



**SOUTHERN CRICKET  
ASSOCIATION**

# CODE OF BEHAVIOUR

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## **PART 7 – SOUTHERN CRICKET ASSOCIATION TRIBUNAL**

### **41.0 Tribunal**

- (1) There shall be a tribunal for dealing with reports against players, officials or clubs.
- (2) The SCA Committee shall appoint a tribunal panel consisting of a chair, a deputy chair, and five other panel members, of whom any three shall constitute the tribunal for the purpose of a hearing.
- (3) The chair shall organise the business of the tribunal and shall nominate the members who shall constitute the tribunal for each hearing or each session of hearings, ensuring, as far as practicable, that at least the chair or deputy chair is a member at every hearing.
- (4) Where neither the chair nor the deputy chairman is included in a particular three-member tribunal, the members constituting the tribunal on that occasion shall appoint a chair from among themselves.
- (5) A chair has a deliberate vote only.

### **42.0 Powers and Functions**

- (1) The Tribunal has jurisdiction to deal with all reports brought under the Laws of Cricket or these Rules and By-Laws and such other matters as the SCA Committee may from time to time refer to the Tribunal.

- (2) Reports may be brought by
  - (a) an umpire or umpires;
  - (b) an SCA COM member; or
  - (c) any other person authorised in writing by the SCA COM.
- (3) Where a person or a body pleads guilty to, or is found guilty of an offence, the tribunal may impose a penalty of suspension, disqualification, or any other penalty, which is authorised by these Rules and By-Laws.
- (4) The tribunal may of its own motion charge a witness (whether the witness is a party to the proceedings or not) with giving unsatisfactory evidence and, after giving the person so charged an opportunity to be heard, proceed to a finding of guilty or not guilty and impose a penalty, if it thinks fit, in the same manner as with other reports.

#### **43.0 Appeals Against Tribunal Decisions**

A person aggrieved by the process that the SCA tribunal conducted may lodge a request for Cricket Tasmania to review the process of how the decision was made, with the decision of which shall be final and binding.

Any such appeal shall be in writing and shall be lodged with the SCA Secretary (or another SCA COM member) within 48 hours of the original decision being made.

A monetary fee of \$250.00 will apply which will be refundable if found in the appellants' favour.

#### **44.0 Procedure**

- (1) On hearing a report, the tribunal –
  - (a) Shall make a full and thorough investigation without regard to legal forms and solemnities;
  - (b) May admit evidence, including video evidence, that is considered relevant notwithstanding that such evidence might not be admissible in a court of law; and
  - (c) Shall observe the principles of natural justice.
- (2) It is the intention of this By-Law that, as far as practicable, proceedings should not be aborted because of technicalities. Accordingly, the failure of an umpire, the SCA COM, or other person presenting a report to comply with a condition or procedure in the Laws of Cricket or in these Rules and By-Laws shall not prevent the hearing and disposal of the report if the chair of the tribunal rules, in his or her opinion, no substantial miscarriage of justice will occur as a result of that failure.
- (3) A party to proceedings, whether it is the person making the report or the person reported, is entitled to present his or her own case including calling and examining witnesses and summing up. Parties may have an advocate present who may assist them but can't be involved directly with the case, however, they can make a submission to the tribunal on their behalf before the tribunal considers its penalty.

- (4) Subject to these provisions, the tribunal may regulate its own procedure.
- (5) Where a player is reported, his or her captain, or the captain's nominated deputy, shall also attend the hearing as a consequence of the Laws of Cricket 1.4 and 41.1.

#### **45.0 Attendance at Hearings**

- (1) Hearings will be conducted at a place, time and day advised by the SCA Secretary (or another COM member) as soon as possible following the match from which the report arises.
- (2) The SCA Secretary (or another COM member) may notify such people as they think appropriate, either orally or in writing that they are required to attend as witnesses.
- (3) Attendance by author/s of the report, players reported, and witnesses is compulsory and any such person who is not present at the specified time may be reported by the tribunal for failing to attend a hearing, and may be dealt with accordingly.
- (4) A penalty for non-attendance is in addition to any other penalty arising from a hearing.

#### **46.0 Public Comment**

- (1) It is an offence for an umpire, a player, a SCA COM member or a club official, including on social media;
  - (a) To comment publicly on a report prior to its determination by the tribunal; or
  - (b) To criticise publicly a decision of the tribunal.

### **PART 8 – CODE OF BEHAVIOUR**

#### **Preamble**

Cricket is a game that owes much of its unique appeal to the fact that it is to be played not only within its Laws, but also within the spirit of the game. Any action seen to be abusing this spirit causes injury to the game itself.

Embracing the spirit of the game means participating, either as a player or as an official, fairly and exhibiting respect for other players and officials and the game's traditional values such as graciousness in defeat and humility in victory.

Cricket has a distinct place in Australian society and history. As an element in Australia's national identity, cricket plays a significant role. This status brings with it responsibilities for players and officials to conform to high standards of fair play and personal behaviour on and off the field.

This Code of Behaviour replaces Laws of Cricket Law 42 and is intended to protect and enshrine such important qualities and standards so that all may continue to enjoy the game of cricket now and in the future.

This Code applies to conduct on the field of play (in respect of any match) and off the field of play.

The SCA COM may cause an investigation to be conducted into matters reported to it regarding alleged breaches of the spirit of cricket. Such investigations are to occur as soon as practicable after the alleged breach is brought to the attention of the SCA COM. Penalties for breaching the Spirit of Cricket are at the discretion of the SCA COM but should be considered in the same general provision of penalties awarded by a tribunal for matters reported by umpires.

After each match in all grades, the umpire(s) award points reflecting each team's performance against a pre-determined set of criteria that look to reward positive behaviour in accordance with the Spirit of Cricket. Points will be deducted to clubs for any warnings/yellow cards while any reports/suspensions will incur in clubs being ineligible to receive the Spirit of Cricket Award.

At the end of the season, the club with the highest average receives the Spirit of Cricket Award.

#### **47.0 Standard of Conduct**

- (1) The SCA expects from players and officials the highest standard of conduct, consistent with the Laws, the traditions, and the spirit of the game of cricket.
- (2) Accordingly, it is not a defence to a report, nor may it be offered in mitigation, that;
  - (a) Crude or offensive language used is considered acceptable at some levels of society; or
  - (b) A form of on-field behaviour is considered acceptable in other places where cricket is played.
- (3) Laws 1.4 states that the captains are responsible for ensuring that play is conducted within the spirit of the game as well as within the Laws.
- (4) Players or clubs who are found by the SCA COM to have acted contrary to the Spirit of Cricket will be subject to such sanctions as the SCA COM deems appropriate, including loss of match points, suspension of involved players and/or officials, or fines.
- (5) Umpire(s) and captain(s) have the power to report incidents which may arise within 24 hours of the completion of any authorised SCA match. The SCA COM is required to commence enquiries into alleged breaches of the Spirit of Cricket within 24 hours of formal notification of the issue.
- (6) All members must abide by the SCA Social Media Policy (Appendix 'D'). This policy will be posted on the SCA website, and may be changed at any point in time by the COM. Any such changes will be notified to all clubs and published as a news item on the SCA website. Breaches of the SCA Media Policy will be dealt with by the COM as the COM sees fit, and may include penalties being

imposed upon the member and/or their club which may include fines and/or suspension and/or de-registration.

## 48.0 Offences & Penalties

### Section 1: Rules and Behaviours - Offences

Each of the rules for behaviour has a guideline. The guidelines are intended as an illustrative guide only and in the case of any doubt as to the interpretation of the Rule, the provisions of the Rule itself shall take precedence over the provisions of the guidelines. The guidelines should not be read as an exhaustive list of offences or prohibited conduct, and may be extended to cover any event that brings the game into disrepute. In such cases, the level of the offence shall be determined by the report writer, notwithstanding Section 2 Point 1.

### 48.1 Level 1 Offences

The Offences set out at 1.1 to 1.6 below are Level 1 Offences. Guidelines for penalties imposed by the Tribunal are set out in Section 2 of this Code. Players, and where applicable, officials must not:

No.	Rule	Guidelines
1.1	Abuse cricket equipment or clothing, ground equipment or fixtures and fittings during a match	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Includes actions outside the course of normal cricket actions such as hitting or kicking the wickets and actions which intentionally or negligently result in damage to the advertising boards, boundary fences, dressing room doors, mirrors, windows and other fixtures and fittings.</li> </ul>
1.2	Show dissent at an umpire's decision during a match	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Includes showing dissent at an umpire's decision by way of showing inappropriate or excessive disappointment, an obvious delay in resuming play or leaving the wicket, shaking the head, pointing or looking at the inside edge when given out lbw, pointing to the pad or rubbing the shoulder when caught behind, signalling for a third umpire review, snatching the cap from the umpire, a bowler or fielder arguing or entering into an unduly prolonged discussion with the umpire about the umpire's decision.</li> <li>It shall not be a defence to any charge brought under this article to show that the umpire might have, or in fact did, get any decision wrong.</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This Rule does not prohibit the bowler involved in the decision or a team captain from asking an umpire to provide an explanation for a decision or a Team official from making a formal complaint.</li> </ul>
<b>1.3</b>	Use language or a gesture that is obscene, offensive or insulting during a match	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This includes audible or repetitious swearing and offensive gestures which are not directed at another person such as swearing in frustration at one's own poor play or fortune.</li> <li>This offence is not intended to penalise trivial behaviour. When assessing the seriousness of the breach, the umpire shall be required to take into account the context of the particular situation and whether the words or gesture are likely to: (a) be regarded as obscene; (b) give offence; or (c) insult another person.</li> </ul>
<b>1.4</b>	Excessive appealing during a match	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Excessive shall include; (a) repeated appealing of the same decision/appeal; (b) repeated appealing of different decisions/appeals when the bowler/fielder knows the batter is not out with the intention of placing the umpire under pressure; or (c) celebrating or assuming a dismissal before the decision has been given. It is not intended to prevent loud or enthusiastic appealing.</li> </ul>
<b>1.5</b>	Point or gesture towards the pavilion in an aggressive manner upon the dismissal of a batter	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Anything pertaining to a 'send off'.</li> </ul>
<b>1.6</b>	Failure by a Team to ensure that the condition of a ball is not changed in breach of Law 41.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Where no individual player is reported for breach of Rule 2.7, each member of the relevant fielding team (including the 12<sup>th</sup> man) shall be considered to be in breach of this rule if the condition of the ball being used by that team has been changed in breach of Law 41.3. The presence or absence of involvement of each team member in changing the condition of the ball shall be irrelevant to a finding of guilt for this Rule.</li> </ul>

## 48.2 Level 2 Offences

The Offences set out at 2.1 to 2.9 below are Level 2 Offences. A guideline of penalties which may be imposed for a Level 2 Offence are set out in Section 2 of this Code. Players and, where applicable, officials must not:

<b>No.</b>	<b>Rule</b>	<b>Guidelines</b>
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2.1	Show serious dissent at an umpire's decision during a match	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dissent (including examples given in 1.2 above) will be classified as serious where the conduct contains an element of anger or abuse that is directed at the umpire or the umpire's decision or where there is excessive delay in resuming play or leaving the wicket.</li> <li>• This Rule does not prohibit the bowler involved in the decision or a team captain from asking an umpire to provide an explanation for a decision or a Team official from making a formal complaint.</li> </ul>
2.2	Engage in inappropriate and deliberate physical contact with other players, player support staff or officials	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Without limitation, players will breach this regulation if they deliberately walk or run into or shoulder another player, official or match official either during the course of play of a Match or during the periods before or after play at the relevant venue.</li> </ul>
2.3	Charge or advance towards the umpire in an aggressive manner when appealing during a match	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Self-explanatory.</li> </ul>
2.4	Deliberately and maliciously distract or obstruct another player or official on the field of play	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Without limitation, players will breach this rule if they deliberately attempt to distract a striker by words or gestures or deliberately shepherd a batter while running or attempting to run between wickets.</li> </ul>
2.5	Throw the ball (or any other item of cricket equipment such as a water bottle) at or near a player or official in an inappropriate and/or dangerous manner during a match	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This Rule will not prohibit a fielder or bowler from returning the ball to the stumps in the normal fashion.</li> </ul>
2.6	Use language that is obscene, offensive or of a generally insulting nature to another player, official or spectator.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This is language or gestures which are directed at another person or persons. In exercising his judgement as to whether the behaviour has fallen below an acceptable standard, the umpire seeking to lay a charge shall be required to take into account the context of the particular situation and whether the words or gesture are likely to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• be regarded as obscene; or</li> <li>• give offence; or</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>insult another person.</li> <li>This offence is not intended to penalise trivial behaviour. The extent to which such behaviour is likely to give offence shall be taken into account when assessing the seriousness of the breach.</li> </ul>
2.7	Change the condition of the ball in breach of Law 41.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Prohibited behaviour includes picking the seam or deliberately throwing the ball into the ground for the purpose of roughening it up and the application of moisture to the ball, save for perspiration and saliva.</li> </ul>
2.8	Without limiting Rule 8, attempt to manipulate a Match in regard to the result, net run rate, bonus points or otherwise. The captain of any team guilty of such conduct shall be held responsible.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Prohibited conduct under this rule will include incidents where a team bats in such a way as to either adversely affect its own, or improve its opponent's, bonus points, net run rate or quotient.</li> </ul>
2.9	Public or media comment that is detrimental to the interests of cricket, irrespective of when or where such comment is made	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Publicly denigrate or criticise a Player or Player Support Personnel, or a team against which they have played, whether or not in relation to incidents which occurred in a Match;</li> <li>Denigrate or criticise the SCA COM, CT or any SCA team or any of their respective commercial partners;</li> <li>Comment on the likely outcome of a hearing of a Report or an appeal;</li> <li>Criticise the outcome of a hearing of a Report or an appeal under this Code of Behaviour; or</li> <li>Criticise any evidence, submission or other comment made by any person at the hearing of a Report or any appeal under this Code of Behaviour.</li> </ul> <p><i>Note: When assessing the seriousness of the breach, the context within which the comments have been made and the gravity of the offending comments must be taken into account</i></p>
<b>Note:</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Any repeat of the same Level 2 Offence within 12 months of such offence will for the purposes of penalty only be regarded as a Level 3 Offence.</li> </ul>

### 48.3 Level 3 Offences

The Offences set out at 3.1 to 3.3 below are Level 3 Offences. A guideline of the range of penalties which may be imposed for a Level 3 Offence are set out in Section 2 of this Code. Players and, where applicable, officials must not:

<b>No.</b>	<b>Rule</b>	<b>Guidelines</b>
<b>3.1</b>	Intimidate or attempt to intimidate an umpire or referee whether by language or conduct	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Includes appealing in an aggressive or threatening manner.</li> </ul>
<b>3.2</b>	Threaten to assault another player, Team official or spectator	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Self explanatory.</li> </ul>
<b>3.3</b>	Use language or gestures that offend, insult, humiliate, intimidate, threaten, disparage or vilify another person on the basis of that person's race, religion, colour, descent, sexuality or national or ethnic origin	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Self explanatory.</li> </ul>
<b>Note:</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Any repeat of the same Level 3 Offence within 12 months of such offence will for the purposes of penalty only be regarded as a Level 4 Offence.</li> </ul>

#### 48.4 Level 4 Offences

The Offences set out at 4.1 to 4.4 below are Level 4 Offences. A guideline of the range of penalties which may be imposed for a Level 4 Offence are set out in Section 2 of this Code. Players and, where applicable, officials must not:

<b>No.</b>	<b>Rule</b>	<b>Guidelines</b>
<b>4.1</b>	Threaten to assault an umpire or referee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Self explanatory.</li> </ul>
<b>4.2</b>	Physically assault another player, umpire, referee, official or spectator	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Self explanatory.</li> </ul>
<b>4.3</b>	Engage in any act of violence on the field of play	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Self explanatory.</li> </ul>
<b>4.4</b>	Use 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, sexuality, national or ethnic origin	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Self explanatory.</li> </ul>

#### 48.5 Laws of Cricket and the Spirit of the Game

<b>No.</b>	<b>Rule</b>	<b>Guidelines</b>
<b>5</b>	Players must obey the <i>Laws of Cricket</i> and play within the spirit of the	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This is meant as a general Rule to deal with situations where the facts of or the gravity or seriousness of the alleged incident are not</li> </ul>

	<p>game. The captain and Team coach must use their best efforts to ensure that their Team and individual members of the Team complies with this rule</p>	<p>adequately or clearly covered by the offences set out in Rules 1 – 4 (inclusive) of the Code.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conduct which will be prohibited under the clause includes using an illegal bat, cheating during play, time wasting and any conduct which is considered “unfair play” under Law 41 of the Laws of Cricket.</li> <li>• This Rule is not intended to punish unintentional breaches of the Laws of Cricket.</li> <li>• Reference may be made to any statement or explanation of the Spirit of Cricket published in conjunction with the Laws of Cricket.</li> <li>• Nothing in this Rule or the Code alters the onus on the captain to ensure that the Spirit of the Game is adhered to as stated and defined in the preamble to the Laws of Cricket.</li> </ul>
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#### 48.6 Unwelcoming Behaviour

<i>No.</i>	<i>Rule</i>	<i>Guidelines</i>
6	<p>Without limiting any other rule, players and officials must not at any time in a cricket related situation engage in behaviour unbecoming to a player or official that could bring them or the game of cricket into disrepute or be harmful to the interests of cricket</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It is intended to include (but not be limited to) serious or repeated criminal conduct, public acts of misconduct, unruly public behaviour and sexual misconduct.</li> <li>• This Rule applies in the following circumstances only: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) attendance at an official cricket function</li> <li>(b) conduct during play of a SCA match</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

#### Section 2: Rules and Behaviours - Penalties

The tribunal shall have the right to upgrade or downgrade the level of the offence reported to them should they feel such an action appropriate. The following are guidelines to the level of penalties to be imposed for a first offence. The tribunal shall have the discretion, however, to impose such penalty as it considers appropriate. This may include imposition of a fine, or suspension of whole or part of any penalty upon conditions as the tribunal thinks fit. Subsequent offences may result in a greater penalty than that set out in the guidelines.

<b>Level of Offence</b>	
<b>Level 1</b>	Minimum ban of 1 match. In the event that a player has refused to accept an automatic penalty as per Part 8 – Code of Behaviour is subsequently found guilty as

	charged, a higher penalty than originally offered may be considered by the tribunal.
<b>Level 2</b>	Minimum ban of 2 matches, and up to 4 matches.
<b>Level 3</b>	Minimum ban of between 4 matches and up to 8 matches.
<b>Level 4</b>	Minimum ban of between 6 matches up to a life ban.
<b>Level 5</b>	At the discretion of the tribunal
<b>Level 6</b>	At the discretion of the tribunal

The following rules of interpretation apply to any penalty imposed under this Rule:

- (a) The Tribunal must specify the type of Match or Matches in which the ban is/are to be served.

#### **49.0 Reporting by Umpires**

- (1) In the case of an offence under these rules, which an umpire considers to be serious, he may place the player, coach, scorer or other club official immediately on report, and the matter will then go to the tribunal for resolution. Reports must be received by the SCA Secretary (or another SCA COM member) no later than 10:00am within two (2) business days following the completion of the match.
- (2) Each captain must check with at least one umpire at the end of a match to ascertain if any reports have been made. Failure to do so shall result in By-Law 50 being implemented.
- (3) The reported person, with the permission of the reporting umpire, may be offered the option of pleading guilty. Should the reported person elect to do so, the following procedure will apply. The reported person shall automatically receive the minimum penalty for that offence and shall not be required to attend a tribunal.
- (4) Whenever a person elects to plead guilty and accept the automatic penalty, in accordance with By-Law 49(3) above, regardless of the format of game in which the person was participating, the suspension shall apply to the next SCA match – or matches - regardless of the format (eg Twenty20 or One-Day) in the grade in which the offence occurred. The reported player is not permitted to play in any other grade until the penalty is served. However, play must commence in a match for the match to count towards the number of games suspended (eg: forfeits and complete washouts will not count towards the penalty of suspension imposed on the player).  
The above also applies to automatic suspensions incurred in accordance with By-Law 50(2).
- (5) Reports by parties other than an Umpire, shall be in writing to the SCA Secretary (or another SCA COM member) outlining the offence or offences and shall be received by the SCA COM no later than 10.00am on the next working day.

#### **50.0 Warnings (Yellow Cards)**

- (1) In a case where an umpire has concern about the conduct of a player but does not think the incident warrants a report to the tribunal, the umpire will note the

incident on the umpire match report, noting the relevant Level 1 Rule number, advise the player and his captain accordingly and confirm at the conclusion of the match as per By-Law 49(2). Failure of the captain to confirm such relevant information shall be recorded in the Umpire's Match report and become subject to By-Law 50. The SCA Secretary (or another SCA COM member) must be advised of warnings issued no later than 10.00am on the next working day following the completion of the match.

- (2) If a player is noted on three such reports within a 24-month period, it shall constitute an offence and the player shall incur an automatic one match suspension.
- (3) Warnings issued, or penalty imposed in accordance with By-Law 50 cannot be appealed.