**DISCIPLINARY REGULATIONS AND PROCEDURES**

**CODE OF CONDUCT**

**1. Aims and Jurisdiction**

1.1. The England & Wales Cricket Board (ECB) is committed to maintaining the highest standards of behavior and conduct.

1.2. To this end, these discipline regulations, incorporating major parts of the ECB Model Code of Conduct and The Spirit of Cricket, have been adopted by all the Leagues.

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

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. The Leagues 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, 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 and Laws of Cricket.

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 behavior 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.

**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, criticises 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.

2.2.2 **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.

2.2.3 **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.

2.2.4 **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.

2.2.5 **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

2.2.6 **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 appeal knowing the batsman is not out
* Advance towards an umpire in an aggressive manner when appealing
* 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.

2.2.7. **Violence**

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

2.3. Failure to comply with the provisions of the Code of Conduct and Spirit of Cricket may lead to disciplinary action, irrespective of an alleged breach being related to a match not under the jurisdiction of the League.

**3. Breaches**

3.1. A breach of the disciplinary regulations occurs when:-

a) 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 Leaguesb. Any club fails to properly control or discipline its players or;

b) 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 and Spirit of Cricket will normally be categorized as Level 1, 2, 3 or 4, as set out in Appendix 1.

3.4. **First & Final Warnings**

3.4.1. For a Level 1 breach of the Code of Conduct and Spirit of Cricket the umpires will caution the player as to his conduct, advise him and his captain that it is a First and Final warning and that the player will be named on the umpires’ report.

3.4.2. Any player so named twice in a season will receive an automatic ban – see section 6.

3.4.3. If any player who has been warned under Paragraph 3.4.1 above commits a subsequent breach in the same match, the umpires will advise him or his captain or the executive of his club that they will be submitting a Level 1 report

3.4.4. Umpires have authority to decide that a player has committed a breach of the Code of Conduct and Spirit of Cricket without having previously issued any informal or formal warnings.

3.5. **Reports**

3.5.1. For any Level 1 breach under Paragraph 3.4.3 above or for any Level 2, 3 or 4 breach, the umpire(s) will submit a report using the standard disciplinary report form.

3.5.2. If any player has been reported in 3.5.1 above, the umpires will advise the player or captain or the executive of the club that they will be submitting a report.

3.5.3. Failure by the Umpires to comply with paragraph 3.5.2 will not affect the legitimacy of the complaint and the Administrator of the League shall, as soon as

reasonably practicable, inform the Secretary of the club against whom the Complaint is made.

**4. Procedure**

4.1. Any alleged breach of the Code of Conduct and Spirit of Cricket which will be the subject of a report (to be known as ‘a complaint’) shall be notified by telephone to the Administrator of the League within 48 hours of the end of the match and confirmed in writing or by email within five days of the end of the match.

4.1.1. Any complaint so initiated must be referred to the Administrator of the League who shall, as soon as reasonably practicable, inform the Secretary of the club

against whom the complaint has been made. If any player has been reported, the umpires will advise the player or captain or the executive of the club that they

will be submitting a report.

4.1.2. Failure by the Umpires to comply with paragraph 4.1.1 will not affect the legitimacy of the complaint and the Administrator of the League shall, as soon as

reasonably practicable, inform the Secretary of the club against whom the Complaint is made.

4.2. It is intended that any breach of the Code of Conduct and Spirit of Cricket should in the first instance be dealt with by the participant’s club who shall notify the Administrator of the League of any action taken. In the case of Level 1 and Level 2

breaches, this shall, as a minimum, be a two match ban to be effective immediately.

4.3. Within 48 hours of receipt of the written complaint, the Chairman of the League Disciplinary Sub-Committee (or his nominated deputy) shall consider the complaint and resolve either:

a) To take no action except to record the complaint and notify the

club; or

b) To endorse any action taken by the club and confirm that no

further action is required; or

c) To refer the matter for a full Disciplinary Hearing.

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 may be regarded as:

a) A welfare and child protection case or

b) An outright disciplinary case. If the incident is being investigated by another organization (e.g. the Police, ECBWelfare Department etc.) the League will await the outcome of that investigation.

**5. Disciplinary Hearings**

5.1. In any case which is referred for a Disciplinary Hearing, the Administrator of the League shall convene the hearing within 14 days of the decision to refer. Any delay may only be granted at the discretion of the Chairman of the Disciplinary Hearing.

5.2. 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 and Spirit of Cricket above.

5.3. The accused player or club shall be entitled:

* To submit written statements ahead of the hearing
* To attend the hearing
* To state his case (in the case of a club, by its Secretary or other official)
* To be supported by a colleague and to call witnesses.

5.4. If the player or club is to have representation present at the hearing then the details of that representation must be given to the Administrator of the League not less than 48 hours before the date of the hearing.

5.5. The Hearing shall be conducted by a Disciplinary Panel appointed by the Chairman of the Disciplinary Sub-Committee and shall consist of not less than three persons and not more than five persons drawn from a list approved by the League’s Management Committee. None 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.

5.6. 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.

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

**6. Penalties**

6.1. **Level 1**

6.1.1. Automatic suspension by the club for the next TWO League matches.

6.1.2. Any player reported for the second time in any one season shall be suspended by his club for the next FOUR League matches.

6.1.3. Any player reported on three occasions in any one season shall be suspended by his club for the next TEN League matches.

6.1.4. Where the same player of a club is reported on more than one occasion in any one season, that club shall have FIVE league points deducted, on the second, and each subsequent occasion the player is the subject of a report.

6.1.5. Any individual club having three or more different players reported in any one season shall have TEN league points deducted, in addition to deductions made above

6.1.6. Any appeal against an automatic sanction imposed for a Level 1 breach shall only be allowed on the grounds of mistaken identity or misrepresentation.

6.2. **Level 2**

6.2.1. As a minimum, automatic suspension by the club for the next TWO League matches.

6.2.2. If the Chairman of the Disciplinary Sub-Committee of the League is satisfied with the action taken by the club, the case will be closed.

6.2.3. Should the Chairman of the Disciplinary Sub-Committee decide the breach is sufficiently serious, he will refer the complaint for a full disciplinary hearing.

6.3. **Levels 3 & 4**

6.3.1. All complaints reported as Level 3 or Level 4 will be referred for a full disciplinary hearing.

6.3.2. 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 and Spirit of Cricket above.

6.3.3. If at a hearing a breach of the Code of Conduct and Spirit of Cricket is proved, 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:

**In the case of a player :-**

* 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
* To suspend the player for one or more matches, 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 Feeder league

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

a) If the accused player/club has pleaded guilty

b) The player’s previous disciplinary record

c) If the player is also the captain

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

e) If an appeal is considered to be spurious

6.5. In addition, where an individual or their representative and/or witness(es) behave inappropriately or fail to respect the formality at any level during a Disciplinary hearing, the Disciplinary Sub-Committee assumes the right to impose further corrective actions or penalties as it sees fit.

6.6. 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 it deems appropriate.

6.7. 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 Disciplinary Sub-Committee Chairman shall have a casting vote.

**7. Appeals**

7.1. There are no appeals allowed against an automatic ban instigated for a Level 1 or 2 offence except as set out in paragraph 6.1.6.

7.2. Where a breach of the Code of Conduct and Spirit of Cricket 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.

7.3. A notice of appeal setting out the grounds must be given in writing to the Administrator of the League within seven days of the decision of the Disciplinary Panel, together with a deposit of £25 if the appeal is by a player or £100 if the appeal is by a club.

7.4. 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.

7.5. The Appeal shall be by way of a re-hearing before a different Panel. The Appeal Panel shall be appointed by the Administrator of the League and shall consist of not less than three and not more than five persons drawn from a list approved by the League’s Management Board. None of the Panel should be connected with the individual or the club or their opponents, or a club which might directly benefit from any disciplinary action or have been a member of the original Disciplinary Sub-Committee.

7.6. The player or club shall have the same entitlements as set out in Paragraph 5.3 above.

7.7. If the player or club is to have representation present at the hearing then the details of that representation must be given to the Administrator of the League not less than seven days before the date of the hearing.

7.8. 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.

7.9. 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. Decisions of the Appeal Panel shall be by majority vote; where necessary, the Chairman shall have a casting vote.

7.10. The decision of the Appeals Panel or, if no appeal, of the Disciplinary Sub-Committee, shall be final and binding.

7.11. 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.

**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 twenty-eight 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, when 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.

8.3. In respect of other payments owed to the League by member Clubs, 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.

**APPENDIX 1 (Disciplinary Regulations)**

**BREACHES OF DISCIPLINE**

Certain conduct, whether on or off the field of play of play, amounting to a breach of the Laws of Cricket and/or the Code of Conduct and 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 race, 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.

**APPENDIX 2 (Disciplinary Regulations)**

**STANDARD PENALTIES**

Level 1 - 2 matches

Level 2 - Minimum 2 matches and/or fine and/or deduction of match points

Level 3 - Minimum 4 matches and/or fine and/or deduction of match points

Level 4 - Minimum 8 matches and/or fine and/or deduction of match points and/or expulsion from the League

**APPENDIX 3 (Disciplinary Regulations)**

**FAIR PLAY**

Umpires report on all matches and mark each club for their disciplinary behavior.

Three marks below the defined levels of three (3) in a separate category in the same season will result in points being deducted from the offending club.

**ECB GUIDELINES ON THE CONDUCT OF HEARINGS AND**

**APPEALS**

**Natural Justice**

The rules of natural justice are the minimum standards of fair decision making imposed on persons or bodies acting in a judicial capacity. The rules of natural justice consist of the following elements:

(i) The right to a fair hearing

(ii) The rule against bias

**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 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 reasonably 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 reasonably 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.

**Conduct of Hearing**

Within these Guidelines words importing the singular shall include the plural and vice versa, and those importing the male shall include the female, and vice versa.

1. A complaint is received by either the Administrator of the League or the Chairman of the League Disciplinary Committee who decides to refer the matter to a Disciplinary Hearing.

2. The Hearing is conducted by at least three persons (the Panel) appointed by either the Chairman of the League or the Chairman of the League Disciplinary Committee. No-one connected with the individual or the club, or their opponents, or a club which might directly benefit from any disciplinary action (e.g. by the deduction of points), should be a member of the Panel.

3. The accused person/club should be notified of the offence(s) alleged against him/them and the time and location of the hearing. The notification should be in writing, include all relevant documentation and give at least seven daysʼ notice.

4. The accused person is entitled to be supported by a colleague. There is no right to legal representation but the Panel would normally permit the accused person to be legally represented. However, the attendance or otherwise of the legal representative should not be used as a ʻdelaying tacticʼ.

5. If the complaint has been made by the umpires, they should be available to give evidence at the hearing.

6. Witnesses should not be present in the room at the outset but should be called in individually to give their evidence at the appropriate time. (Ideally, a separate waiting area should be provided for each party).

7. The Chairman should open the hearing and introduce all the parties. He should then briefly outline the procedure to be followed.

8. The charges against the accused person/club should be specified.

9. Witnesses should be called individually and asked to give their evidence. The Panel may question the witnesses. The accused person (or representative)/club may question the witnesses.

10. The accused person/club should be asked to give his/their account and may call witnesses. The Panel may question the witnesses. Once the witnesses have given their evidence and answered any questions, they should either leave the room or, with the permission of the Chairman, they may remain but should take no further part in the hearing.

11. The Panel may question the accused person/club.

12. The Panel should deliberate in private. The Panel’s decision should be by majority vote; where necessary the Panel Chairman shall have a casting vote.

13. The accused person/club should be called back in and the Panel should give their decision as to whether the case is proved or not proved. If proved, the accused person/club should be asked to give any mitigation which might affect the Panel’s decision as to sentence, if they have any discretion in this area.

14. The Panel should consider the sentence in private.

15. The accused person/club should be called back in and the Panel Chairman should announce the sentence. The accused person/club should be made aware of the Appeals Process, particularly the time within which an appeal should be lodged.

16. The decision of the Disciplinary Panel and if appropriate the penalty should be communicated to the accused person/club in writing within 21 days.

**Appeals Process**

1. Notice of appeal against the decision of the Disciplinary Panel, whether as to verdict or sentence, to be given in writing to the Administrator of the League or Chair of the League within 7 days of the decision of the Panel. The notice of appeal should record the decision or part of the decision against which the appeal is made and the grounds and basis of the appeal. A cheque for £25 must be lodged with the appeal, in the event of the appeal not being allowed the cheque will be forfeited.

2. Any penalty imposed by the Disciplinary Panel should not take effect until the appeal has been heard.

3. The appeal must be heard by a different Panel from those who sat on the original Disciplinary Panel. The Appeal Panel must consist of not less than three people, none of whom should be connected with the individual or the club or their opponents, or a club which might directly benefit from any disciplinary action (e.g. by the deduction of points).

4. An appeal against the verdict should take the form of a complete re-hearing. The accused person or club shall have the same rights of attendance and representation and the ability to call witnesses as they did at the first hearing.

5. At an appeal against the sentence, the accused person or club shall have the same rights of attendance and representation as they did at the first hearing.

6. Decisions of the Appeal Panel shall be by majority vote with the Chairman having a casting vote where necessary. The decision of the Appeal Panel is final and binding.

7. The Appeal Panel can confirm the Disciplinary Panel’s decision, vary it or reverse it. It has the power to increase the penalty and award costs.

8. The decision of the Appeal Panel and if appropriate the penalty should be communicated to the accused person/club in writing within 21 days.

**ECB SENTENCING GUIDELINES - RECREATIONAL GAME**

The following are guidelines to sentencing policy which may be used by Disciplinary Panels in determining the appropriate sentence in any individual case. The guidelines provide a method of considering individual cases but are not a tariff and should not be considered as such. Only a Disciplinary Panel can decide on the penalty appropriate to any individual case.

**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 players captain, requesting the latter to take action.

Breaches of the Spirit of the Game should automatically be reported 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. 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 include 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 should 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**

It is ECBs 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.

**Appropriateness of Penalties**

In all cases and for all offences, an admission of guilt will almost certainly result in a lesser sentence being imposed than if the matter is contested – credit being given for the admission. Plainly, the extent of the credit to be given will depend upon all the

circumstances of the case, including how early the admission of guilt is made, but, save possibly in the most trivial of cases, it will not normally be such as to change the nature of the penalty or to bring about total suspension of the penalty.

Whatever penalties are applied should be applied with consistency. Fines are normally more appropriate for individual breaches of regulations or the Code of Conduct. Points penalties are normally more appropriate in the case of a Club or where a significant number of the team have contributed to the breach.

It is likely that cases of accumulated bad behaviour and cases of violent conduct will result in a suspension of at least four weeks. Suspension of four weeks duration should be reported by the League to their nominated County Board for national circulation. Players should understand that suspensions of this length will normally apply to all cricket played under the auspices of ECB.

Leagues should notify their nominated County Board of a four week suspension or above upon expiry of the seven day period within which notification of intent to appeal should be made or, in the case of an appeal, immediately upon conclusion of the appeal hearing.