



Document: **Rules: GMCL Disciplinary & ECB Code of Conduct**

Disciplinary Regulations and Procedures

THE GREATER MANCHESTER CRICKET LEAGUE DISCIPLINARY REGULATIONS and PROCEDURES 2020

CONTENTS

1. INTRODUCTION AND CODE OF CONDUCT AND SPIRIT OF CRICKET
2. REGULATIONS FOR CRICKET LEAGUES AND AIMS AND JURISDICTION
3. PROCEDURES
4. DISCIPLINARY HEARING
5. PENALTIES
6. APPEALS PROCEDURE
7. NON-PAYMENT OF FINES
8. MUTUAL RECOGNITION OF PENALTIES
9. DATA PROTECTION CONSENT
10. CONFIDENTIALITY
11. LAWS OF CRICKET - LAW 42 – PLAYERS CONDUCT
12. SOCIAL MEDIA

APPENDICES:

GMCL DISCIPLINARY TARIFFS.

LAW 42: ONFIELD SANCTIONS.

INTRODUCTION

These Regulations incorporate the latest 2017 ECB Disciplinary Regulations for Leagues augmented by GMCL detailed procedures for reporting disciplinary offences and subsequent actions.

These regulations will apply to all GMCL competitions, the regulations generally apply to all those playing, officiating, watching and commenting on cricket matches and related issues – defined as Participants in a previous version of the ECB Disciplinary Regulations.

Most of the Regulations relate to offences committed by players during matches and which are then reported by the umpires, i.e. players are the principal Participants.

Other Participants include team coaches/managers, scorers, other club officials and members, and spectators. The Regulations specifically deal with the misuse of social media which applies to all Participants.

The 2017 ECB Disciplinary Regulations for Leagues also include guidance for an Internal Club Enquiry, Natural Justice, Conduct of Hearings, Appeal Process and Players Behaviour. These documents are available on the website.

1 ECB Code of Conduct and Spirit of Cricket

1.1 Code of Conduct

1.1.1 The ECB is committed to maintaining the highest standards of behaviour and conduct. This Code of Conduct incorporates the Spirit of Cricket, as set out below. These regulations shall apply to any player who plays for any club at any level under the auspices of the ECB and are intended to provide assistance and uniformity to all Clubs and Leagues in dealing with any alleged breach of the ECB Code of Conduct and Spirit of Cricket

1.1.2 The code places the emphasis on clubs and team captains who have the prime responsibility to deal with their own players' misconduct in a fair and speedy manner, once an incident has been reported. Clubs will be expected to deal with disciplinary matters within the timescales laid down within the Regulations. The Board via the Disciplinary Director will monitor the actions taken by clubs.

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

1.1.4 Players 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.

1.1.5 Players shall not intimidate, assault or attempt to intimidate or assault an umpire, another player or a spectator.

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

1.1.7 Participants shall not make racially abusive comments nor indulge in racially abusive actions against other Participants. Clubs must operate an active open-door membership policy whilst respecting player qualification regulations and welcome players/members irrespective of ethnic origin.

1.1.8 Participants shall not use or in any way be concerned in the use or distribution of illegal drugs.

1.1.9 Clubs must take adequate steps to ensure the good behaviour of their members and supporters towards players and umpires. Any club found to be in breach of the ECB Code of Conduct may be expelled from ECB Competitions for the current and future seasons.

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.

1.2.1.1 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.

1.2.1.2 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:

1.2.3.1 Time wasting

1.2.3.2 Damaging the pitch

1.2.3.3 Dangerous or unfair bowling

1.2.3.4 Tampering with the ball

1.2.3.5 Any other action that they consider to be unfair.

1.2.4 The Spirit of the Game involves RESPECT for:

1.2.4.1 Your opponents

1.2.4.2 Your own captain and team

1.2.4.3 The role of the umpires

1.2.4.4 The game's traditional values

1.2.5 It is against the Spirit of the Game:

1.2.5.1 To dispute an umpire's decision by word, action or gesture

1.2.5.2 To direct abusive language towards an opponent or umpire

1.2.5.3 To indulge in cheating or any sharp practice, for instance

1.2.5.3.1 appeal knowing the batsman is not out

1.2.5.3.2 advance towards an umpire in an aggressive manner when appealing

1.2.5.3.3 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

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

1.2.7 Players

1.2.7.1. 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 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.

1.4 Participants shall not make any public or media comment which is detrimental to the interests or reputation of other Participants or the game in general.

In this instance, media shall include (but not necessarily be limited to) press, radio, television, external websites, club websites, social networking sites including "Facebook" and "Twitter" and a club's match programmes. Nothing in this provision shall prevent any comment which constitutes honest opinion in regard to cricketing matters and which is made in a fair and respectful manner.

1.5 Participants shall not publicly disclose or comment upon any alleged breach of this Code of Conduct.

1.6 Participants shall not act in any manner which is against the Spirit of Cricket,

otherwise improper, or prejudicial or detrimental to the interests or reputation of the League(s) or the game of cricket.

REGULATIONS FOR CRICKET LEAGUES

2 Aims and Jurisdiction

2.1 Subject to the mutual recognition provisions (at Section 8 below), the GMCL shall be responsible for the enforcement and administration of the Disciplinary Regulations in relation to Participants registered to the GMCL and/or participating in cricket-related activities under its auspices. All Participants, by virtue of their registration with the GMCL (whether directly or via a club) and/or participation in cricket-related activities under the auspices of the GMCL, agree to be bound by the Disciplinary Regulations.

2.2 All Participants are required to cooperate with the GMCL regarding discipline. Without prejudice to the generality of this requirement, every club shall take all reasonable steps to ensure the proper conduct of its Participants in accordance with the Disciplinary Regulations and shall not act in any way which is prejudicial or detrimental to the interests or reputation of the GMCL or the game of cricket.

2.3 There is nothing in the Disciplinary Regulations preventing or discouraging clubs from applying additional or stronger penalties in regard to breaches of the Code of Conduct beyond those set out in the Disciplinary Regulations, whether or not penalties may apply under the Disciplinary Regulations. To this end, it is important that clubs have their own code of conduct and disciplinary procedures in place.

2.4 At all times, it is to be remembered that the core aim of the Disciplinary Regulations is to maintain the highest standards of behaviour and conduct in the game of cricket. The procedures detailed in the Disciplinary Regulations are intended to be fair, straightforward and proportionate to the needs of the GMCL and Participants, respecting fundamental principles of natural justice and fairness but recognising that those involved with the procedures will not typically be, and do not need to be, legally qualified. Therefore, as long as the principles of natural justice and fairness are not infringed, minor practical or technical points will not serve to invalidate the procedure or any decisions or findings under the Disciplinary Regulations.

2.5 If any incident or other matter occurs which is not provided for by the Disciplinary Regulations (whether it relates to conduct, jurisdiction, procedure or penalty), then the GMCL Discipline Director or a GMCL Disciplinary/Appeal Panel may take such action as considered appropriate in the circumstances, taking into account the specific circumstances and the principles of natural justice and fairness.

2.6 If any alleged breach of the Code of Conduct falls under any other relevant ECB regulations (as may from time-to-time be in force), such as the ECB Safeguarding Complaints and Disciplinary Procedure, or is subject to investigation by the police or other public authority (or analogous body), or is subject to any other legal/regulatory process, the GMCL Discipline Director or a GMCL Disciplinary/Appeal Panel may suspend the procedure under the Disciplinary Regulations.

2.7 A separate code of conduct applies to Umpires appointed to matches by GMCLUA.

2.8 GMCL Disciplinary Structure

2.8.1 The Discipline Director reports to the GMCL Board.

2.8.2 The Disciplinary Committee will consist of a Chairman (normally the Discipline Director or any other Board Director), the GMCLUA Discipline Secretary and any other Disciplinary Representative(s) nominated by the GMCL Director.

2.8.3 The Disciplinary Committee will manage the disciplinary processes as described in these Regulations, keep records, post notices on the GMCL website and will report regularly to the GMCL Board.

2.8.4 If a club has three disciplinary offences recorded against its players in one season the club will be called to discuss indiscipline with the GMCL Board of Directors. This should be seen as an opportunity for the club to review and possibly improve its processes in a frank and friendly way.

3 Procedures

3.1 A breach of the Code of Conduct shall be notified in writing to the Disciplinary Director usually via the Umpires Report form or a letter/ email from a Club Official.

3.2 Unless specifically mentioned otherwise all communications between officials and clubs, will be via email, e.g. 'in writing' implies via email. It is the responsibility of the clubs to keep their reported and/or disciplined player fully informed of the progress of the disciplinary process.

3.3 It is considered a disciplinary offence for a club or any of its members to act in a manner which could prejudice the standing or interests of the GMCL or to fail to act promptly to control and/or discipline a player.

3.4 Clubs will be liable to fines as considered by the Disciplinary Director (or his deputy) should the conduct of members or non-member spectators be reported to be abusive, offensive, etc., towards umpires, players, club officials or other spectators.

3.5 Accumulated Bad Behaviour (ABB)

3.5.1 Umpires advise captain(s) at end of match of their intention to record an ABB. The captain(s) must inform their players of the award of an ABB.

3.5.2 An ABB is recorded on the Umpires' Disciplinary Report form and the GMCL Discipline Director will be advised and will include the details on the GMCL website. The ABB should also be recorded on the Match Report Form which is submitted post-match by the Umpires. See the Appendix for examples of behaviour invoking an ABB.

3.6 Levels 1, 2, 3 & 4 Breaches – see Section 11 below for offences for each Level.

3.6.1 Under Law 42 of the Laws of Cricket any of these breaches will require the umpires to take disciplinary action on-field at the time. Before leaving the club after the match, the umpires will advise the club captain and/or other Club Official of their intention to report the offence. The umpires will prepare a report using the official GMCL Disciplinary Report Form.

3.6.2 One umpire will take responsibility for notifying the GMCLUA Discipline Secretary. In the first instance this should be by telephone or email within 24 hours of the end of the match. The written report must then be sent, preferably by email, to be received within 48 hours of the end of the match.

3.6.3 Once the GMCLUA Discipline Secretary is satisfied with the report and its content the report will be forwarded to the Discipline Director for him to action. (see 3.8 below)

3.7 Reporting of Breaches by non-Players (other participants)

3.7.1 Any allegation of a breach of the Code of Conduct by a Participant made against another Participant which arises from an incident during the course of a match should be reported by the team's captain to the umpires.

3.7.2 Any allegation of a breach of the Code of Conduct by a Participant made against another Participant which does not arise from an incident during the course of a match or on the field of play should, ideally, be notified to the Discipline Director promptly after the incident giving rise to the allegation. Subject to any direction from Discipline Director, a written report should be produced, which should allow the Discipline Director to understand i) the background of the alleged incident, ii) why a breach of the Code of Conduct is

alleged and iii) the level of the breach alleged. Where possible, notifications and reports should be submitted to the Discipline Director by a club secretary (or in such manner as may be directed by the Discipline Director).

3.7.3 The Discipline Director shall have an overriding discretion to accept or decline reports submitted under paragraph 3.7.2. Save for exceptional circumstances, such reports shall not be accepted relating to any alleged breach of the Code of Conduct which have been, or could have been, reported by an umpire pursuant to paragraph 3.6 (the Discipline Director may contact an umpire for his observations/views on allegations/the content of any report) or where there has been undue delay in making a notification or report.

3.7.4 Any complaints submitted under paragraph 3.7.2 must be made in good faith. The submission of a report which is trivial, vexatious, made for tactical reasons or otherwise improper may itself be treated as a breach of the Code of Conduct under paragraph 1.6.

3.8 Breaches reported by Umpires

3.8.1 The GMCLUA Discipline Secretary will forward to the Discipline Director a copy of the disciplinary report together with any additional information. These two officials will consider the offence and make an initial assessment of the appropriate action based on the tariffs given in these Regulations. Any Level 1 or Level 2 breach of the Code of Conduct should in the first instance be dealt with by the Participant's club (taking account of the guideline penalties detailed below), and the Secretary or an elected representative of club shall notify the Discipline Director within 72 hours of any action taken by the club or which it proposes to take. Level 3 or Level 4 complaints will automatically be subject to a Disciplinary Hearing and the club will be advised as Clause 4.3 below.

3.8.2 The Discipline Director will forward a copy of the report to the club's Cricket Chairman, Secretary, Disciplinary Representative and the player's captain within 72 hours of the incident occurring. In the remainder of this document reference to Participant shall include each of the Participants involved in the incident as appropriate.

3.8.3 A minimum ban of one week should be imposed by the club whatever penalty it considers appropriate, i.e. the player reported will miss the following week's match. However, if the club disputes the umpires' decision to make a report it must advise the Discipline Director within 48 hours of the alleged offence.

3.8.4 As a guideline only the following penalties should be expected in regard to bans:

Level 1 2 to 6 weeks

Level 2 3 to 8 weeks

Level 3 4 to 10 weeks

Level 4 A minimum of 10 weeks

3.8.5 In the case of a County Cricket Club registered player being the subject of a Complaint the Head of Non-First-Class Cricket to be advised immediately by telephone or email by the Disciplinary Director of the League.

3.9 Upon receipt of the club's intended action the Discipline Director shall consider the complaint and resolve either:

To endorse the disciplinary action taken by the club and the Discipline Director will post the agreed action on the GMCL website;

or to refer the matter for a Disciplinary Hearing which shall be convened as soon as practicable.

3.10 In the event of the club taking no action and not advising the Discipline Director as described in Clause 3.8.3 above, the Disciplinary Director will impose a one week ban and take further disciplinary action against the club. This ban will be taken into account by the subsequent hearing.

3.11 Following two incidents being dealt with by a club, a third incident regarding a player at that club will automatically cause a disciplinary hearing to be called by the Discipline Director or his nominated deputy.

3.12 Should a player commit any further offence whilst in receipt of a suspended sentence, the suspended sentence will apply immediately, unless the club disputes the content of the report as described in Clause 3.8.4. The further offence should be considered by the Club (and if then appropriate by the Discipline Director or his Deputy) as a separate matter.

3.13 Alleged Breach reported by a Participant

3.13.1 The Discipline Director shall decide what action if any needs to be taken against the accused Participant or his club. If disciplinary action is appropriate the Participant and his club shall be advised and sent a copy of the complaint. The club shall be asked to advise the Discipline Director within 7 days what action it intends to take. A similar process to that described in Clause 3.9 will then ensue.

3.13.2 If a disciplinary hearing is required to determine the complaint it is imperative that the Participant making the complaint attends the hearing.

4 Disciplinary Hearing

4.1 Where a charge against a player is made his club MUST hold a Disciplinary Hearing, his captain and club may be charged separately under their responsibilities as set out in the Code of Conduct above.

4.2 In any case which is referred for a Disciplinary Hearing, the Discipline Director will inform the club and the level of sanction expected. The Discipline Director will inform the club in writing within 72 hours of the incident being reported to him.

4.3 Should the club fail to satisfy the Discipline Director of their action and any appropriate sanction, the League Disciplinary Committee shall convene a hearing as soon as is practicable and in any event within 21 days of the decision to refer. Any adjournments may be granted at the discretion of the Discipline Director. All costs and expenses incurred by this hearing to be met by the player and or club and a deposit of £250.00 must be lodged with the League before this Disciplinary Hearing can take place

4.4 The player and club shall be entitled to attend the hearing, state their case (in the case of a club by its Secretary or other official), to be supported by a colleague and to call witnesses.

4.5 If the Participant is to have representation present at the Disciplinary Hearing, then the details of that representation must be given to the Discipline Director not less than 48 hours before the date of the hearing.

4.6 The Disciplinary Hearing shall be conducted by a Disciplinary Panel appointed by the Discipline Director and shall consist of not less than three persons and not more than five persons drawn from a list approved by the Board. The Discipline Director shall appoint one of the Disciplinary Panel members to act as Chairman of the Disciplinary Panel. The GMCLUA Discipline Secretary as note taker. None of the Panel should be connected with the Participant or any relevant opponent at the time of the alleged breach, any Participant who might directly benefit from any disciplinary action. The hearing minutes will be made available to an Appeal Panel if such hearing should subsequently take place.

4.7 The Disciplinary Panel may call on umpires, players, independent witnesses and any other person(s) whom they may consider to be of assistance in their enquiries. The GMCLUA is to encourage its umpires to include details of independent witnesses within their report wherever possible.

4.8 Umpire(s) or other witnesses requested to attend a disciplinary hearing will receive expenses of 40 pence per mile.

4.9 As per 4.3 above, a Participant involved in disciplinary proceedings will deposit a sum of £250.00 before any hearing takes place and will be solely responsible for meeting such costs or expenses and any other costs as it or they may incur, e.g. the cost of any legal or other representation.

4.10 In the event of more than one club being involved in the hearing, the cost will be equally shared.

4.11 The standard of proof shall be on the balance of probabilities rather than the criminal standard of beyond reasonable doubt.

4.12 The Disciplinary Panel shall decide what if any penalties are to be imposed at the time of the Hearing and the Discipline Director (or his Deputy) shall advise the player, club and the GMCL Board and Disciplinary Representative. The penalties shall be generally in line with the Disciplinary Tariffs in the Appendix and the Discipline Director will post the decision on the GMCL website

5 Penalties

5.1 Accumulated Bad Behaviour

5.1.1 Any player receiving two ABBs in twelve months will receive an immediate and automatic one week's ban.

5.1.2 ABBs will be recorded on the GMCL website.

5.2 Reportable offences

5.2.1 As a minimum, an automatic ban by the club for ONE WEEK;

5.2.2 Clubs are expected to impose bans on their players in accordance with the tariffs in the Appendix for all offences as described in Sections 1 to 5. These tariffs will also be used by the Discipline Director when considering the club's actions, Clause 3.8 above.

5.2.3 Offences committed under Clause 1.4 are reportable offences and the club should give the player an automatic ban of one week. If an offence has been committed by a Participant who is not a player, the club must take appropriate action against that person. The club secretary must forward a report to the Discipline Director within seven days of the action taken.

5.2.4 The Discipline Director reserves the right to consider further this breach of discipline and may recommend further sanctions as for any other reportable offence for abusive behaviour.

5.3 Imposed by a Disciplinary Panel

5.3.1 If at the hearing the Disciplinary Committee finds the alleged offence proved it shall have the power to impose one or more of the following penalties, together with such order as to costs as it deems appropriate:

5.4 In the case of a player or Participant:

5.4.1 To require the submission of appropriate letter(s) of apology within a specified time.

5.4.2 To record a reprimand and to give a warning as to future conduct.

5.4.3 To impose a fine (Not to exceed £500).

5.4.4 To suspend the player for a stated period of time, unless in the case of a registered player. In cases where a registered player is to be penalised the committee should carefully consider whether a time or match ban is most appropriate and in any case no more than five specified days or matches can be levied.

5.4.5 To deduct League points from the player's/Participant's team.

5.4.6 To recommend the expulsion of the player/Participant from the league.

5.4.7 As a guideline only the following penalties should be expected in regard to bans:

Level 1 - 2 to 6 weeks

Level 2 - 3 to 8 weeks

Level 3 - 4 to 10 weeks

Level 4 - A minimum of 10 weeks

5.4.8 Bans will be imposed for offences which occur in any league or cup competition fixture and will apply to all matches under the auspices of the GMCL. In addition, bans imposed for a period which continues beyond the end of a season will be carried forward into the following season.

5.4.9 A player charged with more than one offence will receive (if guilty) separate penalties which are cumulative and NOT concurrent.

5.4.10 Bans will be imposed in weeks (as multiples of seven days) commencing midnight Friday to midnight Friday.

5.4.11 Bans of four weeks or more duration (not including parts suspended - see Clause 4.2 above) will be reported by the Discipline Director to the appropriate County Cricket Board for national circularisation. Such bans will normally apply to all cricket played under the auspices of the ECB (see also Clause 5.7).

5.4.12 The severity of the offence will influence the appropriateness of the length of sentence to be imposed in all cases.

5.4.13 All suspended bans on players will be recorded on the GMCL website. Clause 3.8.5, Clause 3.12, Clause 5.6 and Clause 8.3.1 all refer to suspended bans.

5.5 In the case of a club:

5.5.1 To require the club to submit appropriate letter(s) of apology within a specified time.

5.5.2 To record a reprimand and to give a warning as to future conduct.

5.5.3 To impose a fine.

5.5.4 To deduct League points from the club's team(s)

5.5.5 To relegate to any lower division of the League.

5.5.6 To expel the club from any competition of the League.

5.5.7 To expel the club from the League.

5.6 The Discipline Director shall have the power to suspend the operation of any part, or all, of the penalty it imposes for such period and subject to such terms and conditions it deems appropriate.

5.7 Decisions of the Disciplinary Panel (a finding that a complaint is proved or not proved or a decision on penalty) shall be by majority vote; where necessary the Panel Chairman shall have a casting vote. In the case of a registered player the result of the hearing should be communicated within 24 hours in writing, preferably by email, to the Club Chairman, Club Secretary or nominated Club Representative.

6 Appeals Procedure

6.1 There are no appeals allowed against an automatic ban instigated by an ABB.

6.2 Where a breach of the Code of Conduct has been proved on the balance of probabilities at a Disciplinary Hearing, a Participant shall have the right of appeal. This right should only be exercised in good faith upon reasonable grounds. Reasonable grounds will include fresh evidence not available at the time of the original hearing,

failure by the officials to follow these Regulations or any evidence of manifest injustice. Where more than one Participant (e.g. a player and his club) appeals in relation to the same incident, they must do so separately

6.3 A notice of appeal setting out the grounds must be given in writing by the Participant to the Discipline Director within seven days of the decision of the Disciplinary Panel being communicated to the Participant in writing, together with a deposit. The amount of the deposit shall be £250 for each club and £100 for each other Participant exercising their right of appeal. Cheques should be made payable to 'GMCL' which amount, or part of the amount will be refunded in the event of such appeal being successful. The club is responsible for the cost of the appeal hearing. In the event of the appeal not being correctly received within the 7 day period, the decision of the Disciplinary Hearing Panel will stand.

6.4 If the Discipline Director accepts the grounds for an appeal he will advise the club's secretary of the time, date and venue of the appeal hearing and a panel will be appointed. The advice shall specify the alleged disciplinary offence(s) and give the club at least 7 days' notice of the hearing. Receipt of the advice must be acknowledged within 24 hours. If a receipt is not received the author of the advice must contact the recipient(s) by telephone. The club secretary shall advise all the club's Participants accordingly.

6.5 If the Participant is to have representation present at the hearing then details of that representation must be given to the Disciplinary Secretary not less than 7 days before the date of the hearing.

6.6 The GMCLUA Discipline Secretary will take the notes of the hearing and the Discipline Director (or his nominated Deputy) will present the sequence of events leading up to the Appeal.

6.7 The Appeal Panel will be provided with the minutes of the original hearing and may call on umpires, players, independent witnesses and any other person(s) whom they may consider to be of assistance in their enquiries, for example a member of the original Disciplinary Panel or other relevant individual. Umpires will receive expenses as described above (Clause 4.9).

6.8 If Notice of Appeal is given the penalty shall not take effect pending the hearing of the Appeal, which shall take place as soon as is practicable.

6.9 The Appeal shall be by way of re-hearing before a different Committee. The composition of the Committee shall be at the discretion of the Chairman of the League or a nominated Board Director and shall consist of not less than three persons, none of whom shall be connected with the player, the Club or their opponents at the time of the alleged breach. The Participant or club shall have the same rights of attendance and representation, and to call witnesses as they had before the Disciplinary Committee.

6.10 The Appeals Committee may confirm, vary or reverse the decision of the Disciplinary Committee and it shall have the power to increase the penalty and award costs of the Appeal hearing. Decisions of the Appeal Panel shall be by majority vote; where necessary, the Chairman shall have a casting vote.

6.11 The decision of the Appeals Committee or, if no appeal, of the Disciplinary Committee, shall be final and binding unless in the case of a registered player, where the player may appeal to the Chairman of the Cricket Discipline Commission who will consider the case under the Rules and Regulations of the ECB Regulations for Clubs.

6.12 The travelling expenses of the three members of the Appeal Panel plus those of any others called to give evidence will be the responsibility of the player's club. The GMCL will pay these expenses if the appeal finds in favour of the Participant.

6.13 In the event of more than one club being involved in the hearing, the cost will be equally shared.

6.14 The standard of proof shall be on the balance of probabilities rather than the criminal standard of beyond reasonable doubt.

6.15 Non-attendance at the Appeal Hearing by a Participant without good and valid reason for such non-attendance will automatically result in forfeiture of their right of appeal and the deposit of £250.00.

7 Non-Payment of Disciplinary Fines

7.1 Any fine levied must be paid to the Finance Director of the GMCL within 28 days of the club being notified of such fine.

7.2 Any fines still outstanding at the end of that 28 days' period shall be increased by 100% of the original fine. At the end of that period the secretary or chairman of the offending club shall be notified to the effect that the fine is outstanding and given a reminder that if after a further period of 14 days from that reminder, the fine is still outstanding, a deduction of five points shall be made in regard to the team from which the fine arose (or, if the fine does not arise from a particular team, the club's first team).

8 Mutual Recognition of Penalties

8.1 The GMCL and clubs shall mutually recognise and give full effect to any penalty imposed by the Disciplinary and Appeal Panels of the GMCL.

8.2 The GMCL and clubs shall recognise and give effect to penalties imposed pursuant to any disciplinary or relevant regulations of all competitions under the auspices of County Cricket Boards, as defined and listed in the ECB's Articles of Association from time-to-time, and any other competitions as directed by the ECB from time-to-time.

8.3 The GMCL and clubs shall mutually recognise and give full effect to any disciplinary penalty imposed by all competitions subscribing to or recognised by the ECB.

8.3.1 For the purposes of Section 9, a Participant may not play in matches under the auspices of the GMCL whilst serving a suspension given by any other League or a Recognised Competition. For the avoidance of doubt, in the event any other League or a Recognised Competition suspends a player for a consecutive number of matches or for a period of time, that player may not play in any matches under the auspices of the GMCL until that suspension has been served.

8.4 In order to give effect to the mutual recognition of penalties between the GMCL and Recognised Competitions, the GMCL may report and receive information in regard to penalties imposed upon Participants pursuant to the Disciplinary Regulations to and from the ECB and Recognised Competitions. Information will be shared about the penalties imposed on Participants on a 'need-to-know' basis with such Participants and other persons/bodies as are necessary to give effect to the penalty.

9 Data Protection Consent

Each Participant shall be deemed to have agreed, for the purposes of the Data Protection Act 1998 and otherwise, that their personal data may be processed and disclosed in accordance with, and for the purposes of the implementation of, the Disciplinary Regulations.

10 Confidentiality

10.1 All disciplinary proceedings which take place under the Disciplinary Regulations shall be confidential and shall take place in private.

10.2 The GMCL and the ECB shall have the right to publish any written decision of a Disciplinary Panel or Appeal Panel, including (but not necessarily limited to) publication on their websites, and Participants shall be deemed to have consented to such publication.

11 Laws of Cricket - Law 42 – Players Conduct

11.1 The umpires shall act upon any unacceptable conduct.

Four Levels of offence are identified as Level 1, Level 2, Level 3 and Level 4 offences. (The on-field procedures and penalties associated with each Level are given at the end of this document)

11.2 Level 1

wilfully mistreating any part of the cricket ground, equipment or implements used in the match

showing dissent at an umpire's decision by word or action

using language that, in the circumstances, is obscene, offensive or insulting

making - obscene gesture

appealing excessively

advancing towards an umpire in an aggressive manner when appealing

11.3 Level 2

showing serious dissent at an umpire's decision by word or action

making inappropriate and deliberate physical contact with another player

throwing the ball at a player, umpire or another person in an inappropriate and dangerous manner

using language or gesture to another player, umpire, team official or spectator that, in the circumstances, is obscene or of a seriously insulting nature

11.4 Level 3

intimidating an umpire by language or gesture

threatening to assault a player or any other person except an umpire

11.5 Level 4

threatening to assault an umpire

making inappropriate and deliberate physical contact with an umpire

physically assaulting a player or any other person

committing any other act of violence.

12 Social Media

12.1 For the avoidance of doubt, any postings online and/or on social media (Twitter, Facebook or similar/equivalent platforms) also fall to be determined in accordance with the factors above. In relation to such cases, it should be noted:

12.1.1 Participants are to be considered responsible for any posting(s) on their social media account(s) which are caught by the factors detailed above (the fact that a posting may have been made by someone else in the Participant's name will not necessarily prevent disciplinary action being taken);

12.1.2 Disciplinary action may result from repeating comments made on social media by others (e.g. 'retweeting') which are caught by the factors detailed above; and

12.1.3 The deleting of any inappropriate content, whilst advisable, does not of itself prevent disciplinary action being taken.

APPENDIX 1 - DISCIPLINARY TARIFFS

Accumulated Bad Behaviour warnings (ABB)

Where both umpires agree that the level of general behaviour and misconduct does not warrant a formal disciplinary report, then they should report the incident as an ABB on the match report card. The reporting of such offences is mandatory. Typical reasons for ABBs are listed below. Two ABBs in twelve months will result in an automatic 1-week ban.

- (a) Shouting of foul or abusive language whether in self-frustration or at or to an umpire or player, at such a level as to be heard at or beyond the boundary thus bringing the game and GMCL into disrepute.
- (b) Orchestrated appealing including 'ridiculous' lbw appeals from a position where the fielder could not possibly make a considered appeal.
- (c) Premature 'celebrations' prior to an umpire's decision.
- (d) Gesturing/pointing towards the pavilion upon dismissal of the batsman or any other form of aggressive 'send-off'.
- (e) Persistent questioning of an umpire's decisions and comment thereon – where this fall short of (c) Abuse of an Umpire above.
- (f) Any action(s) whatsoever considered by both umpires to be out with the 'Spirit of the Game'.

Mandatory reporting to the Governing Body under the Laws of Cricket

The umpires jointly are instructed to report transgressions to the GMCL Disciplinary Secretary under the following headings:

Law 18.5 - deliberate short runs

Law 24.2(c) - fair delivery – the arm

Law 42.3 - changing the condition of the match ball **

Law 42.4 - deliberate attempt to distract the striker **

Law 42.5 - deliberate distraction or obstruction of batsman **

Law 42.6, 7 and 8 - dangerous and unfair bowling **

Law 42.9 - time wasting by the fielding side

Law 42.10 - batsman wasting time

Law 42.11, 12, 13 and 14 - bowler, fielder or batsman avoidably damaging the pitch **

Law 42.16 - batsmen stealing a run

Law 42.18 - players' conduct

** These offences are likely to incur a minimum TWO WEEKS ban

Other Reported Disciplinary Offences Tariff

- 1 Abuse of cricket equipment, clothing, ground equipment or fixtures and fittings

The knocking of stumps, or the throwing or kicking of a bat, ball, helmet, boundary flag, rope or any equipment on the field of play or within the curtilage of the club premises or ground. Minimum 2 WEEKS
- 2 Abusive behaviour

Using language and/or gesture of an obscene or a serious insulting nature to another player, umpire, team official or spectator. 2 WEEKS min to 6 WEEKS
- 3 Aggressive behaviour
 - 3.1 Repeated charging or advancing towards an umpire in an aggressive manner when appealing. The Captain may also be disciplined. 3 WEEKS min to 8 WEEKS
 - 3.2 Throwing the ball at or near a player, umpire or official in an inappropriate and dangerous manner.
 - 3.3 The bowling of fast short pitched balls that result in the bowler being disallowed from bowling further in that innings.
 - 3.4 Inappropriate and deliberate physical contact between players during play.
4. Captain failing to control his players following a request

This is a major transgression against the Spirit of Cricket
3 WEEKS min to 8 WEEKS
5. Abuse of an umpire (including intimidation by word or action)
 - 5.1 Dissent by action OR verbally,
 - 5.2 Dissent by action AND verbally,
2 WEEKS min to 6 WEEKS
 - 5.3 Verbal OR written abuse (including language that is obscene, offensive or insulting and/or the making of an obscene gesture. Minimum 3 WEEKS
6. Intimidating and threatening behaviour
 - 6.1 Intimidating an umpire 5 WEEKS min to 10 WEEKS
 - 6.2 Threatening to assault another player, team official or spectator
 - 6.3 Racial / Homophobic/Sexual Abuse of any person

Using language or gesture that offends, insults, humiliates, intimidates, threatens, disparages or vilifies another person on the basis of that person's race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, colour, descent, national or ethnic origin.
 - 6.4 the deliberate bowling of any high full-pitched ball (Law 42.8)
7. Threatening and violent behaviour
 - 7.1 Threatening an umpire
Minimum 10 WEEKS
 - 7.2 Physical assault on another player, umpire, official or spectator

7.3 Any act of violence on the field of play

7.4 Racial / Homophobic/Sexual Abuse of any person

Using language or gesture that seriously offends, insults, humiliates, intimidates, threatens, disparages or vilifies another person on the basis of that person's race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, colour, descent, national or ethnic origin.

The Laws of Cricket (2017 Code) Law 42: On Field Sanctions;

These shall be available to umpires in games under the jurisdiction of the GMCL

DISCIPLINARY BREACH AT LEVEL 1

- a) Abuse of cricket ground, equipment or fixtures/fittings;
- b) Showing dissent at an umpire's decision by word or action;
- c) Using language that is obscene, offensive or insulting and/or making an obscene gesture;
- d) Excessive appealing;
- e) Charging or advancing towards an umpire in an aggressive manner when appealing;

LEVEL 1 SANCTIONS

- On the first occasion, the umpires summon the captain of the offending player and issue a first and final warning which applies to all members of that team for and lasts for the rest of the match.
- However, if anyone in that team has already committed a Level 2, 3 or 4 offences during the match, the warning procedure for a Level 1 offence outlined above shall be dispensed with, and any Level 1 breach by any member of the same side will result in 5 penalty runs immediately being awarded to the opposing side.
- On the second and any subsequent occasions that a Level 1 offence is committed, the umpires award 5 Penalty runs to the opposing team.
- Any official warning or award of Penalty runs must be reported by the umpires in a joint report.

DISCIPLINARY BREACH AT LEVEL 2

- a) Showing serious dissent at an umpire's decision by words or action;
- b) Inappropriate and deliberate physical contact between player, umpire or official in an inappropriate and dangerous manner;

LEVEL 2 SANCTIONS

- Award 5 Penalty runs to the opposing team on every occasion that such a breach occurs.
- Warn the captain that any future breach of a Level 1 offence by any member of his team will immediately result in Penalty Runs.
- Each occurrence must be reported by the umpires in a joint report.

DISCIPLINARY BREACH AT LEVEL 3

- a) Intimidating an umpire;
- b) Threatening to assault another player, team official or spectator;
- c) Using language or gesture that offends, insults, humiliates, intimidates, threatens, disparages or vilifies another person on the basis of that person's race, religion or belief colour, decent, nation or ethnic origin, descent, national or ethnic origin, age, disability, gender, sexual orientation or background;

LEVEL 3 SANCTIONS

- Inform the captain of the offending player that a Level 3 breach has occurred and instruct the captain to remove the offending player from the field of play for a specified number of overs.
- Warn the captain that any future breach of a Level 1 offence by any member of his team will immediately result in Penalty Runs
- Suspension period shall be 10 overs in a 'time' game. In a limited-overs game. one-fifth of the number of overs available to each side at the start of the match, with fractions rounded up.
- A fielder can return to the field of play immediately he has served his period of suspension and may bowl the next over immediately following his return. A substitute fielder is not permitted whilst he is off the field.
- After he has served his suspension, a batsman can return to bat at the fall of the next wicket, or he can return at any stage before the next wicket falls, in which case the batsman that he replaces is retired out. If 9 wickets are down when or whilst a batsman is suspended, then his team are all out.
- The umpires shall award 5 Penalty runs to the opposing side, inform the scorers. and shall jointly report.

DISCIPLINARY BREACH AT LEVEL 4

- a) Threatening an umpire;
- b) Physical assault of another player, umpire, official or spectator;
- c) Using language or gesture that seriously offends, insults, humiliates, intimidates, threatens, disparages or vilifies another person on the basis of that person's race, religion or belief, colour, descent, national or ethnic origin, age, disability, gender, sexual orientation or background.

LEVEL 4 SANCTIONS

- Summon the captain of the offending player, inform him that a Level 4 breach has occurred, and instruct the captain to remove the offending player from the field of play for the rest of the match
- Warn the captain that any future breach of a Level 1 offence by any member of his team will immediately result in Penalty Runs.
- If the offending player is a batsman, he is Retired out, and if 9 wickets are already down at the time of the offence, his team is all out.
- The umpires shall award 5 Penalty runs to the opposing side, inform the scorers and shall jointly report.

APPENDIX 2--- ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

1/ The new disciplinary regulations and revised MCC Law 42 will be rolled out across all senior cricket, this includes all Saturday, Sunday and T20 competitions. Therefore, all umpires (including Club Umpires) will need to be aware of these regulations.

2/ Note that any penalty imposed will be in terms of weeks (not matches)

3/ Please note that a Level 1 offence is no longer just a warning. A reported Level 1 offence is now subject to minimum of a 2 weeks ban to a maximum of a 6 weeks ban.

4/ Any existing Level 1 or Level 2 offences which were subject to a 2 years recording will be carried over to the 2018 season.

5/ In view of the number of disciplinary issues (some of them very serious indeed) the league has had to deal in the last two seasons, there will be a 'totting up' procedure implemented from next season. This will lead to the deduction of league points. The points will be deducted from all the club senior teams.

Therefore, should a club pick up a cumulative of 12 weeks in bans (either players or club) the club will be subject to 5 points being deducted from all their senior teams.

Each one week ban thereafter for the same club (either player or club) will result in another 1 point being deducted from all their senior teams.

Any club reaching a total of 40 points deduction across all their teams will be subject to a mandatory disciplinary hearing and a fine of a minimum £200.00.

It is worth noting that for instance any Level 4 offence would be a minimum ban of 10 weeks, therefore the club would be very close to a points deduction.

Please note that only served bans will count in relation to points deductions, however should the suspended bans be imposed at a later date the points deduction will apply as described previously.