

1 FCA Code of Conduct and Spirit of Cricket

1.1 Code of Conduct

1.1.1 The Finnish Cricket Association (FCA) is committed to maintaining the highest standards of behaviour and conduct. This Code of Conduct incorporates the Spirit of Cricket, as set out below. It applies to all matches played under the auspices of the FCA and is to be applied to cricket played in Finland in general.

1.1.2 The captains are responsible at all times for ensuring that play is conducted within the Spirit of Cricket as well as within the Laws.

1.1.3 Players and team officials must at all times accept the umpire's decision. Players must not show dissent at the umpire's decision or react in a provocative or disapproving manner towards another player or a spectator.

1.1.4 Players and team officials shall not intimidate, assault or attempt to intimidate or assault an umpire, another player or a spectator.

1.1.5 Players and team officials shall not use crude and/or abusive language (known as "sledging") nor make offensive gestures or hand signals nor deliberately distract an opponent.

1.1.6 Players and team officials shall not make racially abusive comments nor indulge in racially abusive actions against fellow players, officials, members and supporters. Clubs must operate an active open door membership policy whilst respecting player qualification regulations and welcome players /members irrespective of ethnic origin.

1.1.7 Players and team officials shall not use or in any way be concerned in the use or distribution of illegal drugs (also including but not limited to all drugs outlined in the relevant WADA and ICC anti-doping codes).

1.1.8 Clubs must take adequate steps to ensure the good behaviour of their members and supporters towards players and umpires, both on and off the field of play.

1.2 Spirit of Cricket

Cricket is a game that owes much of its unique appeal to the fact that it should be played not only within its Laws, but also within the Spirit of the Game. Any action which is seen to abuse this spirit causes injury to the game itself. The major responsibility for ensuring the spirit of fair play rests with the captains.

1.2.1 There are two Laws which place the responsibility for the team's conduct firmly on the captain.

Responsibility of Captains

The captains are responsible at all times for ensuring that play is conducted within the Spirit of the Game as well as within the Laws.

Player's Conduct

In the event of any player failing to comply with the instructions of an umpire, criticising his decision by word or action, showing dissent, or generally behaving in a manner which might bring the game into disrepute, the umpire concerned shall in the first place report the matter to the other umpire and to the player's captain, requesting the latter to take action.

1.2.2 Fair and Unfair Play

According to the Laws the umpires are the sole judges of fair and unfair play. The umpires may intervene at any time, and it is the responsibility of the captain to take action where required

1.2.3 The umpires are authorised to intervene in cases of:

- Time wasting
- Damaging the pitch
- Dangerous or unfair bowling
- Tampering with the ball
- Any other action that they consider to be unfair.

1.2.4 The Spirit of the Game involves **RESPECT** for:

- Your opponents
- Your own captain and team
- The role of the umpires
- The game's traditional values

1.2.5 It is against the Spirit of the Game:

- To dispute an umpire's decision by word, action or gesture
- To direct abusive language towards an opponent or umpire
- To indulge in cheating or any sharp practice, for instance:

a) Appeal knowing the batsman is not out

b) Advance towards an umpire in an aggressive manner when appealing

c) Seek to distract an opponent either verbally or by harassment with persistent clapping or unnecessary noise under the guise of enthusiasm and motivation of one's own side.

1.2.6 Violence

There is no place for any act of violence on the field of play.

1.2.7 Players

Captains and umpires together set the tone for the conduct of a cricket match. Every player is expected to make an important contribution to this.

1.3 Discipline Regulations and Guidelines

Failure to comply with the provisions of Paragraph 1 may lead to disciplinary action, irrespective of an alleged breach being related to a match not under the jurisdiction of the League.

2 Code of Conduct for Players - Offences

2.1 Level 1 Offences

2.1.1 Abuse of equipment, clothing, or any part of the ground.

2.1.2 Showing dissent at an umpire's decision by word or by action.

2.1.3 Using language or a gesture that is obscene, offensive or insulting.

2.1.4 Excessive appealing.

2.1.5 Aggressive pointing towards the pavilion by a member of the fielding side upon the dismissal of a batsman.

2.1.6 Where the facts of the alleged incident are not adequately or clearly covered by any of the above offences, conduct that either: (a) is contrary to the spirit of the game; or (b) brings the game into disrepute.

2.2 Level 2 Offences

2.2.1 Repeat of any Level 1 Offence within 12 months.

2.2.2 Showing serious dissent at an umpire's decision by word or action.

2.2.3 Public criticism of a match related incident or match official.

2.2.4 Inappropriate and deliberate physical contact between players during play.

2.2.5 Aggressively charging towards an umpire while appealing.

2.2.6 Deliberate distraction or obstruction on the field.

2.2.7 Throwing the cricket ball or any other piece of equipment (including, for example, a water bottle) at or towards a player, umpire or official in an inappropriate and/or dangerous manner.

2.2.8 Using language or a gesture that is obscene, offensive or of a seriously insulting nature to another player, umpire, referee, team official or spectator.

2.2.9 Changing the condition of the ball in breach of Law 42.3.

2.2.10 Any attempt to manipulate a match in regard to the result (In a negative way), net run rate, bonus points or otherwise. (Example: Intentionally losing so that a team will face a weaker opponent in the Finals.)

2.2.11 Where the facts of the alleged incident are not adequately or clearly covered by any of the above offences, conduct that either: (a) is contrary to the spirit of the game; or (b) brings the game into disrepute.

2.3 Level 3 Offences

2.3.1 Repeat of any Level 2 Offence within 12 months.

2.3.2 Intimidation of an umpire or referee.

2.3.3 Threat of assault on a player, team official, or spectator.

2.3.4 Using language or gestures that offends race, religion, colour, descent or national or ethnic origin.

2.3.5 Where the facts of the alleged incident are not adequately or clearly covered by any of the above offences, conduct that either: (a) is contrary to the spirit of the game; or (b) brings the game into disrepute.

2.4 Level 4 Offences

2.4.1 Repeat for any Level 3 Offence within 12 months.

2.4.2 Threat of assault on an umpire or referee.

2.4.3 Physical assault of another player, umpire, referee, official or spectator.

2.4.4 Any act of violence during play.

2.4.5 Using language or gestures that seriously offends race, religion, colour, descent or national or ethnic origin.

2.4.6 Where the facts of the alleged incident are not adequately or clearly covered by any of the above offences, conduct that either: (a) is contrary to the spirit of the game; or (b) brings the game into disrepute.

3 Code of Conduct for Players - Penalties

3.1 If, after a report by match umpires, any player – or non-playing member of a club under the jurisdiction of the FCA – is found guilty after the proper procedures have been concluded, of any of the offences outlined above, that person shall be liable to the following sanction by the FCA Disciplinary Panel:

3.2 Penalties

3.2.1 The penalties available for each offence

3.2.2 Level 1 Offences: Warning of future conduct

3.2.3 Level 2 Offences: Severe reprimand and Ban for 1–2 SM40 matches, 1–2 T20s/X-League or 2–3 Indoor matches

3.2.4 Level 3 Offences: Ban for 2–5 SM40 matches, 2–5 T20s/X-League or 4–9 Indoor matches

3.2.5 Level 4 Offences: Ban for 5 SM40s to life, 5 T20s/X-League to life, or 10 Indoor matches to life

4 Disciplinary Procedures

4.1 The procedures to be followed in respect of any breaches of the Offences contained in paragraph 2 are detailed in the FCA “Disciplinary Guidelines” document.

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