

DISCIPLINARY REGULATIONS

1. AIMS AND JURISDICTION

1.1. The Cambridgeshire and Huntingdonshire Joint Disciplinary Committee (C&HJDC) will deal with all disciplinary matters involving clubs, players and officials competing in :-

- The Cambridgeshire & Huntingdonshire Premier League
- The Cambridgeshire Cricket Association
- All Cricket under the Cambridgeshire Cricket Board

1.2. To this end, these discipline regulations has been adopted by all the Leagues and Cup Competitions.

1.3. The regulations shall be complied with by all those who participate under the jurisdiction of any of the Leagues or Cups Management Committees. The regulations shall apply to any player, at any club, at any level, under the auspices of any of the listed Leagues and Cup Competitions.

1.4. The regulations are intended to provide assistance and uniformity to all clubs in dealing with any alleged breach of the Code of Conduct and The Spirit of Cricket.

1.5. Any club which fails to take all reasonable steps to ensure the proper conduct of its players, officials and/or members in all matters for which the club or its committee is responsible, or acts in any way which is prejudicial or detrimental to the interests or reputation of the League breaches this Code of Conduct.

1.6. There is nothing in this Code preventing or discouraging clubs from applying additional or stronger sanctions against offenders than those appearing within the Code, whether or not they are the subject of a discipline report. To this end, it is important that clubs have their own code of conduct and disciplinary procedures in place.

1.7. For the purposes of these regulations, the expression 'player' shall throughout this document be deemed to mean and include not only any player, whether professional or otherwise, but also any member or official of any club or any other person involved in any incident of alleged misconduct occurring on any part of a cricket ground or building and not merely the field of play.

2. CODE OF CONDUCT AND SPIRIT OF CRICKET

2.1. Code of Conduct

2.1.1. All Competitions as shown in 1.1 are committed to maintaining the highest standards of behaviour and conduct at cricket matches both on and off the field. All clubs and players, by virtue of their registration with their respective League and cup competitions, explicitly agree to abide by this Code of Conduct, which incorporates the Spirit of Cricket, and are bound by the provisions in these Regulations.

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

2.1.3. Players and club 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.

2.1.4. Players and club officials shall not intimidate assault or attempt to intimidate or assault an umpire, another player, a club official or a spectator.

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

2.1.6. Players and club officials shall not use language or gestures that offend, insult, humiliate, intimidate, threaten, disparage or vilify another person on the basis of that person's race, religion, sexual orientation, colour, descent or national or ethnic origin.

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

2.1.8. Players and club officials shall not make any public or media comment which is detrimental to the League, clubs, umpires or the game in general. In this instance, media shall include press, radio, television, external websites, club websites, social networking sites and club match programmes.

2.1.9. Players and club officials shall not disclose or comment upon any alleged breach of this Code or upon hearing any report or decision arising from such breach.

2.1.10. Clubs must take adequate steps to ensure the good behaviour of their players, officials, members and supporters.

2.2. 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.

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

2.2.2. 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.

2.2.3. 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.

2.2.4. 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.

2.3. Fair and Unfair Play

2.3.1. According to the Laws the umpires are the sole judges of fair and unfair play.

2.3.2. The umpires will intervene at any time, and it is the responsibility of the captain to take action where required.

2.4. The umpires are authorised to intervene in cases of:

2.4.1. Time wasting.

2.4.2. Damaging the pitch.

2.4.3. Dangerous or unfair bowling.

2.4.4. Tampering with the ball.

2.4.5. Any other action that they consider to be unfair.

2.5. The Spirit of the Game involves RESPECT for:

2.5.1. Your opponents.

2.5.2. Your own captain and team.

2.5.3. The role of the umpires.

2.5.4. The game's traditional values.

2.6. It is against the Spirit of the Game:

2.6.1. To dispute an umpire's decision by word, action or gesture.

2.6.2. To direct abusive language towards an opponent or umpire.

2.6.3. To indulge in cheating or any sharp practice.

2.6.4. To appeal knowing the batsman is not out.

2.6.5. To advance towards an umpire in an aggressive manner when appealing.

2.6.6. To 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.

2.7. Violence

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

3. BREACHES

3.1. A breach of the disciplinary regulations occurs when

3.1.1. Any player who offends against the Code of Conduct or acts at any time to prejudice the good name or interests of the Leagues.

3.1.2. Any club fails to properly control or discipline its players or acts in a manner prejudicial to the good name or interests of the Leagues.

3.2. Any player or club committing such a breach shall be liable to penalties in the manner prescribed in this document.

3.3. A breach of the Code of Conduct will normally be categorised as Level One, Two, Three or Four as set out in Appendix 1.

4. PROCEDURE

4.1. Reporting of Breaches.

4.1.1. For a first offence of a Level One severity in a match, the umpire(s) should warn the player as to his future conduct and advise him and his captain that any repetition in the match will result in a formal report.

4.1.2. If any player receiving such a warning then commits a further offence in the match, the umpire(s) will advise him and his captain that they will be submitting a formal report.

4.1.3. Should the umpire(s) consider that the first offence is sufficiently serious, they have the authority to decide to submit a formal report without having previously issued any warning. The player and his captain will be advised accordingly.

4.1.4. Notification that a report is to be submitted following any alleged breaches must first be advised by the umpire(s) to the player and his captain or the executive of the player's club on the day of the alleged offence prior to leaving the ground. Where no appointed Umpire is present, the complaint may be lodged by a club.

4.1.5 All reports and complaints must be received by the relevant League Secretary within 72 hours of the alleged incident.

4.1.6 All reports and complaints may be made via letter or preferably email in plain text. Umpire(s) are free to use the official ECB report forms if they wish.

4.2. On receipt of a report or complaint

4.2.1. The relevant League Secretary will the act as Disciplinary Secretary for that case.

4.2.2. If it is deemed by the Umpire(s) in their report (or the Panel in the case of a complaint) to be a Level One offence, the League Secretary will write to club within 72 hours and request information as to what action the club has taken.

4.2.3. The club will reply to the Secretary within seven days of receipt of the letter.

4.2.4. If the Panel decide that the action taken is sufficient, a letter to that effect will be sent to the relevant club within 72 hours of the decision and no further action will be taken. However, the Panel may decide to refer the report to a full Panel Hearing.

4.2.5. The Panel will automatically hear offences deemed to be above Level One.

4.3. Suspensions imposed shall be advised in writing to the relevant club's County Board. Match bans will apply to all cricket played under the auspices of ECB.

4.4. In the case of an incident involving a player under the age of 18 years old, the County Board Welfare Officer will immediately be informed. In such circumstances, the incident will be regarded as a welfare and child protection case. If the incident is being investigated by another organisation the Panel will await the outcome of that investigation before taking any further action.

5. DISCIPLINARY HEARINGS

5.1. If a hearing is required, then the relevant League Secretary will be responsible for arranging the hearing.

5.2. Format of the Disciplinary Committee

5.2.1. Each League shall nominate 3 people to sit on the Disciplinary Committee at the commencement of each season. No other persons will sit on the commission apart from these appointed people in that season. The nominated persons shall not be the League Chairmen nor their deputies.

5.2.2. The nominated person will act as the Chairman for their League's hearings on a case-by-case basis.

5.2.3. A member from two other Leagues would also be in attendance. An Umpires' representative will be present at all hearings, with full voting rights. Where it is deemed necessary, the relevant League Child Welfare Officer will be present but have no voting rights. The relevant League Secretary would act as the Panel Secretary but have no voting rights.

5.2.4. No member of the Panel should be connected with the player, the club or their opponents at the time of the alleged breach, or a club which might directly benefit from any disciplinary action.

5.3. Dates of Hearings

The Panel will convene monthly during the season if required. Appeals will be heard on an ad-hoc basis, but may be heard on the same night as a Panel meeting if appropriate.

Panel dates for 2017 are:

Wed 31 May
Wed 28 June
Wed 26 July
Wed 30 August
Wed 27 September

5.4. The accused player or club shall be entitled:

5.4.1. To submit written statements ahead of the hearing.

5.4.2. To attend the hearing.

5.4.3. To state his case (in the case of a club, by a club official).

5.4.4. To be supported by a colleague and to call witnesses.

5.4.5. To have legal representation. If the player or club is to have representation present at the hearing then the details of that representation must be given to the Panel Secretary not less than 48 hours before the date of the hearing. A club or player involved in disciplinary proceedings will be solely responsible for meeting such costs or expenses as it or they may incur, including the cost of any legal or other representation.

5.5. The standard of proof shall be on the balance of probabilities rather than the criminal standard of beyond reasonable doubt.

5.6. Decisions of the panel shall be by simple majority vote. Where necessary the Disciplinary Panel Chairman will use an extra casting vote.

6. APPEALS

6.1. A notice of appeal setting out the grounds must be given in writing to the hearing Secretary within seven days of the decision of the Disciplinary Panel, together with a deposit of £50 if the appeal is by a player or £150 if the appeal is by a club.

6.2. If a notice of appeal is given, the penalty shall not take effect pending the hearing of the appeal, which shall take place as soon as is practicable and in any event within 14 days of receipt of notice of the appeal.

6.3. The player or club shall have the same entitlements as set out for the original hearing.

6.4. The relevant League Chairman or his nominated deputy will act as the Appeal Chairman on a case-by-case basis.

6.5. The Appeal Panel members will be constituted in the same manner as the original Hearing Panel. None of the original Hearing Panel members bar the Panel Secretary and the League Child Welfare Officer (if required) will sit on an appeal panel.

6.6. The only grounds for appeal will be

6.6.1. Mistaken identity.

6.6.2. Mistakes in procedure.

6.6.3. Production of new evidence.

6.6.4. Mitigating circumstances.

6.7. The appeal shall take the format of a complete re-hearing, taking regard to any extra evidence produced.

6.8. The appeal panel may

6.8.1. Dismiss the appeal for invalid grounds.

6.8.2. Waive or increase any penalties imposed by the original hearing.

6.9. Non-attendance at a hearing of the Appeals Panel by the club or person that submitted the appeal without good and valid reason for such non-attendance will automatically result in forfeiture of their right of appeal.

6.10. The decision arrived at by an appeal panel, or if no appeal is lodged within the proscribed time limit, of the hearing panel shall be final and binding on all parties.

6.11. Any decisions will be conveyed to the clubs and umpire(s) involved within seven days of the hearing date.

6.12. Decisions of the panel shall be by simple majority vote. Where necessary the Disciplinary Panel Chairman will use an extra casting vote.

7. PENALTIES

7.1. The following penalties should be expected to be imposed for any report or complaint found proven at a disciplinary hearing. The levels are as listed below.

7.1.1. Level One Suspended for one to two weeks.

7.1.2. Level Two Suspended for two to six weeks.

7.1.3. Level Three Suspended for four to twelve weeks.

7.1.4. Level Four Suspended for a season or more.

7.1.5. More severe penalties will be incurred for repeat offences and offences involving Captains.

7.2. Where applicable, penalties will be carried over to apply in the following season.

7.3. Additional penalties

7.3.1. To record a reprimand and to give a warning as to future conduct to a player and/or a club.

7.3.2. To impose a fine and/or hearing and/or appeal costs.

7.3.3. To deduct League points from a club. If required, this may be at the start of the following season.

7.3.4. To expel the player or club from the League or Cup competition for any period of time.

7.3.5. To relegate a club one or more divisions.

7.4. Panels will take the following factors into account when determining the penalties to be imposed

7.4.1. If the accused player or club has pleaded guilty.

7.4.2. The player or club's previous disciplinary record.

7.4.3. If the player is also the captain.

7.4.4. The conduct of the player subsequent to him being warned and/or told that he will be reported

7.4.5. If an appeal is considered to be frivolous.

7.5. In addition, where an individual or their representative and/or witnesses behave inappropriately or fail to respect the formality of any hearing, the panel has the right to impose further penalties as it sees fit.

7.6. The panel shall have the power to suspend the operation of any part, or all, of any penalty it imposes for such period and subject to such terms and conditions it deems appropriate.

8. NON PAYMENT OF FINES

8.1. Any fine levied under these procedures or imposed for the breach of any match rule must be paid to the Treasurer of the League within 14 days of the Club being notified of such fine.

8.2. Any fines still outstanding at the end of that period shall be increased by 100% of the original fine, whence the Secretary or Chairman of the offending Club shall be notified to the effect that the fine is outstanding. They will be given a reminder that if after a period of fourteen days from that reminder, the fine is still outstanding, a deduction of five points shall be made from the points gained by the side that received the fine or in respect of a player or Club fine the player or the Club will be suspended until such time as the fines are paid.

8.3. In respect of other payments owed these shall be treated as if they were a fine, except that points shall not be deducted. Such payment shall continue to increase by 100% for each further twenty-eight day period that the payment remains outstanding.

9. BREACHES OF DISCIPLINE

Certain conduct, whether on or off the field of play, amounting to a breach of the Laws of Cricket and/or the Spirit of Cricket has been categorised into 4 levels which are set out below:-

Level 1

- a) time wasting by either the fielding side or the batting side
- b) abuse of the cricket ground, equipment or fixtures
- c) showing dissent at an umpire's decision by word or action
- d) using language that is obscene, offensive or insulting and or the making of an obscene gesture
- e) excessive appealing

Level 2

- a) showing serious dissent at an umpire's decision by word or action
- b) inappropriate and deliberate physical contact between players in the course of play
- c) charging or advancing towards an umpire in an aggressive manner when appealing
- d) deliberate and malicious distraction or obstruction on the field of play, regardless as to whether such conduct is deemed to be fair under law 42.5
- e) throwing the ball at or near a player, umpire or official in an inappropriate and dangerous manner
- f) using language or gesture that is obscene or of a serious insulting nature to another player, umpire, team official or spectator
- g) changing the condition of the ball other than as permitted by Law 42.3

- h) the bowling of fast short pitched balls that result in the bowler being disallowed from bowling further in that innings
- i) causing avoidable damage to the pitch contrary to Laws 42.13 and/or Law 42.14 that results in a five run penalty being awarded

Level 3

- a) intimidating an umpire
- b) threatening to assault another player, team official or spectator
- c) using language or gesture that offend, insult, humiliate, intimidate, threaten, disparage or vilify another person on the basis of that person's race, religion, sexual orientation, colour, descent or national or ethnic origin
- d) the deliberate bowling of any high full-pitched ball contrary to Law 42.8

Level 4

- a) threatening an umpire
- b) physical assault of another player, umpire, official or spectator
- c) any act of violence on the field of play
- d) using language or gestures that seriously offend, insult, humiliate, intimidate, threaten, disparage or vilify another person on the basis of that person's religion, sexual orientation, colour, descent or national or ethnic origin.

The conduct listed in Level 1 to Level 4 above cannot be considered to be exhaustive.