

Guernsey Cricket Discipline Regulations and Guidelines (Code of Conduct)

Model Discipline Regulations

1. GCB Code of Conduct and Spirit of Cricket

1.1 Code of Conduct

1.1.1 The GCB 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 under the auspices of the GCB and may be applied to cricket in general.

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

1.1.3 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.

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

1.1.5 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.

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

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

1.1.8 Clubs must take adequate steps to ensure the good behaviour of their members and supporters towards players and umpires. Any club found to be in breach of the GCB Code of Conduct may be expelled from GCB Competitions for the current and future seasons.

1.2 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.

1.2.1 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, 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.

1.2.2 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, applying Law 42 (Players Conduct) when deemed appropriate, and it is the responsibility of the captain to take action where required.

1.2.3 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.

1.2.4 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

1.2.5 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
 - 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.

1.2.6 Violence

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

1.2.7 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.

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

Regulations for Cricket Leagues

2 Aims and Jurisdiction

These regulations shall apply to any player who plays for any club at any level under the auspices of the GCB and are intended to provide assistance and uniformity to all Clubs and Officials in dealing with any alleged breach of the GCB Code of Conduct and Spirit of Cricket (Paragraph 1).

3 Procedure

Misconduct

The umpires shall act upon any instances of misconduct. The offences are detailed below and the corresponding actions by the umpires and penalties due are identified here. (NOTE: numbering taken as shown in Rules for ease of cross reference)

42.1.1 The umpires shall act upon any unacceptable conduct. Four Levels of offence and the corresponding actions by the umpires are identified as Level 1, Level 2, Level 3 and Level 4 offences in 42.2 to 42.5.

42.1.2 If either umpire considers that the conduct of a player, at any time during the match, is unacceptable, the umpire concerned shall call and signal Dead ball. This call may be delayed until the umpire is satisfied that it will not disadvantage the non-offending side.

42.1.3 The umpire concerned shall report the matter to the other umpire and together they shall decide whether misconduct has occurred. If so, they shall determine into which of the Levels the conduct falls, as set out in 42.2 to 42.5 below, and then apply the related sanctions.

42.1.4 For each Level 1 to 4, if the offence is by a batsman, the umpires shall summon the offending player's captain to the field. Solely for the purpose of this Law, the batsmen at the wicket may not deputise for their captain.

42.1.5 For each Level 1 to 4,

- Playing time shall be counted as lost from the call of Time to the call of Play, excluding intervals (Law 11) and suspensions of play (Law 2.8).
- the time for close of play on that day shall be extended by this length of time.
- if applicable, no overs shall be deducted during the last hour of the match solely on account of this time.

42.2 Level 1 offences and action by umpires

42.2.1 Any of the following actions by a player shall constitute a Level 1 offence:

- wilfully 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
- advancing towards an umpire in an aggressive manner when appealing
- any other misconduct, the nature of which is, in the opinion of the umpires, equivalent to a Level 1 offence.

42.2.2 If such an offence is committed, 42.2.2.1 to 42.2.2.6 shall be implemented as appropriate, according to whether or not it is the first offence at any Level.

42.2.2.1 The umpire shall call Time, if necessary.

42.2.2.2 Together the umpires shall summon and inform the offending player's captain that an offence at this Level has occurred.

42.2.2.3 If the Level 1 offence is the first offence, at any Level, by that team, the umpire shall

42.2.2.3.1 issue a first and final warning which shall apply to all members of the team for the remainder of the match.

42.2.2.3.2 warn the offending player's captain that any further Level 1 offence by any member of his/her team shall result in the award of 5 Penalty runs to the opposing

team.

42.2.2.4 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.

42.2.2.5 As soon as practicable the umpire shall call Play.

42.2.2.6 The umpires together shall report the occurrence as soon as possible after the match to the GCB/DCC for further action to be taken in accordance with Code of Conduct Guidelines.

42.3 Level 2 offences and action by umpires

42.3.1 Any of the following actions by a player shall constitute a Level 2 offence:

- showing serious dissent at an umpire's decision by word or action
- making inappropriate and deliberate physical contact with another player
- 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
- or any other misconduct, the nature of which is, in the opinion of the umpires, equivalent to a Level 2 offence.

42.3.2 If such an offence is committed, 42.3.2.1 to 42.3.2.6 shall be implemented.

42.3.2.1 The umpire shall call Time, if necessary.

42.3.2.2 Together the umpires shall summon and inform the offending player's captain that an offence at this Level has occurred.

42.3.2.3 The umpire shall award 5 Penalty runs to the opposing team.

42.3.2.4 The umpire shall warn the offending player's captain that any future Level 1 offence by any member of his/her team shall result in the award of 5 Penalty runs to the opposing team.

42.3.2.5 As soon as practicable the Umpire shall call Play.

42.3.2.6 The umpires together shall report the occurrence as soon as possible after the match to the GCB/DCC for further action to be taken in accordance with Code of Conduct Guidelines.

42.4 Level 3 offences and action by umpires

42.4.1 Either of the following actions by a player shall constitute a Level 3 offence:

- intimidating an umpire by language or gesture
- threatening to assault a player or any other person except an umpire. See 42.5.1.

42.4.2 If such an offence is committed, 42.4.2.1 to 42.4.2.8 shall be implemented.

42.4.2.1 The umpire shall call Time, if necessary.

42.4.2.2 Together the umpires shall summon and inform the offending player's captain that an offence at this Level has occurred.

42.4.2.3 The umpires shall direct the captain to remove the offending player immediately from the field of play for a period in accordance with the following:

42.4.2.3.1 In a match where the innings are not limited to a number of overs, the player shall be suspended from the field of play for 10 overs. Any balls remaining in the over in progress at the time of suspension shall not count towards the overs for which the player is suspended.

42.4.2.3.2 In a match where the innings are limited to a number of overs, the player shall be suspended for one fifth of the number of overs allocated to the current innings at its commencement. If, in calculating the length of the suspension, a part-over results, it shall be considered as a whole over. Any balls remaining in the over in progress at the time of suspension shall not count towards the overs for which the player is suspended.

42.4.2.3.3 If the offending player is a fielder, no substitute shall be allowed for him/her. The offending player may return to the field of play after serving the period of

suspension and may bowl immediately.

42.4.2.3.4 If a bowler is suspended mid-over, then that over must be completed by a different bowler, who shall not have bowled the previous over nor shall he/she bowl the next over.

42.4.2.3.5 If the offending player is a not out batsman, he/she shall be replaced by another member of his/her team. The offending player may return to bat after having served the suspension only at the fall of a wicket. If no batsman is available to bat during a batsman's suspension, the innings is completed. If the offending player does not continue his/her innings for whatever reason, he/she is to be recorded as Retired – not out.

42.4.2.3.6 If the offending player is a dismissed member of the batting side, the period of suspension will not commence until the start of the next innings. Furthermore, in these circumstances, the offending player may not act as a runner during the innings when he/she was suspended.

42.4.2.3.7 Warn the offending player's captain that any future Level 1 offence shall result in the award of 5 Penalty runs to the opposing team.

42.4.2.3.8 Any overs remaining to be served from a suspension shall be carried forward to the next and subsequent innings of the match. A part over at the end of the innings shall not count towards the overs for which the player is suspended.

42.4.2.4 As soon as practicable, the umpire shall

- award 5 Penalty runs to the opposing team
- signal the Level 3 penalty to the scorers
- call Play.

42.4.2.5 The umpires together shall report the occurrence as soon as possible after the match to the GCB/DCC for further action to be taken in accordance with Code of Conduct Guidelines.

42.5 Level 4 offences and action by umpires

42.5.1 Any of the following actions by a player shall constitute a Level 4 offence:

- 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.

42.5.2 If such an offence is committed, 42.5.2.1 to 42.5.2.5 shall be implemented.

42.5.2.1 The umpire shall call Time, if necessary.

42.5.2.2 Together the umpires shall summon and inform the offending player's captain that an offence at this Level has occurred.

42.5.2.3 The umpires shall direct the captain to remove the offending player immediately from the field of play for the remainder of the match and shall apply the following:

42.5.2.3.1 If the offending player is a fielder, no substitute shall be allowed for him/her. He/She is to be recorded as Retired – out at the commencement of any subsequent innings in which his/her team is the batting side.

42.5.2.3.2 If a bowler is suspended mid-over, then that over must be completed by a different bowler, who shall not have bowled the previous over nor shall be permitted to bowl the next over.

42.5.2.3.3 If the offending player is a batsman he/she is to be recorded as Retired – out in the current innings, unless he/she has been dismissed under any of Laws 32 to 39, and at the commencement of any subsequent innings in which his/her team is the batting side. If no further batsman is available to bat, the innings is completed.

42.5.2.3.4 Warn the offending player's captain that any future Level 1 offence shall result in the award of 5 Penalty runs to the opposing team.

42.5.2.4 As soon as practicable, the umpire shall

- award 5 Penalty runs to the opposing team

- signal the Level 4 penalty to the scorers
- call Play.

42.5.2.5 The umpires together shall report the occurrence as soon as possible after the match to the GCB/DCC for further action to be taken in accordance with Code of Conduct Guidelines.

42.6 Captain refusing to remove a player from the field

42.6.1 If a captain refuses to carry out an instruction under 42.4.2.3 or 42.5.2.3, the umpires shall invoke Law 16.3 (Umpires awarding a match).

42.6.2 If both captains refuse to carry out instructions under 42.4.2.3 or 42.5.2.3 in respect of the same incident, the umpires shall instruct the players to leave the field. The match is not concluded as in Law 12.9 (Conclusion of match) and there shall be no result under Law 16 (The result).

42.7 Additional points relating to Level 3 and Level 4 offences

42.7.1 If a player, while acting as wicket-keeper, commits a Level 3 or Level 4 offence, Law 24.1.2 (Substitute fielders) shall not apply, meaning that only a nominated player may act as wicket-keeper, even if another fielder becomes injured or ill and is replaced by a substitute.

42.7.2 A nominated player who has a substitute or has a runner will suffer a penalty for any Level 3 or Level 4 offence committed by that substitute or by that runner.

42.7.2.1 When the offence is committed by a substitute, the nominated player and substitute will each suffer the penalty defined in 42.4.2.3 or in 42.5.2.3 as appropriate. Only the substitute will be reported as in 42.4.2.5 or 42.5.2.5.

42.7.2.2 When the offence is committed by a runner, the batsman who has the runner and the runner will each suffer the penalty defined in 42.4.2.3 or in 42.5.2.3 as appropriate. The penalty for a Level 4 offence (42.5.2.3) will apply to the remainder of the match, but in only the current innings to the batsman for whom the runner acted.

4 Disciplinary Hearing

4.1 In any case which is referred for a Disciplinary Hearing, 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.

4.2 The GCB/DCC shall convene a hearing as soon as is practicable and in any event within 21 days of the decision to refer. Any adjournments may be granted at the discretion of the Chairman of the Disciplinary Hearing.

4.3 The player and club shall be entitled to attend the hearing, state their case (in the case of a club by its Secretary or other official), to be supported by a colleague and to call witnesses.

4.4 The Hearing shall be conducted by the Disciplinary Committee appointed by GCB/DCC which shall consist of not less than three persons, none of whom shall be connected with the player, the club or their opponents at the time of the alleged breach.

5 Penalties

5.1 If at the hearing the Disciplinary Committee finds the alleged offence proved it shall have the power to impose one or more of the following penalties, together with such order as to costs as it deems appropriate:

5.2 In the case of a player:

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

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

5.2.3 To impose a fine (Not to exceed £500).

5.2.4 To suspend the player for one or more specified matches or for a stated period

of time, unless in the case of a registered player. In cases where a registered player is to be penalised the committee should carefully consider whether a time or match ban is most appropriate and in any case no more than five specified days or matches can be levied.

- 5.2.5 To deduct League points from the player's team.
- 5.2.6 To expel the player from the League.
- 5.3 In the case of a club:
 - 5.3.1 To require the club to submit appropriate letter(s) of apology within a specified time.
 - 5.3.2 To record a reprimand and to give a warning as to future conduct.
 - 5.3.3 To impose a fine.
 - 5.3.4 To deduct League points from the club's team(s)
 - 5.3.5 To relegate to any lower division of the League.
 - 5.3.6 To expel the club from any competition of the League.
 - 5.3.7 To expel the club from the League.
- 5.4 The Disciplinary 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.
- 5.5 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 Panel Chairman shall have a casting vote.

6 Appeals Procedure

- 6.1 A player or club shall have the right of appeal to the Appeals Committee. Notice of Appeal setting out the grounds must be given in writing to the Secretary of the League within seven days of the decision of the Disciplinary Committee, together with a deposit of £25.00.
- 6.2 If 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.
- 6.3 The Appeal shall be by way of re-hearing before a different Committee. The composition of the Committee shall be at the discretion of the GCB/DCC and shall consist of not less than three persons, none of whom shall be connected with the player, the Club or their opponents at the time of the alleged breach. The player or club shall have the same rights of attendance and representation, and to call witnesses as they had before the Disciplinary Committee.
- 6.4 The Appeals Committee may confirm, vary or reverse the decision of the Disciplinary Committee and it shall have the power to increase the penalty and award costs of the Appeal hearing. Decisions of the Appeal Panel shall be by majority vote; where necessary, the Chairman shall have a casting vote.
- 6.5 The decision of the Appeals Committee or, if no appeal, of the Disciplinary Committee, shall be final and binding.

Guidelines on the Conduct of Hearings and Appeals

These Guidelines do not replace or form part of the Model Discipline Regulations which should be read carefully by all those falling under their jurisdiction.

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 standard of proof shall be on the balance of probabilities rather than the criminal standard of beyond reasonable doubt. 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 appear at the hearing, 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 Chairman 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 a minimum of three and a maximum of five 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 days' 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 'delaying tactic'. In the case of a minor it is recommended that he should be supported by the County Board/League Child Welfare Officer or other appropriate adult.
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). It is recommended that in the case of a minor attending to give evidence on behalf of either party he should be supported by an appropriate adult.
7. The Chairman should open the hearing and introduce all the parties. He should then briefly outline the procedure to be followed, specifying the standard of proof to be adopted.
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 Secretary of the League within 7 days of the decision of the Panel (together with a deposit of £X (to be set by the League) if appropriate). 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.

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.

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 player's captain, requesting the latter to take action.

Breaches of paragraph 1.2.5 of the Spirit of the Game should automatically be reported as soon as reasonably practicable 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. Taking into account captains' responsibilities as set out in paragraph 1.1.2 of the Model Discipline Regulations, 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 includes 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 shall 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 GCB's 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 GCB 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. Players should understand that suspensions of this length will normally apply to all cricket played under the auspices of GCB.