

## Notes on Ball Counting

I have found that there is a lot of interest in how many balls have been faced. For batspersons<sup>1</sup> they want to know their strike rate<sup>2</sup> and captains are interested in how effective team members are.

So by example please consider Figure 1 – a real score sheet from the 2018 season.

8	SANDY	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; margin-bottom: 5px;"> <span>1</span><span>3</span><span>18</span><span>23</span><span>32</span> </div> ::::/1:::6:3 4 :4:4:1:1242'1 //	54 BALLS
9	V. JACOB	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; margin-bottom: 5px;"> <span>0</span><span>9</span><span>20</span><span>40</span> </div> ::::4:1:4 1:1:6 4 6 6 42'1	42 BALLS
10	J. PILLAI	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; margin-bottom: 5px;"> <span>2</span> </div> ::::2'2'1 1 1' //	22 BALLS

Figure 1. Counting balls

The proper way to score a sequence of dot balls is to lay them out in a straight line as follows . . . . . To save space with the expectation that each batsperson will face a lot of dot balls I record two consecutive dot balls one on top of the other ( : )

The proper way to score is to include any wides in the batting analysis, even though wides do not count towards “balls faced”. This is meant to allow someone to replay the whole game by following the batting and bowling analysis ball by ball.

However, as mentioned in the guidelines to using my scoresheets, once the game is completed the scorecard is entered onto the LCU website, the scoresheets are never looked at again. So I am recording solely to enter the correct details on the website. So I cheat on dots to save space and I do not put wides in the batsperson’s record so I never mistakenly add them into my ball counting.

You can then see in Figure 1 that after every ten entries against the batsman, I take my pencil and make a forward slash<sup>3</sup> (/) and at the top of the slash write the score the batsperson has made up to that point. I use a pencil as using a pen might result in mistaking a slash for 1 run. If Sandy had gone on and on and on at the crease I could erase the numbers from V. Jacob that encroach into his three rows – I still have the slashes to denote ten balls and only the last pencilled number is of value when checking the scoreboard or counting up the final batters score.

Advantages, I can:

- check that the scoreboard is correct without having to continuously count from the start; and
- quickly calculate the balls faced by counting in 10’s and then the remainder.

<sup>1</sup> Encompasses both sexes.

<sup>2</sup> Another black mark against the 20:20 game.

<sup>3</sup> Also known as a slant, a solidus, a stroke or a virgule. The opposite of a forward slash (/) is a backward slash (\) sometimes called, amongst other things as a hack, whack or a slosh.

Why does my ball counting never quite add up to what the scorer using electronic means counts?

It took a while for me to get the discipline to be as accurate as the electronic scorer and here were my faults as to why I was recording too few runs against players:

- No balls, leg-byes and byes need to be counted – do not leave them out of the batting record;
- When the batter facing was out I failed to put a dot in the book – in the excitement I was too focussed on recording the how;
- On a run out, where no runs were scored, I did not put a dot against the facing batsman – again too focused on recording who contributed to the run out; and
- Failed to enter a dot against the batter even though I was accurately capturing the dots against the bowlers – always going through the same sequence of recording helped solve this problem – my first step now is enter something against the batsman then move on.

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