



## **DISCIPLINARY CODE**

### **INTRODUCTION AND EXPECTED STANDARDS OF BEHAVIOUR**

Actonians CC is proud of its tradition of fair play and respect for opponents, officials, and supporters. We expect members to follow the laws and spirit of the game, plus relevant league and competition rules. We also expect members to be honest, and to support the club in its aim of providing recreational cricket for members of all ages. An extract from the ECB spirit of cricket and code of conduct is attached is at Annex 1, and this underpins our expectations of members.

This code sets out the way in which the Club will deal with reported breaches of the expected standards of behaviour. In some cases, breaches of rules or behaviour by club members will be investigated by other organisations, such as the county or league authorities, under their own codes.

### **DISCIPLINARY CODE**

This code applies to:

- (a) Any person playing for, supporting, or representing the Club at any level during, before and after matches.
- (b) Any person engaged in practice and/or coaching under the auspices of the club.

### **HOW ARE DISCIPLINARY BREACHES REPORTED, AND WHO CAN REPORT THEM?**

The following people can lodge a report of a suspected breach of standards of behaviour:

- A match official
- A Club member
- A parent of a member of the Club
- An opposing club official

For cases involving juniors (matches/practice etc.), the report should be made to the Junior Manager. For cases involving senior teams (matches/practice etc.), the report should be made to the Secretary of the senior Club.

### **WHO INVESTIGATES REPORTED BREACHES OF THE CODE?**

The Club will appoint a disciplinary panel, generally of three members of the Club or Junior committees. For cases involving the junior teams, one member of the panel will be the Junior Manager.

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## **HOW WILL CASES BE HANDLED?**

The disciplinary panel will tell the person/people involved in the breach that they are undertaking an investigation. The panel will take evidence from relevant people – e.g. match officials, team managers, opponents, league officials, coaches, players, supporters. Evidence can be written or oral. The panel will generally hold a meeting to discuss the evidence and invite the person involved in the reported breach. The person will be allowed to bring someone with them to the meeting.

Having taken evidence and heard from the person/involved in the reported breach, the committee will come to a decision on next steps. If the panel is satisfied that no breach has taken place, then no further action will be taken. If the panel considers that a disciplinary breach has occurred, they will decide on further action. The Club does not have a prescribed list of penalties, but options include a verbal or written warning about behaviour; a suspension for a period of time or a number of matches; a suspension of membership of the club. The person/people involved will be informed of the outcome of the investigation.

In some cases, the outcome of the disciplinary panel's investigation will be reported to relevant authorities – e.g. the league secretary.

Any appeals against the decision of the panel should be referred in writing to the Chairman of Actonians Cricket Club.

## **ANNEX**

### **England & Wales Cricket Board**

#### **ECB CODE OF CONDUCT AND SPIRIT OF CRICKET**

##### **1.1 Code of Conduct**

1.1.1 The ECB 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 ECB 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.

##### **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.*

##### **The Spirit of the Game involves RESPECT for:**

- Your opponents
- Your own captain and team

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- The role of the umpires
- The game's traditional values

**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.

**Violence**

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

**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.