

Code of conduct for parents, players and other members of Chesham Cricket club.

Revised : 2024

Following a significant rise in incidents it has become necessary to introduce a formal code of conduct for all parents, players, coaches, team managers and any other club members including family members of club members or friends of Chesham Cricket club when attending or participating in matches.

Regardless of the behaviour of any opposition players, parents or spectators the code of conduct will apply to anyone representing Chesham Cricket Club.

Parents will be requested to complete the 'Parent Behaviour Policy' form for their junior to be eligible to play at the club. The form references this document

BACKGROUND

Spirit of cricket

Cricket has a strong tradition of adhering to the spirit of cricket as well as the letter of the law.

The Spirit of Cricket involves respect for and sportsmanship towards:

- Your opponents, your own captain and your team members
- The role of the umpires and the game's traditional values

In particular it is against the spirit of cricket to:

- Dispute an umpire's decision by word, action or gesture or direct abusive language towards an opponent or umpire
- Indulge in cheating, sharp practice, appealing knowing the batsman is not out or advance towards an umpire aggressively at any point
- Seek to distract an opponent either verbally or by harassment

Match rules

Most of the junior formats have their own set of rules put in place to help all players develop whilst still providing a competitive environment. The rules are very unlikely to be exactly the same as that an adult / parent / spectator either used to play or currently plays.

Before the start of any match the umpires and team managers of both teams will communicate with each other regarding any finer points of a particular fixture and any local rules. E.g. how wide can a wide be, what happens if a ball hits overhanging branches etc. Any decisions are made in the best interests of the players.

Parents/spectators have NO say in any of the decisions above.

Umpires

Match umpires are invariably volunteers and usually parents with limited formal umpire training. They are human, do have a variable set of rules to apply and WILL make mistakes. They are also a vital part of the game, without them there is no game.

There are NO reasons to dispute an on field umpires call. Regardless of whether they are right or wrong, the on field umpires decision is final.

Team strategy

Team managers have a set of guidelines they are required to adhere to. The guidelines are the 'current best practice' developed by coaches, clubs, county, regional and crickets national governing bodies. A copy of the guidance is available on request.

For the older age groups, the team captain is responsible for all decisions made on and off the field. They are encouraged to discuss plans with the team manager before the game but should be solely responsible for all decisions once the game has started.

At the younger age groups the team managers will necessarily need to provide a lot more guidance but this should aim to be guidance, not instruction. Only the team manager is permitted to provide best practice guidance at any point during the game.

During matches parents/spectators have NO say in the application of any guidance given by a team manager or decisions made by a team manager or captain, regardless of how wrong you believe they may be.

Opposition team conduct

Oppositions will have their own level of conduct they expect from their parents + players. Anyone representing Chesham should leave any conduct issues to the opposition team managers or other officials. A Chesham Team manager or match umpire is the only person that should interact with the opposition team manager or umpires in such matters.

TRAINING SESSION CODE OF CONDUCT

- Players must follow the coach's instructions.
- Players must listen when the coach is talking.
- Players/parents will only make positive comments. You must not intimidate, put down, use derogatory or bad language.
- All parents except those delivering the coaching (thus are DBS checked and registered with the clubs ECB SHMS portal) must keep a suitable distance from juniors.

Parents should avoid offering coaching advice during a session and must not congregate in front of the cricket nets. Nets are inherently dangerous and the full attention of all players and coaches is required at all times.

Please do not smoke / vape around the juniors. Drinks, especially if in glass containers must not be taken onto any field of play or to areas being used for training.

DISCIPLINARY ACTION

First breach

Players/parents are reminded of the rules and are expected to acknowledge they understand.

Second breach (players)

Players are reminded of the rules and are expected to acknowledge they understand. A small penalty will occur, such as missing their turn.

Third breach (players)

Players will be removed to a reflection point for around 5 minutes. There is a short 'restorative chat' after which the player can return to the session.

Fourth breach (players), second breach (parents)

The player will be asked to leave the session. They will only be able to return following a restorative meeting between all involved, including parents, preferably at the end of the session in question.

MATCH DAY CODE OF CONDUCT

Match rules

Once decided by the umpires and team managers, the match rules are final.

Parents / players / spectators choosing to dispute any rule during a match regardless of whether they believe they are right or wrong are considered in breach of the code of conduct and will face disciplinary action.

Umpires

Regardless of whether they are right or wrong the on field umpires decision is final.

Parents / players / spectators choosing to dispute an umpires decision are considered in breach of the code of conduct and will face disciplinary action.

Team strategy

The match day team manager and captain are the only people that can provide instruction to the team players during the entire match, including when waiting to bat.

Parents / players / spectators choosing to provide instruction to their team are considered in breach of the code of conduct and will face disciplinary action.

DISCIPLINARY ACTION

The club disciplinary committee will collect the evidence from the relevant parties and consider each breach on its merits, however they will not look favourably on any breach.

If the committee determines the breach is minor:

- Any player breaching the code of conduct will be suspected for 1 game.
- Any parent / spectator breaching the code will be asked not to attend the following game.

A second minor breach in a season will immediately be considered a major breach.

If the committee determines the breach is major:

- Any player breaching the code of conduct will be suspended for 3 games.
- The parent / spectator will be asked not to attend any further games that season. The remainder of the squad will be informed that you will not be attending any further games.

If any player or parent chooses to ignore any sanction the player and parent will be asked to leave the club with immediate effect.