

Rules Committee Opinion 1-2012
(Maintaining the Deadness Board After a Dead Ball Fault)

Question: If the striker commits a dead ball fault, what should the boardkeeper do?

Answer: The boardkeeper should continue to mark and clear deadness as if the fault had not occurred. If the fault is discovered before the first shot of the next turn, all balls are replaced and the turn ends. Otherwise, the limit of claims has passed and the fault is condoned.

Discussion: It is the responsibility of the players to monitor the state of the game and unless a referee has been called to watch a questionable shot, only the players may call a fault. Rule 13.3(a) lists the 7 situations in which a referee or official may intervene and bringing a dead ball fault to the attention of the players is not one of those situations. In the previous version of the rule book, Rule 54(d) provided that if a player committed a dead ball fault and subsequently ran a wicket, the board should not be cleared. This rule was discarded in the present rule book, partially out of concern that by not clearing the board of the striker's deadness, the boardkeeper was providing information to the players that a dead ball fault had been committed. The Committee believes the better practice is to clear the board and to continue to keep the board as if no fault occurred until the limit of claims (the first shot of the opponent's turn) has expired (see Rule 12.1).