

after the original Teatime. This will include the case of the 9th wicket falling at precisely time A. Note that the end of the innings, or an interruption to play for any reason, will mean that tea will be taken before the expiry of the extra 30 minutes.

[Law reference: 15.8]

15-C Batsman retiring; 9 wickets down at tea

Should, as in some other Laws, the retirement of a batsman count as the fall of a wicket in applying Law 15.8, governing postponement of the tea interval?

No. In Law 15.8, it is not the fall of the wicket that is significant. It is the fact that it is the **9th** wicket. Tea is postponed in the hope of increasing playing time. With only one more wicket to fall, the innings might soon end. The 10 minutes between innings would then be absorbed into the tea interval. However, this does not apply in the case of a retirement. Any retired batsman may resume his innings, in appropriate circumstances. In most cases *except* Law 15.8, the significant fact is the **time** at which a wicket falls. Either an interval will be brought forward, or timing the appearance of the incoming batsmen is to start. Such changes will be triggered by the retirement of a batsman just as much as by the fall of a wicket. There are two cases where the time is not significant, namely Law 2.9(c) [batsman resuming his innings] and 16.5(b) [conclusion of a match]. In these two cases the Law specifically includes retirement of a batsman to remove any doubt.

The particular circumstances in which a batsman's retirement will have the same effect as the fall of a wicket are:

- (i) if a previously retired batsman is allowed to resume his innings, he can do so only at the fall of a wicket or the retirement of another batsman. [specific statement in 2.9(c)]
- (ii) the innings is concluded if when a batsman retires, when further balls remain to be bowled, there are no further batsmen to come in. [(12.3(b))]
- (iii) drinks will be taken if a batsman retires within 5 minutes of the agreed time [(15.9(b)(i))]
- (iv) an interval will be taken if a wicket falls or a batsman retires within 2 minutes of the agreed time [specific statement in 16.5(b)]
- (v) if it is still in play, the ball will automatically be considered dead when a batsman retires. [23.1(a)(iii)]
- (vi) if a batsman retires, the three minutes allowed for the next batsman (or his partner) to be ready will be timed from the retirement [31.1]

It must be emphasised that, although in the situations stated above the retirement of a batsman will have the same effect on the subsequent conduct of the game as the fall of a wicket, it is **not the same** as the fall of a wicket. For example, if drinks are taken early because a batsman retires, his innings is not terminated at that point. The Law specifically allows him to resume his innings, either by right or with the consent of the opposing captain. In particular, in (ii) above, if the batsman retires through illness or injury or other unavoidable cause, Law 2.9(a) directs that this batsman is to be recorded Retired – not out. The innings will be completed but the side is not all out.

[Law reference: 15.8]

Also applies in Laws 2.9(c), 12.3(b), 15.9(b)(ii), 16.5(b), 23.1(a)(iii), 31.1
