

# Time to re-consider shelving Jayadevan's method

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Last week's ICC Annual Meeting took a lot of decisions that could impact the game. The banning of the runners, the decision to use two new white balls from either end in limited overs internationals, taking the onus of using the power-play anytime away from the skippers by giving them the option of taking it only between the 16th and 40th over are just a few of the decisions directly impacting the game in the middle. There was also the decision to keep the World Cup format to 14 teams, which does allow the Associates to qualify for the event. There was one bit that was not resolved and that is whether to continue with the Duckworth Lewis method for calculating target scores after weather interruption or to have a new method.



VJayadevan from India who had proposed his method to the ICC three years ago was finally called to make a presentation to the ICC about his method and show why and how it is better than the D/L method, which has come in for a fair bit of criticism from the players. Jayadevan's method was presented to the BCCI Technical Committee too late last year and it was recommended that it should be used in the IPL. The Working Committee of the BCCI however decided not to accept the recommendation.

I am no mathematician but from whatever examples I have seen that Jayadevan's method offers a fairer balance to both teams and is not loaded in favour of one team as the D/L method seems and which is what has caused such consternation among players. Messrs Duckworth and Lewis are Englishmen and two of the three members in the ICC panel are also Englishmen. It is not being suggested that there is a bias but surely in an era where there are third country umpires officiating in Tests it would be fairer if the comparison between the two methods was left to a panel of third country members.