



Disciplinary Penalty Guidelines for Clubs and League Officials 2010

The following list is issued in response to concerns raised by umpires and League members involving the proliferation of on-field abusive language and other behaviour in contravention of the 'Spirit of Cricket' and therefore detrimental to the reputation of the League. The Committee expects every player, captain and club, along with umpires, to have knowledge of these guidelines.

1. Abuse of Cricket equipment, clothing, ground equipment or fixtures and fittings.

The knocking over of stumps, or the inappropriate throwing or kicking of a bat, ball, helmet, boundary flag, rope or any equipment on the field of play:

Penalty:- minimum 1 match ban, maximum 3 matches

2. Abuse of a player

- a. Deliberate violent physical contact on a member of the opposing team:

Penalty:- minimum 5 matches, maximum 10 matches

The severity of the violence will influence the appropriateness of the length of sentence to be imposed.

- b. After any warnings due from the captain, whether or not initiated by the Umpires, a player found guilty of any form of abusive behaviour towards one or more members of the opposing team or of making gestures to one or more members of the opposing team or any act of violence on the field of play

Penalty:- minimum 2 matches, maximum 5 matches

3. Abuse of an Umpire (inclusive of intimidation whether by language or conduct).

- a. Deliberate violent physical contact or threat of assault:

Penalty:- minimum 15 games

The severity of the violence will influence the appropriateness of the length of sentence to be imposed.

- b. Verbal or written abuse (inclusive of using language that is obscene, offensive or insulting and/ or making of an obscene gesture):

Penalty:- minimum 4 matches, maximum 6 matches

- c. Dissent by action or verbally:

Penalty:- minimum 2 games, maximum 4 games

Racial Abuse

Any racially abusive comment or action will result in immediate suspension imposed by the club prior to a disciplinary hearing,

i.e. using language or a gesture 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:

Penalty: - Period will be decided by the Disciplinary Committee.

Mandatory reporting under the laws

The umpires, after consultation, are instructed to report transgressions under the following headings:

Law 18.5- Deliberate short runs

Law 24.2 (c) - Fair delivery-the arm

Law 42.3- Changing the condition of the match ball

Law 42.4- Deliberate attempt to distract the striker

Law 42.5- Deliberate distraction or obstruction of batsman

Law 42.6,7 and 8- dangerous and unfair bowling (deliberate)

Law 42.9- Time wasting by the fielding side

Law 42.10- Batsman wasting time

Law 42.11,12,13 and 14- Bowler, fielder or batsman damaging the pitch

Law 42.16- Batsman stealing a run

Law 42.18- Players' conduct

1. Player failing to comply with the above laws:

Penalty Minimum 1 match, maximum 3 matches

*The guilty player's **captain** is liable for a **minimum written reprimand or maximum 3 match penalty** if it is found that reasonable steps were not taken to ensure compliance by the player.*

Appendix: Examples of Players' conduct deemed inappropriate

1. Excessive appealing
2. Pointing or gesturing towards the pavilion in an aggressive manner by a bowler or other member of the fielding side upon the dismissal of a batsman.
3. Inappropriate and deliberate physical contact between players in the course of play.
4. Charging or advancing towards the umpire in an aggressive manner when appealing.
5. Deliberate and malicious distraction or obstruction on the field of play.
6. Throwing the ball at or near a player, umpire or official in an inappropriate and dangerous manner.
7. Using language that is obscene, offensive or of a seriously insulting nature to a team official or spectator.

N.B: It is acknowledged that there will be verbal exchanges between players in the course of play. Rather than seeking to eliminate these exchanges entirely, umpires will look to lay charges when this falls below an accepted standard. In this instance, language will be interpreted to include gestures.

8. Threat of assault on another player, umpire, team official or spectator.
9. Separate incidents in the course of a match will mean umpires will lay separate charges. If the Disciplinary Committee find the person charged of more than one offence, they will impose separate penalties in respect of each offence. Penalties are cumulative and not concurrent.

Additional Notes

Clubs are expected to convene an internal club enquiry within 72 hours of notification from the League Secretary or Disciplinary Chairman.

Penalties will be imposed in games commencing from Midnight Saturday.

All matches within the auspices of the East Lindsey Cricket League will be included.

For reports on junior matches any suspension imposed may include both junior and senior matches.

Clubs and/or Disciplinary Committee will take into account the past history of a player's behaviour in deciding the appropriate penalty.

Penalties imposed for a period which extends beyond the end of the season will continue into the following season with specific dates as defined in 2.

The Disciplinary Committee will call on umpires, players, independent witnesses and any other person whom they may consider to be of assistance in their enquiries. The umpires should include details of independent witnesses within their report wherever possible.

There will be no suspended sentences issued by the Disciplinary Committee.

The Disciplinary Committee has the ability, should it so wish, to increase or decrease the penalties in exceptional circumstances, within the procedure.

The captain is responsible for the actions and words of his players if comments are made that the umpires have heard but do not know who has said it, for example from a huddle.

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.

A penalty of more than 6 games will be reported by the League to the Lincolnshire Cricket Board for national circulation. Such suspensions will normally apply to all cricket played under the auspices of the ECB.

Clubs found guilty of disciplinary failings

The Disciplinary Committee shall consider any matter involving a club as an unacceptable, specific breach of discipline and shall deal with the matter on an individual basis under the League Rules already established.

The Committee wishes to make it clear that these are Guidelines and as such do not form part of the Rules of the League. Each case will be considered by a Disciplinary Committee set up as stipulated in the Constitution.

The severity of, and repetition of, offences will be taken into consideration and each case treated individually with reference to these guidelines when considering penalties.

A copy of these guidelines must be displayed prominently in the clubhouse or appropriate pavilion.