
Law 4

4-A Drinks interval as part of a batsman's time at the wicket

Should the scorers include time for a drinks interval in calculating the length of a batsman's innings?

Although the Law is concerned that the details of play are correctly recorded, it does not concern itself about the personal statistics of individual players. Provisions on scoring in the Laws are limited to

- getting the runs, wickets and (where required) number of overs right
- indicating whether a delivery counts as a ball of the over or not
- stating when runs or part runs are valid, or not valid
- allocating runs and penalties as between striker and various forms of extras
- allocating runs and penalties as between bowler and fielding extras
- indicating whether the bowler can claim credit for a wicket

The duration of a particular batsman's innings is not one of the considerations. The only part of Law that has any relevance is that a drinks interval is not playing time. This is important in two matters

- reckoning a player's absence and hence his entitlement to bowl on return
- recording the duration of a side's innings in cases where this is to be limited to a period of time.

How the scorers deal with this for an individual batsman is (like a number of scoring practices) a matter of established convention. Such conventions may vary from one cricket community to another.

[Law reference: 4, 15.1]
