

## **SUMMARY OF CHANGES TO THE ECB'S GENERAL CONDUCT REGULATIONS AND RECREATIONAL CONDUCT REGULATIONS**

The ECB has made a number of changes to the General Conduct Regulations (**GCR**) and Recreational Conduct Regulations (**RCR**) for the 2025 season which are summarised below. Capitalised terms used in this document have the same meaning as is given to them in the GCR or RCR (as applicable).

### Effective Date

- The new versions of the GCR and RCR apply from 1 April 2025.

### Level 2 On-Field Offences

- The Level 2 offence of throwing the ball at a cricketer, umpire or another person in an inappropriate and dangerous manner has been extended to cover scenarios where the ball is thrown at *or near* such persons.

### Captain's Responsibility for Breaches

- The automatic offence committed by captains when any of their cricketers commit two or more breaches of the on-field conduct obligations in a season has been aligned in the GCR and RCR: a captain will only be responsible where they captained the relevant cricketers in breach in *all* the matches where those breaches occurred.

### Professional Cricketers Suspected of Breaching the GCR/RCR

- Where a reported breach of the GCR/RCR involves a professional cricketer (i.e. a player who is registered with a Professional County Club or Hundred Team), the relevant Disciplinary Officer must notify the Cricket Regulator by email to [Integrity@cricketregulator.co.uk](mailto:Integrity@cricketregulator.co.uk).

### Appointment of Disciplinary Panels

- Under the GCRs, the Disciplinary Officer's role in appointing a Disciplinary Panel has been modified such that they will now only be responsible for appointing a Disciplinary Panel Chair. The Disciplinary Panel Chair will then appoint the other members of the Disciplinary Panel.
- This separation of appointing functions is designed to ensure a further level of independence in relation to the disciplinary process.

### Ability for Serious/Complex Cases to be Referred to the Cricket Regulator

- There is now an ability for Disciplinary Officers of Recreational Cricket Boards and Leagues that have adopted the GCR and RCR to refer complex or serious cases to the Cricket Regulator.
- The thresholds for assessing whether a case is suitable to be referred are set out in the GCR and RCR, and include complex/serious breaches of the ECB's Anti-Discrimination Regulations.
- If the Cricket Regulator accepts the referral, it will take on responsibility for investigating the alleged misconduct and will decide whether to issue charges. If a Participant is charged, the case will be decided by an independent disciplinary panel organised by the

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Cricket Regulator. There will be a right of appeal against any such decision to an independent appeal panel.

- If the Cricket Regulator does not accept the referral, the Disciplinary Officer will deal with the matter in accordance with the normal process under the GCR/RCR (i.e. investigating the alleged misconduct themselves and deciding whether to issue charges).

#### Review of Notices of Appeal – GCR only

- Under the GCR, the Disciplinary Officer of an Appeal Body is no longer responsible for carrying out an initial review of Notices of Appeal to check that they identify sufficient grounds for an appeal. Instead, when a Notice of Appeal is received the Disciplinary Officer should appoint an Appeal Panel Chair to conduct this review instead. This change is designed to provide greater independence to the appeal process.
- Where an Appeal Panel Chair rejects a Notice of Appeal such that the appeal cannot proceed to be heard, a Participant may apply to the Cricket Regulator for this decision to be reviewed by a chair of the independent panel organised by the Cricket Regulator.

#### Ability for Appeals to be Reviewed by an Independent Panel

- There is now an ability for Participants who have unsuccessfully appealed against sanctions imposed by a first instance decision-maker under the GCR or RCR to apply to the Cricket Regulator for an independent panel to be organised to review the rejected appeal.
- The sole ground on which such a request can be made is that there was a serious procedural irregularity affecting the appeal decision-maker's decision which significantly impacted the Participant's rights and caused the appeal decision to be unjust.
- This is intended to ensure that Participants who consider that their appeals have been improperly dismissed have the ability to appeal to an independent panel.

#### Match Bans & Recognition of Sanctions

- It has been clarified that any ban imposed will apply to an individual's next match (or matches), regardless of which competition the breach occurred in.
- The applicability of sanctions provision has been broadened to make clear that sanctions imposed under any of the GCR, RCR, ECB GCR or the ECB's Disciplinary Procedure Regulations must be recognised and enforced by all Participants and cricket organisations that are notified of such sanctions.

#### Terminology Updates

- Various terminology has been amended in the GCR and RCR to reflect updates across all ECB Regulations. For example, County Cricket Boards are now referred to as Recreational Cricket Boards, First-Class Counties are now Professional County Clubs and the Anti-Discrimination Code has become the Anti-Discrimination Regulations.
- Relevant terminology to reflect the new women's domestic structure (Tiers 1 – 3) has also been included.

#### **Queries**

If you have any questions about these changes, please speak to your usual ECB contact who will be able to direct your query to the most appropriate person. Thank you for your continuing support to create a strong, vibrant and inclusive game.