



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

- The time a player is off the field while play is in progress becomes Penalty Time
- Penalty Time 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 Penalty Time

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 Penalty Time
- 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 Penalty Time



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

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

Exceptions to Incurring Penalty Time

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

Note 1

There is a useful card to help track Penalty Time(s) available on this website.