

The Hamilton Cricket Association Code of Conduct

1. Rules of the Code:

Players must not indulge in “unacceptable behaviour” on any part of a cricket ground, including the field of play. Without limiting the generality of the term examples follow:

- A player assaulting or attempting to assault an Umpire
- A player abusing an Umpire or disputing his decision, or reacting in an obviously provocative or disapproving manner towards an Umpire.
- A player using crude or abusive language, or engaging in conduct detrimental to the spirit of the game.
- A player using crude or abusive gestures.
- A player assaulting, attempting to assault, or abusing another player i.e. sledging
- A player assaulting, attempting to assault or abusing a spectator

Delete in red

Players or officials (unless authorised by the Association) must not make any public announcement or media comment or engage in any act, omission or conduct prejudicial to the interests of cricket or which may bring the game of cricket or any cricketer or group of cricketers into disrepute.

2. Eligibility to lodge a Report:

The following persons may submit a written report if they are present at the time and have observed an alleged breach of the code:

Official or player Umpires

Board Members

Team managers, if officially appointed or team members.

Any official match observer/ Referee if appointed

3. Judicial Committee:

The Board may appoint a Judiciary to hear any particular alleged breach.

4. Reports Procedure:

Where any person mentioned in Section 2 wishes to prepare a report of an alleged breach under section 1 he shall inform the Association at the earliest opportunity and complete a written report which must be received at the office no later than 48 hours after the days play in which the alleged incident occurred.

The Association will as soon thereafter as possible advise the player/s and his club that a report has been lodged and arrange a date as soon as possible for the hearing. The Judiciary will determine who will attend the hearing and may request attendance of the initiator of the report, an official representative of the club (preferably being an observer of the incident); the player/s reported and any other persons thought fit to preserve the course of a fair and just hearing.

The judiciary will hear and decide on the report in a manner which accords with the principles of natural justice and which best ensures a fair and prompt determination of the alleged breach of the code.

The judiciary shall give reasons in writing for its decision and deliver said within 7 days of the hearing.

The judiciary shall communicate its decision to the player/s concerned and the initiator of the report of its decision within 48 hours of the hearing.

The Association will ensure that full details of the report, the hearing procedures adopted, the decision and the reasons therefore are recorded in the register of reports.

5. Penalties:

Where a player has been found guilty of a breach of the code, the judiciary may impose any penalty it thinks fit, including debarring a player, team or club from participating in club matches conducted by the Association for any length of time, forfeiture of points (whether for the match in question or otherwise) or a monetary fine. Suspension may be for a number of matches or a definite period and shall take effect immediately following the decision to suspend and shall apply to any fixtures under the control of the Association, including representative fixtures.

If any player is found to be in breach of the code for a second time the judiciary must impose a penalty in a higher category than that imposed for the first offence.

6. Register of Misdemeanours and Penalties:

Without limiting the generality of the terms misdemeanours and unacceptable behaviour the Hamilton Cricket Association will use the following guidelines to impose penalties for matters brought before the Association regarding conduct of players. It also needs to be recognised that for any additional breach of the code by any player the Association must impose a penalty in a higher category than that imposed for the first offence.

Level 1 offences

1 Showing dissent at an umpires decision during a match

- (a) Obvious disappointment with, or challenge to, an umpires decision
- (b) An obvious delay in play, or leaving the wicket
- (c) Shaking the head to indicate challenge to the decision
- (d) Pointing or looking at the inside edge when given out LBW
- (e) Pointing to the pad or rubbing the shoulder or giving any other indication the decision is challenged when caught behind
- (f) Snatching the head wear/ garment from the umpire whether in petulance or as a challenge to the umpires decision
- (g) Requesting a referral to the TV umpire
- (h) Entering into any debate with the Umpire about his decision

2 Using language or a gesture that is obscene, offensive or insulting during a match

- (a) Loud or repetitious swearing
- (b) Obscene gestures or conduct which is/are not directed at another person, such as swearing at one's own poor play or fortune. This offence is not intended to penalise behaviour which may be regarded as trivial.

3 Excessive appealing during a match

- (a) public criticism of, or inappropriate comment in relation to an incident occurring in a match or any player, team official, match official or team participating in any match, irrespective of when such criticism or inappropriate comment is made.
- (b) where the facts of the alleged incident are not adequately or clearly covered by any of the above offences, conduct that either is contrary to the spirit of the game or brings the game into disrepute

Level 1 indicative penalties = suspended sentence for up to one year

Level 2 offences

1 Showing serious dissent at an umpires decision during a match

- (a) serious public criticism of, or inappropriate comment in relation to an incident occurring in a match or any player, team official, match official or team participating in any match, irrespective of when such criticism or inappropriate comment is made.
- (b) inappropriate and deliberate physical contact between players in the course of play during a match
- (c) charging or advancing towards, or challenging, the umpire in an aggressive manner when appealing during a match.
- (d) deliberate obstruction on the field of play
- (e) throwing a ball or any other item of cricket equipment at or near a player, team official, umpire, match referee or any other third person in an inappropriate and/or dangerous manner during a match.
- (f) using language or gesture/s that is seriously obscene, seriously offensive or of a seriously insulting nature to another player, team official, umpire, match referee or any other third person during a match.
- (g) changing the condition of the ball in breach of law 42.3 of the laws of cricket

To illustrate but not be confined to, the following examples apply:

- (i) deliberately throwing the ball into the ground for purposes of roughening it up
- (ii) applying any artificial or non-artificial substance for any purpose other than polishing the ball
- (iii) lifting or otherwise interfering with any of the seams of the ball
- (iv) scratching the surface of the ball with finger or thumb nails or any implement.
- (v) attempting to alter the shape of the ball.
- (h) any attempt to manipulate a match for inappropriate strategic, tactical or other reasons.

2 Failure by a fielding team to meet the minimum over rate requirements contained in HCA rules constitutes an offence under the code of conduct be the relevant team captain.

3 Failure by the team captain to ensure that his team is on time at commencement of any session and change of innings during a match.

Level 2 indicative penalties = 1 -3 week suspension

Level 3 offences

1 Intimidation of an umpire whether by language or conduct during a match.

(a) threat of assault on another player, team official, or any other person (including a spectator) during a match.

Level 3 indicative penalties = 3-6 week suspension

Level 4 offences

1 Threat of assault on an umpire or match referee during a match

2 Physical assault of another player, team official, umpire, match referee or any other person (including a spectator) during a match.

3 any act of violence on the field of play during a match

4 where the facts of the alleged incident are not adequately or clearly covered by any of the above offences, conduct that either is contrary to the spirit of the game or brings the game into disrepute.

Level 4 indicative penalties = 6 weeks to life ban.

7. Appeal:

There shall be no right of appeal.

8. Media:

Only the Executive Officer or an elected member of the judiciary is authorised to notify the media of a report or any determination of a hearing.