

ENGLAND AND WALES CRICKET BOARD COMPETITIONS

GENERAL CONDUCT REGULATIONS

DEFINITIONS

1. In these Regulations, the following expressions shall have the following meanings:

“Adjudicator” means an individual (who may be one of a group of individuals) appointed by Sport Resolutions to have responsibility for the Summary Procedure.

“Appellant” means an individual or Club which has issued an appeal to an Appeal Body in respect of a decision by an Adjudicator or Disciplinary Panel.

“Appeal Body” means the body which is responsible for dealing with appeals in accordance with Regulation 2.

“Appeal Hearing” means the hearing at which an appeal will be determined.

“Appeal Panel” means a panel of 3 people, unless otherwise agreed by the parties, appointed to deal with any appeal against a decision of an Adjudicator or Disciplinary Panel in accordance with these Regulations.

“Appeal Panel Chair” means the appointed chair of an Appeal Panel.

“CDC Regulations” means the ECB’s disciplinary regulations for professional cricket, as amended and in force from time to time.

“Charge Letter” means a letter or email outlining the charge(s) to a Respondent. The Charge Letter shall be in the form which appears at Appendix 2 or contain substantially the same categories of information as a minimum.

“Club” means a club, county club or county board which participates in an ECB Competition.

“Club Official” means any official of a Club, as listed on their website or official Club documentation, acting in an official capacity at a match.

“County Cricket Board” means a body designated as a County Cricket Board or County Club by the ECB which is responsible for the organisation of recreational cricketing activity and the development of cricket generally within a county and such other areas (if any) as may be agreed by the ECB.

“Disciplinary Officer” means an individual (who may be one of a group of individuals) appointed by the Relevant Disciplinary Body or the ECB to have responsibility for the disciplinary process under these Regulations.

“Disciplinary Panel” means a panel of 3 people, unless otherwise agreed by the parties, appointed to deal with a disciplinary charge at a Hearing in accordance with these Regulations.

“Disciplinary Panel Chair” means the appointed chair of a Disciplinary Panel.

“Disciplinary Report” means a report prepared by an umpire (or captain or Club Official, as outlined in Regulation 7) detailing any alleged On-Field Breach. The Disciplinary Report shall be in the form which appears at Appendix 1 or contains substantially the same categories of information.

“ECB” means the England and Wales Cricket Board.

“ECB Competitions” means any of the following competitions:

- (a) National Club Championship;
- (b) Indoor National Club Championship;
- (c) Vitality Club T20;
- (d) Vitality Women’s Club T20;
- (e) Vitality Girls U19 Club T20;
- (f) Vitality U15 Club T20;
- (g) Vitality Girls U15 Club T20;
- (h) Vitality U13 Club T20;
- (i) Vitality Girls U13 Club T20;
- (j) Vitality Women’s County T20;
- (k) LV= U18 County Championship;
- (l) U18 County Cup;
- (m) Vitality U18 County T20;
- (n) Girls U18 County Cup;
- (o) Vitality Girls U18 County T20;
- (p) U16 County Cup;
- (q) Girls U15 County Cup;
- (r) Vitality Girls U15 County Cup; and
- (s) U14 County Cup.

“**ECB Disciplinary Officer**” means the disciplinary officer in respect of the ECB Competitions, who can be contacted by email at competitions@ecb.co.uk.

“**Effective Date**” means 1 March 2023.

“**First-Class County**” means a county the ECB has officially accorded first class status to, being those counties listed as first-class county clubs in the ECB’s Articles of Association from time to time.

“**General Conduct Regulations**” means the ECB’s general conduct regulations for recreational cricket in force from time to time.

“**Hearing**” means a hearing at which any charges against a Participant or Club are dealt with.

“**The Hundred**” means the ECB’s domestic cricket competition in a “100-ball” format.

“**Hundred Team**” means any of the teams playing in The Hundred from time to time.

“**League**” means a league or other organisation running a particular cricket competition in Recreational Cricket.

“**Notice of Appeal**” means the document submitted to the Disciplinary Officer of the relevant Appeal Body to commence an appeal pursuant to Regulation 36.

“**Off-Field Breach**” means an alleged breach of Regulations 10-12.

“**On-Field Breach**” means an alleged breach of Regulations 4 and/or 5.

“**Participants**” means all individuals who participate in any ECB Competition, including:

- (a) cricketers;
- (b) volunteers, officers, employees, contractors, and members of any Club competing in an ECB Competition;
- (c) match officials; and

(d) coaches.

See Appendix 4, guidance note 1 for further information.

“Recreational Cricket” means all cricket activities carried out under the jurisdiction of the ECB which are not carried out by: (i) the England Men’s or England Women’s teams; (ii) a First-Class County in relation to men’s professional cricket; (iii) a Regional Partner; or (iv) any Hundred Team.

“Referral” means a Disciplinary Report, Written Complaint or any alleged breach of these Regulations which is brought to the attention of the Relevant Disciplinary Body.

“Regional Partner” means an organisation which has entered into an agreement with the ECB to operate as part of the Regional Structure.

“Regional Structure” means the structure of Regional Partner teams and academy programmes administered by the Regional Partners to provide players with high quality training environments and new, nationwide ECB competitions, with a view to developing the most talented female cricketers and providing the basis for sustained international success.

“Recreational Cricket Regulations” means the ECB’s recreational cricket regulations in force from time to time.

“Relevant Criminal Offence” means any offence against a child, any sexual offence, any violent offence, any drug offence, any public order offence, any offence with an aggravated element, any offence of cruelty against animals and any offence relating to integrity.

See Appendix 4, guidance note 11 for further information.

“Relevant Disciplinary Body” means the body which is responsible for conducting disciplinary processes in accordance with Regulation 2(b).

“Respondent” means a Participant or Club which is the subject of a disciplinary charge.

“Sport Resolutions” means the independent company providing dispute resolution services for sports which the ECB has appointed to assist with determining breaches under these Regulations, where the ECB is the Relevant Disciplinary Body or the Appeal Body in accordance with Regulation 2.

“Summary Procedure” means the procedure to determine a disciplinary charge where a Hearing is not required, in accordance with Regulations 19-25.

“Written Complaint” means a complaint made by any person detailing an alleged breach of these Regulations at any time in writing.

SCOPE AND APPLICATION

2. From the Effective Date:

- (a) all Participants must comply with the disciplinary process set out in these Regulations in respect of any alleged breach of these Regulations by the Participant;
- (b) the Relevant Disciplinary Body shall be:
 - i. the Club of the relevant cricketer in respect of all offences at Level 1 and/or Level 2, as listed in Regulation 4;
 - ii. the ECB in respect of any other offences, as listed in Regulations 4-11;
- (c) the ECB shall be the Appeal Body in respect of any appeals to decisions taken in accordance with Regulation 2(b); and

- (d) all Relevant Disciplinary Bodies must:
- i. implement the requirements of these Regulations in respect of the disciplinary processes they carry out;
 - ii. appoint a Disciplinary Officer, and ensure appropriate contact details for the Disciplinary Officer are made available to the ECB Disciplinary Officer; and
 - iii. provide the ECB with any details requested in relation to any disciplinary matters it has carried out in accordance with these Regulations.

See Appendix 4, guidance note 2 for further information.

3. Any disciplinary sanctions imposed under these Regulations will be separate to any sanctions imposed under a Participant's employment contract or any action taken in accordance with a Club, League or County Cricket Board's terms of membership.

CONDUCT OBLIGATIONS

On and around the field of play

4. Any cricketer shall be in breach of these Regulations, at the relevant level of offence detailed below, if they do not conduct themselves fairly and properly on and around the field of play and otherwise in accordance with the Laws of Cricket or the Spirit of Cricket. Such conduct which will result in a breach of these Regulations shall include any misconduct of a cricketer on any match day as specified in Law 42 of the Laws of Cricket, namely:

Level 1

- a. wilfully mistreating any part of the cricket ground or any equipment or implements used in the match;
- b. showing dissent at an umpire's decision by word or action;
- c. using language that, in the circumstances, is obscene, offensive or insulting;
- d. making an obscene gesture;
- e. appealing excessively;
- f. advancing towards an umpire in an aggressive manner when appealing; and/or
- g. any other misconduct, the nature of which is, in the opinion of the umpires, equivalent to a Level 1 offence; or

Level 2

- a. showing serious dissent at an umpire's decision by word or action;
- b. making inappropriate and deliberate physical contact with another cricketer;
- c. throwing the ball at a cricketer, umpire or another person in an inappropriate and dangerous manner;
- d. using language or gesture to another cricketer, umpire, team official or spectator that, in the circumstances, is obscene or of a seriously insulting nature; and/or
- e. any other misconduct, the nature of which is, in the opinion of the umpires, equivalent to a Level 2 offence; or

Level 3

- a. intimidating an umpire by language or gesture; and/or
- b. threatening to assault a cricketer or any other person except an umpire; or

Level 4

- a. threatening to assault an umpire;

- b. making inappropriate and deliberate and/or dangerous physical contact with an umpire;
 - c. physically assaulting a cricketer or any other person; and/or
 - d. committing any other act of violence
5. A cricketer shall also be in breach of these Regulations on and around the field of play if they:
- a. commit any breach of Law 41; or
 - b. act in a manner contrary to the ECB's Anti-Discrimination Code; or
 - c. conduct themselves in a manner or act in a manner which is improper, or which may be prejudicial to the interests of cricket, or which may bring the ECB, the game of cricket or any cricketer or group of cricketers into disrepute.
6. Any coach, match official or Club Official shall be in breach of these Regulations if they fail to conduct themselves fairly and properly on any part of the cricket ground on any match day. Conduct which is not fair and proper and will therefore result in a breach of these Regulations shall include, but not be limited to:
- a. making inappropriate and deliberate and/or dangerous physical contact with, threatening to assault, physically assaulting or committing any act of violence towards any other Participant (including an umpire) or any member of the public;
 - b. showing dissent at an umpire's decision by language or gesture, advancing towards an umpire in an aggressive manner when appealing or intimidating an umpire by language or gesture;
 - c. using language that, in the circumstances, is obscene, offensive, insulting or seriously insulting;
 - d. making an obscene or seriously insulting gesture;
 - e. conducting themselves in a manner or acting in a manner which is improper, or which may be prejudicial to the interests of cricket, or which may bring the ECB, the game of cricket or any cricketer or group of cricketers into disrepute; and/or
 - f. acting in a manner contrary to the ECB's Anti-Discrimination Code.

See Appendix 4, guidance note 3 for further information.

7. If an umpire considers that there has been an On-Field Breach, they must make reasonable efforts to inform the individual (or their captain or a Club Official) before they leave the ground and make a Disciplinary Report to the ECB Disciplinary Officer. This Disciplinary Report shall be made irrespective of any action the umpire may have taken on the field of play. Other individuals can also report On-Field Breaches either to the umpire, in which case the umpire will make a Disciplinary Report, or to the ECB Disciplinary Officer directly by way of Written Complaint (for example, if the On-Field Breach relates to a match official). If there is no umpire appointed to a particular match, individuals can report On-Field Breaches to a captain or Club Official who can then make a Disciplinary Report on their behalf.

See Appendix 4, guidance note 4 for further information.

Captain/Team responsibility

8. If any cricketer commits two or more breaches of Regulation 4 (Conduct obligations on and around the field of play), which take place during or immediately before or after a match, when playing for the same Club in a season it shall automatically be a separate offence of failing to ensure that the relevant cricketers have complied with their obligations for each of:

- a. any person who captained the team in each of the relevant match(es); and
 - b. the Club the cricketer was playing for.
9. Clubs shall also be held responsible for disorderly behaviour at any part of the cricket ground on any match day by their members and spectators, unless they can show that:
- a. they took adequate steps to ensure that their members and spectators behaved in an orderly fashion; and/or
 - b. they did not or could not control entry to that part of the cricket ground by the relevant spectators and it would therefore not be fair for them to be held responsible.

Off-field conduct

10. A Participant shall be in breach of these Regulations if they commit any misconduct as set out below which either relates to their participation in ECB Competitions and/or is of a sufficiently serious nature to justify disciplinary action being taken in relation to their participation in ECB Competitions:

- a. making an abusive, obscene, offensive or otherwise insulting comment or gesture (in any form) in relation to any other Participant or any other person;
- b. any act of violence towards another person;
- c. engaging in behaviour that constitutes any form of abuse or harassment, whether physical, sexual, emotional, neglectful or bullying in nature;
- d. any breach of the ECB Anti-Discrimination Code;
- e. making any adverse public statement or comment in any form and by any means about the performance and/or decision(s) of any match official(s);
- f. failing to report to their Club, any Relevant Criminal Offence for which they have been subject to investigation and/or charged with;
- g. conducting themselves in a manner, or doing or omitting to do anything which is or may be prejudicial to the best interests of cricket, or which may bring or does bring the game of cricket or the ECB into disrepute;
- h. engaging in any corrupt conduct in relation to cricket, in particular:
 - i. fixing the result, progress, conduct or any aspect of a match;
 - ii. ensuring the occurrence of a particular incident in a match;
 - iii. accepting a bribe to conduct the activities described in (i) or (ii) above; and/or
 - iv. receiving a custodial sentence for any of the activities described in (i)-(iii) above; and/or; or
- i. failing to comply with any decisions or sanctions validly imposed on them following due process as prescribed by these Regulations.

See Appendix 4, guidance note 11 for further information.

11. A Club shall be in breach of these Regulations if, at any time:

- a. it fails to take reasonable steps to ensure the good behaviour and conduct of their Participants for any breach of these Regulations;
- b. it knowingly permits a cricketer, who is suspended as a result of a previous breach of these Regulations, to play in any match or competition;
- c. any of its Participants commit any serious, collective or repeated breaches of these Regulations;

- d. it commits any breach of its obligations under the ECB Anti-Discrimination Code; and/or
 - e. it fails to comply with any decision(s) and/or sanction(s) validly imposed on it or on any person within the organisation, which has arisen following due process as prescribed by these Regulations.
12. Participants are considered responsible for any relevant posts on their social media accounts and may be in breach of Regulations 10-11 for posting, repeating, commenting or supporting posts or comments by others (e.g. 'retweeting' or 'liking') on social media.

See Appendix 4, guidance note 5 for further information.

13. If an umpire considers that there has been an Off-Field Breach which occurs on or around the field of play at a match, they will make reasonable efforts to inform the individual (or their captain or a Club Official) before they leave the ground and make a Disciplinary Report to the ECB Disciplinary Officer. Other individuals can also report an Off-Field Breach which occurs on or around the field of play at a match to the umpire, in which case the umpire will make a Disciplinary Report, or to the ECB Disciplinary Officer directly (wherever the Off-Field Breach may have occurred) by way of a Written Complaint.
14. If the ECB Disciplinary Officer is aware that the Referral relates to a cricketer who is registered with a First-Class County, a Regional Partner or a Hundred Team, the ECB Disciplinary Officer must inform the ECB's Integrity Department that the Referral has been received and provide any further information in respect of the disciplinary process that is requested by the ECB.

DISCIPLINARY PROCESS

15. Following receipt of a Referral, the ECB Disciplinary Officer will identify the Relevant Disciplinary Body and share the Referral with their Disciplinary Officer.
16. The Disciplinary Officer of the Relevant Disciplinary Body must consider whether there is sufficient information and/or grounds to charge the relevant Participant or Club with a breach of these Regulations. If further information is required, the Disciplinary Officer shall conduct any further investigation that is necessary.

See Appendix 4, guidance note 6 for further information.

17. If there is sufficient information and/or grounds, the Disciplinary Officer of the Relevant Disciplinary Body will issue a Charge Letter to the Respondent or the Participant's Club to share with the Participant. If there is not, the Disciplinary Officer will inform the individual who submitted the Referral that no further action will be taken.
18. In respect of On-Field Offences at Level 1 and Level 2 and Off-Field Offences which would constitute a Level 1 or Level 2 On-Field Offence if they had been carried out on the field, the Summary Procedure in Regulations 19-25 shall apply. In respect of On-Field Offences at Level 3 and above and Off-Field Offences, the ECB Disciplinary Officer will consider whether the case is suitable for the Summary Procedure or the matter requires a Hearing, in which case Regulations 26-35 shall apply.

Summary Procedure

19. The Disciplinary Officer must provide the Charge Letter to the Adjudicator. If the Adjudicator considers that the matter is not appropriate for the Summary Procedure, the Adjudicator can refer the matter for a Hearing, in which case the process in Regulations 26-35 shall apply but the Adjudicator will not form part of the Disciplinary Panel.
20. The Disciplinary Officer must then confirm to the Respondent (either in the Charge Letter or separately) the identity of the Adjudicator.
21. If the Respondent objects to the Adjudicator on the basis of a conflict of interest, the Disciplinary Officer must consider whether to appoint an alternative Adjudicator to consider the conflict of interest and/or as the Adjudicator in relation to the case.
22. The Adjudicator will set the Respondent a reasonable timeframe to respond to the Charge Letter in writing, if they wish to, and provide any further information which may be relevant.
23. The Adjudicator will consider the charge and determine whether, on the balance of probabilities, there has been a breach of these Regulations.
24. If the Adjudicator decides that there has been a breach of these Regulations, they will impose a sanction in accordance with the sanction guidelines which appear in Appendix 3.
25. The Adjudicator's decision will be communicated to the Respondent (and, where the Respondent is a Participant, the Participant's Club) in writing.

Hearing

26. The ECB Disciplinary Officer will notify Sport Resolutions that a Hearing is required, and Sport Resolutions will appoint a Disciplinary Panel Chair and a Disciplinary Panel and arrange a Hearing. Sport Resolutions will then confirm to the Respondent and the ECB Disciplinary Officer the identity of the Disciplinary Panel members, where and when the Hearing shall take place and, if the Hearing will take place virtually rather than in person, by what means. If the Respondent is unable to attend a Hearing at that date or time, the Disciplinary Officer will attempt to reschedule the Hearing.

See Appendix 4, guidance notes 6, 7 and 10 for further information.

27. In appropriate circumstances, including if the Respondent is not contesting the charge or does not wish to attend a Hearing, the Disciplinary Panel Chair may direct that the charge be considered by the Disciplinary Panel by way of written submissions only (i.e. without a Hearing) provided that a Hearing must be arranged if this is requested by the Respondent.
28. If the Respondent objects to any member of the Disciplinary Panel on the basis of a conflict of interest, it will be resolved by the Disciplinary Panel Chair unless the potential conflict has been raised in respect of the Disciplinary Panel Chair in which case Sport Resolutions will consider whether to appoint an alternative Disciplinary Panel Chair to consider the conflict of interest and/or be appointed to the Disciplinary Panel.

29. The Disciplinary Panel Chair will set the Respondent a reasonable timeframe to respond to the Charge Letter in writing and set any other directions for the exchange of information and/or evidence (which may include witness statements) that the Disciplinary Panel Chair considers appropriate.
30. In exceptional circumstances, the Disciplinary Panel Chair may suspend a Participant from participating in cricket until the Hearing has concluded. If so, the Disciplinary Panel Chair will give the Participant the opportunity to give written submissions on why it would not be appropriate to suspend the Participant and consider those submissions before making any decision. Any suspension which has been ordered by the Disciplinary Panel Chair will be taken into account by the Disciplinary Panel when considering what sanctions to impose in accordance with Regulation 33.
31. At the outset of any Hearing, the Disciplinary Panel Chair will confirm how the Disciplinary Panel would like the Hearing to proceed, and in particular how the case should be presented (and by whom). The Respondent will be entitled to provide oral submissions at the Hearing if they wish to do so.
32. At the end of any Hearing, the Disciplinary Panel will consider the charge (in private) and determine whether, on the balance of probabilities, there has been a breach of these Regulations. Any decision of the Disciplinary Panel will be taken by majority vote, with the Disciplinary Panel Chair having a casting vote in the event of a tie.

See Appendix 4, guidance note 8 for further information.

33. If the Disciplinary Panel decides that there has been a breach of these Regulations, it will impose a sanction in accordance with the sanction guidelines which appear in Appendix 3.
34. Unless the Disciplinary Panel directs otherwise, the parties will bear their own costs of preparing for and attending a Hearing, but the ECB will bear the administrative costs of appointed the Disciplinary Panel.

See Appendix 4, guidance note 9 for further information.

35. Wherever possible, the Disciplinary Panel Chair will communicate the decision and any sanction to the parties verbally at the end of the Hearing. The Disciplinary Panel's decision will also be confirmed to the parties (and, where the Respondent is a Participant, the Participant's Club) in writing following the Hearing.

APPEALS PROCESS

36. Any decision made by an Adjudicator or a Disciplinary Panel may be appealed by the Respondent. In order to commence an appeal, the Appellant shall submit:
 - (a) a Notice of Appeal; and
 - (b) a fee of £100 to cover the standard administrative costs of the Appeal Panel; to the Disciplinary Officer of the Appeal Body within 7 days of receipt of the decision in writing.

See Appendix 4, guidance note 10 for further information.

37. The Notice of Appeal must contain at least one of the following grounds of appeal:

- a. the Adjudicator or Disciplinary Panel came to a decision to which no reasonable body could have come;
 - b. there was a serious procedural irregularity, which includes the Adjudicator or Disciplinary Panel not following the procedure set out in these Regulations, in a way which significantly impacted the rights of the Appellant and caused the decision to be unjust;
 - c. there is fresh evidence (in which case the Notice of Appeal must state why the evidence could not be presented at the original Hearing or before the original decision was made and is, or would have been, material to the decision); and/or
 - d. the sanction imposed was manifestly excessive.
38. The ECB Disciplinary Officer will provide Sport Resolutions with a copy of the Notice of Appeal and Sport Resolutions will appoint an Appeal Panel Chair to determine whether the Notice of Appeal identifies sufficient grounds for an appeal. Sport Resolutions will also notify the parties (and, where the Respondent is a Participant, the Participant's Club) and (where applicable) the Disciplinary Officer of the Relevant Disciplinary Body accordingly in writing. This decision of the Appeal Panel Chair will be final.
39. If there are sufficient grounds for an appeal, Sport Resolutions will notify the parties that a Hearing is required, and Sport Resolutions will appoint an Appeal Panel and arrange an Appeal Hearing. No individual who was appointed as the Adjudicator or as a member of the original Disciplinary Panel or who has otherwise been involved in the case shall be appointed to the Appeal Panel. The Disciplinary Officer will confirm to the Appellant the identity of the Appeal Panel members, where and when the Appeal Hearing shall take place and, if the Appeal Hearing will take place virtually rather than in person, by what means. If the Appellant is unable to attend a Hearing at that date or time, the Disciplinary Officer will attempt to reschedule the Hearing.

See Appendix 4, guidance note 6 for further information.

40. Unless otherwise determined by the Appeal Panel Chair, any sanction imposed by an Adjudicator or Disciplinary Panel will not come into effect until the Appeal has been determined. If a Participant has been suspended from participating in cricket by an Adjudicator or Disciplinary Panel and the Appeal Panel Chair considers that it may be appropriate for this sanction to be imposed before the Appeal has been determined, they will give the Participant the opportunity to give written submissions on why it would not be appropriate to suspend the Participant and consider those submissions before making any decision.
41. If the Respondent objects to any member of the Appeal Panel on the basis of a conflict of interest, it will be resolved by the Appeal Panel Chair unless the potential conflict has been raised in respect of the Appeal Panel Chair in which case Sport Resolutions will consider whether to appoint an alternative Appeal Panel Chair to consider the conflict of interest and/or be appointed to the Appeal Panel.
42. The Appeal Panel Chair will set the Relevant Disciplinary Body a reasonable timeframe in which to respond to the Notice of Appeal in writing, if it so wishes, (where the Relevant Disciplinary Body was a Club) and set any other directions for the exchange of information and/or evidence that the Appeal Panel Chair considers appropriate.

43. Unless the appeal is brought under Regulation 37.c, the Appellant has no right to a complete rehearing of the case and the Appeal Panel will instead consider whether the grounds of appeal have been made out. If an appeal is brought under Regulation 37.c, if the Appeal Panel determines that the fresh evidence is admissible the Appeal Panel shall consider whether to re-hear the case in full.
44. At the outset of the Appeal Hearing, the Appeal Panel Chair will confirm how the Appeal Panel would like the Appeal Hearing to proceed, and in particular how the case should be presented (and by whom). The parties will be entitled to provide oral submissions at the Hearing if they wish to do so.
45. At the end of the Appeal Hearing, the Appeal Panel will consider the Appeal (in private) and determine whether, on the balance of probabilities, the Appeal should be allowed (in whole or in part). Any decision of the Appeal Panel will be taken by majority vote, with the Appeal Panel Chair having a casting vote in the event of a tie.

See Appendix 4, guidance notes 8 and 10 for further information.

46. If the Appeal is allowed (in whole or in part), the Appeal Panel may disapply the sanction imposed by the Adjudicator or Disciplinary Panel or issue a new sanction in accordance with the sanctions guidelines in Appendix 3. If the Appeal is dismissed, the sanction imposed by the Adjudicator or Disciplinary Panel will remain in place.
47. The Appeal Panel Chair will decide whether to make a costs order and whether the appeal fee will be refunded to the Appellant in the event of a successful appeal. Any costs ordered by the Appeal Panel will be limited to £250 (which shall be paid on top of the appeal fee referred to in Regulation 36).

See Appendix 4, guidance note 9 for further information.

48. Wherever possible, the Appeal Panel Chair will communicate the decision and any sanction to the parties verbally at the end of the Hearing. The Appeal Panel's decision will also be confirmed to the parties (and, where a Participant is a party to the Appeal, the Participant's Club) in writing following the Hearing.
49. Any decision of an Appeal Panel is final and binding and there is no further right of appeal.

APPLICABILITY OF PENALTIES

50. Following the Effective Date and being given notice of any penalty imposed under these Regulations, all Participants and cricket organisations in Recreational Cricket (subject to the specific provisions in the CDC Regulations) shall recognise, give effect to and fully enforce any sanction imposed by any Adjudicator or Disciplinary Panel under these Regulations, the General Conduct Regulations or the Recreational Cricket Regulations.
51. If the Relevant Disciplinary Body is aware that the Respondent participates in multiple leagues and/or competitions, including competitions run by a County Cricket Board, the Disciplinary Officer of the Relevant Disciplinary Body must communicate any sanction imposed under these Regulations to the Disciplinary Officer of the relevant competition organiser(s).

MISCELLANEOUS

52. Where the incident(s) leading to any charge relating to conduct occurred when any other disciplinary regulations were in force, then:
- (a) the offences which may be charged and the sanctions that may be applied shall be determined by the regulations that were in force at the time of the offence; and
 - (b) the process to be followed will be determined by the regulations that were in force when the complaint was first brought to the attention of the Relevant Disciplinary Body.

Appendix 1
Disciplinary Report Template

The Disciplinary Officer of the Relevant Disciplinary Body will use the information contained in this form, along with any other conduct history and information it holds about the Participant, to determine what disciplinary action (if any) is to be taken. The Disciplinary Officer may pass it on to an Adjudicator or Disciplinary Panel where necessary who may use it to assist in their disciplinary decisions.

Data protection. *Each person whose personal data is to be recorded on this form should receive the Relevant Disciplinary Body's Privacy Notice attached to this form.*

	<u>To be completed by Umpire (and Participant(s) where relevant)</u>
Competition/Match	
Venue	
Date	
Participant's Name	
Participant's Club	
Captain on the day	
Persons present	
Umpire(s) Name(s)	
Umpire's report of the incident <i>Please continue on separate sheet if necessary.</i>	
Regulations breached	
Level of On-Field breach	
Any relevant comments that the Participant has made	
Date cricketer, captain or Club Official notified of the alleged breach	

[ENCLOSE COPY OF PRIVACY NOTICE OF RELEVANT DISCIPLINARY BODY]

Appendix 2
Charge Letter Template

[FULL NAME OF RESPONDENT (PERSON OR CLUB)]
[ADDRESS OF RESPONDENT]

[CC SPORT RESOLUTIONS]

[DATE OF LETTER]

Dear [INSERT NAME OF RESPONDENT]

CHARGE LETTER

You are charged with breaching the following provisions of the ECB's General Conduct Regulations, a full copy of which is enclosed with this letter together with the Disciplinary Body's Privacy Notice which explains how personal data in this matter will be used:

- (1) [LIST RELEVANT REGULATION(S) BREACHED]
- (2) [LIST RELEVANT REGULATION(S) BREACHED]

[IF INDIVIDUAL RESPONDENT] Please confirm which cricket leagues and/or competitions you participate in and in which county or counties.

Facts

[It is alleged that on [DATE] at [PLACE/MATCH] you [INSERT BACKGROUND FACTS TO ALLEGATION(S)]

Evidence

The evidence relied on in this matter is [INSERT DETAILS OF ANY EVIDENCE RELIED ON FOR THIS CHARGE].

Procedure

In accordance with Regulation 26 of the ECB's General Conduct Regulations, Sport Resolutions will appoint a Disciplinary Panel and Disciplinary Panel Chair, the identity of whom will be disclosed to you in due course.

If you object to any of the above Disciplinary Panel members on the basis of a conflict of interest, please notify me as soon as possible in writing, stating the reason(s) for your objection(s).

Please provide us with your initial views on whether you would like to attend a Hearing, of if you are content for the charge(s) be considered by the Disciplinary Panel by way of written submissions only, as allowed by Regulation 27, within X days. The Disciplinary Panel Chair will then set you a timeframe by which to reply to this Charge Letter in writing and set any other directions for the exchange of information and/or evidence that the Disciplinary Panel Chair considers appropriate. You will be informed of the date, time, and place of the Hearing as soon as possible.

All parties to the Hearing will have the right to:

- (a) be accompanied;*
- (b) have the complaint explained;*
- (c) see and hear the evidence being presented;*
- (d) present their account of the relevant conduct;*
- (e) represent themselves at the Hearing or arrange for a third party to act on their behalf; and/or*
- (f) ask for the Hearing to be rearranged and offer reasonable alternative date(s) if they are unable to attend on the date proposed.*

The charge(s) detailed in this Charge Letter will be the only charges heard at the Hearing.

OR

Procedure

In accordance with Regulation 19 of the ECB's General Conduct Regulations, I have provided this Charge Letter to the Adjudicator, [INSERT NAME OF CHAIR].

If you object to the Adjudicator on the basis of a conflict of interest, please notify me as soon as possible in writing, stating the reason(s) for your objection(s).

The Adjudicator will set you a timeframe by which to reply to this Charge Letter in writing, if you wish to do so, and to provide any other information that you consider relevant.

The Adjudicator will then consider whether there has been a breach of the Regulations and, if so, what sanction should be applied.

Your sincerely

[INSERT NAME OF DISCIPLINARY OFFICER]

Encl. [ENCLOSE COPY OF GCR AND PRIVACY NOTICE OF RELEVANT DISCIPLINARY BODY]

Appendix 3
Sanction Guidelines

1. The table below sets out recommended sanctions to be applied on Participants in respect of On-Field Breaches. However, the Adjudicator or Disciplinary Panel shall not be limited to imposing the recommended sanctions and can impose greater or lesser sanctions as appropriate in the circumstances of the particular case.
2. Unless the Adjudicator or Disciplinary Panel stipulate otherwise, bans shall apply to all cricket, be effective immediately and remain on the Participant's record for 24 calendar months from the date of the breach.

Level of On-field breach	First On-Field breach	Second On-Field Breach (within 24 months)	Third On-Field Breach (within 24 months)
Level 1	1 match ban	2 match ban	3 match ban
Level 2	2 match ban	4 match ban	12 match ban
Level 3	6 match ban	12 match ban	24 match ban
Level 4	10 match ban	20 match ban	36 match ban

3. If Adjudicators or Disciplinary Panels prefer, they can stipulate that bans cover:
 - a. A specific time period, e.g. one week; and/or
 - b. A specific number of days of cricket.
4. The Adjudicator or Disciplinary Panel shall take into account all aggravating and mitigating factors when determining the appropriate sanction. The Adjudicator or Disciplinary Panel shall determine whether, and to what extent, to depart from the standard sanctions and/or to impose additional penalties as they deem fit, including (but not limited to) the following, which may be suspended (in full or in part):

Participant

- a. Caution or reprimand
- b. Letter of apology
- c. Fine of no more than £500
- d. Ban of a period of matches or weeks
- e. Expulsion of the cricketer from a competition

Club

- f. Caution or reprimand
- g. Letter of apology
- h. Fine of no more than £500
- i. Expulsion of a Club from the relevant competition

5. The Adjudicator or Disciplinary Panel shall give consideration to the following aggravating and mitigating factors, as appropriate, to include but not limited to:

Aggravating factors

- a. The ages of the Participant and any victim at the time of the offence, particularly where the victim was a minor and the Participant was not.

- b. The profile of the Participant, including whether they hold a position of responsibility within their Club (e.g. Club captain, Chair or member of senior management).
- c. Poor previous disciplinary record.
- d. Failure to cooperate with the Disciplinary Officer and/or Relevant Disciplinary Body.
- e. Any attempt to conceal the breach.
- f. The extent of any premeditation or planning.
- g. The level of harm and/or distress incurred.
- h. The public nature of the offence (such as commission of the offence in a public place, via broadcast media or a social media platform).
- i. Use of discriminatory language or conduct, or any other behaviour that breaches the ECB's Anti-Discrimination Code, whilst also carrying out a separate offence under the Regulations.

Mitigating factors

- a. Good previous disciplinary record.
- b. The age of the Participant at the time of the offence.
- c. Admission at the earliest opportunity, where the factual conduct forming the basis of the charge would be capable of being disputed.
- d. Demonstration of genuine remorse.
- e. Co-operation with the Disciplinary Officer and/or Relevant Disciplinary Body.
- f. Inexperience of the Participant by reference to their age or background at the time of the offence.
- g. In respect of social media posts, the age of the post and the Participant's age at the time of the post.

Appendix 4 Guidance

1. Jurisdiction (Definitions)

1.1. When a definition or regulation refers to someone (or something) being “under the jurisdiction” of another body or organisation (for example, the definition of “*Participants*”), this means that the relationship between that person and other body is such that the body or organisation has official power to make decisions or judgments in respect of that person. For example, when a cricketer signs up to join and play for a cricket club, they agree to be bound by the rules and regulations of that cricket club and are therefore officially under that cricket club’s jurisdiction.

2. Scope of these Regulations

2.1. These Regulations will apply to any ECB Competitions and will not apply to any other competitions (including competitions organised by entities that are not the ECB).

3. Anti-Discrimination Code

3.1. The ECB Anti-Discrimination Code can be found on the following ECB webpage, along with guidance on the ECB Anti-Discrimination Code: <https://www.ecb.co.uk/about/policies-and-regulations/regulations/non-first-classcounty>.

4. Disciplinary Reports and Written Complaints (Regulation 7)

4.1. Disciplinary Reports and Written Complaints must only be submitted in good faith, i.e. with honest intentions and containing correct information (to the best of the individual’s knowledge). The primary purpose of allowing Written Complaints to be submitted by individuals other than the umpire is to capture offences that an umpire did not see but which would constitute an offence if the umpire had seen it.

4.2. Disciplinary Reports and Written Complaints should include a description of the alleged breach including:

- (a) any relevant background information;
- (b) name(s) of any witnesses;
- (c) who was involved;
- (d) what the Participant(s) is/are alleged to have done;
- (e) anything anyone said at the time (including admissions and/or apologies); and
- (f) any information regarding any relevant evidence and the context of that evidence (for example, information about a recording of the match, which captured the alleged incident or photographs taken and, if so, whether the parties involved were aware of and consented to this video footage and/or photographs). We refer to the ECB Live Streaming Guidance, which can be found here: <https://resources.ecb.co.uk/ecb/document/2022/02/14/8f153276-1990-418c-ac19-360b382915e0/ECB-Live-Streaming-Guidance-September-2021-.pdf>.

4.3. The ECB Disciplinary Officer may become aware of a potential or alleged breach of these Regulations by other means than a Disciplinary Report or Written Complaint, for example by identifying an inappropriate social media post which has not been independently referred to it. Notwithstanding the fact that the ECB Disciplinary Officer has not received a Disciplinary

Report or Written Complaint, the ECB Disciplinary Officer may consider this conduct in accordance with the process set out in these Regulations.

4.4. Where an action (or inaction) is determined to be “prejudicial to the best interests of cricket” and therefore a breach of the Regulations, this means it is an act (or omission) not covered by any of the breaches listed specifically in Regulation 10 (a-i) but is an act (or omission) that a reasonable person would consider detrimental to the ethos, reputation and/or environment of the game. Examples of this may include 'running a book' on outcomes or having a sponsor that is banned through other advertising policies.

5. Social Media (Regulation 12)

5.1. Posting, repeating, commenting, or supporting posts or comments by others that breach the Regulations may itself constitute a breach of the Regulations. For example, liking or otherwise promoting or supporting a comment that breaches the ECB's Anti-Discrimination Code is likely to result in a breach of the Regulations not only for the person who posted the comment in the first place but also for any Participant who supports that post.

5.2. If a Participant is alleged to have breached Regulation 12 as a result of having liked or supported a discriminatory comment but claims that someone else logged into their social media account to submit that “like” (or other supportive comment/gesture), this will not necessarily prevent regulatory action being taken but should be taken into account by the Adjudicator or Disciplinary Panel.

6. Responsibilities of a Disciplinary Officer (Regulations 15 and 38-39)

6.1. Following receipt of a Referral, the Disciplinary Officer may conduct any further investigation as they deem necessary to limit the chances of vexatious complaints and ensure there is a full understanding of the circumstances in which the complaint arose.

6.2. Once any additional investigation is carried out, if a Disciplinary Officer decides that there is sufficient information to charge the Participant or Club for an alleged breach of the Regulations, and the Disciplinary Officer determines it is right to do so having considered the information and evidence provided, the Charge Letter issued may include a charge for a different breach to that detailed in the Referral.

7. Disciplinary Panel Hearing Process (Regulations 18 and 26-35)

7.1. Reasonableness will depend on the circumstances of the case but, in most instances, it is reasonable to request a response to a Charge Letter within seven days.

7.2. Any Hearing should be arranged in a timely manner, which will likely differ for each matter. However, arranging a Hearing in a timely manner means allowing sufficient time for all the parties concerned to prepare adequately, taking account of their availability and other commitments but not scheduling a Hearing so far in advance that it causes unreasonable delay. There must still be efficient handling of all matters and determination within a timeframe that allows everyone concerned to recall the matter adequately. Although a Hearing may be rescheduled if the Respondent is not able to attend at the original date or time, this is designed to ensure that the Respondent is given an opportunity to attend and shall not be used by the Respondent as a way to unreasonably delay proceedings. If the Disciplinary Officer feels that the Respondent is seeking to unreasonably delay proceedings

(for example, if they have requested multiple postponements of the Hearing without very good reason) they shall take this into account when deciding whether to agree to the Respondent's request to reschedule the Hearing. It may be appropriate for Relevant Disciplinary Bodies to seek to ensure that they arrange a Hearing within 28 days of the Charge Letter. However, this timeframe may not be appropriate in all cases and a shorter timeframe may be considered more expedient in the interests of the case. A longer timeframe may also be considered in extremely complex cases.

7.3. The Disciplinary Panel Chair has the discretion to set a disciplinary timetable as they consider appropriate. This means they can administer the proceedings according to a timetable they deem fit for the matter at hand (albeit whilst ensuring compliance with the Regulations). The Chair should notify the parties, within a reasonable timescale in advance of the Hearing, of their expectations on all parties and provide the parties with the opportunity to:

- (a) share any documentation relevant to the case of either party in the proceedings, such as witness accounts;
- (b) submit any written witness accounts and/or any other evidence that relate to the charge(s) against the Participant or Club; and/or
- (c) prepare written submissions where the Panel considers the proceedings to be sufficiently sensitive or complex to require them.

7.4. Although it is a matter for the Chair to determine how to run the Hearing, most Hearings relating to a breach of the Regulations should be inquisitorial (taking on a fact-finding approach to get to the bottom of the situation as it is alleged) rather than adversarial and oppositional (which is the approach taken in criminal or civil proceedings). The Chair should make clear that the parties will have the opportunity to raise any matters they consider relevant to determining whether the Charge can be made out and allow for an appropriate length of Hearing to provide sufficient time for this.

7.5. All parties should be given information explaining that they will have the opportunity to put forward any observations, question the other party or parties, and/or make any submissions on the matter (including in relation to the other side's evidence).

7.6. The Chair and Panel should:

- (a) seek to ensure that witnesses are not present in the room being used for the Hearing until the time that they are required to give their evidence when they should be called into the room on an individual basis; and
- (b) ask each party, as part of their submissions, to outline any factors that the Panel should consider in determining an appropriate sanction in the event that the alleged breach is found to be proven, with reference to the ranges prescribed in Appendix 3 of the Regulations.

7.7. Relevant Disciplinary Bodies should seek to ensure that decisions are produced within 7 days of the respective Hearing.

8. Balance of Probabilities (Regulations 23, 32 and 45)

8.1. Adjudicators, Disciplinary Panels and Appeals Panels will determine matters on the "balance of probabilities". This means that when the Panel is considering whether the alleged breach has been committed or not, they must be satisfied that it is "more likely than not" that the alleged breach took place, taking account of the evidence submitted and heard. Therefore,

the Panel do not have to be absolutely sure that it took place but satisfied that it is more likely that it did.

9. Costs (Regulations 34 and 47)

- 9.1. For first instance decisions, the Disciplinary Panel may choose to make a costs order against the Relevant Disciplinary Body in instances where the alleged breach is found not to have been committed and/or the allegation is found to have been spurious or vexatious. In such instances, the Participant, or Club against whom the Referral has been made may be reimbursed for reasonable costs as the Disciplinary Panel deem appropriate.
- 9.2. For appeals, the Appeal Panel may also choose to make a costs order in instances where the Appeal is successful or if it feels that one party has acted unreasonably by bringing the Appeal or in any way during the Appeal process.
- 9.3. All parties are encouraged to keep costs to a minimum and the Appeal Panel Chair will take any unreasonable incurring of costs by either party into account when determining whether to require one party to pay more of the additional costs.

10. Appeals (Regulation 36-49)

- 10.1. If the Notice of Appeal or required administrative fee is not submitted within 7 days, the Appeal will not proceed unless there are reasons justifying otherwise, which shall be decided by the Appeal Panel Chair in their sole discretion. The appeal fee is requested to cover the administrative costs associated with holding a hearing and/or otherwise determining the matter. For example, there may be costs associated with the travel of the panel members or hiring a room for the day. If no administrative costs are incurred, the Appeals Body may choose to refund all or part of the fee in accordance with Regulation 47.
- 10.2. All procedural rules and principles that apply to Hearings at first instance also apply to appeals. The process and timing requirements for Disciplinary Panel Hearings (detailed in the Regulations and above at paragraph 7 of this guidance) will also apply to Appeal Panel Hearings.

11. Disclosure of Relevant Criminal Offences (Regulation 10)

- 11.1. In instances where a participant discloses a Relevant Criminal Offence, in accordance with Regulation 10, the cricket organisation receiving that disclosed information must abide by its duty of confidentiality and all applicable data protection laws.
- 11.2. Any Relevant Criminal Offence should be disclosed to the Club Safeguarding Officer in the first instance and, if that Club Safeguarding Officer has any concerns in relation to the handling of the matters disclosed, they should escalate it only to the County Safeguarding Officer. Such matters should only be disclosed beyond those two people and discussed at committee level in complex cases and only following discussion and agreement with the County Safeguarding Officer. The ECB's Safe Hands Training Course provides further information on this.
- 11.3. Full information about the relevant ECB contacts for referring any safeguarding concerns can be found here: <https://www.ecb.co.uk/about/policies-and-regulations/safeguarding/share-a-concern>.

12. Data Protection

- 12.1. The UK GDPR and the Data Protection Act 2018 are the primary data protection legislation in the United Kingdom. It is a legal requirement for Relevant Disciplinary Bodies and Panels to comply with data protection law when processing personal data. If Relevant Disciplinary Bodies do not comply with their obligations under data protection law, the Information Commissioner can impose various sanctions on Relevant Disciplinary Bodies including preventing the use of the personal data and/or imposing a significant financial penalty on Relevant Disciplinary Bodies.
- 12.2. The UK GDPR provides that, where personal data is obtained, the person or organisation receiving the personal data must provide transparent information (usually referred to as a 'privacy notice') to each individual whose personal data is received. If the data is not received directly from the individual (as may be the case following receipt of a Disciplinary Report or Written Complaint), the person or organisation receiving the personal data must provide the privacy notice within a reasonable period following receipt of the data and, in any event, within one month. What amounts to "reasonable" will depend on the circumstances, but as a general principle, the Relevant Disciplinary Body should take all steps to communicate with the data subject (about whom personal data is received in a Disciplinary Report or Written Complaint) as soon as is reasonably practicable, providing the privacy notice with the communication, to ensure compliance.
- 12.3. All Relevant Disciplinary Bodies will need to include appropriate references to the Regulations and its provisions in their respective privacy notices to ensure that they comply with transparency obligations in data protection law when collecting, processing and/or sharing personal data as a result of handling disciplinary matters. The UK GDPR provides a list of what information must be included in a privacy notice, but in the context of these Regulations it will be important to explain the collection, processing, disclosure and use of information relating to the particular individual and their activities. In particular, this should address the conduct of any applicable disciplinary procedures and any associated issuing and recognition of penalties. Independent legal advice should be sought on this point where necessary.
- 12.4. A template privacy notice, which can be adopted and amended as appropriate for use by Relevant Disciplinary Bodies, is provided as a separate document. The privacy notice should be provided to each person whose personal data is obtained, either at the point that their data is obtained or, if the personal data is not obtained, directly from the individual (e.g. when the relevant Participant is notified of any allegation made against them).

13. Children and Adults at Risk

- 13.1. When handling proceedings involving an under-18 or an adult at risk who is a witness, alleged victim or alleged offender, the processes that are followed must pay due consideration to safeguarding and welfare issues and associated data protection laws. Full guidance from the ECB on disciplinary proceedings that involve under-18s or adults at risk can be found on the ECB's website: <https://www.ecb.co.uk/about/policies-and-regulations/safeguarding/kit-bag-resources/getting-started>.
- 13.2. Reasonable adjustments should be made for anyone with a disability.