



Disciplinary Rules

1. The 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 the 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".

There are two Laws which place the responsibility for the team's conduct firmly on the Captain. (Laws 1.4 and 42.1).

Responsibility of the 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 a player failing to comply with instructions by 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, and it is the responsibility of the Captain to take action where required.

2. Code of Conduct

The Championship is committed to maintaining the highest standards of behaviour and conduct. The following Rules shall apply to all persons and Member Clubs. For the purposes of these Rules the word "Player" shall throughout these Rules be deemed to mean and include not only any player but also any member or official of any Member Club or, if appropriate, any other person involved in any incident of possible misconduct occurring on the field of play, or on the premises of the Member Club, as may be appropriate in the particular circumstances.

It shall be a disciplinary offence:

- (a) for any Player in the course of, or in connection with, a match to be guilty of an act of misconduct or to act at any time in a manner calculated to prejudice the good name or interest of the Championship; or
- (b) for any Member Club to fail properly to control or discipline its Players or to act in a manner calculated to prejudice the good name or interest of the Championship.

Examples of conduct which is not within the Spirit of the game are:

- i. verbal, racial, derogatory remarks or physical abuse or hostility towards any other Player or any member of the public;
- ii. dissenting at an umpire's decision, excessive appealing or reacting in an obviously provocative or disapproving manner towards an umpire, another Player or a spectator at any time whether on the field of play or off the field of play but within the precincts of the ground;
- iii. using crude and/or abusive language (known as 'sledging'), or making offensive gestures or hand signals, or deliberately distracting an opponent, or making excessive and/or orchestrated appeals to an umpire;

- iv. giving a false name for a Player on the team sheet submitted to the opposing captain and/or panel umpires, or on the Report Card returned to the Registration Secretary.

The Player and Member Club committing an offence shall be liable to penalties in the manner and as described hereafter.

3. Fixed Administration Penalties

Championship points shall be deducted automatically for the following offences:

- 3.1 failure to report the result of a match by e-mail in due time, 4 points, plus an additional 2 points for every Three day period of delay.
- 3.2 failure to provide complete details of the match result, 2 points,
- 3.3 failure to appoint a bona fide umpire, 4 points,
- 3.4 failure to be ready to start within 31 minutes, 4 points, from both sides of the Member Club;
- 3.5 failure to be ready to start within 61 minutes, 10 points from both sides of the Member Club;
- 3.6 incorrect or missing registration number on the team sheet: on the first occasion a warning will be given, should it occur on a second occasion a final warning will be given and if repeated after that, the team concerned will be deducted 1 point on each occasion.

(Note: This is consistent with the action taken in respect of slow over rates).
- 3.7 failure to report the Players' names and registration numbers, the pitch grading, the facilities grading, and the Umpires names and gradings (as appropriate) in respect of a match by e-mail in due time after a warning, 2 points for every three- day period of delay;
- 3.8 playing a non resident/ unregistered overseas player, 10 points deduction and loss of all points gained and a win being awarded to the opponents;
- 3.9 playing more than one Non-Resident Player in a match 10 point deduction and loss of all points gained and a win awarded to the opponents.
- 3.10 playing an ineligible first-class player, 10 points deduction and loss of all points gained and a win being awarded to the opponents.

4. Disciplinary Procedure

Any Member Club or Player (the "Complainant") who believes there has been a breach of the Rules of the Championship may make a formal submission of the allegation in writing (the "Complaint") to the League Secretary as soon as possible, and not later than 7 days from the occurrence. Upon receipt of such Complaint and, if applicable, such Rejoinder, and as soon as reasonably practicable, the Chairman of the Disciplinary Sub-Committee shall consider the Complaint and resolve either:

- i. to take no action except to record the Complaint and notify the Member Club; or
- ii. if the Complaint appears 'prima facie' to require action, to refer the matter for a Disciplinary Hearing which shall be convened by the Chairman of the Disciplinary Sub-Committee as soon as is practicable and in any event within 21 days of the decision to refer.
- iii. All reports will be available for review by both Member clubs 30 minutes before the timed Disciplinary Hearing on the date specified.

iv. Red Card Offences:

1. Threatening behaviour, violent conduct, dissent to an Umpire, sledging (derogatory or racial).
2. For 'proven' 'Red Card' offence against a player, the player will receive an automatic minimum 3 match suspension.
3. The Captain will receive an automatic "Yellow Card"
4. The Club will receive a 4 point deduction from the player's team.

5. For a team receiving two "proven" "Red Card" offences in the same season the team will receive a 10 point deduction.

v. Yellow Card Offences:

1. Excessive appealing, gamesmanship, sledging (excessively).
2. If a player receives three "Yellow Cards" in the same season, he will automatically be suspended for one match.
3. If a team receives five "Yellow Card" offences (not necessarily to the same player) in the same season the team will receive a 4 point deduction.
4. For every "Yellow Card" offence a team receives over five, the team will receive a 1 point deduction.

Note: At the beginning of each season the amount of Red & Yellow Card" Offences will start from scratch, but suspensions will be carried forward if applicable.

5. Disciplinary Hearing

In any case which is referred for a Disciplinary Hearing, at least seven days' notice in writing of the Hearing and of the offence(s) alleged shall be given to the Member Club's League Contact.

The Player / Member Club shall be requested to attend the Disciplinary Hearing, state their case (in the case of a Member Club by its Secretary or other official), can be supported by a colleague and to call witnesses.

The Disciplinary hearing shall be conducted by the Disciplinary Sub-Committee of the Championship which shall consist of not fewer than three persons, none of whom shall be connected with the players, the Member Club or their opponents at the time of the alleged breach.

The Disciplinary Chairman will name a date for the hearing and inform all parties, giving at least seven days' notice. Any given date for a Disciplinary Hearing will only be changed for/in exceptional circumstances, otherwise the Disciplinary Hearing can/will go ahead without all parties in attendance.

6. Penalties

If at the Disciplinary Hearing the Disciplinary Sub-Committee finds the offence that was alleged to have been proved, it shall have the power to impose one or more of the following penalties:

- a) In the case of a Player:
 - To require the Player to submit an appropriate letter(s) of apology within a specified time and on Club Headed paper. Personal emails will not be accepted unless proper documentation is attached;
 - To record a reprimand and to give the Player a warning as to future conduct;
 - To suspend the Player for one or more matches, or for a stated period of time;
 - To deduct points in the Championship from the Player's team;
 - To recommend to a General Meeting of the Championship to expel the Player from the Championship. In exceptional cases the matter will be referred to the ECB for further action.
- b) In the case of a Member Club:
 - To require the Member Club to submit an appropriate letter(s) of apology within a specified time;
 - To record a reprimand and to give the Member Club a warning as to future conduct;
 - To deduct points in the Championship from the Member Club's team(s);
 - To relegate the Member Club's team(s) to any lower Division of the Championship;
 - To suspend the Member Club for a stated period of time from the Championship;
 - To expel the Member Club from any Cup Competition of the Championship;

- To recommend to a General Meeting of the Championship the expulsion of the Member Club from the Championship. In exceptional cases the matter will be referred to the ECB for further action.

The Disciplinary Sub-Committee shall have the power to suspend the operation of any part, or all, of the penalty it imposes for such period and subject to such terms and conditions as it deems appropriate.

Decisions of the Disciplinary Sub-Committee (a finding that a Complaint is proved or not proved, or a decision on penalty) shall be by majority vote; where necessary, the Chairman of the Disciplinary Hearing shall have a second and casting vote.

7. Appeals Procedure

A Player or Member Club shall have the right of appeal to the Appeals Sub-Committee of the Championship. The Notice of Appeal setting out the ground(s) for the appeal and the reasons why the original decision was unfair must be given, in writing, to the Secretary of the Championship within seven days of the decision of the Disciplinary Sub-Committee, and must be accompanied by a deposit of £50. The Notice of Appeal will be referred by the Secretary of the Championship to the Chairman of the Championship, and the deposit will be held by the League Secretary until the appeal decision has been made.

The ground(s) for the appeal shall be that the Disciplinary Sub-Committee whose decision is being appealed against:

- i. misinterpreted or failed to comply with the Disciplinary Rules relevant to its decision;
- ii. and/or
- iii. came to a decision to which no reasonable such body could have come; and/or
- iv. imposed a penalty or sanction which is excessive.
- v. new evidence supplied that was not submitted at the original Disciplinary Hearing.

If Notice of Appeal is given, the penalty imposed by the Disciplinary Sub-Committee shall not take effect pending the hearing of the Appeal, which shall take place as soon as is practicable.

The Appeal shall be by way of a re-hearing of the offence(s) alleged before the Appeals Sub-Committee of the Championship. The composition of the Appeals Sub-Committee shall be at the discretion of the Chairman of the Championship and shall consist of not fewer than three persons, none of whom shall be connected with the Player, the Member Club or their opponents at the time of the alleged breach. A person who sat on the Disciplinary Sub-Committee that made the decision appealed against may not be a member of the Appeals Sub-Committee, but the Appeals Sub-Committee may require that a member of the Disciplinary Sub-Committee that made the decision appealed against shall attend the Appeal so that questions may be put by the Appeals Sub-Committee in order to satisfy itself as to the reasons for the decision.

The Player or Member Club shall have the same rights of attendance and representation, and to call witnesses, as they had before the Disciplinary Sub-Committee.

The Appeals Sub-Committee may confirm, vary or reverse the decision of the Disciplinary Sub-Committee, and the Appeals Sub-Committee shall have the power to increase the penalty and award costs of the Appeal Hearing. Decisions of the Appeals Sub-Committee shall be by majority vote; where necessary, the Chairman of the Appeals Sub-Committee shall have a second and casting vote.

The decision of the Appeals Sub-Committee or, if no appeal, of the Disciplinary Sub-Committee, shall be final and binding, no further appeal hearings will be considered once there has already been an appeal.

In the event of a successful appeal, the deposit shall be returned in full. Where the appeal is considered to be lacking in merit, the Appeals Sub-Committee shall have the power, at its discretion, to order that all or part of the deposit shall be forfeited to the Championship.

8. Appealing to the MCB or ECB

No member club/s shall be allowed to copy, involve the MCB or ECB in any paperwork etc with regards to any pending Disciplinary or Appeal hearing until the Disciplinary Appeal Committee have given their absolute final verdict and the club/s have been informed of the verdict.

Amended May 2015