

Law Change Summary: Absent Fielder/Penalty Time

For full details see Law 24.2 & 24.3

If a fielder doesn't take the field at the start of play or leaves it during play: The umpire must be told the reason and give permission for the player to return.

Accumulating Penalty Time (PT)

- The time a player is off the field while play is in progress becomes PT
- PT is restricted to a maximum of 90 minutes but has no minimum (i.e. there is no 15 mins "grace")
- Additional absences are added to unserved PT

Serving Penalty Time

- **A player can't bowl** until all their penalty time is served by an equivalent amount of time on the field
- Unserved penalty time carries over into the next innings (i.e. time before a player can bat)

Unscheduled Breaks in Play (*usually rain*)

- If a player returns before the break and comes on after it the length of the break counts to serving PT
- If a player is off at the start of a break, the time off the field during the interruption *only counts from the time they tell the umpires that they are fit to resume* and if they resume at the end of the break.
- Time off the field during an unscheduled break is not added to any existing PT

Scheduled Breaks (*lunch, tea, drinks, innings breaks*)

- These do not count toward served PT nor are they added to PT

Exceptions to Incurring Penalty Time

- An absence because of an "external blow" suffered during the match doesn't incur PT
- If the reason for absence is considered by the umpires to be for "wholly acceptable reasons", PT is not incurred. However, illness or internal injury *are specifically excluded*.