



ENGLAND AND WALES CRICKET BOARD
RECREATIONAL CONDUCT REGULATIONS

DEFINITIONS

In these Recreational Conduct Regulations (“**Regulations**”):

“**Club**” means a club which participates in a Relevant Cricket League.

“**Club Official**” means any official of a Club, as listed on their website or official Club documentation, acting in an official capacity at a match.

“**Cricket Discipline Panel**” means the panel of individuals responsible for adjudicating on regulatory cases on behalf of the ECB.

“**Cricket Regulator**” means the body responsible for investigating and prosecuting breaches of ECB Regulations.

“**Disciplinary Officer**” means an individual (who may be one of a group of individuals) appointed by a Relevant Cricket League to have responsibility for the disciplinary and/or appeal processes under these Regulations.

“**Disciplinary Procedure Regulations**” means the regulations governing the disciplinary procedure for regulatory cases brought before the Cricket Discipline Panel as in force and amended from time to time.

“**ECB**” means the England and Wales Cricket Board.

“**ECB’s Anti-Discrimination Regulations**” means the ECB’s anti-discrimination regulations as in force and amended from time to time, which can be found on the following ECB webpage, along with guidance on the ECB’s Anti-Discrimination Regulations:

<https://www.ecb.co.uk/about/policies/regulations/recreational-cricket>.

“**ECB GCR**” means the General Conduct Regulations which are applicable to ECB Competitions (as defined in the ECB GCR) as in force and amended from time to time.

“**ECB Regulations**” means the ECB’s rules, regulations, playing conditions and codes as published and in force (and as amended and supplemented) from time to time.

“**Effective Date**” means 1 April 2025.

“**GCR**” means the ECB’s General Conduct Regulations as in force and amended from time to time.

“**The Hundred**” means the ECB’s domestic cricket competition in a “100-ball” format.

“**Hundred Team**” means any of the teams playing in The Hundred from time to time.

“**Notice of Appeal**” means the document submitted to the Recreational Discipline Panel Secretary to commence an appeal pursuant to Regulation 44.

“**Off-Field Breach**” means an alleged breach of Regulations 8-9.

“**On-Field Breach**” means an alleged breach of Regulations 3-7.

“**Participant**” means (i) any individual who is under the jurisdiction of a Relevant Cricket League, including:

- (a) cricketers;

- (b) volunteers, officers, employees, contractors, and members of any Relevant Cricket League;
- (c) match officials;
- (d) coaches; and
- (e) any other person under the jurisdiction of any Relevant Cricket League, and

(ii) any Club, except where the surrounding context require “Participant” to be read as referring to an individual under part (i) of this definition only, or a Club under part (ii) of this definition only.

“Professional County Club” means any of the clubs and/or companies from time to time listed in Schedule A to the ECB’s articles of association and/or any county cricket club from time to time playing in the County Championship and/or the Tier 1 Competitions and/or the Tier 2 Competitions.

“Professional Cricket” means cricket activities which are carried out by: (i) the England Men’s or England Women’s teams; (ii) Professional County Clubs or (iii) any Hundred Team.

“Recreational Appeal Panel” means a panel of 3 people (unless otherwise agreed by the parties) appointed from the Recreational Discipline Panel Pool to deal with any appeal against a decision of a Recreational Discipline Panel.

“Recreational Appeal Panel Chair” means any person who has been appointed as a chair of a Recreational Appeal Panel.

“Recreational Cricket” means all cricket activities carried out under the jurisdiction of the ECB which are not Professional Cricket.

“Recreational Cricket Board” means a body designated as a Recreational Cricket Board by the ECB which is responsible for the organisation of recreational cricketing activity and the development of cricket generally within a county and such other areas (if any) as may be agreed by the ECB.

“Recreational Discipline Panel” means a panel of 3 people (unless otherwise agreed by the parties) appointed from the Recreational Discipline Panel Pool to deal with a disciplinary charge at a hearing occurring from a referral under Regulation 28.

“Recreational Discipline Panel Chair” means any person who has been appointed as a chair of a Recreational Discipline Panel.

“Recreational Discipline Panel Pool” means the group of individuals compiled for the purposes of hearing complex cases referred to the Cricket Regulator under Regulation 28 (including any subsequent appeals) and reviewing appeal decisions under Regulation 16.

“Recreational Discipline Panel Secretary” means any person appointed from time to time to provide administrative assistance to any Recreational Discipline Panel, Recreational Appeal Panel or Review Panel (including the chairs of those panels). The role of the Recreational Discipline Panel Secretary is purely administrative and has no decision-making powers on a referral of a complex case to the Cricket Regulator, appeal against a decision-maker(s) decision or review of a decision-maker(s) appeal decision.

“Relevant Cricket Leagues” means all leagues within Recreational Cricket (and within the jurisdiction of the ECB) which have not adopted the GCR.

“Relevant Criminal Offence” means any offence against a child, any sexual offence, any violent offence, any drug offence, any public order offence, any offence with an aggravated element, any offence of cruelty against animals and any offence relating to integrity.

“Reportable Criminal Offence” means any offence against a child, any sexual offence, any serious violent offence (ABH or above), any drug offence, any public order offence with an aggravated element, any offence involving harassment or stalking and any offence relating to integrity.

“Respondent” means a Participant that is the subject of a disciplinary charge.

“Review Panel” means a panel of 3 individuals (unless otherwise agreed between the parties) appointed from the Recreational Discipline Panel Pool for the purposes of reviewing an appeal decision in accordance with Regulation 16.

“Review Panel Chair” means any person appointed to chair a Review Panel.

“Tier 1 Competitions” means any women’s domestic cricket competitions designated by the ECB as being a “Tier 1” competition, which, as at the Effective Date, includes the T20 Blast Women’s Competition and the One Day Cup Women’s Competition.

“Tier 2 Competitions” means any women’s domestic cricket competitions designated by the ECB as being a “Tier 2” competition, which, as at the Effective Date, includes the T20 Blast Women’s League 2 and the One Day Cup Women’s League 2.

SCOPE AND APPLICATION

1. These Regulations come into full force and effect on the Effective Date.
2. From the Effective Date:
 - (a) all Relevant Cricket Leagues are bound by and must familiarise themselves with the requirements of these Regulations;
 - (b) all Participants must comply with the disciplinary process set out in these Regulations;
 - (c) all Relevant Cricket Leagues must adopt these Regulations and implement the requirements of these Regulations in respect of the disciplinary processes they carry out;
 - (d) all Relevant Cricket Leagues will appoint an individual or group of individuals to take responsibility for any disciplinary matters and appeals arising in relation to Participants; and
 - (e) all Relevant Cricket Leagues must provide the ECB with any details requested in relation to any disciplinary matters it has carried out in accordance with these Regulations.
3. Any disciplinary sanctions imposed under these Regulations will be separate to any sanctions imposed under a Participant’s employment contract or any action taken in accordance with a Club, Relevant Cricket League or Recreational Cricket Board’s terms of membership.

CONDUCT OBLIGATIONS

On and around the field of play

3. Any cricketer will be in breach of these Regulations, at the relevant level of offence detailed below, if they do not conduct themselves fairly and properly on and around the field of play and otherwise in accordance with the Laws of Cricket or the Spirit of Cricket. Such conduct which will result in a breach of these Regulations will include any misconduct of a cricketer on any match day as specified in Law 42 of the Laws of Cricket, namely:

Level 1

- a. wilfully mistreating any part of the cricket ground or any equipment or implements used in the match;
- b. showing dissent at an umpire's decision by word or action;
- c. using language that, in the circumstances, is obscene, offensive or insulting;
- d. making an obscene gesture;
- e. appealing excessively;
- f. advancing towards an umpire in an aggressive manner when appealing; and/or
- g. any other misconduct, the nature of which is, in the opinion of the umpires, equivalent to a Level 1 offence; or

Level 2

- h. showing serious dissent at an umpire's decision by word or action;
- i. making inappropriate and deliberate physical contact with another cricketer;
- j. throwing the ball at or near a cricketer, umpire or another person in an inappropriate and dangerous manner;
- k. using language or gesture to another cricketer, umpire, team official or spectator that, in the circumstances, is obscene or of a seriously insulting nature; and/or
- l. any other misconduct, the nature of which is, in the opinion of the umpires, equivalent to a Level 2 offence; or

Level 3

- m. intimidating an umpire by language or gesture; and/or
- n. threatening to assault a cricketer or any other person except an umpire; or

Level 4

- o. threatening to assault an umpire;
- p. making inappropriate and deliberate and/or dangerous physical contact with an umpire;
- q. physically assaulting a cricketer or any other person; and/or
- r. committing any other act of violence.

- 4. A cricketer will also be in breach of these Regulations on and around the field of play if they:
 - a. commit any breach of Law 41 of the Laws of Cricket (*Unfair Play*); or
 - b. act in a manner contrary to the ECB's Anti-Discrimination Regulations; or
 - c. conduct themselves in a manner or act in a manner which is improper, or which may be prejudicial to the interests of cricket, or which may bring the ECB, the game of cricket or any cricketer or group of cricketers into disrepute.

- 5. Any coach, match official or Club Official will be in breach of these Regulations if they fail to conduct themselves fairly and properly at any part of the cricket ground on any match day. Conduct which is not fair and proper and will therefore result in a breach of these Regulations will include, but not be limited to:
 - a. making inappropriate and deliberate and/or dangerous physical contact with, threatening to assault, physically assaulting or committing any act of violence towards any other Participant (including an umpire) or any member of the public;

- b. showing dissent at an umpire's decision by language or gesture, advancing towards an umpire in an aggressive manner when appealing or intimidating an umpire by language or gesture;
- c. using language that, in the circumstances, is obscene, offensive, insulting or seriously insulting;
- d. making an obscene or seriously insulting gesture;
- e. conducting themselves in a manner or acting in a manner which is improper, or which may be prejudicial to the interests of cricket, or which may bring the ECB, the game of cricket or any cricketer or group of cricketers into disrepute; and/or
- f. acting in a manner contrary to the ECB's Anti-Discrimination Regulations.

Captain/Team responsibility

- 6. If any cricketer commits two or more breaches of Regulation 3 or 4 (*Conduct obligations on and around the field of play*), which take place during or immediately before or after a match, when playing for the same Club in a season it will automatically be a separate offence of failing to ensure that the relevant cricketers have complied with their obligations for each of:
 - a. any person who captained the team in all of the relevant match(es); and
 - b. the Club the cricketer was playing for.
- 7. Clubs will also be held responsible for disorderly behaviour at any part of the cricket ground on any match day by their members and spectators, unless they can show that:
 - a. they took adequate steps to ensure that their members and spectators behaved in an orderly fashion; and/or
 - b. they did not or could not control entry to that part of the cricket ground by the relevant spectators and it would therefore not be fair for them to be held responsible.

Off-field conduct

- 8. A Participant will be in breach of these Regulations if they commit any misconduct as set out below which either relates to their participation in Recreational Cricket and/or is of a sufficiently serious nature to justify disciplinary action being taken in relation to their participation in Recreational Cricket:
 - a. making an abusive, obscene, offensive or otherwise insulting comment or gesture (in any form) in relation to any other Participant or any other person;
 - b. any act of violence towards another person;
 - c. engaging in behaviour that constitutes any form of abuse or harassment, whether physical, sexual, emotional, neglectful or bullying in nature;
 - d. any breach of the ECB's Anti-Discrimination Regulations;
 - e. making any adverse public statement or comment in any form and by any means about the performance and/or decision(s) of any match official(s);
 - f. failing to report to their Club, any Relevant Criminal Offence for which they have been subject to investigation and/or charged with;
 - g. conducting themselves in a manner, or doing or omitting to do anything which is or may be prejudicial to the interests of cricket, or which may bring or does bring the game of cricket or the ECB into disrepute;
 - h. engaging in any corrupt conduct in relation to cricket, in particular:
 - i. fixing the result, progress, conduct or any aspect of a match;
 - ii. ensuring the occurrence of a particular incident in a match;
 - iii. accepting a bribe to conduct the activities described in (i) or (ii) above; and/or

- iv. receiving a custodial sentence for any of the activities described in (i)-(iii); and/or
 - i. failing to comply with any decisions or sanctions validly imposed on them following due process as prescribed by these Regulations.
- 9. A Club will be in breach of these Regulations if, at any time:
 - a. it fails to take reasonable steps to ensure the good behaviour and conduct of their Participants for any breach of these Regulations;
 - b. it knowingly permits a cricketer, who is suspended as a result of a previous breach of these Regulations, to play in any match or competition;
 - c. any of its Participants commit any serious, collective or repeated breaches of these Regulations;
 - d. it commits any breach of its obligations under the ECB's Anti-Discrimination Regulations; and/or
 - e. it fails to comply with any decision(s) and/or sanction(s) validly imposed on it or on any person within the organisation, which has arisen following due process as prescribed by these Regulations.
- 10. Participants are considered responsible for any relevant posts on their social media accounts and may be in breach of Regulations 8-9 for posting, repeating, commenting or supporting posts or comments by others (e.g. 'retweeting' or 'liking') on social media that amount to a conduct breach under Regulations 8-9.

PROCESS

Reporting

- 11. Umpires will report any On-Field Breaches or Off-Field Breaches which occur on or around the field of play to the Relevant Cricket League, irrespective of any action the umpire may have taken on the field of play.
- 12. Other individuals can also report On-Field Breaches or Off-Field Breaches:
 - a. to the umpire, in which case the umpire will report it to the Relevant Cricket League;
 - b. to a captain or Club Official, if there is no umpire appointed to a particular match, who will report it to the Relevant Cricket League; or
 - c. to the Relevant Cricket League directly.
- 13. A Relevant Cricket League may become aware of, and may consider, a potential or alleged breach of these Regulations without an umpire or an independent individual having reported the matter to the Relevant Cricket League.

Investigation, Charge and Hearing

- 14. Relevant Cricket Leagues must ensure that any disciplinary processes conducted under these Regulations comply with the following requirements:
 - a. Relevant Cricket Leagues will appoint a Disciplinary Officer (or Disciplinary Officers) in respect of each case.
 - b. Subject to Regulation 28, the Disciplinary Officer will decide whether to charge the relevant Participant with a breach of these Regulations, having conducted any further investigation they consider necessary.

- c. If the Disciplinary Officer is aware that the potential breach relates to a cricketer who is registered with a Professional County Club or a Hundred Team, the Disciplinary Officer must inform the Cricket Regulator of the matter by email to Integrity@cricketregulator.co.uk and provide any further information in respect of the disciplinary process that is requested by the Cricket Regulator.
- d. The Respondent will be informed what breach they are being charged with and given the opportunity to respond to the charge.
- e. The Disciplinary Officer will appoint an individual (or group of individuals) to consider the charge (i) on the basis of the written evidence only or (ii) at a hearing. In either case, the following principles must be complied with:
 - i. The Respondent will be informed who will be making the decision and given the opportunity to object to their appointment on the basis of any conflict of interest.
 - ii. If the charge will be considered at a hearing, the Respondent will be given the opportunity to attend and make representations to the decision-maker(s).
 - iii. The decision-maker(s) may seek further information about the charge from the Respondent or the Disciplinary Officer (or any other third party they deem necessary, including the umpire or reporting party) before making a decision.
 - iv. In exceptional cases, the decision-maker(s) may suspend a Respondent from participating in cricket until the case has concluded. Before doing so, the decision-maker(s) will consider whether that is appropriate in the circumstances of the case (including the seriousness of the alleged breach and whether the Respondent is contesting the charge).
 - v. The decision-maker(s) will consider the charge and determine whether, on the balance of probabilities, there has been a breach of these Regulations. Any decision made by a group of individuals will be taken by majority vote.
 - vi. If the decision-maker(s) decide(s) that there has been a breach of these Regulations, the decision-maker(s) will impose a sanction in accordance with the sanction guidelines in Appendix 1.
 - vii. Unless otherwise stipulated in the decision, any ban which is imposed will apply to the Respondent's next match (or matches) following receipt of the decision, regardless of whether the match is in the same league that the disciplinary incident arose in.
 - viii. The decision, including any sanction, will be clearly communicated to the Respondent and the Respondent's Club in writing as soon as reasonably possible. Wherever possible, the decision should be communicated verbally at the end of the hearing.

Appeals

- 15. Any decision made by the decision-maker(s) under Regulation 14 may be appealed by the Respondent. Relevant Cricket Leagues must ensure that any appeal processes conducted under these Regulations comply with the following requirements:
 - a. Decisions may only be appealed on one of the following grounds:
 - i. the decision-maker(s) came to a decision to which no reasonable body could have come;
 - ii. there was a serious procedural irregularity, which includes the decision-maker(s) not following the principles set out in Regulation 14, in a way which

- significantly impacted the Respondent's rights and caused the decision to be unjust;
- iii. there is fresh evidence which could not be presented before the decision was made but is, or would have been, material to the decision; and/or
 - iv. the sanction imposed was manifestly excessive.
- b. The Disciplinary Officer will appoint an individual (or group of individuals) to consider the appeal (i) on the basis of the written evidence only or (ii) at a hearing. No individual who has previously been involved with the case will be appointed to consider the appeal.
 - c. The process for the appeal will comply with Regulation 14(e)(i)-(iv).
 - d. The decision-maker(s) will consider the appeal and determine whether, on the balance of probabilities, the appeal should be allowed (in whole or in part). A decision made by a group of individuals will be taken by majority vote.
 - e. If the appeal is allowed (in whole or in part), the decision-maker(s) may disapply the sanction previously imposed or issue a new sanction in accordance with the sanction guidelines in Appendix 1.
 - f. Unless otherwise stipulated in the decision, any ban which is imposed will apply to the Respondent's next match (or matches) following receipt of the decision, regardless of whether the match is in the same league that the disciplinary incident arose in.
 - g. The decision, including any sanction, will be clearly communicated to the Respondent and the Respondent's Club in writing as soon as reasonably possible. Wherever possible, the decision should be communicated verbally at the end of the hearing.

Review of Appeals

- 16. If an appeal is dismissed, the Respondent may make a request to the Cricket Regulator for a Review Panel to be appointed to review the decision of the decision-maker(s) on the appeal. The sole ground on which such a request can be made is that there was a serious procedural irregularity affecting the decision-maker(s)' decision on the appeal which significantly impacted the Respondent's rights and caused the decision-maker(s)' decision to be unjust (the "**Sole Ground of Review**").
- 17. Any request under Regulation 16 must be sent to the Recreational Discipline Panel Secretary by email to RecreationalDiscipline@cricketregulator.co.uk within 7 days of receipt by the Respondent of the decision-maker(s)' written decision on the appeal, and must include:
 - a. a copy of the decision being challenged;
 - b. written reasons explaining how the Sole Ground of Review is satisfied in relation to that decision; and
 - c. any other documents or evidence that was submitted to the decision-maker(s) in order for them to reach their decision on the appeal.
- 18. The Recreational Discipline Panel Secretary will appoint a Review Panel Chair who will confirm within 7 days whether the request under Regulation 16 will be accepted. The Review Panel Chair is under no obligation to accept the request, whether on the basis that the Sole Ground of Review is clearly not satisfied, the decision has not been made by decision-maker(s) on behalf of a Relevant Cricket League that falls under the jurisdiction of the ECB or otherwise. If the Review Panel Chair does not accept the request, the decision-maker(s)' decision will stand and there is no further right of review or appeal.

19. If the Review Panel Chair accepts the request, they will appoint a Review Panel to determine whether the Sole Ground of Review is made out. No individual who has previously been involved with the case will be appointed to the Review Panel, save that the Review Panel Chair that accepted the request may be a member of the Review Panel.
20. Unless otherwise ordered by the Review Panel Chair, any sanction upheld or otherwise imposed by the decision-maker(s) will not come into effect until the request has been determined.
21. The Review Panel Chair will set the Relevant Cricket League a reasonable timeframe in which to respond to the request in writing, if it so wishes, and set any other directions for the exchange of information and/or evidence that they consider appropriate. The Review Panel may adopt such procedure as it considers appropriate, which may include considering the matter on written evidence/submissions alone or hearing oral submissions from the parties (or their representatives).
22. The Review Panel will consider the matter (in private) and determine whether, on the balance of probabilities, the Sole Ground of Review is made out. Any decision of the Review Panel will be taken by majority vote, with the Review Panel Chair having a casting vote in the event of a tie.
23. If the Review Panel decides that the Sole Ground of Review has been made out, the Appeal Panel's decision will be set aside and either:
 - a. any sanction originally imposed on the Respondent will not apply and the case will be considered finally determined; or
 - b. in exceptional circumstances, the Review Panel will refer the case back to the Recreational Discipline Panel Secretary for a Recreational Discipline Panel Chair and Recreational Discipline Panel to be appointed in order for the case to be heard afresh in accordance with Regulations 32-43. Any decision of such a Recreational Discipline Panel will be final and binding and there will be no further right of appeal.
24. If the Review Panel decides that the Sole Ground of Review has not been made out, the decision of the decision-maker(s) will remain in place and any ban which was imposed or maintained will apply to the Respondent's next match (or matches) following receipt of the Review Panel's decision by the Respondent or Respondent's Club, whichever is sooner.
25. The Review Panel Chair will decide whether to make a costs order.
26. The Review Panel's decision will be delivered to the parties in writing (and, where relevant, may be shared with the Respondent's Club). Decisions of the Review Panel may also be provided to the Disciplinary Officer of the relevant Recreational Cricket Board to which the Relevant Cricket League is affiliated.
27. Any decision of the Review Panel is final and binding, and there is no further right of review or appeal.

REFERRAL OF SERIOUS/COMPLEX CASES

28. If the potential breach of these Regulations is of sufficient complexity, in accordance with Regulation 29 below, the Disciplinary Officer may request the Cricket Regulator to investigate and prosecute the case on behalf of the Relevant Cricket League. The Disciplinary Officer must provide details of the potential breach to the Cricket Regulator by email to

RecreationalDiscipline@cricketregulator.co.uk and the Cricket Regulator will confirm within 7 days whether it will accept the referral. The Cricket Regulator is under no obligation to accept the referral, whether on the basis that the referral does not meet the applicable threshold, has not been submitted by a Relevant Cricket League that falls under the jurisdiction of the ECB or otherwise. If the Cricket Regulator does not accept the referral, the Disciplinary Officer must adopt the process set out in these Regulations.

29. For the purposes of Regulation 28, the following cases will be considered to be of sufficient complexity for the Disciplinary Officer to refer potential breaches to the Cricket Regulator:
- a. allegations of breaches of the ECB's Anti-Discrimination Regulations which are complex and/or at the upper end of the scale of seriousness;
 - b. cases with police involvement and/or involving a Reportable Criminal Offence;
 - c. cases which require specialist expertise, such as legal or safeguarding expertise; or
 - d. cases which do not fall into categories a. to c. above but the Disciplinary Officer nevertheless considers to be of significant complexity to justify the Cricket Regulator investigating and prosecuting the case, in which case the Cricket Regulator will determine whether the case reasonably requires the involvement of the Cricket Regulator.

In determining whether to accept a referral under Regulation 28, the Cricket Regulator will consider whether it has jurisdiction to act in terms of whether the alleged misconduct took place on or around the field of play, or relates to a Participant's participation in Recreational Cricket or is of a sufficiently serious nature to justify disciplinary action being taken in relation to their participation in Recreational Cricket.

30. Following a referral under Regulation 28 being accepted by the Cricket Regulator, the Cricket Regulator will consider whether there is sufficient information and/or grounds to charge the relevant Participant with a breach of these Regulations. If further information is required, the Cricket Regulator will conduct (either internally or via a third party) any further investigation that is necessary.
31. If there is sufficient information and/or grounds, the Cricket Regulator will issue a charge letter to the Respondent or the Respondent's Club to share with the Respondent. If there is not, the Cricket Regulator will inform the individual who submitted the referral that no further action will be taken.

Hearing

32. The Cricket Regulator will instruct the Recreational Discipline Panel Secretary to appoint a Recreational Discipline Panel Chair, who in turn will appoint a Recreational Discipline Panel.
33. The Recreational Discipline Panel Secretary will arrange a hearing. The Recreational Discipline Panel Secretary will confirm to the Respondent (either in the charge letter or separately) the identity of the Recreational Discipline Panel members, where and when the hearing will take place and, if the hearing will take place virtually rather than in person, by what means. If the Respondent is unable to attend a hearing at that date or time, the Recreational Discipline Panel Secretary will attempt to reschedule the hearing.
34. If the Respondent objects to any member of the Recreational Discipline Panel on the basis of a conflict of interest, it will be resolved by the Recreational Discipline Panel Chair unless the potential conflict has been raised in respect of the Recreational Discipline Panel Chair in which

case the Recreational Discipline Panel Secretary will consider whether to appoint an alternative Recreational Discipline Panel Chair to consider the conflict of interest and/or be appointed to the Recreational Discipline Panel.

35. In appropriate circumstances, including if the Respondent is not contesting the charge or does not wish to attend a hearing, the Recreational Discipline Panel Chair may direct that the charge be considered by the Recreational Discipline Panel by way of written submissions only (i.e. without a hearing) provided that a hearing must be arranged if this is requested by the Respondent.
36. The Recreational Discipline Panel Chair will set the Respondent a reasonable timeframe to respond to the charge letter in writing and set any other directions for the exchange of information and/or evidence (which may include witness statements) that the Recreational Discipline Panel Chair considers appropriate.
37. In exceptional circumstances, the Recreational Discipline Panel Chair may suspend a Respondent from participating in cricket until the hearing has concluded. If so, the Recreational Discipline Panel Chair will give the Respondent the opportunity to give written submissions on why it would be inappropriate to suspend the Respondent and consider those submissions before making any decision. Any suspension which has been ordered by the Recreational Discipline Panel Chair (or otherwise issued) will be taken into account by the Recreational Discipline Panel when considering what sanctions to impose in accordance with Regulation 40.
38. At the outset of any hearing, the Recreational Discipline Panel Chair will confirm how the Recreational Discipline Panel would like the hearing to proceed, and in particular how the case should be presented (and by whom). The Respondent (or their representative) will be entitled to provide oral submissions at the hearing if they wish to do so.
39. At the end of any hearing, the Recreational Discipline Panel will consider the charge (in private) and determine whether, on the balance of probabilities, there has been a breach of these Regulations. Any decision of the Recreational Discipline Panel will be taken by majority vote, with the Recreational Discipline Panel Chair having a casting vote in the event of a tie.
40. If the Recreational Discipline Panel decides that there has been a breach of these Regulations, it will impose a sanction in accordance with the sanction guidelines in Appendix 1.
41. Unless otherwise stipulated in the Recreational Discipline Panel's decision, any ban which is imposed by it will apply to the Respondent's next match (or matches) following receipt of the decision by the Respondent or Respondent's Club, whichever is sooner.
42. Unless the Recreational Discipline Panel directs otherwise, the parties will bear their own costs of preparing for and attending a hearing.
43. Wherever possible, the Recreational Discipline Panel Chair will communicate the decision and any sanction to the parties verbally at the end of the hearing. The Recreational Discipline Panel's decision will also be confirmed to the parties (and, where applicable, the Respondent's Club) in writing following the hearing.

Appeals

44. Subject to Regulation 23(b), any decision made by a Recreational Discipline Panel may be appealed by the Respondent. In order to commence an appeal, the Respondent must submit:
 - a. a Notice of Appeal; and
 - b. a fee of £125 to cover the standard administrative costs of the Recreational Appeal Panel,to the Recreational Discipline Panel Secretary within 7 days of receipt of the decision in writing.
45. The Notice of Appeal must contain at least one of the following grounds of appeal:
 - a. the Recreational Discipline Panel came to a decision to which no reasonable body could have come;
 - b. there was a serious procedural irregularity, which includes the Recreational Discipline Panel not following the procedure set out in these Regulations, in a way which significantly impacted the Respondent's rights and caused the decision to be unjust;
 - c. there is fresh evidence (in which case the Notice of Appeal must state why the evidence could not be presented at the original hearing or before the original decision was made and is, or would have been, material to the decision); and/or
 - d. the sanction imposed was manifestly excessive.
46. The Recreational Discipline Panel Secretary will appoint a Recreational Appeal Panel Chair to determine whether the Notice of Appeal identifies sufficient grounds for an appeal. The Recreational Appeal Panel Chair will notify the Respondent (and, where applicable, the Respondent's Club) and the Cricket Regulator of their decision in writing.
47. Where the Recreational Appeal Panel Chair rejects the Notice of Appeal, the sanction imposed by the Recreational Discipline Panel will remain in place and there is no further right of review or appeal.
48. If the Recreational Appeal Panel Chair decides there are sufficient grounds for an appeal to proceed, the Recreational Appeal Panel Chair will appoint a Recreational Appeal Panel and notify the Recreational Discipline Panel Secretary, who will arrange an appeal hearing. No individual who was appointed as a member of the original Recreational Discipline Panel or who has otherwise been involved in the case will be appointed to the Recreational Appeal Panel, save that the Recreational Appeal Panel Chair who initially reviewed the Notice of Appeal may be a member of the Recreational Appeal Panel.
49. The Recreational Discipline Panel Secretary will confirm to the Respondent the identity of the Recreational Appeal Panel members, where and when the appeal hearing will take place and, if it will take place virtually rather than in person, by what means. If the Respondent is unable to attend the appeal hearing at that date or time, the Recreational Discipline Panel Secretary will attempt to reschedule the appeal hearing.
50. If the Respondent objects to any member of the Recreational Appeal Panel on the basis of a conflict of interest, it will be resolved by the Recreational Appeal Panel Chair unless the potential conflict has been raised in respect of the Recreational Appeal Panel Chair in which case the Recreational Discipline Panel Secretary will consider whether to appoint an alternative Recreational Appeal Panel Chair to consider the conflict of interest and/or be appointed to the Recreational Appeal Panel.

51. Unless otherwise determined by the Recreational Appeal Panel Chair (following consideration of any written submissions from the Respondent), any sanction imposed by a Recreational Discipline Panel will not come into effect until the appeal has been determined.
52. The Recreational Appeal Panel Chair will set the Cricket Regulator a reasonable timeframe in which to respond to the Notice of Appeal in writing, if it so wishes, and set any other directions for the exchange of information and/or evidence that they consider appropriate.
53. Unless the appeal is brought under Regulation 45(c), the Respondent has no right to a rehearing of the case and the Recreational Appeal Panel will consider whether the grounds of appeal have been made out. If an appeal is brought under Regulation 45(c), if the Recreational Appeal Panel determines that the fresh evidence is admissible the Recreational Appeal Panel will consider whether to re-hear the case in full.
54. At the outset of the appeal hearing, the Recreational Appeal Panel Chair will confirm how the Recreational Appeal Panel would like the hearing to proceed, and in particular how the case should be presented (and by whom). The parties (or their representatives) will be entitled to provide oral submissions at the hearing if they wish to do so.
55. The Recreational Appeal Panel will consider the appeal (in private) at the end of the hearing and determine whether, on the balance of probabilities, the appeal should be allowed (in whole or in part). Any decision of the Recreational Appeal Panel will be taken by majority vote, with the Recreational Appeal Panel Chair having a casting vote in the event of a tie.
56. If the appeal is allowed (in whole or in part), the Recreational Appeal Panel may disapply the sanction imposed by the Recreational Discipline Panel or issue a new sanction in accordance with the sanction guidelines in Appendix 1. If the appeal is dismissed, the sanction imposed by the Recreational Discipline Panel will remain in place.
57. Unless otherwise stipulated in the Recreational Appeal Panel's decision, any ban which is imposed or maintained by them will apply to the Respondent's next match (or matches) following receipt of the decision by the Respondent or Respondent's Club, whichever is sooner.
58. The Recreational Appeal Panel Chair will decide whether to make a costs order and whether the appeal fee will be refunded to the Respondent in the event of a successful appeal. Any costs ordered by the Recreational Appeal Panel will be limited to £1,000 (which will be paid on top of the appeal fee referred to in Regulation 44).
59. Wherever possible, the Recreational Appeal Panel Chair will communicate the decision and any sanction to the parties verbally at the end of the hearing. Their decision will also be confirmed to the parties (and, where applicable, the Respondent's Club) in writing following the hearing. Decisions of the Recreational Appeal Panel may also be provided to the Disciplinary Officer of the relevant Recreational Cricket Board to which the Relevant Cricket League is affiliated.
60. Any decision of a Recreational Appeal Panel is final and binding and there is no further right of appeal or review.

MISCELLANEOUS

61. If the Relevant Cricket League or Recreational Discipline Panel Secretary (as applicable) is aware that a Respondent participates in multiple leagues or competitions, the Disciplinary Officer or Recreational Discipline Panel Secretary (as applicable) will communicate any sanction imposed under these Regulations to the relevant competition organiser(s).
62. Any ban which is imposed under these Regulations will be applicable to all cricket, which may require it to be served in a match (or matches) which are not in the same league that the disciplinary incident arose in (including in Professional Cricket).
63. Relevant Cricket Leagues and all Participants (subject to the specific provisions in the Disciplinary Procedure Regulations) must immediately recognise, give effect to and fully enforce any sanctions which have been imposed under these Regulations, the GCR, the ECB GCR or the Disciplinary Procedure Regulations and which they have been notified about.
64. Relevant Cricket Leagues must maintain a record of all disciplinary decisions and, where applicable, sanctions imposed.

Appendix 1

Sanction Guidelines

1. **The table below sets out recommended sanctions to be applied on Respondents in respect of On-Field Breaches. However, the decision-maker(s) will not be limited to imposing the recommended sanctions and can impose greater or lesser sanctions as appropriate in the circumstances of the particular case.**
2. Unless the decision-maker(s) stipulate otherwise, bans will apply to all cricket, be effective immediately and, for the purpose of totting up the number of breaches within a specified period, will remain on the Respondent's record for 24 calendar months from the date of the breach.

Level of On-field breach	First On-Field breach	Second On-Field Breach (within 24 months)	Third On-Field Breach (within 24 months)
Level 1	1 match ban	2 match ban	3 match ban
Level 2	2 match ban	4 match ban	12 match ban
Level 3	6 match ban	12 match ban	24 match ban
Level 4	10 match ban	20 match ban	40 match ban

3. If decision-maker(s) prefer, they can stipulate that bans cover:
 - a. a specific time period, e.g. one week; and/or
 - b. a specific number of days of cricket.

However, it is important for decisions to be clear about the scope of any ban, including when a specific time period starts and ends.

4. The decision-maker(s) will take into account all aggravating and mitigating factors when determining the appropriate sanction. The decision-maker(s) will determine whether, and to what extent, to depart from the standard sanctions and/or to impose additional or lesser penalties as they deem fit, including (but not limited to) the following, which may be suspended (in full or in part):
 - a. Caution or reprimand
 - b. Letter of apology
 - c. Fine of no more than £500
 - d. Ban of a period of matches or weeks
 - e. Expulsion of the cricketer from a Relevant Cricket League or competition
 - f. Expulsion of a Club from the relevant competition
5. The decision-maker(s) will give consideration to the following aggravating and mitigating factors, as appropriate, to include but not limited to:

Aggravating factors

- a. The ages of the Respondent and any victim at the time of the offence, particularly where the victim was a minor and the Respondent was not.
- b. The profile of the Respondent, including whether they hold a position of responsibility within their Club (e.g. Club captain, Chair or member of senior management).
- c. Poor previous disciplinary record.
- d. Failure to cooperate with the Disciplinary Officer and/or Relevant Disciplinary Body.
- e. Any attempt to conceal the breach.

- f. The extent of any premeditation or planning.
- g. The level of harm and/or distress incurred.
- h. The public nature of the offence (such as commission of the offence in a public place, via broadcast media or a social media platform).
- i. Use of discriminatory language or conduct, or any other behaviour that breaches the ECB's Anti-Discrimination Regulations, whilst also carrying out a separate offence under the RCR.

Mitigating factors

- a. Good previous disciplinary record.
- b. The age of the Respondent at the time of the offence.
- c. Admission at the earliest opportunity, where the factual conduct forming the basis of the charge would be capable of being disputed.
- d. Demonstration of genuine remorse.
- e. Co-operation with the Disciplinary Officer and/or Relevant Cricket League.
- f. Inexperience of the Respondent by reference to their age or background at the time of the offence.
- g. In respect of social media posts, the age of the post and the Respondent's age at the time of the post.