

## Players, Team Officials and Umpires Code of Conduct Offences and Penalties Guidelines

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### Introduction

1. The following is provided as a guideline for use by the Disciplinary Committee (DC) during all Finnish Cricket Association (FCA) tournaments or International Tournaments.

### **Level 1 Offences**

The offences set out at 1.1 to 1.5 below are Level 1 offences. The maximum penalty to be imposed by the DC for a Level 1 Offence shall be to issue **a reprimand and an official warning**:

- 1.1 Abuse of cricket equipment or clothing, ground equipment or fixtures and fittings.
- 1.2 Showing dissent at an umpire's decision by action or verbal abuse.
- 1.3 Using language that is obscene, offensive or insulting and/or the making of an obscene gesture.
- 1.4 Excessive appealing.
- 1.5 Pointing or gesturing towards the pavilion in an aggressive manner by a bowler or other member of the fielding side upon the dismissal of a batsman.

### **Level 2 Offences**

The Offences set out 2.1 to 2.9 below are Level 2 Offences. The maximum penalty to be imposed by the DC for a Level 2 Offence shall be to issue **a severe reprimand, an official warning and an automatic (immediate) single FCA Championship match ban**, which shall be carried forward to any subsequent FCA Championship at which the player is registered:

- 2.1 Repeat of any Level 1 Offence within 12 months of such offence.
- 2.2 Showing serious dissent at an umpire's decision by action or verbal abuse.
- 2.3 Public criticism of, or inappropriate comment on a match related incident or match official.
- 2.4 Inappropriate and deliberate physical contact between players in the course of play.
- 2.5 Charging or advancing towards the umpire in an aggressive manner when appealing.
- 2.6 Deliberate and malicious distraction or obstruction on the field of play.
- 2.7 Throwing the ball at or near a player, umpire or official in an inappropriate and dangerous manner.
- 2.8 Using language that is obscene, offensive or of a seriously insulting nature to another player, umpire, referee, Team Official or spectator. (It is acknowledged that there will be verbal exchanges between players in the course of play. Rather than seeking to eliminate these exchanges entirely, umpires will look to lay charges when this falls below an acceptance standard. In this instance, language will be interpreted to include gestures.)
- 2.9 Changing the condition of the ball in breach of Law 42.3 (this supplements and does not replace the provisions of Law 42.3).

### **Level 3 Offences**

The Offences set out at 3.1 to 3.4 below are Level 3 Offences. The maximum penalty to be imposed by the DC for a Level 3 Offence shall be a ban for the player or match official concerned **from between 4 and 8 FCA Championship Matches**:

- 3.1 Repeat of any Level 2 Offence within 12 months of such offence.
- 3.2 Intimidation of an umpire or referee whether by language or conduct.
- 3.3 Threat of assault on another player, Team Official or spectator.
- 3.4 Using language or gestures that offends, insults, humiliates, intimidates, threatens, disparages or vilifies another person on the basis of that person's race, religion, colour, descent or national or ethnic origin.

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### Level 4 Offences

The Offences set out at 4.1 to 4.5 below are Level 4 Offences. The penalty for a Level 4 Offence shall require the matter to be referred to the FCA for guidance. Having considered the offence, the FCA is permitted to impose **a minimum ban of 10 FCA Championship Matches or to ban – for life – the player or official concerned:**

- 4.1 Repeat for any Level 3 Offence within 12 months of such offence.
- 4.2 Threat of assault on an umpire or referee.
- 4.3 Physical assault of another player, umpire, referee, official or spectator.
- 4.4 Any act of violence on the field of play.
- 4.5 Using language or gestures that seriously offends, insults, humiliates, intimidates, threatens, disparages or vilifies another person on the basis of that person's race, religion, colour, descent or national or ethnic origin

### Notes

1. Where the facts of or the gravity or seriousness of the alleged incident are not adequately or clearly covered by any of the above offences, the person laying the charge may allege one of the following offences:

- (a) breach of Rule C1 - unfair play; or
- (b) breach of Rule C2 - conduct that brings the game into disrepute

The person laying such a charge must specify the level of breach to accompany the charge: for example, "unfair play - Level 2" or "conduct that brings the game into disrepute - Level 1".

2. In deciding penalty, a DC shall take into account the prior record of the person charged
3. If damage has been caused to any property, the DC may order compensation to the aggrieved party as part of the penalty.
4. Where there are separate incidents in the course of the match, the umpire should lay separate charges. If the DC finds the person charged to be guilty of more than one offence, they should impose separate penalties in respect of each offence. Penalties in such cases are cumulative and not concurrent.
5. Plea bargaining is not permitted. It is open to the DC to find a player guilty of an offence in a level lower than that in which he is charged where the constituent elements of the lesser offence are the same. (Example: If a player is charged with serious dissent under Clause 2.2, it is open to the DC to find the player guilty under Clause 1.3 of dissent rather than serious dissent).
7. Nothing in this Code of Conduct alters the onus on the captain to ensure that the spirit of fair play rests with the captain as stated in the preamble to the Laws of Cricket.
8. A player or official shall be entitled to appeal against a finding of guilt and/or a penalty imposed in respect of Level 3 or Level 4 offences. Similarly, (save where he has laid the charge) the FCA Chairman shall be entitled to appeal against a penalty imposed in respect of Level 3 or Level 4 offences. In determining the appropriate penalty on an appeal, it is open to the person hearing the appeal to increase the penalty.