

HARBORNE CRICKET CLUB

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FOUNDED 1868

DISCIPLINARY REGULATIONS

Harborne Cricket Club has adopted the following Discipline Regulations, which are based on the ECB Model Discipline Regulations and adapted for its own purposes.

Aims and Jurisdiction

These regulations shall apply to any player who plays for Harborne Cricket Club and 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.

It is intended that any alleged breach of the Code of Conduct and The Spirit of Cricket, should be reported to, and dealt with by, Harborne Cricket Club's Disciplinary Committee.

Harborne Cricket Club's Disciplinary Committee shall be made up by the Club Chairman (Disciplinary Committee Chairman), Chairman of Selection and Club Captain.

Code of Conduct

Harborne 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. It applies to all matches played by a team representing Harborne Cricket Club.

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.

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

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.

1. There are two Laws which place the responsibility for the team's conduct firmly on the captain. (Laws 1:4 and 42:1)

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.

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. 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. 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.

4. 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

5. 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
 - i) appeal knowing the batsman is not out
 - ii) advance towards an umpire in an aggressive manner when appealing
 - iii) 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.

6. Violence

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

7. 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 these provisions may lead to disciplinary action.

Procedure

Any alleged breach of the Code of Conduct and The Spirit of Cricket shall be notified to the Disciplinary sub-Committee Chairman.

Upon receipt of such complaint, and as soon as reasonably practicable, the Harborne Cricket Club Disciplinary Committee shall convene and consider the complaint and resolve either:

To take no action except to record the complaint; or

To impose the appropriate penalty

Penalties

If the Harborne Cricket Club Disciplinary Committee finds the misconduct proved, it 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, or equivalent such as unpaid work for the benefit of Harborne Cricket Club.

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

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.

Appeals Procedure

The player shall have the right to appeal to the President of the club or to the President's nominee for a review of the findings of the Internal Club Enquiry and of the penalty or penalties imposed.

The decision of the President or his nominee in all cases shall be final and binding.

DISCIPLINARY OFFENCES AND SUSPENSION GUIDELINES

Harborne Cricket Club's Policy

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

Captains are expected to address incidents promptly and, where appropriate, refer the incident to the Disciplinary Committee. If they do not, they are also liable to be charged with the offence.

Categories of Offence

A. Major Offences (Category A Offences)

A1. Abuse of Cricket Equipment, Clothing, Ground Equipment or Fixtures and Fittings

The knocking 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. Suspension: MINIMUM period one week.

A2. Abuse of Player

Deliberate violent physical contact on a member of the opposing team or a fellow team member. Suspension: MINIMUM period of six weeks. (The severity of the act will influence the length of the penalty imposed. Indefinite or life bans may be appropriate in certain circumstances.)

Threatening behaviour. Includes threats of assault. Also, serious and persistent verbal abuse (sledging) using comments or language designed to denigrate and intimidate the recipient. Suspension: MINIMUM period of two weeks.

A3. Abuse of an Umpire

Deliberate violent physical contact. Suspension: MINIMUM period of twelve weeks. (The severity of the act will influence the length of the penalty imposed. Indefinite or life bans may be appropriate in certain circumstances).

Threatening behaviour. Suspension: MINIMUM period of six weeks

Verbal Abuse (inclusive of language that is obscene, offensive or insulting and/or the making of obscene gestures). Suspension: MINIMUM period of three weeks.

Dissent – any action that seeks to question or undermine the authority of an umpire. Aggravated dissent would include the use of foul or threatening language. Suspension:

MINIMUM period of one week. Aggravated offences will attract more severe penalties, with prior record being taken into account.

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 one week.

A4. Racial Abuse

Any racially abusive comment or action, ie 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. Suspension: PERIOD to be decided by the Disciplinary Committee.

B. Accumulated Bad Behaviour (Category B Offences)

This relates to repeated offences under the Laws of Cricket or as General Misconduct. Although the individual infringements may not, on their own, merit disciplinary action they will in all cases be recorded and notified to the Disciplinary Committee. A second report relating to the same player will likewise be recorded and notified: a third or subsequent report will automatically attract a Disciplinary charge, leading to penalties: Suspension: MINIMUM period of one week on the first occasion; two weeks for the second; four weeks for the third etc.

Repeated offences involving a particular team will lead to charges against the Captain concerned. In these cases the MINIMUM suspension will be two weeks and/or a deduction of match points. Such action will take into account previous disciplinary problems.

NOTE: the 'totting-up' process will not be carried over from one season to the next.

C. 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 cards for such incidents. Category C1 offences are, in general penalised under the Laws. For the remainder (the Category C 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.

C1. Offences Requiring Mandatory Reports Under The Laws Of Cricket

- Deliberate short runs or run stealing.
- Dangerous and unfair bowling, including 'bouncers' and 'beamers'.
- Ball tampering
- Deliberate and malicious distraction/obstruction on the field of play.
- Distracting an opponent.
- Deliberate time wasting.
- Damaging the pitch.

C2. Offences Classed As 'General Misconduct' – Mandatory Report Required

- a. Excessive, Ridiculous, and 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 Cat 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 or umpire, team official or spectator.
- g. 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.

- h. Failure of a captain to take appropriate action to control players' conduct/behaviour.
- i. Any unsavoury action or event, which in the opinion of the Umpire should be reported as being contrary to the Spirit of the Game.

D. Spectators' Behaviour

Harborne Cricket Club is responsible at all times for the conduct of all their members, even when 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 will be liable to fines and/or points deductions, or such other penalty as the Disciplinary Committee shall deem appropriate.