

Queensland Cricket Umpires

2026 Laws Exam Review

Top 10 strongest questions | Bottom 10 questions to unpack





Results at a glance

The session uses the ten strongest and ten least-successful items to revisit the Laws — not just the answers.

99.0%

Top 10 mean

Two questions at 100%

77.0%

Bottom 10 mean

Range: 54.4%–85.4%

67

Most incorrect

"Held in the hand" question

Tonight's approach

- Top 10: questions with highest rate of correct responses with a short explanation.
- Bottom 10: questions with the highest rate of incorrect responses; unpacking the Laws around these.

TOP 10

What the group knew well

Brief confirmation of the correct principles before we move to the harder questions.





TOP 10 • 1/10

98.1% correct

155 correct • 3 incorrect

Law 4 – The Ball

QUESTION

What is the main 2026 change to the naming and placement of ball specifications?

CORRECT ANSWER

Size 1, Size 2 and Size 3 specifications are set out together, with the Governing Body determining the size to be used.

Law 4.1 / 4.6

BRIEF EXPLANATION

- The 2026 edition rationalises the ball specifications and terminology.
- The Law does not give umpires a general choice of ball size; the Governing Body determines it where specified.



TOP 10 • 2/10

98.7% correct

156 correct • 2 incorrect

Law 10 – Covering the Pitch

QUESTION

Unless determined otherwise before the toss, what is the default coverage during the match?

CORRECT ANSWER

Cover the whole pitch and at least 4 ft / 1.22 m beyond each end; cover the bowlers' run-ups where possible.

Law 10.2

BRIEF EXPLANATION

- This is the default unless something different is determined before the toss.
- Covers used during the day are removed promptly as soon as conditions allow.



TOP 10 • 3/10

98.7% correct

156 correct • 2 incorrect

Law 11 – Intervals

QUESTION

Which of the following is an interval under Law 11?

CORRECT ANSWER

Law 11 intervals include overnight, between innings, meals, drinks and any other agreed interval.

Law 11.1

BRIEF EXPLANATION

- An interruption is not automatically an interval.
- Only the periods expressly classed as intervals are scheduled breaks for the Penalty-time provisions.



TOP 10 • 4/10

98.7% correct

156 correct • 2 incorrect

Law 41 – Penalty Runs and the Result

QUESTION

A side appears to have won, but before the umpires leave the field, required Penalty runs are awarded against that side such that they have now not won the match. What should happen if play can continue?

CORRECT ANSWER

Apply the Penalty runs. If the result has been undone and play can continue, the match continues.

Law 41.17.2

BRIEF EXPLANATION

- Required Penalty runs can still be awarded after an apparent result, up until the umpires leave the field.
- The score and result must reflect every required award before the match is finally closed.



TOP 10 • 5/10

98.7% correct

156 correct • 2 incorrect

Law 19 – Overthrows

QUESTION

If a boundary results from an overthrow, what may need to be considered?

CORRECT ANSWER

The completed runs and whether the batters had crossed for the run in progress at the instant of the throw or wilful act.

Law 19.8

BRIEF EXPLANATION

- The boundary allowance is added to completed runs at the instant of the throw/wilful act.
- The run in progress is included only if the batters had already crossed at that instant.



TOP 10 • 6/10

100.0% correct

147 correct • 0 incorrect

Law 30 – Batter Out of Their Ground

QUESTION

A batter is generally considered to be in their ground when:

CORRECT ANSWER

Some part of the batter's person or bat is grounded behind the popping crease at that end.

Law 30.1

BRIEF EXPLANATION

- A batter who has made their ground while running or diving is protected from a subsequent temporary loss of contact in that continuing movement.
- Always judge the exact moment the wicket is broken.



TOP 10 • 7/10

99.3% correct

146 correct • 1 incorrect

Law 31 – Appeals

QUESTION

Before an umpire can give a batter out, what must first happen?

CORRECT ANSWER

The fielding side must make an appeal.

Law 31.1

BRIEF EXPLANATION

- An umpire does not give a batter out without an appeal.
- The appeal must also be made within the time permitted by Law 31.3.



TOP 10 • 8/10

100.0% correct

158 correct • 0 incorrect

Law 36 – LBW

QUESTION

A delivery lands in line between wicket and wicket, then strikes the striker's pad without touching the bat, and would have hit the wicket. What must the umpire still consider before giving LBW?

CORRECT ANSWER

The point of impact and, where relevant, whether the striker made a genuine attempt to play the ball — as well as confirming it was not a No ball.

Law 36.1

BRIEF EXPLANATION

- LBW is a five-part test; satisfying landing and projected path alone is not enough.
- Work through the requirements in sequence rather than jumping straight to “hitting the stumps”.



TOP 10 • 9/10

98.7% correct

156 correct • 2 incorrect

Law 41 – Penalty Runs After an Apparent Result

QUESTION

A required 5-run penalty occurs after players believe the result has already been achieved. What should the umpires do?

CORRECT ANSWER

Award the required 5 Penalty runs and reassess the result.

Law 41.17.2

BRIEF EXPLANATION

- The players' belief that the match is over does not prevent a required Penalty-run award.
- If the award means the result is no longer achieved, the match continues if it can.



TOP 10 • 10/10

98.7% correct

156 correct • 2 incorrect

Law 42 – Players' Conduct

QUESTION

A player shows dissent at an umpire's decision by word or action, and it is the team's first offence at any level. What is the expected Law 42 process?

CORRECT ANSWER

Treat ordinary dissent as Level 1: inform the captain and issue a first and final warning applying to the whole team.

Law 42.2

BRIEF EXPLANATION

- A later Level 1 offence by that team brings 5 Penalty runs to the opposition.
- Serious dissent may instead fall within Level 2 and attract the Level 2 sanctions immediately.

BOTTOM 10

Where the Laws need unpacking

Clearing up common misconceptions





BOTTOM 10 • 1/10

54.4% correct

Appendix A / Law 29 – What Counts as “Held”?

80 correct • 67 incorrect

QUESTION

A wicket keeper attempts to gather a delivery after it passes the strikers wicket.
After momentarily fumbling the ball, the wicketkeeper ultimately manages to ‘hug’ the ball between his gloves and his chest.
He then leans forward and puts down the wicket with his gloves, which are in contact with the ball.
The striker is out of their ground, not attempting a run.
What Is the decision??





BOTTOM 10 • 1/10

54.4% correct

80 correct • 67 incorrect

Appendix A / Law 29 – What Counts as “Held”?

CORRECT ANSWER

Do not assume the ball is “held in the hand”. For Law 29, it must be under complete control in the palm/fingers, or the palm/fingers of the wicket-keeper’s glove.

A.2.7–2.8 / Law 29.2

LAW UNPACKED

- Law 29 allows a fielder to break the wicket with the hand or arm provided the ball is held as defined in Appendix A.
- A.2.7 requires complete control in the palm/fingers — or in the palm/fingers of a wicket-keeper’s glove.
- A.2.8 asks whether the fielder could continue holding the ball for as long as desired or dispose of it wherever desired.
- Do not confuse this definition with a fair catch:
Law 33 can recognise a ball hugged to the body in different circumstances.

COMMON TRAP

“Complete control” and “held in the hand” are related but not identical ideas.
Identify which Law is being applied.



BOTTOM 10 • 2/10

59.5% correct

Law 41 – Deliberate Non-Landing Delivery

94 correct • 64 incorrect

QUESTION

A bowler deliberately bowls a non-landing delivery above the striker's waist. What is the correct immediate consequence?





BOTTOM 10 • 2/10

59.5% correct

94 correct • 64 incorrect

Law 41 – Deliberate Non-Landing Delivery

CORRECT ANSWER

Call No ball and, once the ball is dead, direct the captain to suspend the bowler immediately from bowling for the match.

Law 41.7.6

LAW UNPACKED

- Any non-landing delivery above waist height is unfair and is a No ball.
- If the umpire judges the delivery was deliberate, the normal first-and-final warning is skipped.
- The bowler is suspended immediately and may not bowl again in the match.
- Inform the necessary players/captains and report the occurrence after the match.

COMMON TRAP

Do not use the ordinary dangerous-delivery warning sequence when the non-landing delivery was deliberate.



BOTTOM 10 • 3/10

77.6% correct

Law 24 / 25 – External Blow and Penalty Time

114 correct • 33 incorrect

QUESTION

A fielder attempting to save a boundary ends up colliding with the fence and leaves the field to seek treatment.

They are still off the field when the innings ends.

They now wish to open the batting.





BOTTOM 10 • 3/10

77.6% correct

114 correct • 33 incorrect

Law 24 / 25 – External Blow and Penalty Time

CORRECT ANSWER

They may open the batting if the absence was justifiably caused by the external blow; that absence does not incur Penalty time.

Law 24.3.1 / 25.3

LAW UNPACKED

- Penalty time normally restricts when an absent fielder may later bat or act as runner.
- Law 24.3.1 creates an exception where the player suffered an external blow during the match and justifiably left or could not take the field.
- With no Penalty time incurred, Law 25.3 does not delay commencement of the batting innings.
- Record why the player left — the reason for absence determines whether the exception applies.

COMMON TRAP

Do not apply Penalty time merely because the player was absent for a long period.
First ask why they were absent.



BOTTOM 10 • 4/10

77.8% correct

Law 18 – Deliberate Short Running

123 correct • 35 incorrect

QUESTION

After deliberate short running, who decides which batter faces the next delivery?





BOTTOM 10 • 4/10

77.8% correct

123 correct • 35 incorrect

Law 18 – Deliberate Short Running

CORRECT ANSWER

The captain of the fielding side decides which batter at the wicket is to face the next delivery.

Law 18.5.2 / 18.13.2

LAW UNPACKED

- A deliberate short run requires an attempt to deceive the umpires.
- All runs to the batting side are disallowed, subject to the Law's stated penalties and exceptions.
- Five Penalty runs are awarded to the fielding side.
- The fielding captain then chooses the next striker, including an incoming batter where applicable.

COMMON TRAP

Do not automatically return to the striker/non-striker outcome that normal running would have produced.



BOTTOM 10 • 5/10

82.3% correct

Law 12 – Wicket Near Close of Play

130 correct • 28 incorrect

QUESTION

There are less than 3 minutes until close of play at the end of the day and a wicket falls during the over. Conditions remain fit to continue play. What happens now?





BOTTOM 10 • 5/10

82.3% correct

130 correct • 28 incorrect

Law 12 – Wicket Near Close of Play

CORRECT ANSWER

Law 12.5.2

Complete the over. The special “take the interval immediately” provision does not end the day early.

LAW UNPACKED

- Law 12.5.2 can bring a meal interval forward when a wicket falls or batter retires with less than 3 minutes remaining.
- The 2026 wording specifically distinguishes the end of the day from those intervals.
- If conditions remain fit and the match has not otherwise ended, the over is completed.
- An incoming batter must therefore be ready to continue the over.

COMMON TRAP

Do not treat close of play like lunch or tea. The three-minute wicket rule operates differently at the end of the day.



BOTTOM 10 • 6/10

82.3% correct

Law 15 – Forfeiture

130 correct • 28 incorrect

QUESTION

The batting side's captain wants to forfeit the final innings of the match to create a result. What should the umpires say?





BOTTOM 10 • 6/10

82.3% correct

130 correct • 28 incorrect

Law 15 – Forfeiture

CORRECT ANSWER

The final innings of the match cannot be forfeited.

Law 15.2

LAW UNPACKED

- A captain may forfeit either of their side's innings before it commences — except the final innings of the match.
- A forfeited innings is treated as a completed innings.
- Once a valid declaration or forfeiture is notified to the opposing captain and umpires, it cannot be changed.
- The exception for the final innings prevents this tactic from being used to manufacture the result.

COMMON TRAP

The power to forfeit is broad, but it expressly stops at the final innings of the match.



BOTTOM 10 • 7/10

83.7% correct

Law 22 – Head-Height Wide

123 correct • 24 incorrect

QUESTION

A delivery lands, then passes over head height of the striker standing upright at the popping crease. No other No ball Law applies. Under which law does this fall?





BOTTOM 10 • 7/10

83.7% correct

123 correct • 24 incorrect

Law 22 – Head-Height Wide

CORRECT ANSWER

Wide ball — Law 22.1.3.

Law 22.1.3

LAW UNPACKED

- The 2026 edition moves the after-landing head-height provision into the Wide Law.
- A delivery that, after landing, passes or would have passed over head height of the striker upright at the popping crease is considered Wide.
- First check that another No ball Law does not apply.
- Remember: No ball overrides Wide if both could otherwise be called.

COMMON TRAP

Do not automatically call No ball simply because the ball passes above head height after landing.



BOTTOM 10 • 8/10

83.7% correct

Law 27 – Wicket-Keeper Position

123 correct • 24 incorrect

QUESTION

The wicket-keeper brings their gloves a couple of inches in front of the strikers end wicket during the run-up but is wholly behind the striker's wicket at the instant of delivery.
Is that a No ball?





BOTTOM 10 • 8/10

83.7% correct

123 correct • 24 incorrect

Law 27 – Wicket-Keeper Position

CORRECT ANSWER

Law 27.3.1

No. The 2026 position requirement begins at the instant of the bowler's delivery.

LAW UNPACKED

- The wicket-keeper must be wholly behind the striker's wicket from the instant of delivery until the ball touches the striker, passes the wicket or the striker attempts a run.
- Being briefly in front during the bowler's run-up is no longer, by itself, the position infringement.
- The striker's-end umpire should focus on the keeper's position at the instant of delivery.
- Movement after delivery remains subject to the other wicket-keeper movement and interference provisions.

COMMON TRAP

Do not judge the keeper's position from the start of the bowler's run-up; judge the relevant instant specified under this law.



BOTTOM 10 • 9/10

83.7% correct

Law 28 – Accidental Equipment Contact

123 correct • 24 incorrect

QUESTION

If while the ball is in play, it contacts a hat belonging to a fielder which had blown off in the course of the fielder running after a ball played into the field, the correct outcome is:





BOTTOM 10 • 9/10

83.7% correct

123 correct • 24 incorrect

Law 28 – Accidental Equipment Contact

CORRECT ANSWER

It is not illegal fielding merely because the ball contacts the hat; the hat accidentally fell from the fielder.

Law 28.2.2

LAW UNPACKED

- Illegal fielding under 28.2.1.3 is concerned with an item that was deliberately discarded and then contacts the ball.
- Law 28.2.2 expressly protects clothing/equipment that accidentally falls from a fielder's person.
- A hat blown off while the fielder is running is an accidental loss on the stated facts.
- Continue to apply the normal Laws to whatever happens next.

COMMON TRAP

The key word is deliberate. Accidental loss of an item is treated differently from deliberately discarding it.



BOTTOM 10 • 10/10

85.4% correct

Law 33 – Caught After a Lawful Second Strike

135 correct • 23 incorrect

QUESTION

The striker lawfully strikes the ball a second time to guard their wicket.
The ball has not touched the ground between strikes and is then caught by a fielder.
What should the umpire consider?



BOTTOM 10 • 10/10

85.4% correct

135 correct • 23 incorrect

Law 33 – Caught After a Lawful Second Strike

CORRECT ANSWER

Caught can still apply if Law 33 is satisfied — including that the ball was not grounded after the first strike and at least one strike was on the bat.

Law 33.2.2.2 / 33.3

LAW UNPACKED

- A lawful second strike to guard the wicket does not automatically make Caught impossible.
- Law 33.2.2.2 expressly allows a fair catch after the ball has been lawfully struck more than once in defined circumstances.
- At least one strike must have been on the bat, and the ball must not have been grounded since it was first struck.
- The catch is not complete until the fielder controls both the ball and their own movement.

COMMON TRAP

Do not stop at “the second strike was lawful”. Then ask whether the requirements for Caught are also satisfied.



What the Bottom 10 tells us

The difficult questions were less about obscure Laws and more about precise distinctions.

- 1 Definitions** “Held”, “complete control”, “interval”, “in their ground”.
- 2 Timing** Instant of delivery, instant of throw, instant wicket is broken, when umpires leave the field.
- 3 Exceptions** External blow, accidental equipment loss, final innings, end-of-day rule.
- 4 2026 Edition wording** Non-landing deliveries, keeper position, head-height Wide, deliberate short running.

DISCUSSION

Questions & further unpacking



Law 33 – Caught

NEW LAW: FAIR CATCH



CRICKET
NETWORK

NO AD-BREAKS



2/111 12.4

► MILLER 6 (7)

WRIGHT 45 (33)

NAIR 1/18 (2.4)

0:00 / 0:52



DISCUSSION

Questions & further unpacking

