

- (1) The height of the ball's bounce
- (2) the swing and spin of the ball
- (3) where the ball hit the pad
- (4) whether the batsman is attempting to play a stroke.

However, if the ball hits the pad on the full – without pitching – then the umpire is not permitted to infer whether the ball would have moved after pitching.