

Discipline Procedure for Dunnington Cricket Club

1 Scope

Dunnington Cricket Club is committed to encouraging its players and representatives to abide by the Laws and Spirit of Cricket at all times. In addition, we have published Codes of Conduct and Club Policies which specify the behaviours that we deem to be acceptable and unacceptable both on and off the pitch. Rules and codes may also be prescribed by the leagues that we play in and where they differ from the Club's they take precedence. This disciplinary procedure may be invoked where a code of conduct or club policy or procedure has been contravened.

2 Encouraging the Spirit of Cricket

2.1 Role of Team Captains

It is essential that the team captains set the right example and tone and encourage fair play on and off the field. It is therefore important that the role of the team captain in this respect is understood by the players. The team manager may help to reinforce this and will play a leading role where captains are inexperienced eg in Junior Cricket.

2.2 Player conduct

A vital aspect of team captaincy is that any deterioration of player behaviour which risks contravening the codes is spotted early and nipped in the bud as it arises on field. In this way any damage to the Spirit of Cricket is minimised and an issue is less likely to reach the stage where serious code or rule contravention is reached. However where, in the eyes of the umpires or captain or club officials, a players behaviour was unacceptable and the code of conduct breached or where there are repeated low level infringements then the Discipline Procedure should be invoked. Annex 1 gives the Code of Conduct expected of players and team officials.

3 Discipline Procedure

3.1 Initiation

The following procedure shall apply to all teams managed by Dunnington Cricket Club. On receipt of a written complaint or of its own volition, the Club may convene an Internal Club Enquiry to investigate allegations of inappropriate behaviour or breaches of rules or codes.

Note: For a rule breach involving a league that a player is registered with, the league may have additional requirements of the club that will take precedence. For ECB competitions outside a league's jurisdiction, the ECB have issued General Conduct Regulations which will apply.

3.2 Composition

The composition of the internal club enquiry panel shall be decided by the Club chairman, drawn from members of the Club committee who were not involve with the reported transgression. A chair will be appointed with overall responsibility for the way the enquiry is conducted and for personally authorising the decisions reached.

3.3 Purpose of Enquiry

The purpose of the Internal Club Enquiry shall be to help the Chair establish the facts and, where a misdemeanour(s) is proven, to instigate appropriate disciplinary action. This is to ensure that the club acts objectively in a manner designed to protect the good name of the club and of cricket generally.

3.4 Period of Notice

Where practical, formal written notice to appear before the Clubs Disciplinary Panel will be handed or sent to the player / official within twenty one days of the alleged offence being brought to the notice of Club Committee.

3.5 Rights to be Accompanied

Any player requested to attend such an Internal Club Enquiry, or any Appeal arising, shall be entitled to be accompanied at the Enquiry by a friend or other representative. They shall give notice to the Panel at least three days in advance of the hearing if they are to be legally represented.

3.6 Witnesses

The attendee can also bring up to two witnesses who can speak to the direct situation on their behalf as well, providing the Enquiry panel is made aware of this intention before the hearing.

The Disciplinary Panel shall also call on other witnesses present at the time of the alleged act of misconduct. They should not be present when the decision of the Disciplinary Panel is made known to the alleged offender.

3.7 Records

All matters relating to the case and the Enquiry/Hearing decision should be in writing and recorded

3.8 Notification of Decision

The Chair's decision should be conveyed to the alleged offender and then to any Club representative that needs to be advised. Normally written communication will be handled by the Club Secretary. Where a suspension is involved, League/ECB officers may need to be advised.

3.9 Conduct of Hearings

The Club's disciplinary panel should follow the guidelines provided by the League or if not appropriate the ECB with regard to the way the hearings are conducted.

3.10 Penalties

If the Internal Club Enquiry finds the misconduct proved, the club shall have the following powers:

- To require the player to write 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's right to be considered for selection by the club to play in one or more matches.

Dunnington Cricket Club

- To suspend the player's membership of the club for a period.
- If the conduct constitutes gross misconduct the club shall have the power to terminate the player's membership forthwith.
- The club for the same offence may, if it is thought fit, impose more than one of the above penalties.

3.11 Appeals Procedure

The player shall have the right to appeal to an independent body for a review of the findings of the Internal Club Enquiry and of the penalty or penalties imposed. This body of three people will be formed from PFA representatives of Dunnington Cricket Club selected by the PFA chair.

The Grounds for Appeal should only be actioned under the following a) procedural matters b) Serious miscarriage of justice c) Sentences inconsistent. d) New evidence not heard or seen at any previous stage of the disciplinary process

The intention to appeal must be made within 14 days of notification of the decision of the internal club enquiry.

3.12 Outcome of Appeal

The decision of the appeal body in all cases shall be final and binding.

3.13 League Disciplinary Policies

Where misconduct has been reported to a league and their discipline policy has been invoked, it shall take precedence over this Club procedure.

4 Document History

Expansion of DCC club handbook policy – Issue 1 12/01/2016

Updated with ECB codes of practice and new general conduct regulations. – Issue 2 06/04/2022

Annex 1 Code of Conduct for Players and Team Officials

Dunnington Cricket Club is committed to maintaining the highest standards of behaviour and conduct. This Code of Conduct incorporates the Spirit of Cricket, as set out below (section 2). It applies to all cricket played within the club.

1.1 Our captains are responsible at all times for ensuring that play is conducted within the Spirit of Cricket as well as within the Laws. For junior teams, the team manager will support the captains in this.

1.2 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.

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

1.4 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.

1.5 Players and team officials shall not make racially abusive comments nor indulge in racially abusive actions against fellow players, officials, members and supporters. The club has adopted the ECB Equality policy, the ECB Safe Hands policy and the ECB Anti Discrimination code. All members must comply with these

1.6 Players and team officials shall not use or in any way be concerned in the use or distribution of illegal drugs or cause wilful damage to property, equipment or playing surface.

1.8 A code of conduct has been published laying down the standards expected of members and supporters.

2 Spirit of Cricket

2.1 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 (and team managers for junior teams).

2.2 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, 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.

2.3 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.

2.4 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.

2.5 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

2.6 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 a) appeal knowing the batsman is not out b) advance towards an umpire in an aggressive manner when appealing c) 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.

2.8 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.

2.9 Failure to comply with the provisions of Sections 1/2 may lead to disciplinary action, irrespective of an alleged breach being related to a match not under the jurisdiction of the League.

Annex 2 ECB Anti-Discrimination Code

1. It will be a breach of this Code for any Participant to:

1.1 discriminate against any person or persons based upon any relevant Protected Characteristic, whether by act or omission, directly or indirectly, unless permitted by law; and/or

1.2 engage in conduct related to a relevant Protected Characteristic which has the purpose or effect of violating another's dignity, or creating an intimidating, hostile, degrading, humiliating or offensive environment for that person or persons.

2. In deciding whether the conduct has the effect referred to in paragraph 1.2 above, the following shall be taken into account, namely – (a) the perception of the relevant person or persons, (b) the circumstances of the case, and (c) whether it is reasonable for the conduct to have that effect.

3. In instances where the Participant is an organisation, it will be a breach of this Code to fail to provide an effective, timely and proportionate response to an alleged breach under paragraph 1 above, carried out by any individual or organisation under the jurisdiction of the Participant.

4. The breaches referenced in paragraph 1 shall apply regardless of whether the Protected Characteristic(s) around which the breach is based applies to the person or people to whom the offending conduct is directed.

5. Any breach of this Code may also constitute an offence or breach of other applicable laws, rules and/or regulations. This Code is intended to supplement such other laws, rules and regulations and is not intended, and may not be interpreted, construed or applied, to prejudice or undermine in any way the application of such other laws, rules and/or regulations. Participants therefore acknowledge and agree that this Code does not limit their responsibilities or obligations under other laws, rules and/or regulations.