

Christmas Challenge – 2020

Once again The Notchers have challenged The Scratchers to a fireside fixture this Christmas. Readers are invited to accept the Challenge by completing the scorecard and giving the result of the following match. Please send your entry (limited to one per reader, please) to The Third Umpire, 60 The Lawns, Rolleston-on-Dove, Staffordshire, DE13 9DB to arrive not later than 30th January 2021 (or email johnmbrown60@gmail.com): please **mark your entry NN**. All entries will be examined and the names of all those whose entries are correct will be put into the Umpire's hat, from which the winner of the prize will be drawn at random.

You are invited to solve the clues in order to discover how many runs each player scores. **You should record all these scores in batting order, and complete your solution by giving the result of the match.** Normal Laws of Cricket (2017 Code - updated) apply (no special regulations). There are no trick questions; all relevant information is provided in the clues, and you should assume that the umpire gives appropriate signals.

Scratchers XI (batting first)

1. The boundary is marked by a rope. The ball is hit and lands full on top of the rope: how many runs should be scored?
 2. Team A were dismissed for 182. Team B has scored 178 for 9 when the batsmen run one, and have crossed on the second when the return from the fielder hits the helmet lying on the ground? What is Team B's final score?
 3. The striker has been warned for running on the protected area. The fifth ball of the over is called and signalled No Ball, the striker hits the ball to long-on, the batsmen run 3, but run on the protected area. How many runs should be added to the batting side's score?
 4. ... and how many runs should be added to the fielding side's score?
 5. ... and how many balls remain to be bowled in the over?
 6. How long, in inches, is the bowling crease?
 7. The bowler's end umpire calls and signals Wide Ball; the striker's end umpire calls and signals No Ball; the wicket-keeper misses the ball which goes to the boundary. How many runs should be added to the total?
 8. ... and how should this be recorded by the scorer? Choose one of the following: 5 Wides (5), 5 No balls (10), 1 Wide + 1 No Ball (15), 1 No Ball + 4 Byes (20), 5 Wides + 1 No Ball (25)
 9. A ball called and signalled No Ball is hit to deep square-leg; the batsmen have crossed on their second run when the fielder throws the ball which goes on to cross the boundary. The umpire signals Short Run. How many runs should be added to the total?
 10. ... and how many signals should the scorer acknowledge?
 11. The striker edges the ball which flicks the top of the off-stump and removes a bail; the wicket-keeper catches the ball and appeals. Is the striker out Bowled (5) or Caught (10)?
- Extras: As the bowler runs up to bowl the third ball of an over, he runs out the non-striker who has left his ground early. How many balls remain to be bowled in the over?

Notchers XI

1. The scores are level after Team A has been dismissed for 201. Team B have scored 201 for 9 when the striker hits the ball high in the air and the batsmen complete one run before the ball is caught at long-off. What is the result? Choose one of the following: Team B win (5), Match Drawn (10) Match Tied (15).
 2. For how many methods of dismissal does the bowler get the credit?
 3. The scores are level with the team batting having reached 132 for 7: the bowler bowls a ball which is called and signalled No Ball and the striker hits it for six. What is the batting side's final score?
 4. The striker hits the ball to deep mid-wicket; as the batsmen start their second run a wild throw goes on to cross the boundary by which time the batsmen have completed two runs and started on their third. How many runs should be added to the total?
 5. How many feet apart are the two popping creases?
 6. The bowler is carrying his cap in his pocket; as he delivers the ball his cap falls onto the stumps removing a bail. What would you expect the umpire to signal? Choose one of the following: No signal (5), Dead ball (10), No ball (15)
 7. In a 40-over per side match a fielder is sent off for a Level 3 offence after 17.2 overs: at the start of which over would that fielder be allowed to return?
 8. The umpire inadvertently allows a seventh ball in the over: the next ball is called and signalled Wide Ball. How many runs should be added to the total?
 9. ... and how many balls remain to be bowled in the over?
 10. The striker plays no shot at a ball which deflects off his pad and runs onto the helmet lying on the ground. How many runs should be added to the total?
 11. The striker tries to hit a high full-toss, called and signalled No Ball, but he misses: it hits him on the upper arm and the batsmen run 2. Both umpires signal Short Run. How many runs should be added to the total?
- Extras: For how many minutes may the pitch be rolled during the break between innings?

Result: