

= Handled the ball =

Handled the ball is one of the ten methods of dismissing a batsman in the sport of cricket . It dictates that either batsman can be given out if they intentionally touch the ball with a hand that is not holding their bat . An exception is given for if the batsman handles the ball to avoid injury . It is governed by Law 33 of the laws of cricket , and is a rare way for a batsman to be dismissed : in the history of cricket , there have been 60 instances in first @-@ class matches and 5 occasions in List A games . In most cases this occurs when a batsman thinks that the ball is going to hit their wicket , and knocks it away from the stumps with their hand .

In international cricket , only ten dismissals have been given in this fashion ; on seven occasions in Test cricket and thrice in One Day Internationals . The South African Russell Endean became the first victim of this method in international cricket when he was dismissed in a 1957 Test match against England . The most recent occurrence was in an ODI in 2015 , when Chamu Chibhabha was given out against Afghanistan .

= = Definition = =

Handled the ball is Law 33 in the laws of cricket established by the Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC) . A batsman can be given out for handling the ball if , while playing a delivery , the batsman intentionally touches the ball with one or both of their hands not holding the bat . A decision of not out must be reached if the batsman handles the ball to avoid incurring an injury . A bowler does not receive credit for the wicket when a batsman is dismissed in this fashion .

= = History = =

As a method of dismissal , handling the ball has been included in the laws of cricket since the original code was written in 1744 . In that document , it stated that " If ye Striker touches or takes up ye Ball before she is lain quite still , unless asked by ye Bowler or Wicket Keeper , its out . " Similar wording remained in the revision made to the laws thirty years later . The first batsman to be dismissed for handling the ball in first @-@ class cricket was James Grundy , who suffered the fate while playing for the MCC against Kent in 1857 . Prior to 1899 , a batsman could be given out for handling the ball even if they were doing so to remove a ball which had got stuck in their equipment or clothing . At the time , if one of the fielders removed the ball from the batsman 's clothing , they could claim a catch . It was in such a situation that George Bennett , the first player to be given out handled the ball in English county cricket , was dismissed in 1872 . The wicket of William Scotton in early 1887 was described by Gerald Brodribb as " most unusual " . In a match between the smokers and the non @-@ smokers involved in the 1886 ? 87 Ashes series , Scotton faced the final delivery of the contest . Eager to claim the ball as a souvenir of the high @-@ scoring match , he defended the delivery and picked the ball up . The fielders ? who also wanted the souvenir ? appealed , and Scotton was ruled out .

An addition was made to the law in 1950 to allow umpires to give a batsman not out if the ball should strike the hand after " an involuntary action by the striker in the throwing up of a hand to protect his person " . For a time , the act of handing the ball back to the fielding side was listed as not out under Law 33 , and instead was considered to be part of a different method of dismissal : obstructing the field , covered in Law 37 . The illegal nature of this offence was later returned to Law 33 , but reverted to Law 37 in 2013 . In 1948 the MCC issued a reminder to batsman , advising them not to handle the ball for any reason at any point during a cricket match , but it is relatively common for batsmen to pick the ball up and return it to the fielding side . Charles Wright was the first player to be dismissed for returning the ball to a fielder in first @-@ class cricket ; albeit wrongly . Brodribb relates that in an 1893 match , W. G. Grace influenced Wright to return the ball to him , and upon doing so , appealed . The umpire dismissed Wright , despite a clause added to the law nine years previous stating that a batsman would not be ruled out if they were returning the ball at the request of the fielding side .

In 2013 , the law received a major change . Prior to this , there had been ambiguity in certain situations whether handling the ball or obstructing the field was applicable . This ambiguity was removed by setting a clear demarcation point between the two as the point when the striker has " finished playing the ball " : before this point , handling the ball applies ; thereafter , obstructing the field applies . The result is that only the striker can now be dismissed handled ball , and only during the short period when the striker is playing (or is attempting to play) the ball , either as a first or subsequent stroke . The act of handing the ball back to the fielding side , mentioned above , is therefore no longer regarded as the striker playing the ball , resulting in this event now being dealt with under obstructing the field .

In total , there have been 60 occasions on which a batsman has been given out handled the ball in first @-@ class cricket and 5 instances in List A cricket . The most recent dismissal of this fashion in first @-@ class cricket occurred during a County Championship contest between Leicestershire and Kent in April 2016 , when Kent batsman Sean Dickson was dismissed for the infraction . Brodribb suggests that it is likely that there should have been a significant number more dismissals than there have been for handling the ball : in addition to the cases where batsman have returned the ball to the fielding side without permission , there are records of cases in which the umpires have been reticent to uphold an appeal . On one such instance , the umpire David Constant rejected an appeal against Younis Ahmed , saying that he thought the appeal was not serious .

= = Occasions in international cricket = =

The first occasion of a batsman being given out handled the ball in international cricket occurred during a Test match between South Africa and England in Cape Town in 1957 . In the second innings of the match , the South African Russell Endean padded away a delivery from Jim Laker . The ball looped off his pads into the air , and was falling towards his stumps until Endean instinctively knocked it away with his free hand . He later suggested that he had " thought of heading it away , but that seemed too theatrical . " The second instance came 22 years later during a bad @-@ tempered series between Australia and Pakistan that also involved another rare dismissal method : Mankading . Andrew Hilditch was the victim in this match ; he picked up the ball and returned it to the bowler after a wayward throw from a fielder . The bowler , Sarfraz Nawaz , appealed for the wicket and Hilditch was given out . Another Pakistan player , Asif Iqbal , distanced himself from the incident , commenting that he felt " there was no need for us to stoop so low as to appeal against Hilditch " . Hilditch 's dismissal marked the only time that a non @-@ striking batsman has been given out for handling the ball . The next case also occurred in a match between Australia and Pakistan . The match was marred by stones being thrown at the Australians in the field , providing a tense atmosphere . Mohsin Khan defended a delivery from Geoff Lawson , which then landed behind him . Mohsin pushed the ball away from the stumps with his hand , resulting in the wicket .

Desmond Haynes was the fourth man to be dismissed for handling the ball in Test cricket , just over a year after Mohsin . Facing India in late 1983 , Haynes had been struck on the bat and pad by the ball , which then headed towards the stumps . The West Indian batsman redirected the ball away from the stumps with his free hand . Upon being given out , Haynes ? who was ignorant of the law regarding handling the ball ? argued with the umpire about the dismissal . After asking the bowler , Kapil Dev , if he wanted to withdraw his appeal , the umpire sent Haynes back to the pavilion . The first instance in One Day Internationals was in 1986 , when the Indian batsman Mohinder Amarnath knocked away a turning delivery from Australia 's Greg Matthews that was heading for the stumps . In 1993 , Graham Gooch became the only player to be dismissed for handling the ball after scoring a century . Playing defensively to try and draw the Test match against Australia , Gooch blocked a short ball from Merv Hughes . The ball flicked off his bat and fell towards his stumps , prompting Gooch to instinctively punch the ball away : Australia won the match by 179 runs .

The dismissal of Daryll Cullinan in 1999 was the second instance in ODIs : facing the West Indian spinner Keith Arthurton , Cullinan fended the ball off into the ground . It bounced high in the air , and Cullinan removed his right hand from his bat to catch it as it fell again . Despite the fact that it was

unlikely that the ball would land near the stumps , the West Indies captain , Brian Lara , appealed , and Cullinan was dismissed . The next occurrence was two years later , in a Test match between Australia and India . In the first innings of the match , Steve Waugh was struck on the pads by a delivery from Harbhajan Singh . The umpire turned down the appeal , but as he did so , the ball bounced and spun towards the stumps . Waugh was alerted by a shout from the non @-@ striking batsman , and instinctively swept the ball away with his free hand . The most recent instance came during the same year as Waugh 's dismissal , in another Test match involving India . England 's Michael Vaughan missed an attempted sweep against Sarandeep Singh , and the ball trickled along the ground after striking his pads . Vaughan brushed the ball away with his hand , despite the fact that it was not travelling towards the stumps . Initially , he claimed that he was attempting to give the ball back to the fielder at short leg , but he later admitted that he " should have just held up [his] hands and said ' I got it all wrong , I 'm an idiot . ' "

= = = Batsmen dismissed in international cricket = = =