

**Law 38**

**38-A Run out after contact with fielder’s helmet**

A ball is struck directly on to a helmet worn by a fielder. It rebounds, hits the striker and ricochets on to the wicket, dislodging a bail. If the striker is out of his ground, is he out Run out?

In the definitions in Appendix D to the Laws, phrases such as ‘rebounds directly’ are defined as ‘without contact with any fielder’ although contact with the ground is not excluded. Since in the situation described in the question there has been no contact with any fielder after the rebound from the helmet, the striker will not be out Run out.

[Law reference: 38.2, Appendix D]]

**38-B Dismissal dependent on whether bowler released ball before entering delivery stride or not**

The striker’s wicket is put down by the wicket-keeper, or directly from the bowler’s delivery, while he is out of his ground but not attempting a run. What difference does it make to the striker’s dismissal if the bowler released the ball

- (a) during his delivery stride? (b) before entering his delivery stride?

The question does not mention the bowler’s action in releasing the ball. By definition, if he is *bowling* the ball he is in his delivery stride. Equally, if he is not in his delivery stride he cannot be *bowling* the ball. We have the possibilities

- Bowler throws the ball can be before or during delivery stride  
No ball **must** be called (and signalled)
- Bowler bowls the ball fairly **is** in his delivery stride  
delivery might be  
a No ball from cause other than his action  
not a No ball.

The answer therefore looks at balls which are not No balls as well those which are. It should be noted that Law 24.4 applies only to ‘*throwing* the ball towards the striker’s end before delivery’.

- (a) The bowler has entered his delivery stride. The delivery may be fair or a throw, or a No ball for another reason. He can in no circumstances Run out the striker directly [Law 38.2(b)]. Another fielder (who can be the wicket-keeper) must touch the ball before it puts down the wicket.

Bowler releases ball DURING his delivery stride		
wicket is put down	Not No ball	No ball
by ball directly	Bowled	Not out [ Not Bowled - No ball ] [ Not Run out - not touched by fielder ]
by wicket-keeper alone	Stumped*	Not out* - Law 38.2(e)
another fielder involved	Run out	Run out

\* The question stated that the striker was not attempting a run. In both this chart and the one in part (b), if he had been attempting a run he would have been out Run out in the three instances marked with an asterisk.

- (b) The bowler has *not* entered his delivery stride. His delivery is therefore not bowling the ball. There is no requirement for the ball to be touched by another fielder before it puts down the wicket. No ball must be called for the throw, but the warning and reporting procedure laid down in Law 24.2 is not to be implemented.

Bowler releases ball BEFORE entering his delivery stride	
wicket is put down	No ball must be called
by ball directly	Run out no requirement for another fielder
by wicket-keeper alone	Not out* [Not Stumped - No ball] [Not Run out - Law 38.2(e)]
another fielder involved	Run out

[Law reference: 38.2(b), 24.4, 38.2(e)]

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