**L&DCC Discipline Regulations and Guidelines 2020**

(Note: These Regulations again follow the ECB Discipline Regulations and Guidelines March 2018 there being no new regulations in 2019. Any departures or additions are indicated in italics with a *2020 superscript*)

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**AIMS AND JURISDICTION**

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

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

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.

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

Any club which fails to take all reasonable steps to ensure the proper conduct of its players, officials and/or members in all matters for which the club or its committee is responsible, or acts in any way which is prejudicial or detrimental to the interests or reputation of the League, breaches this Code of Conduct.

There is nothing in this Code preventing or discouraging clubs from applying additional or stronger sanctions against offenders than those appearing within the Code, whether or not they are the subject of a discipline report. To this end, it is important that clubs have their own code of conduct and disciplinary procedures in place.

For the purposes of these regulations, the expression ‘player’ shall throughout this document be deemed to mean and include not only any player, whether professional or otherwise, but also any member or official of any club in any incident of alleged misconduct occurring on any part of a cricket ground or building and not merely the field of play.

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

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

* 1. **Code of Conduct**

1.1.1. The L&DCC is committed to maintaining the highest standards of behaviour and conduct at cricket matches both on and off the field. All clubs and players, by virtue of their registration with 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.

1.1.2. The major responsibility for ensuring fair play rests with the captains, but extends to all players, umpires and coaches.

1.1.3. Players and club officials must at all times accept the umpire’s decision. Players and club officials must show self-discipline, even when things go against them.

This means not showing dissent at the umpire’s decision or reacting in a provocative or disapproving manner towards another player or a spectator.

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

1.1.5. Players and club officials shall not use crude and/or abusive language (known as “sledging”), nor make offensive gestures or hand signals, nor deliberately distract an opponent.

1.1.6. Players and club officials shall not use language or gestures that offend, insult, humiliate, intimidate, threaten, disparage or vilify another person on the basis of that person’s race, religion, sexual orientation, colour, descent or national or ethnic origin.

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

1.1.8. Players and club officials shall not make any public or media comment which is detrimental to the League, clubs, umpires or the game in general. In this instance, media shall include press, radio, television, external websites, club websites, social networking sites and club match programmes.

1.1.9. Players and club officials shall not disclose or comment upon any alleged breach of this Code.

1.1.10. Clubs must take adequate steps to ensure the good behaviour of their players, officials, members and supporters.

1.2. **Spirit of Cricket**

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

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

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

1.2.1. There are Laws which place the responsibility for the team’s conduct firmly on the captain.

**Responsibility of Captains**

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

**Players’ Conduct**

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

**Players**

Captains and umpires together set the tone for the conduct of a cricket match. Every player is expected to make an important contribution to this.

1.2.2. **Unfair Play**

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

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

Damaging the ball

Distracting the batsman

Unfair bowling

Time wasting

Damaging the pitch

Non striker leaving the ground early

* Penalty runs
* Any other action that they consider to be unfair

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

- Respect the captain, team-mates, opponents and the authority of the umpires.

- Play hard and play fair.

- Accept the umpire’s decision.

- Create a positive atmosphere by your own conduct and encourage others to do likewise.

- Show self-discipline, even when things go against you.

- Congratulate the opposition on their successes and enjoy those of your own team.

- Thank the officials and your opposition at the end of the match, whatever the result.

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

1.2.5 **Violence**

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

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

**2. BREACHES**

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

2.1.1 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 of interests of the Leagues

2.1.2 Any club fails to properly control or discipline its players or acts in a manner prejudicial to the good name or interests of the Leagues.

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

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

2.4. **Reporting of Breaches** **to the L&DCC**

It is intended that any breach of Paragraph 1 above should in the first instance be dealt with by the player’s club who shall notify the L&DCC Disciplinary Secretary of the result of any action taken against its player. All contact shall be with the player’s club Secretary *2020 or Nominated Disciplinary Representative* who is then responsible for advising the player of all future actions.

2.4.1. For a first offence of a Level 1 breach of the Code of Conduct in a match, the umpire (s) should issue a first and final warning which shall apply to all members of the team for the remainder of the match.

2.4.2. If the Level 1 offence follows an offence, at any Level, by that team, the umpire shall award 5 Penalty runs to the opposing team and will report the occurrence as soon as possible after the match to the Executive of the offending player’s team and to the league responsible for the match, who shall take such further action as is considered appropriate against the captain, any other individuals concerned and, if appropriate, the team.

2.4.3. Should the umpire(s) consider that the first offence of a Level 1 breach is sufficiently serious, they have the authority to decide to submit a formal report without having previously issued any warning. The player and his captain should be advised accordingly.

2.4.4. In all instances of a Level 1, 2, 3 or 4 breach, the umpire(s) must complete a formal report for any breach attracting a 5 run penalty or more.

2.4.5. The report should be submitted using the standard discipline report form.

**3. L&DCC PROCEDURES**

3.1. Any alleged breach of Paragraph 1 above shall be notified in writing (to be known as ‘a Complaint’) to the Secretary of the League Disciplinary Committee 2020*by telephone and email within 2 full days from the day of the offence.* The Disciplinary Secretary shall forward the complaint (e.g. umpires’ report) to the player’s club as soon as practicable.

3.1.1 2020 *In the case of a registered County Contracted player (Category 2) being the subject of a complaint*the L&DCC Secretary and/or Chairman shall advise the ECB’s Head of Non-First-Class Cricket and the County Club by telephone or email within 48 hours of the offence.

3.1.2 Umpires reporting a player’s breach of discipline shall advise the team’s captain and another club official of the offence to be reported before leaving the clubhouse after the match. The player’s club shall consider any sanctions to be imposed on its player (see 2.2 above) as appropriate for the offence and advise the L&DCC Disciplinary Secretary.

3.2 Upon receipt of a Complaint, and as soon as reasonably practicable, the L&DCC Disciplinary Committee shall consider the complaint and resolve either:

3.2.1 to take no action except to record the complaint and notify the club; or

3.2.2 to endorse the disciplinary action taken by the club; or

3.2.3 to refer the matter for a Disciplinary Hearing which shall be convened by the Chairman of the League or of the League Disciplinary Committee as soon as practicable.

3.3. Any match/time sanctions imposed by the club or league under paragraph 3.2.3. above, shall be advised in writing to the relevant club’s County Board by the League. Players should understand that match/time bans will normally apply to all cricket played under the auspices of ECB.

3.4. 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

organisation (e.g. the Police, ECB Safeguarding Department) the League will await the outcome of that investigation.

**4. L&DCC DISCIPLINARY HEARINGS**

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 club’s Secretary.

4.2. The Secretary of the League Disciplinary Committee shall convene a Panel to conduct the 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. The Panel 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.

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 a Disciplinary Panel of the L&DCC.

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

4.6. The Hearing shall be conducted by a Disciplinary Panel appointed by the Discipline Chairman 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.

4.7. A club or player involved in disciplinary proceedings will be solely responsible for meeting such costs or expenses as it or they may incur, including the cost of any legal or other representation.

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

4.9 *2020Should the Disciplinary Committee subsequently consider the request for a hearing to be frivolous they may impose a ban of double the amount of weeks adjudged to be appropriate to the offence*

**5. L&DCC PENALTIES**

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

Level 1 Final warning to 6 matches and/or appropriate/equivalent time ban

Level 2 2 to 8 matches and/or appropriate/equivalent time ban

Level 3 4 to 10 matches and/or appropriate/equivalent time ban

Level 4 A minimum of 10 matches and/or appropriate/equivalent time ban

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

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

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

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

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, not to exceed £500

- To suspend the player for one or more specified 2020*weeks* or for a stated period of time, unless in the case of a registered*2020County Contracted Player. In such cases the Disciplinary Committee, acting in accordance with 3.1.1, should carefully consider whether a time or match ban is most appropriate and in any case a maximum of five weeks or matches can be imposed by the League itself.*.

- To deduct League points from the player’s team

- To expel the player from the League

- *2020Should the Disciplinary Committee subsequently consider the request for a hearing to be frivolous they may impose a ban of double the amount of weeks adjudged to be appropriate to the offence*

In the case of a club:-

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

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

- To impose a fine

- To deduct League points from the club’s team

- To expel the club from any competition of the league

- To relegate to any lower division of the League or to a ‘linked’ league

*-2020Should the Disciplinary Committee subsequently consider the request for a hearing to be frivolous they may impose a ban of double the amount of weeks adjudged to be appropriate to the offence*

5.5. 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

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

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

5.7. The Disciplinary Panel shall have the power to suspend the operation of any part, or all, of the penalty it imposes for such period and subject to such terms and conditions it deems appropriate.

5.8. Decisions of the Disciplinary Panel (a finding that a complaint is proved or not proved or a decision on penalty) shall be by majority vote; where necessary the Disciplinary Panel Chairman shall have a casting vote.

5.9. The League shall report match bans in writing to the relevant club’s County Board for national circulation. Players should understand that match bans will normally apply to all cricket played under the auspices of ECB. The ECB Premier Leagues will also recognise suspensions from other Leagues.

**6. L&DCC APPEALS**

6.1. Appeals shall only be allowed against an automatic ban instigated for a Level 1 or 2 offence on the grounds of mistaken identity, misrepresentation or failure of the umpires to follow the procedures in Paragraph 2 above.

6.2. Where a breach of the Code of Conduct has been proved at a Disciplinary Hearing, a player or club shall have the right of appeal. Where a player and his club are appealing in relation to the same incident, they must do so separately.

6.3. A notice of appeal setting out the grounds must be given in writing to the Discipline Chairman within seven days of the decision of the Disciplinary Panel, together with a deposit of £100 if the appeal is by a player or £250 if the appeal is by a club.

6.4. If a notice of appeal is given, the penalty shall not take effect pending the hearing of the Appeal, which shall take place as soon as is practicable and in any event within 14 days of receipt of notice of the appeal.

6.5. The Appeal shall be by way of a new hearing before a different Panel. The Appeal Panel shall be appointed by the Discipline Chairman 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 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 Panel.

6.6. The player or club shall have the same entitlements as set out in Paragraph 6.4 above.

6.7. If the player or club is to have representation present at the hearing then the details of that representation must be given to the Discipline Chairman not less than 7 days before the date of the hearing.

6.8. 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.

6.9. 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.

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

**7. NON-PAYMENT OF FINES**

7.1. Any fine levied under these procedures or imposed for the breach of any match rule must be paid to the Treasurer of the League within twenty-eight days of the Club being notified of such fine.

7.2. Any fines still outstanding at the end of that 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.

**Regulations for Clubs**

**8 Internal Club Enquiry**

8.1 The club of its own volition and without any need for the receipt of a written complaint or other prompting shall, where any alleged case of conduct which is not fair and proper occurs as stated in Paragraph 1 above, or otherwise as the club may think fit, forthwith convene an Internal Club Enquiry.

8.2 The purpose of the Internal Club Enquiry shall be to establish the facts and, where appropriate, to take the necessary disciplinary action so as to ensure that the club does not fail properly to control or discipline its player or players and to ensure that the club acts in a manner designed to protect the good name of the club and of cricket generally.

8.3 Any player requested to attend such an Internal Club Enquiry, or any Appeal therefrom, shall be entitled to be accompanied at the Enquiry by a friend or other representative.

**9 Club Penalties**

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

9.1.1 To require the player to write letter(s) of apology within a specified time

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

9.1.3 To impose a fine.

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

9.1.5 To suspend the player’s membership of the club for a period.

9.1.6 If the conduct constitutes gross misconduct the club shall have the power to terminate the player’s membership forthwith.

9.2 The club for the same offence may, if it is thought fit, impose more than one of the above penalties.

10 **Club Appeals Procedure**

10.1 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.

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

**APPENDIX 1 – BREACHES OF DISCIPLINE**

Certain conduct, whether on or off the field of play, amounting to a breach of the Laws of Cricket and/or the Spirit of Cricket has been categorised into 4 levels which are set out below:-

**Level 1**

1. Time wasting by either the fielding side or the batting side which results in a 5 run penalty or the bowler being disallowed from bowling any further in that innings in accordance with Laws 41.9 and 41.10.
2. wilfully mistreating any part of the cricket ground, equipment or implements used in the match
3. showing dissent at an umpire’s decision by word or action
4. using language that, in the circumstances, is obscene, offensive or insulting
5. making an obscene gesture
6. appealing excessively
7. advancing towards an umpire in an aggressive manner when appealing
8. bowling a dangerous or unfair short-pitched delivery and/or an accidental non-pitching delivery that results in the bowler being disallowed from bowling any further in that innings in accordance with Laws 41.6 and 41.7.
9. any other misconduct, the nature of which is, in the opinion of the umpires, equivalent to a Level 1 offence.

**Level 2**

1. showing serious dissent at an umpire’s decision by word or action
2. making inappropriate and deliberate physical contact with another player
3. charging or advancing towards an umpire in an aggressive manner when appealing
4. deliberate distraction, deception or obstruction on the field of play under Law 41.4 or 41.5.
5. throwing the ball at a player, umpire or another person in an inappropriate and dangerous manner
6. using language or gesture to another player, umpire, team official or spectator that, in the circumstances, is obscene or of a seriously insulting nature
7. causing avoidable damage to the pitch that results in a 5 run penalty being awarded under Laws 41.12.3, 41.14.3 and 41.15.3.
8. any other misconduct, the nature of which is, in the opinion of the umpires, equivalent to a Level 2 offence.

**Level 3**

1. intimidating an umpire by language or gesture
2. threatening to assault a player or any other person except an umpire.
3. using language or gesture that offends, insults, humiliates, intimidates, threatens, disparages or vilifies another person on the basis of that person’s race, religion or belief, colour, descent, national or ethnic origin, age, disability, gender, sexual orientation or background.
4. Deliberately bowling a non-pitching delivery which is deemed dangerous and unfair in accordance with Law 41.7

**Level 4**

1. threatening to assault an umpire
2. making inappropriate and deliberate physical contact with an umpire
3. physically assaulting a player or any other person
4. committing any other act of violence.
5. using language or gesture that seriously offends, insults, humiliates, intimidates, threatens, disparages or vilifies another person on the basis of that person’s race, religion or belief, colour, descent, national or ethnic origin, age, disability, gender, sexual orientation or background.

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

**APPENDIX 2 - MUTUAL RECOGNITION CLAUSE**

It is intended that Leagues will work with Minor Counties and County Boards to ensure these Disciplinary Guidelines have the greatest effect.

The first section refers to the sharing of information between cricket bodies and also advises the players this will happen:

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

1. Information about penalties imposed under these discipline regulations shall be shared with individuals at the club and County Board on a need to know basis, for example with individuals who need to be informed in order to give effect to the penalty;
2. Information about match bans held by the County Board shall be shared with other clubs only for the purposes of ensuring recognition of penalties by other clubs; and
3. Individuals subject to these discipline regulations must be made aware by their clubs that by playing in matches under the jurisdiction of the ECB, they agree that information about penalties imposed on them will be shared with the County Boards, ECB and other clubs in accordance with these discipline regulations.

The second section refers to the recognition of penalties imposed by others.

The wording above has been agreed with ECB lawyers and the Cricket Discipline Commission and as a consequence it is appropriate for each League to add to the second section, highlighted below, to read as follows:-

1. All clubs that play in ECB competitions or in County Board affiliated Leagues shall recognise and give full effect to any match ban, and/or any other penalty, imposed pursuant to by these discipline regulations by a League within that County Board boundary and the boundaries of the listed neighbouring Counties and Leagues (name of neighbouring Leagues to be inserted)

**Note:-**

All clubs that play in ECB competitions or in County Board affiliated Leagues shall also give effect to any match bans, and/or other penalties, imposed pursuant to any other disciplinary regulations as directed by the ECB.

**Sentencing Guidelines – Recreational Game**

Appendix 1 gives guidelines to sentencing policy which may be used by clubs and 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 include suspension.

L&DCC requirements are for umpires to report such incidents on the match report card. The Disciplinary Committee will recommend to the Management Committee if penalties are deemed appropriate and whether a Disciplinary Panel is necessary.

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 ECB’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 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. Suspensions 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. Leagues should notify Head of Operations – Non-First-Class Cricket within seven days of any disciplinary action taken against a registered player.

**The Laws of Cricket**

Law 42 gives four Levels of Disciplinary Offences and lists the offences for each level. As well as each offence requiring the umpires to submit a report to the L&DCC Disciplinary Committee the Law also gives on-field sanctions to be applied. Appendix 2 gives the basic details, but the Laws should be consulted for a full explanation.

**APPENDIX 3: L&DCC DISCIPLINARY TARIFF**

**See also Section 5**

**Note: L&DCC Hearings or Appeals may also choose to add to any imposed bans, additional suspended weeks bans which will usually apply for a period of time of one year from the date of the Hearing or Appeal.**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Disciplinary Offences** | **Suggested Ban** |
| **1.**  - 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 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. | **LEVEL 1**  **2 WEEKS**  **minimum** |
| 1. **Abusive behaviour**   Using language and/or gesture of an obscene or a serious insulting nature to another player, umpire, team official or spectator. | **LEVEL 2**  **2 WEEKS minimum**  **to 6 WEEKS** |
| 1. **Aggressive behaviour**   3.1 Repeated charging or advancing towards an umpire in an aggressive manner when appealing. The **Captain** may also be disciplined. | **LEVEL 3**  **3 WEEKS minimum**  **to 8 WEEKS** |
| 3.2 Throwing the ball at or near a player, umpire or official in an inappropriate and dangerous manner. |
| 3.3 The bowling of fast short pitched balls that result in the bowler being disallowed from bowling further in that innings. |
| 3.4 Inappropriate and deliberate physical contact between players during play. |
| **4.Captain failing to control his players following a request**    This is a major transgression against the Spirit of Cricket | **LEVEL 3**  **3 WEEKS minimum**  **to 8 WEEKS** |
| **5. Abuse of an umpire (including intimidation by word or action)**  5.1 Dissent by action OR verbally,  5.2 Dissent by action AND verbally, | **LEVEL 2 or 3**  **2 WEEKS minimum to 6 WEEKS** |
| * 1. Verbal OR written abuse (including language that is obscene,   offensive or insulting and/or the making of an obscene gesture. | **LEVEL 2 or 3**  **3 WEEKS**  **Minimum** |
| **6. Intimidating and threatening behaviour**  6.1 Intimidating an umpire | **LEVEL 3**  **5 WEEKS minimum to**  **10 WEEKS** |
| * 1. Threatening to assault another player, team official or spectator |
| 6.3 **Racial / Homophobic/Sexual Abuse of any person**  Using language or gesture that offends, insults, humiliates, intimidates, threatens, disparages or vilifies another person on the basis of that person’s race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, colour, descent, national or ethnic origin. |
| 6.4 the deliberate bowling of any high full-pitched ball (Law 42.8) |
| 1. **Threatening and violent behaviour**   7.1 Threatening an umpire | **LEVEL 4**  **10 WEEKS**  **Minimum** |
| 7.2 Physical assault on another player, umpire, official or spectator |
| 7.3 Any act of violence on the field of play |
| 7.4 **Racial / Homophobic/Sexual Abuse of any person**  Using language or gesture that seriously offends, insults, humiliates, intimidates, threatens, disparages or vilifies another person on the basis of that person’s race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, colour, descent, national or ethnic origin. |

**APPENDIX 4: LAWS OF CRICKET - LAW 42 – PLAYERS CONDUCT**

The umpires shall act upon any unacceptable conduct. Four Levels of offence are identified as Level 1, Level 2, Level 3 and Level 4 offences.

Level 1

- 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 - 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.

On-field sanctions

First offence – issue a first and final warning which shall apply to all members of the team for the duration of the match.

If this offence follows any other committed by the team the umpires shall award five penalty runs to the opposition.

Level 2

- 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

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

On-field sanctions

The umpires shall award five penalty runs to the opposition. They shall also warn the team’s captain that any further offence will result in five penalty runs being awarded to the opposition.

Level 3

* intimidating an umpire by language or gesture
* threatening to assault a player or any other person except an umpire

On-field sanctions

The umpires shall direct the captain of the offending player’s team to remove the player for a specific period as follows:

where innings are not limited to a fixed number of overs – a period of 10 overs;

where limited overs apply – a period of one fifth of the number of overs allocated to the innings at its commencement -

See Law 42.4.2.3 for further details regarding the offending players role, i.e. fielder, bowler or batter.

The umpires shall award five penalty runs to the opposition.

Level 4

- threatening to assault an umpire

- making inappropriate and deliberate physical contact with an umpire

- physically assaulting a player or any other person

- committing any other act of violence.

On-field sanctions

The umpires shall direct the captain of the offending player’s team to remove the player immediately from the field of play for the remainder of the match. See Law 42.5.2.3 for further details regarding the offending players role, i.e. fielder, bowler or batter.

The umpires shall award five penalty runs to the opposition.