



Reporting Poor Player Behaviour

There is clear evidence that the standards of player behaviour on the cricket field are deteriorating, to the extent that enjoyment of some matches is ruined for players and umpires alike. Whilst the majority of cricket is played in a competitive but fair spirit, there are some players, or even teams, whose behaviour is below what is expected in cricket.

Within Kent generally and around the Kent League there appears to be an ever growing criticism of both player behaviour, which within the Laws of Cricket is the responsibility of the captains, and the ability of umpires to handle this problem in a consistent manner. In order to deal with this issue more effectively it has been decided to produce this document to assist all parties involved in cricket in Kent to understand how umpires intend to interpret and handle the problem of bad behaviour in the future. To enhance the levels of consistency across the county it has been decided to use the ECB's Code of Conduct Levels of 1 to 4 as a guide to what behaviour constitutes what level of breach. In all breaches of bad behaviour umpires are requested to continue their current practice of producing a Standard Report Form which should be sent to the appropriate officer responsible for discipline. The ECB's Code of Conduct Levels of 1 to 4 is as follows –

Level 4 Offences

- a) Threatening an umpire
- b) Physical assault of another player, team official or spectator
- c) Any act of violence on the field of play
- d) 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

Level 3 Offences

- a) Intimidating an umpire
- b) Threatening to assault another player, team official or spectator
- c) 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

Level 2 Offences

- a) Showing serious dissent at an umpire's decision by word or action
- b) Using language or gesture that is obscene or of a serious insulting nature to another player, umpire, team official or spectator
- c) Inappropriate and deliberate physical contact between players in the course of play
- d) Throwing the ball at or near a player, umpire or official in an inappropriate and dangerous manner

Level 1 Offences

- a) Abuse of cricket ground, equipment or fixtures/fittings
- b) Showing dissent at an umpire's decision by word or action
- c) Using language that is obscene, offensive or insulting and/or making an obscene gesture
- d) Excessive appealing
- e) Charging or advancing towards an umpire in an aggressive manner when appealing

Following various discussions involving the Kent League, the Kent League Umpire's Panel, the Kent Association of Cricket Officials, various umpires, captains and players, it is felt that breaches in the more serious offences of levels 2, 3 and 4 will normally be reported by umpires whereas breaches in level 1 offences are the main cause of reporting inconsistencies. Consequently it is in this area that we will be concentrating our efforts. Handling of level 1 offences will now be as follows –

- a) Abuse of cricket ground, equipment or fixtures/fittings **(Zero Tolerance)**
 - I. Deliberately hitting stumps/bails with bat or person
 - II. Deliberately throwing bat/helmet on or off the field
 - III. Deliberate abuse of cricket ground

- b) Showing dissent at an umpire's decision by word or action **(Zero Tolerance)**
 - I. Arguing with an umpire regarding a decision
 - II. Refusing to leave the field when given out

- c) Using language that is obscene, offensive or insulting and/or making an obscene gesture **(First and Final Warning)**
 - I. Swearing such that it can be heard over the boundary
 - II. Fielding side giving a batsman a send-off
 - III. Any form of personal abuse
 - IV. Inappropriate sledging

- d) Excessive appealing **(First and Final Warning)**
 - I. Multiple Appeals
 - II. Coordinated or inappropriate Appeals

- e) Charging or advancing towards an umpire in an aggressive manner **(Zero Tolerance)**
 - I. When Appealing
 - II. Following a decision

The lists below the various offences are examples and **do not constitute a definitive list**. Decisions made on all Player Behaviour Offences will be in the opinion of the umpires and all necessary reports will be produced after the match as required. During the match a First and Final Warning, as indicated above, will be made to either the Fielding Captain or current Batsmen and will apply to all members of that team, for all offences, throughout the match.