



# **TRAINING SLIDES**

## RECREATIONAL CONDUCT REGULATIONS

FEBRUARY 2023



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## CONTENT OF THIS TRAINING

- The nature and scope of the RCR
- Decisions and next steps for cricket organisations
- Conduct obligations
- Roles and responsibilities of key individuals and bodies in the disciplinary process
- Sanctions
- Case Studies
- FAQs

## What is the RCR?

- The ECB produced the General Conduct Regulations in 2022 which are now mandatory for County Cricket Boards, National Counties and ECB Premier Leagues to implement .
- The GCR are not currently mandatory more widely.
- The ECB has prepared the RCR for cricket leagues who do not currently feel able to implement the GCR
- The RCR offer simpler processes to follow for leagues while retaining the same conduct obligations and sanction guidelines.

Note that the ECB has produced a separate training session on the GCR.

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## PRELIMINARY CONSIDERATIONS

- Who will act as disciplinary officer?
- Who will be appointed to consider cases?
- How best to communicate the RCR to clubs/participants.

## CONDUCT OBLIGATIONS

### On-field offences:

- For cricketers, in line with level 1 to level 4 offences in the Laws of Cricket, as well as breaching the Anti-Discrimination Code or acting in a manner to bring the game into disrepute.
- For coaches and officials, relating to physical or verbal abuse to other participants and/or umpires.
- For captains and/or clubs, holding them responsible for the actions of their team members.

### Off-field offences:

- For cricketers and other participants, such as breaching the Anti-Discrimination Code, acting in a manner to bring the game into disrepute.

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## **ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES – Umpire**

1. Complete report following match.
2. Submit completed report to the Relevant Cricket League.

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## **ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES** – Relevant Cricket League

1. The Relevant Cricket League bears responsibility for ensuring that all disciplinary and appeal processes are carried out in accordance with the RCR.
2. Appoint a Disciplinary Officer in respect of each case and provide any reports/complaints that have been submitted.
3. Maintain a record of all disciplinary decisions and sanctions imposed.
4. Relevant Cricket Leagues must recognise and give effect to any penalties which have been imposed under the RCR or GCR.

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## **ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES** – Disciplinary Officer

1. Receive report/complaint.
2. Conduct any further investigation necessary.
3. Consider whether to bring a charge and, where a charge is issued, send a charge letter to the individual.
4. Appoint an individual (or group of individuals) to determine the matter (at both first instance and appeal).
5. Communicate to relevant leagues.



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## **ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES – Decision-maker(s)**

1. Determine whether the charge should be determined on written evidence or at a hearing.
2. At first instance:
  - (a) decision-maker(s) to determine whether a breach has occurred (on balance of probabilities).
  - (b) if so, decision-maker(s) to impose a sanction.
3. On appeal, to determine whether the appeal should be upheld and the sanction should be disapplied or a new sanction imposed.
4. Decision-maker(s) to communicate the decision as soon as reasonably possible.
5. In exceptional circumstances, the decision-maker(s) may impose an interim suspension.

## ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

1. The recommended sanctions for offences are set out below

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	40 match ban

2. Decision-maker(s) can depart from these sanctions or impose additional sanctions based on the aggravating and mitigating factors in the case.
3. Unless stipulated 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.

## CASE STUDY A

- In relation to an ECB Premier League match between Club A and Club B:
  - Club A allege that a player from Club B was personally offensive to a number of their players.
  - Club A allege that spectators supporting Club B were verbally racially abusive towards players from Club A.
  - Club A allege that a member of Club B who was not playing on that day was racially abusive online towards players from Club A during live streaming of the match.
- What happens next?
  - Who would be charged and what charges would be issued?
  - Would these charges be appropriate for determination by way of written submissions?
  - What evidence might be necessary?
  - What sanctions should be imposed?



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## CASE STUDY B

- In relation to a third Division match between Club C and Club D using player umpires.
- Umpire from Club D alleges that a player from Club C has physically pushed a player from Club D.
- What happens next?
  - Who would be charged and what charges would be issued?
  - Would these charges be appropriate for determination by way of written submissions?
  - What evidence might be necessary?
  - What sanctions should be imposed?

## FAQ'S

- Is every club expected to adopt the RCR within its constitution or in respect of its own disciplinary process?
- When issuing a charge letter should you include a full copy of the RCR and Anti-Discrimination Code?
- What evidence should be listed with the charge letter?
- Does an appeal under the RCR conclude the matter or is there any further right to appeal?
- Can leagues continue their current practice of informing a club of the expected sanction against one of their players and only considering the case further if the club doesn't agree to ban the player?
- Why is the definition of Relevant Criminal Offence so broad?
- Is the offence of bringing the game into disrepute intended to stifle criticism of the ECB or other cricket organisations?



# THANK YOU

Contact email address: [clubsleagues@ecb.co.uk](mailto:clubsleagues@ecb.co.uk)