

# N. Zealand coach wants rules review

● New Zealand coach Gary Stead calls for Cricket World Cup's rules to be overhauled after 'hollow' World Cup final

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AFP | Wellington

New Zealand coach Gary Stead has called for the Cricket World Cup's rules to be overhauled, labelling the showpiece final "hollow" after England defeated the Black Caps on a technicality.

The teams could not be separated at the end of both regular play and a Super Over shootout, so England were handed victory because they had a superior boundary count.

"It's a very, very hollow feeling that you can play 100 overs and score the same amount of runs and still lose the game, but that's the technicalities of sport," Stead told reporters in remarks released by New Zealand Cricket yesterday.

He said such a thrilling match, which has been hailed by many experts as the greatest one-day game in history, deserved a better way to determine the result.

"There's going to be many things they look at over the whole tournament -- I'm sure when they were writing the rules they never expected a World Cup final to happen like that," he said.

"I'm sure it'll be reviewed (and) there's many different ways that they'll probably explore."

Stead shrugged off suggestions England had been mistakenly handed an extra run after a throw from a fielder hit the bat of a diving Ben Stokes' and deflected to the boundary in the



New Zealand's Martin Guptill (C) is assisted by teammates and England's Chris Woakes (R)

final over of regular play.

England were awarded six runs but former umpire Simon Taufel said they should only have got five as the batsmen had not crossed for their second run when the throw was made.

"I didn't actually know that," Stead said. "But at the end of the day the umpires are there to rule."

"They're human as well, like players, and sometimes there's a mistake but that's just the human aspect of sport."

**'We didn't lose'**

Skipper Kane Williamson pointed out his team was not defeated on the pitch, saying it instead fell victim to "fine print" in the rules.

He said that was a shame but the New Zealanders had signed up to the rules that governed the tournament.

"At the end of the day nothing separated us, no one lost the final, but there was a crowned winner and there it is," he told Newstalk ZB.

The New Zealand captain and his teammates have been widely

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praised for the grace with which they accepted the gut-wrenching defeat.

"Williamson has shown sports fans and elite athletes alike how to behave with humility, how to accept heartbreak," stuff.co.nz columnist Kevin

Norquay wrote.

"You don't need to smash your equipment, yell at the umpire, or swear at and threaten rival batsmen, even with the stress of a World Cup on your mind; this news will be foreign territory to some."

There have been calls in New Zealand to give the team a ticker-tape parade, regardless of the result.

Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern said that was unlikely but she wanted to ensure that the players received "a heroes' welcome" when they returned to the country.

New Zealand Cricket said they were in discussions with the government about when that would take place.

"At the moment, however, with some players arriving back at different times, some not arriving back at all, and others having alternative playing commitments, it's just not practical," they said.

"Hopefully, given the interest surrounding this, we can organise something appropriate in the weeks to come."

## World Cup success can spur England to Ashes glory: Root

Reuters | London

England's Cricket World Cup triumph can be the perfect launch pad to complete a memorable double by winning the Ashes series against Australia this year, test skipper Joe Root has said.

Hosts England ended a 44-year wait to win the World Cup as they beat New Zealand side on boundary count after a tied Super Over in a dramatic final on Sunday.

Shifting focus to the five-match Ashes series, which begins on Aug. 1, the 28-year-old said England were full of confidence as they bid to reclaim the urn having already achieved one of their targets.

"It's what we set out to do two or three years ago and we're halfway there," Root told reporters.

"This will give the guys confidence and we've talked about taking that forward into a series like that."

England beat Australia in the World Cup semi-finals at



England's Joe Root with the trophy during the celebrations

Edgbaston, the venue for the first Ashes test, and Root said they were looking forward to getting back there.

"The way we played against Australia in that semi-final... the guys who were involved relished it and will want a bit more; the feeling of euphoria we felt at that ground," Root added.

"To potentially be able to experience all that again is very exciting. Ashes cricket always has a different edge to it so that in itself will get everyone going."

## Solskjaer confident De Gea will sign new deal soon

AFP | Perth

Ole Gunnar Solskjaer said yesterday he was optimistic that goalkeeper David De Gea would sign a new deal to remain at Old Trafford as Manchester United prepared to face old rivals Leeds in Perth.

United's pre-season tour of Australia has been overshadowed speculation over the futures of several stars, including De Gea who is in the last year of his contract and has been linked with French champions Paris Saint-Germain.

The Spaniard is reportedly close to signing a new five-year deal worth in excess of £350,000 a

week that would make him the highest paid goalkeeper in the world.

De Gea was rested from United's pre-season opener against Perth Glory on Saturday but will line up against Leeds on Wednesday

to wrap up the Red Devils' 10-day visit to the Western Australia city.

"He'll play and hopefully we can agree (on a new deal) with David, as I've said a few times," Solskjaer told reporters.

"That'll be up to David to announce when that happens, if and when."

The United boss refused to be drawn on whether Leicester City and England centre-back Harry Maguire was on his way to Old Trafford.

David De Gea



## British PM May hosts victorious England cricket team

Reuters | London

British Prime Minister Theresa May hosted the World Cup-winning England cricket team in the garden of her Downing Street residence on Monday, describing their win as "one of the great sporting spectacles of our time".

England ended their 44-year wait for a first 50-overs world title by beating New Zealand in a nailbiting final Super Over on Sunday.

May, a keen cricket fan, was at the match and, after the win, posted a video clip on Twitter of herself dancing.

The prime minister, who is due to stand down next week, greeted the players in front of her residence and posed for pictures with the team and the



England's Eoin Morgan and Britain's Prime Minister Theresa May lift the trophy as they pose with the team

trophy.

"When the odds were against you in the biggest game of your lives, you simply and stubbornly refused to lose. It is that deter-

mination, that character, that has made you world champions. But, more than that, you have made history," May told the players during the drinks reception,

according to remarks released by her office.

"You have helped the nation fall in love with cricket once again," she said, adding that

the match was "a final for the ages".

Since being unceremoniously dumped out of the 2015 edition of the tournament in Australia,

the England side have reinvented themselves as one-day cricket specialists and had headed into the World Cup as overwhelming favourites.