



# **DISCIPLINARY REGULATIONS**

(Updated March 2021)

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## **AIMS AND JURISDICTION**

The England & Wales Cricket Board (ECB) is committed to maintaining the highest standards of behaviour and conduct. The Yorkshire Premier League North, henceforth identified in this document as the League, operating within the jurisdiction of the ECB, take this commitment very seriously.

To this end, these discipline regulations, incorporating major parts of the ECB Model Code of Conduct and the new MCC Laws and The Spirit of Cricket, have been adopted by the League.

The regulations shall be complied with by all those who participate under the jurisdiction of any of the Leagues' Management Board. The regulations shall apply to any player at any club, at any level, under the auspices of the League.

The regulations are intended to provide assistance and uniformity to all clubs in dealing with any alleged breach of the Code of Conduct, the new MCC Laws and The Spirit of Cricket and are aligned to ECB Non First-Class cricket procedures.

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.

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.

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 in any incident of alleged misconduct occurring on any part of a cricket ground or building and not merely the field of play.

### **1 CODE OF CONDUCT AND SPIRIT OF CRICKET**

#### **1.1 Code of Conduct**

- 1.1.1 The League is 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 the League, explicitly agree to abide by this Code of Conduct, which incorporates the Spirit of Cricket, and are bound by the provisions in these Regulations.
- 1.1.2 The major responsibility for ensuring fair play rests with the captains, but extends to all players, umpires, coaches and club officials.
- 1.1.3 Players and club officials must at all times accept the umpire's decision. Players and club officials must show self-discipline, even when things go against them. This means not showing dissent at the umpire's decision or reacting in a provocative or disapproving manner towards another player or a spectator.
- 1.1.4 Players and club officials shall not intimidate assault or attempt to intimidate or assault an umpire, another player, a club official or a spectator.
- 1.1.5 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.

- 1.1.6 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.
- 1.1.7 Players and club officials shall not use or in any way be concerned in the use or distribution of illegal drugs.
- 1.1.8 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 programs.
- 1.1.9 Players and club officials shall not disclose or comment upon any alleged breach of this Code.
- 1.1.10 Clubs must take adequate steps to ensure the good behaviour of their players, officials, members and supporters.

## 1.2 **Spirit of Cricket**

Cricket owes much of its appeal and enjoyment to the fact that it should be played not only according to the Laws, but also within the Spirit of Cricket.

The major responsibility for ensuring fair play rests with the captains, but extends to all players, umpires and, especially in junior cricket, teachers, coaches and parents.

Cricket is an exciting game that encourages leadership, friendship and teamwork, which brings together people from different nationalities, cultures and religions, especially when played within the Spirit of Cricket

- 1.2.1 There are 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.

### **Players' Conduct**

In the event of any player failing to comply with the laws relating to Player Conduct or Unfair Play the umpires shall summon and inform the offending player's captain that an offence has occurred and will request that they take appropriate action.

### **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.

## 1.2.2 **Unfair Play**

According to the Laws, the umpires shall be the sole judges of fair and unfair play. If either umpire considers an action, not covered by the Laws, to be unfair he/she shall intervene without appeal and, if the ball is in play, call and signal Dead ball and implement the procedure as required.

1.2.3 **The umpires are authorised to intervene in cases of:**

Damaging the ball  
Distracting the batsman  
Unfair bowling  
Time wasting  
Damaging the pitch  
Non-Striker leaving the ground early  
Penalty runs  
Any other action that they consider to be unfair

1.2.4 **Respect is central to the Spirit of Cricket**

Respect is central to the Spirit of Cricket  
Play hard and play fair  
Accept the umpire's decision  
Create a positive atmosphere by your own conduct, and encourage others to do likewise  
Show self-discipline, even when things go against you  
Congratulate the opposition on their successes, and enjoy those of your own team  
Thank the officials and your opposition at the end of the match, whatever the result  
Cricket is an exciting game that encourages leadership, friendship and teamwork, which brings together people from different nationalities, cultures and religions, especially when played within the Spirit of Cricket

1.2.5 **Violence**

There is no place for any act of violence on the field of play and if reported and guilty this act will be dealt with as a Level 4 offence.

1.3 Failure to comply with the provisions of the Code of Conduct may lead to disciplinary action, irrespective of a proven breach being related to a match not under the jurisdiction of the League.

**2 BREACHES**

2.1 A breach of the disciplinary regulations occurs when:-

Any player in the course of, or in connection with a match, offends against the Code of Conduct or acts at any time to prejudice the good name or interests of the League .  
Any club fails to properly control or discipline its players or acts in a manner prejudicial to the good name or interests of the League.

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

2.3 A breach of the Code of Conduct will normally be categorised as Level 1, 2, 3 or 4, as set out in Appendix 1.

2.4 **Reporting of Breaches**

2.4.1 For a first offence of a Level 1 breach of the Code of Conduct in a match, the umpire (s) should issue a first and final warning which shall apply to all members of the team for the remainder of the match. Where a player has been warned the umpire (s) must inform the Disciplinary Secretary by email within 72 hours of the end of the match.

- 2.4.2 If the Level 1 offence follows an offence, at any Level, by that team, the umpire shall award 5 Penalty runs to the opposing team and will report the occurrence as soon as possible after the match to the Executive of the offending player's team and to the league responsible for the match, who will take such further action as is considered appropriate against the captain, any other individuals concerned and, if appropriate, the team.
- 2.4.3 Should the umpire(s) consider that the first offence of a Level 1 breach 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 should be advised accordingly.
- 2.4.4 In all instances of a Level 1, 2, 3 or 4 breach, the umpire(s) must complete a formal report for any breach attracting a 5 run penalty or more to League Secretary within 24 hours of the end of the match. The written report should be sent by email to Disciplinary Secretary and be received within 72 hours of the end of the match.
- 2.4.5 Any allegation of a breach of the Code of Conduct by a Participant made against another Participant which arises from an incident during the course of a match or on the field of play should be reported by a team's captain to the umpire(s). Umpires must notify the Disciplinary Secretary within 24 hours and submit a full written report within 72 hours.
- 2.4.6 Any allegation of a breach of the Code of Conduct by a Participant made against another Participant which does not arise from an incident during the course of a match or on the field of play should be notified by email to Disciplinary Secretary by email within 24 hours of the incident by the Club Secretary only. A full written report should be sent by email to Disciplinary Secretary and be received within 72 hours of the end of the match identifying the following –  
The background to the alleged incident  
Why a breach of the Code of Conduct is alleged  
The Level of breach alleged
- 2.4.7 The League Disciplinary Committee is required to and authorised to instigate whatever action is deemed to be necessary in respect of any reported, or perceived, breach of disciplinary obligations by any club or individual. There is no time limit on any action.

### **3 PROCEDURE**

- 3.1 Notification that a report is to be submitted following any alleged breach of the Code of Conduct must first be advised, by the umpire(s), to the player and his captain or an executive of the player's club, on the day of the alleged offence, prior to leaving the ground.
- 3.2 Umpires must notify the Disciplinary Secretary within 24 hours where applicable. A full written report should be sent by email to the Disciplinary Secretary and be received within 72 hours of the end of the match.
- 3.3 The Disciplinary Secretary shall, as soon as reasonably practicable, following receipt of a report, inform the secretary of the concerned club (or other Participant as appropriate in the circumstances) that a report has been made.
- 3.4 Any level 1 or level 2 breach of the code of conduct will be dealt with as a summary penalty by a Case Manager appointed by the League who shall advise the participant's club of the findings and the penalty imposed. Level 3 or 4 complaints will automatically be subject to a Disciplinary Hearing.

- 3.5 Within 48 hours of receipt of the written complaint, the Case Manager shall consider the complaint and resolve either:  
To take no further action except to record the complaint and notify the club; or  
Should the participant or club seek to appeal against the findings and penalty imposed, notice must be given to the Case Manager within 48 hours of receipt of notification.
- 3.6 Level 3 or 4 complaints will automatically be subject to a full Disciplinary Hearing.
- 3.7 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 may be regarded as:  
A welfare and child protection case or  
An outright disciplinary case. If the incident is being investigated by another organisation (e.g. the Police, ECB Safeguarding Department) the League will await the outcome of that investigation.
- 3.8 In the case of a registered county player being the subject of a complaint, the National Leagues & Competitions Manager to be advised immediately by telephone or email by the Secretary of the League.
- 3.9 The League Management Board shall have the power to invoke disciplinary procedures on any matter it sees fit without the lodgement of an official complaint. They shall also have the power to issue cautions retrospectively if circumstances warrant this.

#### **4 DISCIPLINARY HEARINGS**

- 4.1 In any case which is referred for a Disciplinary Hearing, the Disciplinary Secretary or the Case Manager shall convene the hearing within 14 days of the decision to refer. Any delay may only be granted at the discretion of the Case Manager.
- 4.2 Where a charge against a player is referred to a Disciplinary Hearing, his captain and club may be charged separately under their responsibilities as set out in the Code of Conduct above.
- 4.3 At least seven days' notice in writing of the hearing shall be given to the player via his club Secretary. In the case of a club, its Secretary shall be so notified. The notice shall specify the alleged breach(es) of the Code of Conduct above.
- 4.4 The accused player or club shall be entitled:  
To submit written statements ahead of the hearing  
To state his or her case (in the case of a club, by its Secretary or other official)  
To attend the hearing  
To be supported by a colleague and to call witnesses
- 4.5 The Disciplinary Hearing is not a Court of Law and therefore no Legal Representation will be allowed.
- 4.6 The Hearing shall be conducted by a Disciplinary Panel appointed by the Disciplinary Secretary and shall consist of not less than three persons and not more than seven persons. The Discipline Chairman shall act as Chairman of the Disciplinary Panel. None of the Disciplinary Panel should be connected with the Participant and his or her club, or any relevant opponent at the time of the alleged breach, or any Participant who might directly benefit from any disciplinary action.
- 4.7 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.

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

## 5 PENALTIES

5.1 As a guideline, the following indicative penalties should be expected to be imposed for any complaint referred and, if appropriate, proved at a disciplinary hearing. The higher end of the tariff band is most likely to be reserved for serial offences/offenders: -

Level 1 - Final warning to 4 weeks and/or appropriate/equivalent time ban plus financial penalties.

Level 2 - 4 to 6 weeks and/or appropriate/equivalent time ban plus financial penalties.

Level 3 - 6 to 10 weeks and/or appropriate/equivalent time ban plus financial penalties.

Level 4 - Mandatory minimum of 10 weeks and/or appropriate/equivalent time ban plus financial penalties.

These sanctions apply to all cricket played under the auspices of ECB.

Please see disciplinary tariff for full schedule of penalties.

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

5.3 Where the complaint is not referred to a Disciplinary Hearing, repeated infringements, listed on umpires' reports, by an individual player or by a Club may still result in additional penalties as laid out in 5.4 below.

5.4 If at a hearing a breach of the Code of Conduct is proven, the Disciplinary Panel shall have the power to impose one or more of the following penalties, together with such order as to costs as it deems appropriate:

To require the player to submit appropriate letter(s) of apology within a specified time

To record a reprimand and to give a warning as to future conduct

To impose a fine, not to exceed £500

To suspend the player for one or more weeks, or for a stated period of time

To deduct League points from the player's team

To expel the player from the League In the case of a club:-

To require the club to submit appropriate letter(s) of apology within a specified time

To record a reprimand and to give a warning as to future conduct

To impose a fine

To deduct League points from the club's team

To expel the club from any competition of the league

To relegate to any lower division of the League or to a 'linked' league

5.5 Panels will take the following factors into account when determining the penalties to be imposed:

If the accused player/club has pleaded guilty

The player's previous disciplinary record

If the player is also the captain

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

If an appeal is considered to be spurious

5.6 In addition, where an individual behaves inappropriately or fail to respect the formality at any level during a Disciplinary hearing, the Disciplinary Panel assumes the right to impose further corrective actions or penalties as it sees fit.

5.6.1 Where a representative and/or witness(es) behaves inappropriately or fails to respect the formality at any level during a Disciplinary hearing this can be dealt with under the code by having a separate hearing.

- 5.7 The Disciplinary Panel 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 it deems appropriate.
- 5.8 Decisions of the Disciplinary Panel (a finding that a complaint is proved or not proved or a decision on penalty) shall be by majority vote; where necessary the Disciplinary Panel Chairman shall have a casting vote.
- 5.9 The League shall report match bans in writing to the relevant club's County Board for national circulation. Players should understand that match bans will normally apply to all cricket played under the auspices of ECB. The League will also recognise suspensions from other Leagues.

## **6 APPEALS**

- 6.1 Other than in relation to offences under Level 1 & 2, in which the Disciplinary hearing is an appeal against a decision of the case Manager on behalf of the League, where a breach of the Code of Conduct has been proved at a Disciplinary Hearing, a Participant shall have the right of appeal.
- 6.2 Where a breach of the Code of Conduct has been proved at a Disciplinary Hearing, a player or club shall have the right of appeal. Where a player and his club are appealing in relation to the same incident, they must do so separately.
- 6.3 A notice of appeal setting out the grounds must be given in writing to the Case Manager within seven days of the decision of the Disciplinary Panel being communicated to the Participant in writing, together with a deposit. The amount of the deposit shall be £150 for each Club and £100 for each other Participant exercising their right of appeal. In all appeals regardless of result expenses will be charged.
- 6.4 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
- 6.5 The Appeal shall be by way of a new hearing before a different Panel. The Appeal Panel shall be appointed by the League Secretary and shall consist of not less than three persons and not more than seven persons. The League Secretary shall appoint one of the Appeal Panel members to act as Chairman of the Appeal Panel. None of the Panel should have been part of the original Disciplinary Panel, be connected with the Participant or any relevant opponent at the time of the alleged breach, or any Participant who might directly benefit from any disciplinary action. The Participant shall have the same rights of attendance and representation and to call witnesses as they had before the Disciplinary Panel. This does not include Legal Representation
- 6.6 The player or club shall have the same entitlements as set out in Paragraph 6.4 above.
- 6.7 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.
- 6.8 The Appeals Panel may confirm, vary or reverse the decision of the Disciplinary Panel and it shall have the power to increase the penalty and award costs of the Appeal Hearing and forfeit the whole or part of the deposit (in reaching its decision, the Appeal Panel may have regard to whether the right of appeal was exercised in good faith and upon reasonable grounds). Decisions of the Appeal Panel shall be by majority vote; where necessary, the Chairman shall have a casting vote.

6.9 The decision of the Appeals Panel or, if no appeal, of the Disciplinary Panel, shall be final and binding.

## **7 NON PAYMENT OF FINES**

7.1 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 twenty-eight days of the Club being notified of such fine.

7.2 Any fines still outstanding at the end of that 28 day period shall be increased by 100% of the original fine. At the end of that period the secretary or chairman of the offending club shall be notified to the effect that the fine is outstanding and given a reminder that if after a further period of 14 days from that reminder, the fine is still outstanding, the issue will be dealt with as a Disciplinary matter.

## **APPENDIX 1 – 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**

Time wasting by either the fielding side or the batting side which results in a 5 run penalty or the bowler being disallowed from bowling any further in that innings in accordance with Laws 41.9 and 41.10.

Willfully mistreating any part of the cricket ground, equipment or implements used in the match

Showing dissent at an umpire's decision by word or action

Using language that, in the circumstances, is obscene, offensive or insulting

Making an obscene gesture

Appealing excessively

Social media issues (but not involving offensive comments to League Officials. See Level 4)

Advancing towards an umpire in an aggressive manner when appealing

Bowling a dangerous or unfair short-pitched delivery and/or an accidental non-pitching delivery that results in the bowler being disallowed from bowling any further in that innings in accordance with Laws 41.6 and 41.7.

Any other misconduct, the nature of which is, in the opinion of the umpires, equivalent to a Level 1 offence.

### **Level 2**

Showing serious dissent at an umpire's decision by word or action

Making inappropriate and deliberate physical contact with another player

Charging or advancing towards an umpire in an aggressive manner when appealing

Deliberate distraction, deception or obstruction on the field of play under Law 41.4 or 41.5.

Throwing the ball at a player, umpire or another person in an inappropriate and dangerous manner

Using language or gesture to another player, umpire, team official or spectator that, in the circumstances, is obscene or of a seriously insulting nature

Causing avoidable damage to the pitch that results in a 5 run penalty being awarded under Laws 41.12.3, 41.14.3 and 41.15.3.

Any other misconduct, the nature of which is, in the opinion of the umpires, equivalent to a Level 2 offence.

### **Level 3**

Intimidating an umpire by language or gesture

Threatening to assault a player or any other person except an umpire

Using language or gesture that offends, insults, humiliates, intimidates, threatens, disparages or vilifies another person on the basis of that person's race, religion or belief, colour, descent, national or ethnic origin, age, disability, gender, sexual orientation or background.

Deliberately bowling a non-pitching delivery which is deemed dangerous and unfair in accordance with Law 41.7

### **Level 4**

Threatening to assault an umpire

Making inappropriate and deliberate physical contact with an umpire

Physically assaulting a player or any other person

Committing any other act of violence

Using language or gesture that seriously offends, insults, humiliates, intimidates, threatens, disparages or vilifies another person on the basis of that person's race, religion or belief, colour, descent, national or ethnic origin, age, disability, gender, sexual orientation or background.

Abuse of league Officials. This may be via varying methods – directly, social media, comments made to third parties etc. Abusers cannot hide behind the fact that they are not representing their club.

Breach of ECB Covid-19 regulations.

Non-payment of league fees.

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

## **APPENDIX 2 - MUTUAL RECOGNITION CLAUSE**

The League shall report match bans in writing to the relevant club's County Board, who will also inform the ECB, in accordance with the conditions set out at a) to c) below. In the case of a Minor County Player being the subject of a sanction the Minor County Cricket Association must be advised.

- a. Information about penalties imposed under these discipline regulations shall be shared with individuals at the club and County Board on a need to know basis, for example with individuals who need to be informed in order to give effect to the penalty;
- b. Information about match bans held by the County Board shall be shared with other clubs only for the purposes of ensuring recognition of penalties by other clubs; and
- c. Individuals subject to these discipline regulations must be made aware by their clubs that by playing in matches under the jurisdiction of the ECB, they agree that information about penalties imposed on them will be shared with the County Boards, ECB and other clubs in accordance with these discipline regulations.
- d. All clubs that play in ECB competitions or in County Board affiliated Leagues shall recognise and give full effect to any match ban, and/or any other penalty, imposed pursuant to by these discipline regulations by a League within that County Board boundary and the boundaries of neighbouring Counties and Leagues.