



Discipline Regulations and Guidelines

Model Discipline Regulations to be used by HWCC

1. ECB Code of Conduct and Spirit of Cricket

1.1 Code of Conduct

1.1.1 The ECB is committed to maintaining the highest standards of behaviour and conduct. This Code of Conduct incorporates the Spirit of Cricket, as set out below. It applies to all matches played under the auspices of the ECB and may be applied to cricket in general.

1.1.2 The captains are responsible at all times for ensuring that play is conducted within the Spirit of Cricket as well as within the Laws.

1.1.3 Players and team officials must at all times accept the umpire's decision. Players must not show dissent at the umpire's decision or react in a provocative or disapproving manner towards another player or a spectator.

1.1.4 Players and team officials shall not intimidate, assault, or attempt to intimidate or assault an umpire, another player, or a spectator.

1.1.5 Players and team officials shall not use crude and/or abusive language (known as "sledging") nor make offensive gestures or hand signals nor deliberately distract an opponent.

1.1.6 Players and team officials shall not make racially abusive comments nor indulge in racially abusive actions against fellow players, officials, members, and supporters. Clubs must operate an active open door membership policy whilst respecting player qualification regulations and welcome players/members irrespective of ethnic origin.

1.1.7 Players and team officials shall not use or in any way be concerned in the use or distribution of illegal drugs.

1.1.8 Clubs must take adequate steps to ensure the good behaviour of their members and supporters towards players and umpires. Any club found to be in breach of the ECB Code of Conduct may be expelled from ECB Competitions for the current and future seasons.

1.2 Spirit of Cricket

Cricket is a game that owes much of its unique appeal to the fact that it should be played not only within its Laws, but also within the Spirit of the Game. Any action which is seen to abuse this spirit causes injury to the game itself. The major responsibility for ensuring the spirit of fair play rests with the captains.



1.2.1 There are two Laws which place the responsibility for the team's conduct firmly on the captain:

Responsibility of Captains

The captains are responsible at all times for ensuring that play is conducted within the Spirit of the Game as well as within the Laws.

Player's Conduct

In the event of any player failing to comply with the instructions of an umpire, criticising his decision by word or action, showing dissent, or generally behaving in a manner which might bring the game into disrepute, the umpire concerned shall in the first place report the matter to the other umpire and to the player's captain, requesting the latter to take action.

Fair and Unfair Play

According to the Laws the umpires are the sole judges of fair and unfair play. The umpires may intervene at any time, applying Law 42 (Players Conduct) when deemed appropriate, and it is the responsibility of the captain to take action where required.

The umpires are authorised to intervene in cases of:

- Time wasting
- Damaging the pitch
- Dangerous or unfair bowling
- Tampering with the ball
- Any other action that they consider to be unfair.

The Spirit of the Game involves RESPECT for:

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

It is against the Spirit of the Game:

- To dispute an umpire's decision by word, action, or gesture
- To direct abusive language towards an opponent or umpire
- To indulge in cheating or any sharp practice, for instance
 - a) appeal knowing the batter is not out
 - b) advance towards an umpire in an aggressive manner when appealing
 - c) seek to distract an opponent either verbally or by harassment with persistent clapping or unnecessary noise under the guise of enthusiasm and motivation of one's own side.

Violence

There is no place for any act of violence on the field of play.

Players



Captains and umpires together set the tone for the conduct of a cricket match. Every player is expected to make an important contribution to this.

Failure to comply with the provisions of Paragraph 1 may lead to disciplinary action, irrespective of an alleged breach being related to a match not under the jurisdiction of the League.

Internal Club Enquiry

The club of its own volition and without any need for the receipt of a written complaint or other prompting shall, where any alleged case of conduct which is not fair and proper occurs as the club may think fit, forthwith convene an Internal Club Enquiry.

The purpose of the Internal Club Enquiry shall be to establish the facts and, where appropriate, to take the necessary disciplinary action so as to ensure that the club does not fail properly to control or discipline its player or players and to ensure that the club acts in a manner designed to protect the good name of the club and of cricket generally.

Any player requested to attend such an Internal Club Enquiry, or any Appeal therefrom, shall be entitled to be accompanied at the Enquiry by a friend or other representative.

Appeals Procedure

The player shall have the right to appeal to the chairperson of the club or to the Chairpersons nominee for a review of the findings of the Internal Club Enquiry and of the penalty or penalties imposed.

The decision of the Chairperson or his nominee in all cases shall be final and binding.

1. The right to a fair hearing

The right to a fair hearing requires that an individual shall not be penalised by a decision affecting his rights or legitimate expectations unless he has been given prior notice of the case against him and a fair opportunity to answer the case against him and to produce his own case.

(a) Prior notice of the hearing

The accused person should be given adequate notice of the allegations against him and of the procedure to be followed so that he may be in a position to make representations on his own behalf, to appear at the hearing, to prepare his own case and to answer the case against him. The time and location of the hearing must also be properly notified to the reported person.

(b) Opportunity to be heard

The reported person has a right to attend the hearing and be allowed to present his case. If the Disciplinary Panel is satisfied that the reported person has been given adequate notice of the alleged breach and of the time and location of the hearing, they may allow the hearing to proceed if the reported person fails to attend. However, it may not be justifiable to proceed if the time or location fixed for the hearing is such that the person cannot be expected to attend. Within the Model Discipline Regulations, it states that "at least seven days' notice in writing of the hearing and of the offence(s) alleged shall be given to the player, or in the case of a club, its Secretary."



2. The rule against bias

A person adjudicating on a dispute must have no pecuniary or proprietary interest in the outcome of the proceedings and must not be suspected, or show a real likelihood, of bias.

The rule against bias also provides that a party should not normally be judged by his accuser.

Players' Behaviour

In the event of any player failing to comply with the instructions of an umpire, criticising his decision by word or action, showing dissent, or generally behaving in a manner which might bring the game into disrepute, the umpire concerned shall in the first place report the matter to the other umpire and to the player's captain, requesting the latter to take action.

Breaches of paragraph 1.2.5 of the Spirit of the Game should automatically be reported as soon as reasonably practicable by the umpires to the executive of the club concerned and to any Governing Body responsible for the match. Such breaches will be treated seriously and are likely to result in suspension.

Accumulated Bad Behaviour

Repeated infringements by an individual of the Spirit of the Game (where it is decided that each infringement in itself does not merit any immediate disciplinary action), should always result in a Disciplinary Hearing. Taking into account captains' responsibilities as set out in paragraph 1.1.2 of the Model Discipline Regulations, repeated infringements by a team are likely to result in the captain being held responsible for the conduct of his team (whether or not individual players are also identified for disciplinary action) and being called before a Disciplinary Hearing. The penalties available includes suspension. When issuing the penalty, the Disciplinary Panel may take account of instances of poor team discipline in previous years, particularly where the on-the-field captain is the same. Leagues shall ensure that captains understand their responsibility for the "on the field" behaviour of themselves and their team members. If suspension is the penalty, this will normally take effect immediately.

Violence

There is no place for any act of violence on the field of play.

Proven cases of violent conduct against an official will inevitably result in a lengthy term of suspension.

Violence against a spectator or another player will also normally result in suspension, the length depending upon the circumstances.

If suspension is the penalty, this should take effect immediately.

Racial Abuse

Players and team officials must not make racially abusive comments nor indulge in racially abusive actions against fellow players, officials, members, and supporters. Racially abusive comments or actions will normally result in suspension, the length depending upon the circumstances.

Drugs

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It is ECB's policy that there should be no distinction drawn between 'performance enhancing' and 'recreational' drugs. Use or distribution of illegal drugs by players or team officials is a breach of the ECB Code of Conduct.