

DISCIPLINARY REGULATIONS

The Warwickshire Cricket League has adopted the following Discipline Regulations, which are based on the E.C.B. Model Discipline Regulations and adapted for its own purposes

1 Aims and Jurisdiction

These Regulations shall apply to any Club or any player who plays for any Club, at any level, under the auspices of The Warwickshire Cricket League ('the League') and are intended to provide assistance and uniformity to all Clubs in dealing with any alleged breach of League Rules, Playing Regulations, Playing Conditions and the Code of Conduct incorporating *The Spirit of Cricket*.

The Warwickshire Cricket League believes that the majority of its members do play the game in the right spirit, and the main objective of these disciplinary rules is to continue to encourage this. This is only achieved by the support of all Clubs and players and it is only on the occasions when standards fall that these rules will come into force.

It is intended that any alleged breach of the Code League Rules, Playing Regulations, Playing Conditions and the Code of Conduct incorporating *The Spirit of Cricket*. that is reported should, in the first instance, be dealt with by the player's Club, who shall notify the League Disciplinary Chairman of the result of any action taken against the player. If the Disciplinary Sub-Committee of the League is satisfied with the action taken by the Club, the case will be closed. If the Sub-Committee is not satisfied with the action taken by the Club, a disciplinary hearing will be convened.

The Management Committee shall also be empowered to take punitive action against any Club who makes derogatory or disparaging media statements or comments regarding other Clubs, Umpires or the League. If the case is found proved, Clubs and/or individuals will be found guilty of bringing the game into disrepute and will be liable to points deduction and/or suspension as the Disciplinary Sub-Committee sees fit. In this instance, media shall include press, radio, television, Club websites and Club match programmes.

2 The League's Code of Conduct and Behaviour

2.1 The League's Commitment.

The League is committed to maintaining the highest standards of behaviour and conduct of those subject to its jurisdiction. In pursuance of these standards all individuals and Clubs shall comply with the following

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Code of Conduct. The Code of Conduct incorporates the "*The Spirit of Cricket*" (Paragraph – 3).

2.2 Code of Conduct

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

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.

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

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.

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 open door membership policy whilst respecting player qualification regulations and welcome players/members irrespective of ethnic origin.

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

Clubs must take adequate steps to ensure the good behaviour of all their members and spectators towards players and Umpires.

Failure to comply with the provisions of the code of conduct may lead to disciplinary action.

3 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 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.

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

3.1 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.

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3.2 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 instance report the matter to the other Umpire and to the player's captain, requesting him to take action.

3.3 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.

3.4 The Umpires are authorised to intervene in cases of:-

- a) Time wasting
- b) Damaging the pitch
- c) Dangerous and unfair bowling
- d) Tampering with the ball
- e) Any other action that they consider to be unfair

3.5 The spirit of the Game involves RESPECT for:-

- a) Your opponents
- b) Your own captain and team
- c) The role of the Umpires
- d) The game's traditional values

3.6 It is against the spirit of the Game;-

- a) To dispute an Umpire's decision by word, action or gesture
- b) To direct abusive language towards an opponent or Umpire
- c) To indulge in cheating or any sharp practice, for instance
 - i. appealing knowing the batsman is not out
 - ii. advancing towards an Umpire in an aggressive manner when appealing

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- iii. seeking 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

3.7 Violence

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

3.8 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 may lead to disciplinary action.

4 **Discipline Management and Reporting – the Responsibilities of Captains and Umpires**

(to be read in conjunction with the Disciplinary Offences and Suspension Guidelines)

4.1 General

The responsibilities of Captains are clearly defined in Paragraph 3 above. Umpires are responsible for ensuring that matches are conducted in accordance with the Laws of Cricket and the Regulations of the League, and in their discharge of these duties the League will always give them the fullest possible support. Between them, Captains and Umpires set the scene for the establishment of proper behaviour and the maintenance of discipline throughout the match.

4.2 Captains

Captains must ensure that they and their players at all times comply fully with the Code of Conduct, and throughout the match behave in accordance with the requirements of both the Code of Conduct and *The Spirit of Cricket*. In addition, before each match they must act to satisfy themselves that their team members are aware of the League's policy on behaviour and discipline, and that all concerned understand the way in which the Code and the associated Discipline reporting procedures operate. Captains are themselves entitled to draw the attention of their Club executive to instances of misbehaviour which they would like to see reported, independently from any action taken by the Umpires.

4.3 Umpires

Umpires must always accept their responsibility to ensure that the requirements of the Code of Conduct and the Disciplinary Offences and

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Suspension Guidelines (Annex 1) are met. They must always report major disciplinary (Category A) offences. They must also use the standard match report form to notify Category C offences, even where they may feel that such matters have been dealt with satisfactorily at the time they occurred. When such reports are made, Umpires must ensure that the player(s) concerned and the relevant Captains are properly notified.

In some matches there will not be League appointed Umpires, and in such circumstances the captains acting together and in agreement shall assume the role of the Umpires under this section 4.3 and for section 5 below.

5 Disciplinary Procedure

(to be read in conjunction with the Disciplinary Offences and Suspension Guidelines)

5.1 Reporting

Umpires should normally indicate that a Complaint will be made before leaving the ground.

Any alleged breach of the Code of Conduct, *The Spirit of Cricket*, League Rules, Playing Regulations and Playing Conditions (to be known as "a Complaint") shall be notified in writing to the League Administrator or Disciplinary Chairman within three days of the alleged offence occurring.

5.2 The League Administrator or Disciplinary Chairman shall refer any such Complaint to a responsible officer (normally the Chairman or Secretary) of the relevant Club normally, within two days of receipt of complaint stating the category of the offence notified (For example A1. ABUSE OF CRICKET EQUIPMENT, CLOTHING, GROUND EQUIPMENT OR FIXTURES AND FITTINGS).

The Club shall take steps without delay to deal with the complaint in accordance with its responsibilities at the same time notifying the player/team official concerned that formal Disciplinary Procedures have been commenced. The Club must then, within seven days, notify the Chairman of the Disciplinary Committee as to the action taken, penalties imposed, etc.

Clubs are expected to impose at least the minimum penalty as detailed in Section 8 below. If the offence is a repeat offence by the same player then the Club is expected to apply at least double the minimum penalty.

5.3 Disciplinary sub-committee Review

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The Disciplinary Chairman shall consider the Complaint and the response of the Player and / or Club concerned and take one of the following actions.

- 5.3.1.1 endorse the disciplinary action taken by the Club, in which case the action will be regarded as action formally taken by the League and be imposed without the right of appeal. For category A offences the League will also impose an automatic suspended points penalty of 24 points to last for 1 calendar year from the date of the offence and to be automatically applied should a second category A offence occur by any member of the same Club.
- 5.3.1.2 Or to refer the matter for a Disciplinary Hearing.
- 5.4 Disciplinary Hearing

For any case which is referred for a Disciplinary Hearing. There will be at least 14 days between receipt of the complaint and the Disciplinary hearing. The Disciplinary chairman will advise all parties of the date of the hearing that they will be expected to attend and provide additional reports as required.

Once the date has been set there will be no opportunity to amend it excepting for exceptional circumstance and then at the sole discretion of the Disciplinary Chairman.

The player(s) and/or Club shall be entitled to attend the Hearing (in the case of a Club, the Secretary or other official) to state their case, to be supported by a Club colleague and to call witnesses. Any Umpire called to attend a hearing may also be supported by a colleague.

The Hearing shall be conducted by a Disciplinary Sub Committee, which shall consist of not less than three persons, none of whom shall be connected with the player(s), team official(s), or Club(s) concerned or their opponents at the time of the alleged breach. Members of the Disciplinary Sub Committee (one of whom shall be nominated as Chairman) shall normally be drawn from the League's Management Committee members; where this is not possible, suitable persons shall be co-opted.

- 5.5 Penalties

(to be read in conjunction with the Disciplinary Offences and Suspension Guidelines)

If, as a result of the Hearing, the Disciplinary Committee finds the alleged offence proved, it shall have the power to impose one or more of the

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following penalties together with such order as to costs as it deems appropriate:

5.5.1 In the case of a player:

- a) to require the player to submit appropriate letter(s) of apology within a specified time;
- b) to record a reprimand and to give a warning as to future conduct;
- c) to suspend the player for one or more matches, or for a stated period of time;
- d) to deduct League points from the player's team;
- e) to expel the player from the League.

The Disciplinary Committee shall have the power to suspend the operation of any part or the entire penalty imposed for such period and subject to such terms and conditions as it shall deem appropriate.

5.5.2 In the case of a Club or team official:

- a) to require the Club to submit appropriate letter(s) of apology within a specified time;
- b) to record a reprimand and to give a warning as to future conduct;
- c) to deduct League points from the Club's team(s);
- d) to relegate the Club to any lower division of the League;
- e) to expel the Club from any cup competition of the League;
- f) to recommend the expulsion of the Club from the League.

The Disciplinary Committee shall have the power to suspend the operation of any part or the entire penalty imposed for such period and subject to such terms and conditions as it shall deem appropriate.

5.6 Decisions

Decisions of the Disciplinary 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 Committee shall have a casting vote. The decision will be advised to the player(s) and/or Club at the end of the Hearing, followed up by the decision in writing within seven days.

6 Appeals procedure

6.1 Following a Disciplinary Hearing

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The player(s) or Club shall have the right of appeal to an Appeals Panel. Notice of Appeal setting out the grounds for appeal must be given in writing to the Disciplinary Chairman, together with a deposit of £50.00, within seven days of the Hearing.

Only the offending player(s) or Club shall have the right of appeal. The complainant shall have no right of appeal.

If Notice of Appeal is given, the original penalty shall not be put into effect, pending the Appeal Hearing, which shall take place as soon as practicable.

The Appeal shall consist of a Hearing before an Appeals Panel, in which none of the members of the original Disciplinary Sub Committee will be involved. The composition of the Appeal Panel shall be at the discretion of the Chairman of the League or the Disciplinary Chairman and shall consist of three persons, none of whom shall be connected with the player(s) or the Club or their opponents at the time of the alleged breach. Members of the Appeal Panel (one of whom shall be nominated as Chairman) shall normally be drawn from the League's Executive Committee members; where this is not possible, suitable persons shall be co-opted. The player(s) or Club shall have the same rights of attendance, representation and calling of witnesses as stipulated for the original Disciplinary Committee.

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

If the Appeal is not upheld, the deposit of £50.00 will be retained as costs by the League.

The decision of the Appeal Panel or, should no appeal have been lodged, of the Disciplinary Committee, shall be final and binding.

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7 THE LEAGUE'S POLICY

The League's Code of Conduct and *The Spirit of Cricket* makes it clear that the primary responsibility for discipline lies with Clubs and Team Captains. The League expects this responsibility to be properly discharged. If it is not, the League will take action against the Club and Captain concerned.

Captains are expected to address incidents promptly and take appropriate action. If they do not, they are also liable to be charged with the offence.

The Code also places a duty on Clubs to take immediate action when notified of a disciplinary Complaint. Such action will be taken into account by the Disciplinary Sub-Committee and may be accepted as appropriate. Alternatively, the Complaint may be referred to a Disciplinary Hearing.

In all cases the following guidelines will be followed by the Disciplinary Sub-Committee, as well as by Umpires, Clubs, League officials, etc.

NOTE

The guidelines specify suspensions for a period. The Disciplinary Sub-Committee will normally assess the period so as to cover a given number of scheduled League matches. The suspension will then be notified as "being up to and including a certain date." Clubs and players should be aware that any suspension by the League applies not only to matches under the control of the League but also to all matches played under the auspices of the ECB or an ECB affiliated Club during the period of suspension.

Penalties for offences against League Rules and Regulations will depend on the severity of individual cases.

8 MAJOR OFFENCES (Category A Offences)

(Umpires will make formal and full reports in all cases and disciplinary charges will be laid.)

8.1 A1. ABUSE OF CRICKET EQUIPMENT, CLOTHING, GROUND EQUIPMENT OR FIXTURES AND FITTINGS

The knocking over of stumps, or the throwing or kicking of a bat, ball, helmet or any cricket attire, boundary marker, rope or any match or ground equipment.

Player: MINIMUM suspension period of one week.

8.2 A2. ABUSE OF A PLAYER

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- 8.2.1 Deliberate violent physical contact on a member of the opposing team or a fellow team member.
- Player: MINIMUM suspension period of two weeks (the severity of the act will influence the length of the penalty imposed; indefinite or life bans may be appropriate in certain circumstances).
- 8.2.2 Threatening behaviour, including threats of assault, serious and persistent verbal abuse (sledging), using comments or language designed to denigrate and/or intimidate the recipient.
- Player: MINIMUM suspension period of three weeks.
- 8.3 A3. ABUSE OF AN UMPIRE
- 8.3.1 Deliberate violent physical contact.
- Player: MINIMUM suspension period of twenty weeks (the severity of the act will influence the length of the penalty imposed; indefinite or life bans may be appropriate in certain circumstances).
- 8.3.2 Threatening behaviour.
- Player: MINIMUM suspension period of six weeks.
- 8.3.3 Verbal Abuse (inclusive of language that is obscene, offensive or insulting and/or the making of obscene gestures).
- Player: MINIMUM suspension period of two weeks.
- 8.3.4 Dissent - any action that seeks to question or undermine the authority of an Umpire; aggravated dissent includes the use of foul or threatening language.
- Player: MINIMUM suspension period of one week (aggravated offences will attract more severe penalties, with prior record being taken into account).
- 8.3.5 NOTE: In dealing with the above offences, where it is apparent that, following the intervention of an Umpire, the offending player's captain failed to take action to control the offending player, the captain will himself be subject to a MINIMUM suspension of two weeks.
- 8.4 A4. RACIAL ABUSE
- 8.4.1 Any racially abusive comment or action, i.e. using language that offends, insults, humiliates, intimidates, threatens, disparages, or vilifies another person on the basis of that person's race, religion, colour, descent, or national or ethnic origin.

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Player: MINIMUM suspension period of three weeks.

9 ACCUMULATED BAD BEHAVIOUR (Category B Offences)

This relates to repeated offences that are reported by Umpires under the Laws of Cricket or as General Misconduct (as set out in the Section C of these Guidelines). Although individual infringements, on their own, may not merit disciplinary action, they will in all cases be recorded and notified to the Club(s) concerned.

If such misconduct arises the Umpires will warn the player and the captain concerned.

If a second offence arises in the same match the Umpires will give a final warning to the player and captain concerned and report the matter to the League.

If subsequent to a final warning further misconduct arises the player concerned will be subject to disciplinary action

Suspension: MINIMUM period of two weeks

Clubs or players being placed on a final warning more than once in the same season also be subject to disciplinary action on a 'totting up basis'

Suspension: MINIMUM period of two weeks

Repeated offences involving a particular team will also lead to charges against the Captain concerned.

Suspension: In these cases the MINIMUM suspension will be two weeks for the Captain

10 NOTIFIABLE OFFENCES (Category C Offences)

The League's Umpires are REQUIRED to report each and every incident under this heading. This applies even where the Umpire considers that the incident has been "dealt with" at the time. Such reports may be brief, and Umpires will normally use their standard reporting procedures for such incidents, including use of the Match Report Form. Category C1 offences are, in general penalised under the Laws of Cricket. For the remainder (the Category C2 offences) disciplinary action will not necessarily flow from individual reports but each one will be recorded and repeated offences will be dealt with under the procedure relating to ACCUMULATED BAD BEHAVIOUR.

10.1 C1. OFFENCES REQUIRING MANDATORY REPORTS UNDER THE LAWS OF CRICKET.

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- a) Deliberate short runs or run stealing.
- b) Dangerous and unfair bowling, including "bouncers" and "beamers".
- c) Ball tampering.
- d) Deliberate and malicious distraction/obstruction on the field of play.
- e) Distracting an opponent.
- f) Deliberate time wasting.
- g) Damaging the pitch.

10.2 C2. OFFENCES CLASSED AS "GENERAL MISCONDUCT" - MANDATORY REPORT REQUIRED

- a) Excessive, ridiculous and/or orchestrated appealing.
- b) Charging or advancing towards the Umpire in an aggressive manner when appealing.
- c) Premature "celebrations" before an Umpire's decision is made.
- d) Persistent questioning of Umpires' decisions/actions (where this falls short of actual dissent - see Category A3).
- e) Pointing or gesturing towards the pavilion in an aggressive manner upon the dismissal of a batsman.
- f) Throwing the ball in a careless manner at or near a player, Umpire, team official or spectator.
- g) Failure of a Captain to take appropriate action to control players' conduct/behaviour.
- h) Any unsavoury action or event, which in the opinion of the Umpire should be reported as being contrary to the spirit of the game.
- i) Making comments or gestures that are obscene, offensive or insulting to another player, team official or spectator.

NOTE 1. The above constitutes a MAJOR offence when directed at an Umpire - see A3 - ABUSE OF AN UMPIRE

NOTE 2. It is acknowledged that there will be verbal exchanges between players during the course of play. Rather than seeking to eliminate these exchanges entirely, Umpires will look to make a report when this behaviour falls below an acceptable standard.

11 D. BEHAVIOUR OF SPECTATORS

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Clubs shall be responsible at all times for the conduct of all their members, even where they are merely spectators. In the event of such a member's conduct being reported as offensive, abusive, etc. (whether to players, Umpires, officials or other spectators), Clubs shall be liable to such penalty as the Disciplinary Sub-Committee shall deem appropriate.

12 FOOTNOTE:

Umpires or captains acting together where no Umpires exist will normally report offences. However, individual Clubs may also make reports if they wish. Such reports must be made by a responsible Club Official (normally the Chairman or Secretary) within the timescales prescribed in paragraph 5 in the '*Discipline Guidelines*'.