

Lewes St Michael's Cricket Club

Code of Conduct

Introduction

1. This code sets out the standards of behaviour and conduct that Lewes St Michael's Cricket Club ('the club') expects from all its members and the procedures to be followed in the event of a breach or alleged breach of those standards.

Unacceptable behaviour

2. The club expects all members to abide by the Laws of Cricket and in particular by the Preamble to the Laws on the Spirit of Cricket which is annexed to this Code and forms part of it.

3. In particular the club regards the following as examples (but not an exhaustive list) of unacceptable behaviour:

- failure to accept, or showing dissent from, an umpire's decision or reacting in a provocative or disapproving manner towards an umpire at any time;
- violence
- intimidating or assaulting an umpire, scorer, player or spectator, or attempting to do so;
- crude or abusive language or gestures directed at another player (of either side), at an umpire, scorer or spectator, or in any other circumstances where it may bring the club into disrepute;
- racially abusive comments or actions;
- cheating or unfair play, such as tampering with the ball, damaging the pitch, seeking to distract an opponent or appealing, knowing the batsman is not out.

Responsibilities of all members

4. It is the responsibility of all members to observe the Laws and Spirit of Cricket.

5. If a club player appears to behave unacceptably and the relevant captain is not present or is not aware of the apparent unacceptable behaviour, any member witnessing it should report it to the relevant captain as soon as reasonably possible.

Responsibilities of captains

6. It is for captains in the first instance to respond to any unacceptable behaviour by speaking to the player concerned, trying to ascertain the facts and whether unacceptable behaviour has in fact taken place.

7. Where a captain believes that a player has been guilty of unacceptable behaviour, the captain has three options:

- (i) if the captain believes the unacceptable behaviour to have been minor, out of character and unlikely to be repeated, it will be sufficient for the captain to reprimand the player concerned and to remind him of his responsibility as a club member to observe the Laws and Spirit of Cricket;
- (ii) if the captain believes that the unacceptable behaviour to have been relatively minor, out of character and unlikely to be repeated, but the behaviour was the subject of a complaint to the captain by an opposition player or by an umpire, then the captain must both reprimand the player concerned and remind him of his responsibility as a club member to observe the Laws and Spirit of Cricket, and report the matter to the Chairman;
- (iii) if the captain believes that the player concerned has repeatedly shown unacceptable behaviour or in any case of serious unacceptable behaviour which is directed at an umpire or the subject of a formal complaint by an umpire or the opposition captain, the captain must both immediately reprimand the player concerned and remind him of his responsibility as a club member to observe the Laws and Spirit of Cricket, and report the matter in writing to the Chairman as soon as possible so that the club management committee may consider the matter and decide (in accordance with the procedure set out below) whether to take further action. In the meantime the player concerned must not be selected for any club team until the committee has considered the case and reached a decision.

Responsibilities of the Committee

8. Where a report is made under paragraph 7(iii), the committee shall consider the matter as soon as possible and the Chairman may convene a special meeting if he considers it necessary to do so. The committee shall consider the matter in private after having given the opportunity to the player concerned to hear the complaint against him and to respond. The captain shall also be asked to attend the meeting. However, the committee may consider the matter without the attendance of the relevant player if he has unreasonably refused an invitation to attend and without the captain if he is unable to attend.

9. Having considered the report and any additional evidence from the player and captain concerned, the committee shall have the following options:

- (i) to dismiss the complaint;
- (ii) to decide to take no further action, the player having been reprimanded by the captain;
- (iii) to issue the player with a formal reprimand and warning to his future conduct;
- (iv) to issue the player with a formal reprimand and suspend him from playing for the club for a specified period not exceeding four months;
- (v) to rescind the player's membership under paragraph 6 (c) of the Club's rules.