NCCA Code of Conduct for Participants

Article 1 – Scope and Application

1.1. All Participants are automatically bound by and required to comply with all provisions of the Code of Conduct. By participating in any match played under the auspices of the NCCA, participants shall be deemed to have agreed:

1.1.1. That it is their responsibility to familiarize themselves with all of the requirements of the Code of Conduct;

1.1.2. To submit to the exclusive jurisdiction of the NCCA Disciplinary Committee and any panel convened under the Code of Conduct; and

1.1.3. Not to bring any proceedings in any other forum that are inconsistent with the foregoing submission to the jurisdiction of the NCCA Disciplinary Committee or other panel so convened.

1.2. The Code of Conduct does not limit the responsibilities of a Participant under any other rules that may apply to them on the basis of their membership in other cricketing organizations, and nothing in such other rules shall be capable of altering the jurisdiction of the NCCA Disciplinary Committee or other panels in any way.

1.3. For the purposes of this Code of Conduct, a Participant is defined as any playing member of an NCCA member Club, whether acting as a member of the playing squad, an umpire or a spectator, during the course of any match conducted under the auspices of the NCCA.

Article 2 – Code of Conduct Offences

2.1. Level 1 Offenses

2.1.1. Showing dissent at an Umpire's decision during a match

2.1.2. Using language or a gesture that is obscene, offensive or insulting during a match

2.1.3. Excessive appealing during a match

2.1.4. Pointing or gesturing towards the pavilion by a bowler or other member of the fielding side upon the dismissal of a batsman during a match

2.1.5. Any other conduct not covered by the above offenses that is deemed to either: (a) be contrary to the spirit of the game; or (b) brings the game into disrepute

2.2. Level 2 Offenses

2.2.1. Any Level 1 Offense committed by a Captain, NCCA Officer, NCCA Representative Player or Director

2.2.2. Any Level 1 Offense committed by a player under probation

2.2.3. Any Level 1 Offense committed in repetition, either during a single match or spread over multiple matches

2.2.4. Showing serious dissent at an Umpire's decision during a match

2.2.5. Abuse of Cricket equipment or clothing, ground equipment or fixtures and fittings during a match

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

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

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

2.2.9. Throwing a ball or any other item at or near a Player, Official, Spectator or other third person in an inappropriate and/or dangerous manner during a match

2.2.10. Using language or gesture(s) that is seriously obscene, seriously offensive or of a seriously insulting nature to another Player, Official or any third person during a match

2.2.11. Attempting to manipulate a match for inappropriate strategic or tactical reasons

2.2.12. Any other conduct not covered by the above offenses that is deemed to either: (a) be contrary to the spirit of the game; or (b) brings the game into disrepute

2.3. Level 3 Offenses

2.3.1. Any Level 2 Offense committed by a Captain, NCCA Officer, NCCA Representative Player or Director

2.3.2. Any Level 2 Offense committed by a player under probation

2.3.3. Any Level 2 Offense committed in repetition, either during a single match or spread over multiple matches

2.3.4. Participation in a match whilst under the influence of alcohol, narcotics or any other controlled substance or consumption of any such substance during a match

2.3.5. Any conduct that may jeopardize future use of a ground or facility

2.3.6. Intimidation of an Umpire or other Official whether by language or conduct during a match

2.3.7. Threat of assault on another Player, Spectator or any third person during a match

2.3.8. Any other conduct not covered by the above offenses that is deemed to either: (a) be contrary to the spirit of the game; or (b) brings the game into disrepute

2.3.9 Violation of the Minor Abuse Prevention and Interaction Policy - see Article 3 (excluding cases of physical assault or sexual misconduct, which are Level 4).

2.3.10. Sending private, unauthorized electronic communications to a Minor without including a parent/guardian

2.4. Level 4 Offenses

2.4.1. Any Level 3 Offense committed by a Captain, NCCA Officer, NCCA Representative Player or Director

2.4.2. Any Level 3 Offense committed by a player under probation

2.4.3. Any Level 3 Offense committed in repetition, either during a single match or spread over multiple matches

2.4.4. Threat of assault on an Umpire or other Official during a match

2.4.5. Physical assault of another Player, Spectator or any third person during a match

2.4.6. Any act of violence on the field of play during a match

2.4.7. Any other conduct not covered by the above offenses that is deemed to either: (a) be contrary to the spirit of the game; or (b) brings the game into disrepute

2.4.8 Any violation of local laws of a ground or facility where the incident is reported

2.4.9 Any intentional one-on-one interaction with a Minor that involves grooming behavior, physical abuse, or sexual misconduct.

2.4.10 Repeated violations of the Minor Abuse Prevention and Interaction Policy despite previous warnings or probation.

Article 3 – Safeguarding and Interactions with Minors

Minor Abuse Prevention and Interaction Policy

To ensure the safety of participants under the age of 18 ("Minors"), the following policies apply to all Adult Participants (players, umpires, coaches, volunteers, and officials) interacting with Minors.

3.1 One-on-One Interactions (The "Rule of Two")

3.1.1 **Observable and Interruptible**: All in-person interactions between an Adult Participant and a Minor must occur in an open environment that is observable and interruptible by another adult. The environment must allow for another adult to easily enter the space or interrupt the interaction without barrier (e.g., unlocked doors, window blinds open). Private, one-on-one interactions (including closed-door meetings) are strictly prohibited unless a second adult participant is present.

3.1.2 **Exceptions**: Exceptions exist only for:

(a) Emergency medical circumstances: Medical treatment or physiotherapy must be administered in an open, observable environment (e.g., the sideline). If a private room is medically necessary, the door must remain open, or a second Adult Participant must be present in the room.

(b) Interactions involving a Dual Relationship (e.g., the Adult Participant is the Minor's parent/guardian or relative).

3.2 Electronic Communications

3.2.1 **Open and Transparent**: Adult Participants must not engage in one-on-one direct messaging (DM), private texting, or private emailing with a Minor.

3.2.2 **Mandatory Copying**: All electronic communications with a Minor must explicitly copy (cc) the Minor's parent/guardian or another Adult official (e.g., Club Secretary or Coach).

3.2.3 **Social Media**: Adult Participants are prohibited from having private, non-public social media connections with Minors (e.g., "friending" or "following" on platforms that allow direct private messaging) unless a Dual Relationship exists.

3.3. Transportation and Lodging

3.3.1 **Travel**: An Adult Participant must not travel alone with an unrelated Minor. A second adult must always be present in the vehicle, or the Minor must be accompanied by their parent/guardian.

3.3.2 **Lodging**: An Adult Participant shall not share a hotel room or sleeping arrangement with an unrelated Minor.

Given the severity of child safety, anyone found in violation of these policies above under section 3 shall be categorized as **Level 3** or **Level 4** offenses to ensure immediate action and significant penalties.

Article 4 – Reporting an Offense

4.1. Any one of the following individuals can report an alleged offense under the Code of Conduct

4.1.1. An Umpire officiating in the match during which the alleged offense was committed

4.1.2. The captain of either of the two teams participating in the match during which the alleged offense was committed

4.1.3. A Club President, Chief Executive or Secretary from the clubs to which either of the two teams participating in the match during which the alleged offense was committed belong.

4.1.4. In the case of a Level 3 or Level 4 Offense, any person present at the match during which the alleged offense was committed. For the avoidance of doubt, such persons are not entitled to report a Level 1 or Level 2 Offense other than as stipulated in 4.1.1, 4.1.2 and 4.1.3

4.2. All reports of alleged offenses must be lodged either directly with the NCCA Disciplinary Committee, or to the Disciplinary Committee via either the Umpiring Committee or the Match Committee. Reports must be lodged within one (1) week of the alleged offense occurring.

Article 5 – Notification and Investigation Procedure

5.1. When a report of an alleged offense is received, if the NCCA Disciplinary Committee deems the alleged offense to be worthy of investigation, the Participant and Team Captain shall be notified of the charges and default penalty. The Participant alleged to have committed the offense shall then have three options:

5.1.1. Admit the offense as charged and accept the stipulated penalty

5.1.2. Admit the offense but dispute the penalty on the basis of having further information that may lead to a reduced penalty or charge

5.1.3. Deny the offense completely

5.2. If a Participant either denies a charge or disputes the stipulated penalty, the NCCA Disciplinary Committee shall then further investigate the matter using whatever means and mechanisms it deems appropriate.

5.3. If the NCCA Disciplinary Committee determines that a Participant has willfully misled the Committee by denying a charge that was subsequently determined to be true, they may at their discretion impose an additional penalty over and above the penalty stipulated for the offense.

5.4. Penalties shall be applied as stipulated in Article 6, except as excepted in Article 5.3 above.

5.5. The NCCA Disciplinary Committee shall provide a decision on all matters in a maximum of fourteen (21) days from the date of receipt of the initial report.

5.5.1. Should the Disciplinary Committee require extra time to gather information or make a decision on a matter, notification shall be provided to the reporter of the incident, the charged Participant, the NCCA President, and the Match Committee

5.5.2. This notification shall be provided by the end of the ten (10) days after receipt of the initial report, and shall contain a new date for a decision which under no circumstances shall be later than twenty-eight (28) days after the date of receipt of the initial report

Article 6 – Penalties

6.1. Penalties for a Level 1 Offense

6.1.1. Probation up to a maximum of 6 months from the time of the Offense

6.1.2. Maximum fine of $100.00

6.2. Penalties for a Level 2 Offense

6.2.1. Probation of 1 year from the time of the Offense

6.2.2. Minimum fine of $50.00

6.2.3. Maximum fine of $250.00

5.2.4. Suspension for a period of up to 5 scheduled games based on the schedule of the team for which the player was playing in the match during which the offense was committed

6.3. Penalties for a Level 3 Offense

6.3.1. Probation of 2 years from the time of the Offense

6.3.2. Minimum fine of $100.00

6.3.3. Maximum fine of $500.00

6.3.4. Suspension for a period of no less than 3 scheduled games and no more than 8 scheduled games based on the schedule of the team for which the player was playing in the match during which the offense was committed.

6.4. Penalties for a Level 4 Offense

6.4.1. Lifetime probation

6.4.2. Minimum fine of $250.00

6.4.3. Maximum fine of $1,000.00

6.4.4. Suspension for a period of not less than 8 scheduled games with no upper limit, based on the schedule of the team for which the player was playing in the match during which the offense was committed.

Article 7 – Appeals

7.1. A Participant shall not be able to appeal a decision or penalty for a charge pertaining to a Level 1 Offense

7.2. A Participant shall not be able to appeal a decision or penalty that was originally accepted as stipulated under Article 5.1.1

7.3. Participants shall be able to appeal any decisions or penalties for charges pertaining to Level 2, Level 3 or Level 4 Offences, other than as excepted in Article 7.2 above

7.3.1. If a Participant wishes to appeal a decision or penalty, (s)he must in writing (email shall suffice) notify the NCCA President, NCCA Match Committee and NCCA Disciplinary Committee of the appeal.

7.3.2. An appeal to the disciplinary committee verdict must be lodged within forty-eight (48) hours of the original verdict. Each appeal must be accompanied by a deposit of $300, which will only be refunded at the discretion of the appeals committee.

7.3.3. Any penalties that were enforced by the Disciplinary Committee shall be suspended while an appeal is in process.

7.4. The NCCA President shall appoint an Appeals Committee of three (3) members, subject to ratification by the NCCA Board of Directors.

7.4.1. This Committee shall be constituted once an appeal is received.

7.4.2. No sitting member of the NCCA Disciplinary Committee shall be permitted to serve on the Appeals Committee.

7.5. The Appeals Committee shall review the case and determine if the appeal is frivolous or worthwhile.

7.5.1. The Appeals Committee alone shall decide what methods to use to make this determination.

7.6. If an appeal is deemed frivolous, penalties imposed on the appealing Participant shall be upgraded to the next higher level of Offense where possible.

7.6.1. The Appeals Committee shall, at its sole discretion, determine what further penalty, if any, to impose, subject to the limitation of the stipulated penalties for the upgraded level of Offense

7.6.2. In the case of a frivolous appeal of a Level 4 Offense, the Appeals Committee shall at its sole discretion determine the extent to which penalties shall be increased, if at all.

7.7. If an appeal is deemed to be not frivolous, the Appeals Committee shall re-investigate the matter and make a new decision pursuant to the Code of Conduct.

7.7.1. The decision made by the Appeals Committee is at this point deemed final and binding with no recourse.

7.8. The Appeals Committee shall endeavor to provide a decision on an appeal in a maximum of seven (7) days from receipt of the appeal.