



## **CODE OF CONDUCT FOR PLAYERS AND TEAM OFFICIALS**

*(Revised February 2017)*

### ***ARTICLE 1 - Scope and Application***

#### **Persons/Matches Covered**

This Code of Conduct shall apply to:

- Players; and
- Team Officials; and
- Cricket matches at all levels.

#### **Rules Of Conduct - Offences And Penalties**

Players and/or Team Officials shall at all times conduct play within the Spirit of the Game as well as within the Laws of Cricket and the captains are responsible at all times for ensuring that this is adhered to.

Players and/or Team Officials shall at no time engage in conduct unbecoming to their status, which could bring them or the game of cricket into disrepute.

The following is a non-exhaustive list of the type of incident that would be placed in 4 levels of offences. It is accepted that no list will cover all situations that may arise. Where the facts of or the gravity or seriousness of the alleged incident are not adequately or clearly covered by any of the below offences, the Disciplinary Committee has the right to interpret the spirit of the rules and accordingly place the offence in a category it deems appropriate.

***COMMENT:*** *Where considered helpful, guidance notes have been provided in text boxes beneath the description of a particular offence. Such notes are intended only to provide guidance as to the nature and examples of certain conduct that might be prohibited by a particular Article and should not be read as an exhaustive or limiting list of conduct prohibited by such Article.*

**ARTICLE 2 - Level 1 Offences:**

2.1.1 Abuse of cricket equipment or clothing, ground equipment or fixtures and fittings.

**NOTE:** Article 2.1.1 includes any action(s) outside the course of normal cricket actions, such as hitting or kicking the wickets and any action(s) which intentionally or negligently results in damage to the advertising boards, boundary fences, dressing room doors, mirrors, windows and other fixtures and fittings.

2.1.2 Showing dissent at an Umpire's decision.

**NOTE:** Article 2.1.2 includes: (a) excessive, obvious disappointment with an Umpire's decision; (b) an obvious delay in resuming play or leaving the wicket; (c) shaking the head; (d) pointing or looking at the inside edge when given out lbw; (e) pointing to the pad or rubbing the shoulder when caught behind; (f) snatching the cap from the Umpire; and (g) arguing or entering into a prolonged discussion with the Umpire about his decision.

*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.*

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

**NOTE:** Article 2.1.3 includes: (a) excessively audible or repetitious swearing; and (b) obscene gestures which are not directed at another person, such as swearing in frustration at one's own poor play or fortune. In addition, 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.*

*This offence is not intended to cover any use of language or gestures that are likely to offend another person on the basis of their race, religion, gender, colour, descent, national or ethnic origin.*

2.1.4 Excessive appealing during a match.

**NOTE:** For the purposes of Article 2.1.4, '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 a dismissal before the decision has been given. It is not intended to prevent loud or enthusiastic appealing.

- 2.1.5 Public criticism of, or inappropriate comment in relation to, an incident occurring in any match, irrespective of when such criticism or inappropriate comment is made.

**NOTE:** Without limitation, Players and Team officials will breach Article 2.1.5 if they publicly criticize the Match officials or denigrate a Player or team against which they have played in relation to incidents which occurred in a match. 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.

- 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.

**NOTE:** Article 2.1.6 is intended to be a 'catch-all' provision to cover all types of conduct of a minor nature that is not (and, because of its nature, cannot be) adequately covered by the specific offences set out elsewhere in the Code of Conduct.

By way of example, Article 2.1.6(a) may (depending upon the seriousness and context of the breach) prohibit the following: (a) the use of an illegal bat or illegal wicket-keeping gloves; (b) deliberate time wasting; (c) cheating during a match, including deliberate attempts to mislead the Umpire; (d) wearing pants below the waistline or wearing inappropriate baseball or non-cricket caps or clothing (e); and any conduct which is considered 'unfair play' under Law 42 of the Laws of Cricket.

By way of example, Article 2.1.6(b) may (depending upon the seriousness and context of the breach) prohibit the following: (a) public acts of misconduct; (b) unruly public behaviour; and (c) inappropriate comments which are detrimental to the interests of

**ARTICLE 2.2 - Level 2 Offences:**

2.2.1 Showing serious dissent at an *Umpire's* decision.

**NOTE:** *Dissent, including the examples given in Article 2.1.2 above will be classified as 'serious' when the conduct contains an element of anger or abuse which is directed at the Umpire or the Umpire's decision or where there is excessive delay in resuming play or leaving the wicket or where there is persistent re-reference to the incident over time.*

*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.*

2.2.2 Serious public criticism of, or inappropriate comment in relation to an incident occurring in any match or any *Player, Player Support Personnel, Match* official or team participating in any match, irrespective of when such criticism or inappropriate comment is made.

**NOTE:** *Without limitation, Players and Player Support Personnel will breach this rule if they publicly criticise the Match officials or denigrate a Player or team against which they have played in relation to incidents which occurred in a match. 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.*

2.2.3 Inappropriate and deliberate physical contact between *Players* in the course of play during a *match*.

**NOTE:** *Without limitation, Players will breach this regulation if they deliberately walk or run into or shoulder another Player.*

2.2.4 Charging or advancing towards the *Umpire* in an aggressive manner when appealing during a *match*.

2.2.5 Deliberate and malicious distraction or obstruction on the field of play during a *match*.

2.2.6 Throwing a ball (or any other item of cricket equipment such as a water bottle) at or near a *Player, Player Support Personnel, Umpire, Match Referee* or any other third person in an inappropriate and/or dangerous manner.

**NOTE:** *This regulation will not prohibit a fielder or bowler from returning the ball to the stumps in the normal fashion.*

- 2.2.7 Using language or gesture(s) that is seriously obscene, seriously offensive or of a seriously insulting nature to another *Player, Player Support Personnel, Umpire, Match Referee* or any other third person.

*NOTE: 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 be required to report such conduct that falls below an acceptable standard. 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 seriously obscene; or (b) give serious offence; or (c) seriously insult another person.*

*This offence is not intended to cover any use of language or gestures that are likely to offend another person on the basis of their race, religion, gender, colour, descent, national or ethnic origin.*

- 2.2.8 Changing the condition of the ball in breach of Law 42.3 of the Laws of Cricket.

*Any action(s) likely to alter the condition of the ball which were not specifically permitted under Law 42.3(a) may be regarded as 'unfair'. The following actions shall not be permitted (this list of actions is not exhaustive but included for illustrative purposes): (a) deliberately throwing the ball into the ground for the purpose of roughening it up; (b) applying any artificial substance to the ball; and applying any non-artificial substance for any purpose other than to polish the ball; (c) lifting or otherwise interfering with any of the seams of the ball; (d) scratching the surface of the ball with finger or thumb nails or any implement.*

*The Umpires shall use their judgment to apply the principle that actions taken to maintain or enhance the condition of the ball, provided no artificial substances are used, shall be permitted. Any actions taken with the purpose of damaging the condition of the ball or accelerating the deterioration of the condition of the ball shall not be permitted.*

- 2.2.9 Any attempt to manipulate a Match for inappropriate strategic or tactical reasons.

*NOTE: Article 2.2.9 is intended to prevent the manipulation of International Matches for inappropriate strategic or tactical reasons. It might also apply to the inappropriate manipulation of a net run rate or accumulation of bonus points or otherwise.*

*Article 2.2.9 is not intended to cover any corrupt or fraudulent acts (including any use of inside information and/or related betting activity). Such conduct is prohibited under the ICC's Anti-Corruption Code and must be dealt with according to the procedures set out therein.*

*The Team Captain of any team guilty of such conduct shall be held responsible (and subject to sanction) for any offence found to have been committed under this Article.*

2.2.10 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.

***NOTE:** Article 2.2.10 is intended to be a 'catch-all' provision to cover all types of conduct of a serious nature that is not (and, because of its nature, cannot be) adequately covered by the specific offences set out elsewhere in the Code of Conduct.*

*See guidance notes to Article 2.1.6 for examples of conduct that may (depending upon the seriousness and context of the breach) be prohibited under Article 2.2.10.*

**ARTICLE 2.3 - Level 3 Offences:**

- 2.3.1 Intimidation of an *Umpire* or *Match Referee* whether by language or conduct (including gestures) during any *Match*.

**NOTE:** *Includes appealing in an aggressive or threatening manner.*

- 2.3.2 Threat of assault on another *Player*, *Player Support Personnel* or any other person (including a spectator).

**NOTE:** *This offence is not intended to cover threats of assault against Umpires or Match Referees, which are prohibited under Article 2.4.1.*

- 2.3.3 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.

**NOTE:** *Article 2.3.3 is intended to be a 'catch-all' provision to cover all types of conduct of a very serious nature that is not (and, because of its nature, cannot be) adequately covered by the specific offences set out elsewhere in the Code of Conduct.*

*See guidance notes to Article 2.1.6 for examples of conduct that may (depending upon the seriousness and context of the breach) be prohibited under Article 2.3.3.*

**ARTICLE 2.4 - Level 4 Offences:**

- 2.4.1 Threat of assault on an *Umpire* or *Match Referee*.
- 2.4.2 Physical assault of another *Player*, *Player Support Personnel*, *Umpire*, *Match Referee* or any other person (including a spectator).
- 2.4.3 Any act of violence on the field of play.
- 2.4.4 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.

**NOTE:** *Article 2.4.4 is intended to be a 'catch-all' provision to cover all types of conduct of an overwhelmingly serious nature that is not (and, because of its nature, cannot be) adequately covered by the specific offences set out elsewhere in the Code of Conduct.*

*See guidance notes to Article 2.1.6 for examples of conduct that may (depending upon the seriousness and context of the breach) be prohibited under Article 2.4.4.*

## **ARTICLE 3 - NOTIFICATION PROCEDURE**

### **Level 1 Offences– First Infraction**

3.1 The BCB Cricket Committee will issue its decision for any Level 1 offence after considering the umpire's report.

### **Level 1 Offences– (Second and Higher) Infractions and Level 2 Offences:**

3.2.1 The *Notice of Charge* shall specify that the *Player* or Team Official shall have the following three options:

3.2.2 He/she may admit the offence charged and accede to the proposed sanction specified in the *Notice of Charge*. In such circumstances, and provided that such admission has been received by the Judicial Commissioner prior to the commencement of the hearing at the time/place specified in the *Notice of Charge*, the hearing shall not be required and no further action shall be taken, save that the BCB shall promptly issue a public statement confirming: (a) the commission of an offence under the *Code of Conduct*; and (b) the imposition of the applicable sanction specified in the *Notice of Charge*; or

3.2.3 He/she may admit the offence charged but dispute the proposed sanction specified in the *Notice of Charge*, in which case the matter shall proceed to a hearing in accordance with the BCB Rules of Disciplinary Hearing; or

3.2.4 He/she may deny the offence charged, in which case the matter shall proceed to a hearing in accordance with the BCB Rules of Disciplinary Hearing.

### **Level 3 Offences and Level 4 Offences:**

3.3 The matter shall proceed to a hearing in accordance with the BCB Rules of Disciplinary Hearing.

### **General Principles of Procedure**

3.4 Where a *Judicial Commissioner* is, or becomes unwilling or unable to hear a case (for example, where he/she finds him/herself in a position of conflict), then the BCB President shall have the discretion to appoint another member of the BCB's *Code of Conduct Commission* as a replacement to the *Judicial Commissioner* and all of the remaining procedure will apply accordingly.

3.5 The BCB will issue a public announcement regarding any decision of the Disciplinary Committee or *Judicial Commissioner* made under the *Code of Conduct*, as soon as is reasonably practicable after the decision has been communicated to the parties. The public announcement of the decision may include details of the offences committed under the *Code of Conduct* and of the sanctions imposed, if any. Until such time as a public announcement is published, all parties and participants in the proceedings shall treat such proceedings as strictly confidential.

#### **ARTICLE 4 - STANDARD OF PROOF AND EVIDENCE**

- 4.1 Unless otherwise described herein, the standard of proof in all cases brought under the *Code of Conduct* shall be whether the *Disciplinary Committee or Judicial Commissioner* is comfortably satisfied, bearing in mind the seriousness of the allegation that is made, that the alleged offence has been committed. This standard of proof in all cases shall be determined on a sliding scale from, at a minimum, a mere balance of probability (for the least serious offences) up to proof beyond a reasonable doubt (for the most serious offences).
- 4.2 The *Disciplinary Committee or Judicial Commissioner* shall not be bound by judicial rules governing the admissibility of evidence. Instead, facts relating to an offence committed under the *Code of Conduct* may be established by any reliable means, including admissions.
- 4.3 The *Disciplinary Committee or Judicial Commissioner* may draw an inference adverse to the *Player or Team Official* who is asserted to have committed an offence under the Code of Conduct based on his/her refusal, without compelling justification, after a request made in a reasonable time in advance of the hearing, to appear at the hearing (either in person or telephonically as directed by the *Disciplinary Committee or Judicial Commissioner*) and/or to answer any relevant questions.

**ARTICLE 5 - SANCTIONS ON PLAYERS AND TEAM OFFICIALS**

- 5.1 Where the *Judicial Commissioner or the Disciplinary Committee* determines that an offence under the *Code of Conduct* has been committed, he/she will be required to impose an appropriate sanction on the *Player or Team Official*.
- 5.2 In order to determine the sanction that is to be imposed in each case, the *Judicial Commissioner or the Disciplinary Committee* must first consider whether the *Player or Team Official* has previously been found guilty of an offence of the *Code of Conduct* (or any predecessor regulations that may have applied) within a period of twelve months prior to the date on which the alleged offence took place.
- 5.3 Once the *Judicial Commissioner or the Disciplinary Committee* has established whether this is a repeat offence within the relevant twelve month period, then he/she shall go on to take into account any other factors that he/she deems relevant and appropriate to the mitigation or aggravation of the nature of the *Code of Conduct* offence (including, without limitation, the nature and frequency of any previous offences under the *Code of Conduct*) before determining, in accordance with the following table, what the appropriate sanction(s) should be:

Level of Offence	Range of Permissible Sanctions <b>(First Offence)</b>	Range of Permissible Sanctions <b>(Second Offence within 12 prior Months)</b>	Range of Permissible Sanctions <b>(Third Offence within 12 prior Months)</b>	Range of Permissible Sanctions <b>(Fourth and Subsequent Offences within 12 prior Months)</b>
<b>Level 1</b>	Warning/reprimand	The imposition of a suspension from all cricket for a fixed period of time that is sufficient to include 1-2 scheduled BCB club 50 over (or 2-4 T20) match/es.	The imposition of a suspension from all cricket for a fixed period of time that is sufficient to include 3 scheduled BCB club 50 over (or 6 T20) match/es.	The imposition of a suspension from all cricket for a fixed period of time ranging between sufficient to include 3 scheduled BCB club 50 over (or 6 T20) match/es or up to one (1) year.
<b>Level 2</b>	The imposition of a suspension from all cricket for a fixed period of time that is sufficient to include 2 scheduled BCB club 50 over (or 4 T20) match/es.	The imposition of a suspension from all cricket for a fixed period of time that is sufficient to include 4 scheduled BCB club 50 over (or 8 T20) match/es.	The imposition of a suspension from all cricket for a fixed period of time ranging between sufficient to include 6 scheduled BCB club 50 over (or 12 T20 match/es) or up to one (1) year.	The imposition of a suspension of between one (1) and five (5) years.
<b>Level 3</b>	The imposition of a suspension from all cricket for a fixed period of time ranging between sufficient to include 6 scheduled BCB club 50 over (or 12 T20) match/es or up to one (1) year.	The imposition of a suspension of between one (1) and five (5) years.	The imposition of a suspension between one (1) year and a lifetime.	n/a
<b>Level 4</b>	The imposition of a suspension of between one (1) and five (5) years.	The imposition of a suspension of between one (1) year and a lifetime.	n/a	n/a

**Note :** In calculating a sanction two T20 matches are deemed equivalent to one 50 over match.

- 5.4 If damage has been caused to any property, the Disciplinary Committee may order compensation to the aggrieved party as part of the penalty.
- 5.5 Nothing in this document 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.
- 5.6 **The captain of any person committing a breach may be subject to separate hearing by the Judicial Commissioner, the Disciplinary Committee or the Cricket Committee. The captain may be subject to sanction if, on the balance of probabilities, he fails to demonstrate that he discharged his responsibility for ensuring that the players under his leadership conduct themselves within the Spirit of the Game.**

## ***APPENDIX - DEFINITIONS***

### **Definitions**

In this Code of Conduct the following words and expressions shall have the following meanings:

### **Code of Conduct**

All those provisions comprising this document.

### **Clubs**

All Cricket Clubs in Bermuda that play under the governance of the Bermuda Cricket Board.

### **Disciplinary Committee**

This is comprised of the persons adjudicating the disciplinary hearing. The Disciplinary Committee is a committee of the Bermuda Cricket Board and individuals are accordingly appointed by the Bermuda Cricket Board in conjunction with its Bye-Laws. The Disciplinary Committee members are not required to be affiliated with the Bermuda Cricket Board.

### **Judicial Commissioner**

The independent person appointed by the BCB to perform the functions assigned to the Judicial Commissioner under the Code of Conduct

### **Laws of Cricket**

The Laws of Cricket as proscribed by the MCC, or such further revision thereof as may come into force from time to time or as amended from time to time by ICC Regulations and/or BCB Regulations.

### **National Team**

Any team selected by the BCB to represent Bermuda or the BCB irrespective of the age group or the opposition.

### **Player**

Any person selected as a player in any squad to represent a Club or a National Team in any match whether that person actually plays cricket in such matches or not.

### **Team Official**

Any person, (not being a Player), is an agent of, represents or is affiliated to a Club or a National Team, including (without limitation) team managers, coaches, doctors, physiotherapists and team selectors.