

CRICKET LEINSTER DISCIPLINARY REGULATIONS 2023

1. JURISDICTION OF CRICKET LEINSTER

These Regulations replace all previous versions of the Disciplinary Regulations and subsume the disciplinary procedures set out in the *Code of Ethics and Good Practice (July 2011)*. They apply to all forms of cricket under the auspices of Cricket Leinster and also in respect of the following disciplinary matters:

1.1 Any allegation of corruption (as defined in Article 2 of the ICC Anti-Corruption Code for Players and Player Support Personnel or as provided in Appendix 1 of the ICC Code of Conduct for Umpires) in connection with any form or level of cricket under the authority of Cricket Leinster;

1.2 Alleged breaches of the Code of Conduct (in Regulation 2) which occur on or off the field in connection with any of the fixtures or competitions organised under the authority of Cricket Leinster.

1.3 Alleged breaches of the Codes of Conduct for Managers, Coaches, Selectors, Spectators, Parents or Guardians, or Players set out in the *Code of Ethics and Good Practice*.

1.4 Any suspension for a period of time for a level 3 or Level 4 offence imposed by Cricket Ireland or any Provincial Union shall also apply to Cricket Leinster competitions. Any suspension for a Level 3 or Level 4 offence imposed by Cricket Leinster will be notified to Cricket Ireland and other Provincial Unions.

2. DISCIPLINARY OFFENCES

(a) Offences by Players, Team Officials, Clubs and Spectators

2.1 (a) Players, team officials, clubs and spectators shall conduct themselves in accordance with the Spirit of Cricket as well as within the Laws of Cricket.

2.1 (b) Team captains are responsible for ensuring that these Regulations, the Spirit of Cricket and the Laws of Cricket are adhered to.

2.2 Players, team officials, clubs and spectators shall not engage in conduct which brings them or the game of cricket into disrepute.

2.3 Where the facts of, or the gravity or seriousness of, the alleged incident are not adequately or clearly covered by Level 1-4 Offences, the complainant may allege an offence under Regulation 2.1 or 2.2. The penalty for such an offence shall range from written reprimand to a lifetime ban.

2.4 Offences

The four levels of offence that may be committed by a player, team official, club and spectator are set out below, together with the range of penalties that may be imposed in respect of any breach.

2.4.1 Level 1 Offences

The penalty for a Level 1 offence shall be a written reprimand and/or a one-match suspension.

1.1	Wilfully mistreating any part of the cricket ground, equipment or implements used in the match.
1.2	Showing dissent at an umpire's decision by word or action.
1.3	Using language that, in the circumstances, is obscene, offensive or insulting.
1.4	Making an obscene gesture.
1.5	Appealing excessively.
1.6	Advancing towards an umpire in an aggressive manner when appealing.
1.7	Any other misconduct, the nature of which is, in the opinion of the umpires, equivalent to a Level 1 offence.
1.8	Inappropriate comment in relation to an incident occurring in a match or of any player, match official or team participating in a match, irrespective of when such criticism or inappropriate comment is made. This shall include criticism or comments made on any of the social media.
1.9	Failure by a captain to ensure that these Regulations, the Spirit of Cricket and the Laws of Cricket are adhered to by his/her team in a match

2.4.2 Level 2 Offences

The penalty for a Level 2 offence is a suspension for two or three matches and a written warning as to future conduct, or a comparable period of time.

2.1	Showing serious dissent at an umpire's decision by word or action
2.2	Making inappropriate and deliberate physical contact with another player.
2.3	Throwing the ball at a player, umpire or another person in an inappropriate and dangerous manner.
2.4	Using language or gesture to another player, umpire, team official or spectator that, in the circumstances, is obscene or of a seriously insulting nature.
2.5	Any other misconduct, the nature of which is, in the opinion of the umpires, equivalent to a Level 2 offence.
2.6	Any attempt by a captain to manipulate the result of a match for reasons of league position, bonus points, net run rate or otherwise.
2.7	Commission of two Level 1 offences within 12 months (including offences arising from separate incidents in the same match).

2.4.3 Level 3 Offences.

The penalty for a Level 3 offence is a suspension for a minimum of four and a maximum of nine matches and a written warning as to future conduct, or a comparable period of time, up to three months.

3.1	Intimidating an umpire by language or gesture.
3.2	Threatening to assault a player or any other person except an umpire.
3.3	Using 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, national or ethnic origin.
3.4	Commission of two Level 2 offences within 12 months (including offences arising from separate incidents in the same match).

2.4.4 Level 4 Offences.

The penalty for a Level 4 offence is a suspension of a minimum of 10 matches and a written warning as to future conduct, or a comparable period of time, from three months to a lifetime ban.

Level	Description
4.1	Threatening to assault an umpire.
4.2	Making inappropriate and deliberate physical contact with an umpire.
4.3	Physically assaulting a player or any other person.
4.4	Committing any other act of violence.
4.5	Using language or gestures that seriously offend, insult, humiliate, intimidate, threaten, disparage or vilify another person on the basis of that person's race, religion, colour, descent and national or ethnic origin.
4.6	Commission of two Level 3 offences within 12 months (including offences arising from separate incidents in the same match).

2.5 Corruption

The penalty for an offence of corruption (as provided for in Regulation 1.1) shall be as provided in the ICC Anti-Corruption Code for Players and Player Support Personnel or the ICC Code of Conduct for Umpires, as appropriate.

The timeframes provided in these Regulations (2.4) shall not be applicable in relation to allegations of corruption.

(b) Offences under the Code of Ethics and Good Practice

2.6 The duties and responsibilities of Managers, Coaches, Selectors, Club Officials, Spectators, Parents or Guardians and Players are set out in the *Code of Ethics and Good Practice*. Breach of any of these duties or responsibilities shall constitute a disciplinary offence.

2.7 If the complaint involves suspected abuse or a criminal offence, the Cricket Leinster Safeguarding Committee shall be consulted and, if they so determine, the matter shall be reported to the statutory authorities and removed from the jurisdiction of the Disciplinary Committee pending the outcome of any investigation and ensuing action by them. The Cricket Leinster Safeguarding Committee may, if they see fit, suspend the person against whom the complaint has been made from involvement in cricket pending the outcome of this process.

2.8 The penalty for an offence under the *Code of Ethics and Good Practice* shall be one or more of the following:

- a written reprimand and warning as to future conduct;
- in the case of a Player or team captain, suspension from such matches or for such a period as may be specified;
- in the case of a Manager, Club Official, Coach or Selector, suspension from that role for such a period as may be specified;
- in the case of a Spectator, Parent or Guardian, suspension from attendance at matches and/or coaching sessions for such a period as may be specified.

(c) Offences by Clubs

2.9 The following disciplinary offences may be committed by a club:

- 2.9.1 Failing adequately to control its players' or officials' behaviour.
- 2.9.2 Failing adequately to control its supporters' behaviour.
- 2.9.3 Failure of the club or its members to comply with their obligations under the *Code of Ethics & Good Practice*.
- 2.9.4 Failure of the club or its officials to manage criticism or comments made on any of the social media accounts which are under the club's control.

2.10 The penalty for such an offence shall be any one or more of:

- a written reprimand and warning as to future conduct;
- a requirement to play specified Cricket Leinster fixtures away from home for such a period as may be specified;
- suspension from specified Cricket Leinster competitions for such a period as may be specified;
- a fine of up to €500.

3. DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE, SECRETARIES AND APPEAL COMMISSIONERS

3.1 Cricket Leinster shall establish a Disciplinary Committee to which responsibility for disciplinary issues is allocated. It shall consist of seven members.

3.2 An Hon. Secretary to the Disciplinary Committee shall be elected at the AGM in November each year to deal with administrative matters arising under these Regulations. Three shall be a quorum for any hearing.

3.3 Cricket Leinster shall elect a Chair of the Decision Appeals Board at the AGM in November each year. The Board shall appoint up to 12 people to act on the Decision Appeals Board. Three shall be a quorum for a hearing. The DAB shall act according to the Management regulations of Cricket Leinster.

4. DISCIPLINARY PROCESS

The person or club against whom a Complaint (as defined below) is made shall be “the Respondent”.

The Complaint

(a) Complaints against Players and/or Team Officials or against clubs under Regulation 2.9 or 2.10

4.1 The statement setting out the alleged offence (“the Complaint”) shall be in writing and must be sent to the Hon. Secretary of the Disciplinary Committee no later than seven days after the end of the match at which the alleged offence occurred. It may be sent by letter or email.

4.2 Where the alleged offence took place on the field of play or elsewhere within the sight and hearing of the Umpires, the Umpires must make a Complaint. Where the alleged offence was not so witnessed by the Umpires, the Complaint may be made by a duly authorised officer of the opposing club or of the Provincial Union in which the match took place. In the event that the offence occurs on any website and/or social media platform it shall be submitted within seven days of it coming to the attention of the complainant, who shall be asked to provide evidence to support this (photograph, screenshot etc.)

Level 1 Offence Exception

4.3 If the Complaint relates only to a Level 1 Offence by a player, the Disciplinary Committee may deal with the matter on the basis of the documentation as follows, without a hearing:

- 4.3.1 They shall provide a copy of the Complaint to the player and invite a written submission from him.
- 4.3.2 Any such submission shall be received not more than five days from the date that the player receives a copy of the Complaint.
- 4.3.3 Having received the player’s written submission, or if none is forthcoming, the Committee shall reach a decision on the Complaint and advise the player in writing by letter or email of their decision and of any penalty, and forward a copy to the Honorary Secretary of the Respondent’s club.

(b) Complaints under the Code of Ethics & Good Practice

4.4 The Complaint shall be in writing and must be sent to the Hon. Secretary no later than seven days after the end of the match, coaching session or tournament at which the alleged offence occurred. It may be sent by letter or email.

4.5 The following shall have authority to make a Complaint:

Against a Manager, Coach or Selector	Another Manager, Coach or Selector, or a Parent or Guardian, or a duly authorised officer of the opposing club
Against a Parent or Guardian	A Manager, Coach or Selector, or another Parent or Guardian, or a duly authorised officer of the opposing club
Against a Player	A Manager, Coach or Selector, or the Parent or Guardian of another Player, or a duly authorised officer of the opposing club

(c) Hearing

The following shall apply to all offences other than Level 1 offences by a player dealt with under Regulation 4.3.

4.6 An individual panel (“Disciplinary Panel”) comprised of at least three members of the Disciplinary Committee shall meet to adjudicate on the Complaint or Complaints. Where the Disciplinary Panel determines that an offence reported as higher than Level 1 is more appropriately a Level 1 offence, the Chairman of the Disciplinary Committee shall be entitled to apply Regulation 4.3 above, without the need to convene a hearing.

4.7 Each member shall have one vote. In the event of an equality of votes for any reason, the Chairman shall have a casting vote.

4.8 In appointing the Disciplinary Panel, the Disciplinary Committee shall, insofar as is practical, endeavour to ensure that no person is appointed who has a conflict of interest in relation to the Complaint or the Respondent.

4.9 The Disciplinary Panel shall have all powers necessary for, and incidental to, the exercise of its functions and, subject to these Regulations, it shall have the power to regulate its procedures.

4.10 The hearing shall be held as soon as reasonably practical and shall be confidential and held in private, unless the Disciplinary Panel decides otherwise.

4.11 The Disciplinary Panel may postpone or adjourn a hearing if appropriate, including to take any legal advice that it considers necessary, or if it considers it necessary to call evidence that was not available at the hearing.

4.12 The Respondent, or in the case of a club or spectator, a duly authorised officer of the club, shall be invited by the Hon. Secretary to attend the hearing. They shall be sent a copy of the Complaint and notified in writing of:

- (i) their entitlement to have the matter dealt with under Regulation 4.13.
- (ii) the place and time of the hearing;
- (iii) their entitlement to be accompanied to the hearing, at their own cost, by a supporter. The supporter may be a work colleague, fellow player, family member or friend (they are not entitled to be legally represented);
- (iv) where applicable, the requirement that any Respondent aged under 18 shall be accompanied at the hearing by a responsible adult (preferably their parent or guardian); and
- (v) their entitlement to call witnesses to give evidence at the hearing.

Where the Respondent is aged under 18, the notification shall be sent to their parent or guardian.

4.13 For all offences other than Level 1 Offences, a Respondent may admit to the offence in writing to the Secretary and submit in writing any statement they wish to make as regards the appropriate penalty. In such circumstances, the Disciplinary Panel shall decide the penalty without the need for a hearing.

4.14 The Disciplinary Panel, at the request of the Respondent or on its own initiative, may require the Respondent and/or the person making the Complaint to supply it, within

such time as it determines, with further particulars of the incident(s) giving rise to the Complaint, including details of all witnesses whom the Respondent intends to call at any hearing together with details of the evidence to be given by those witnesses, and the Respondent and/or the person making the Complaint shall comply with that direction.

4.15 Any failure by a Respondent to comply with any requirement or direction of the Disciplinary Panel, including those requirements or directions to be complied with within a time period, shall not prevent the Disciplinary Panel from proceeding and such failure may be taken into consideration by the Disciplinary Panel when making its decision.

4.16 The Disciplinary Panel shall have the power to decide on the admissibility, relevance and weight of any evidence and shall not be bound by any legal rules in relation to such matters. Facts may be established by any reliable means, including admissions.

4.17 The Respondent's supporter may advise the Respondent during the hearing, may question witnesses and make representations on the respondent's behalf, and may seek procedural guidance from the Disciplinary Panel. They shall not answer questions on the Respondent's behalf.

4.18 Any failure by the Respondent or their supporter to attend a hearing after notification shall not prevent the Disciplinary Panel from proceeding with the hearing in their absence.

5. THE DECISION AND PENALTY

5.1 For the avoidance of doubt, although a Complaint may categorise an offence as a Level 1 or other category of offence, a Disciplinary Panel shall not be bound by that categorisation and may decide that another category of offence, and therefore penalty, is appropriate.

5.2 The standard of proof shall be whether the Disciplinary Panel 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 shall be determined on a sliding scale from a mere balance of probability (for the least serious offences) up to a very high probability (for the most serious offences).

5.3 After hearing the evidence the Disciplinary Panel shall, where appropriate, retire to consider its decision. The Chairman shall then give the Disciplinary Panel's decision orally to the Respondent.

5.4 In deciding the penalty, the Disciplinary Panel shall have regard to any prior disciplinary record of the Respondent.

5.5 The oral decision shall be confirmed in writing to the Respondent (in the case of a Respondent aged under 18, their parent or guardian) within seven days by letter or email, and a copy forwarded to the Honorary Secretary of the Respondent's club.

6. APPEAL PROCESS

6.1 A Respondent may appeal from the decision of the Disciplinary Panel as to the finding of liability, the penalty imposed or both.

6.2 Notice of any appeal must be made in writing to the Hon. Secretary of the Appeals Committee, mary.sharp@cricketleinster.ie not later than three days following receipt of the decision. The appeal must contain the following, and a deposit of €100 which is refundable should the appeal be successful.

- (i) The date of the relevant decision appealed against;
- (ii) The specific aspect(s) and part(s) of the decision being challenged;
- (iii) The specific grounds of challenge. No further grounds of challenge may be advanced without the express consent of the Decisions Appeals Board.

6.3 The Hon. Secretary shall, once an appeal has been received by, advise the Chairman of the Appeal Board and forward to them details of the Complaint, any witness statements, the decision of the Disciplinary Panel and the result of the hearing.

7. Disciplinary Issues if a Touring Team is abroad and an alleged offence occurs.

Disciplinary offences may arise when a Leinster touring party is outside Ireland and it may be necessary to deal with such issues while on tour, in which case the process provided for above cannot be put into operation.

In such circumstances the following shall apply:

7.1 The disciplinary offence shall be heard by the Team Manager if they are of the view that matter is urgent. If the Team Manager considers that they have a conflict of interest, the person to take responsibility shall be another senior representative of Cricket Leinster present.

7.2 The person conducting the hearing shall conduct it broadly in accordance with the provisions set out herein, subject to such changes as they, in their sole discretion, determines to be necessary.

7.3 A right of Appeal exists in accordance with the provisions specified above but it may be that such an appeal may not be practical until the tour is over. This shall be determined by the Chairman of the Appeal Board.

7.4 Where the player is found to have committed the offence and if as a result of the penalty imposed, the Team Manager considers that the player should be required to return home because they will not be available to play at all or in a sufficient number of matches on the tour, the player may be required to return home at the earliest possible time.

Change Log:	
Version 2023-1	Changes agreed by the Cricket Leinster Board with effect from 04/05/2023