



Ballarat Cricket Association Policy 1

CODE OF BEHAVIOUR

Cricket is a game that owes much of its unique appeal to the fact that it is to be played not only within the laws of cricket, but also within the ‘spirit of the game’. Any action seen as abusing this spirit injures the game itself. Embracing the spirit of the game means participating fairly and exhibiting respect for others and the game’s traditional values, such as graciousness in defeat and humility in victory.

Cricket has a distinct place in Australian society and history. As an element in Australia’s national identity, cricket plays a significant role. This status brings with it responsibilities for players and officials to conform to high standards of fair play and personal behaviour on and off the field.

Traditionally, cricket has aimed to maintain the highest levels of player conduct and sportsmanship. While always a very competitive game, the continued strength of the sport has relied upon the acceptance of the umpire’s decision and the preparedness to play within the spirit of the game.

The recruitment and retention of umpires has become increasingly difficult, and it is certainly not being made any easier by the regularly unacceptable levels of player conduct. All players can play a role in raising the general standard of umpiring by lifting their personal level of behaviour and allowing the umpires to concentrate on those aspects of the game for which they are most responsible. Umpires have been instructed to take a firm stance on player misconduct, especially offensive language and disputing decisions. It is the responsibility of everyone involved with Ballarat cricket — club officials, team captains and especially the players — to ensure that the levels of conduct and sportsmanship traditionally inherent in the game are maintained.

The Ballarat Cricket Association (BCA) has adopted the following Codes of Behaviour from Cricket Australia’s Community Cricket Network. This Code of Behaviour is intended to protect and enshrine such important qualities and standards so that all may continue to enjoy the game of cricket now and in the future.



The following document outlines:

1. The Coaches Code of Behaviour,
2. The Players Code of Behaviour, and
3. The Parents Code of Behaviour.

All coaches, players, parents, other volunteers, and spectators within and around clubs of the BCA are expected to abide by the following Behavioural Codes.

Failure to comply with the following Behavioural Codes (and the specific rules around expected behaviour, which is outlined in procedure 1a) will result in penalties, details of which can be found in the following procedural documents.

1. Procedure 1a: Offences, Penalties and Investigations
2. Procedure 1b: Tribunals and Appeals
3. Procedure 1c: Player and Official De-Registration

The success of Code of Behaviour adoption and compliance with the “spirit of the game” by all those involved in cricket in BCA can be measured by the level of activity (or lack of activity) of the Match Review Officer, the Disciplinary Tribunal and the BCA Investigations Officer.



COACHES CODE OF BEHAVIOUR

The environment created by a coach is integral to the overall experience of all players involved within cricket. Listed are the foundational expectations of coaches within the community of cricket in the BCA:

- Remember that many players participate for pleasure, and winning is only part of the fun.
- Never ridicule or yell at a player (particularly young players) for making a mistake or not coming first.
- Be reasonable in your demands on players' time, energy, and enthusiasm.
- Operate within the rules and Spirit of Cricket and teach your players to do the same.
- Ensure that the time players spend with you is a positive experience.
- Avoid overplaying the talented players - all young players need and deserve equal time, attention, and opportunities.
- Ensure that equipment and facilities meet safety standards and are appropriate to the age and ability of all players.
- Display control and respect to all those involved in cricket. This includes opponents, coaches, umpires, administrators, parents, and spectators. Encourage your players to do the same.
- Show concern and caution toward sick and injured players. Follow the advice of a physician when determining whether an injured player is ready to recommence training or competition.
- Obtain appropriate qualifications and keep up to date with the latest cricket coaching practices and principles of growth and development of young people.
- Any physical contact with a young person should be appropriate to the situation and necessary for the player's skill development.
- Respect the rights, dignity and worth of every person regardless of their gender, ability, cultural background or religion.



PLAYERS CODE OF BEHAVIOUR

Players have a responsibility to uphold the integrity of the game whilst they are training, competing on the playing field or representing their club away from the field of play. Please refer to the players code of behaviour below:

- Play by the rules.
- Never argue with an umpire. If you disagree, have your captain, coach or manager approach the umpire in an appropriate manner during a break or after the game.
- Control your temper. Verbal abuse of officials and sledging other players, deliberately distracting, or provoking an opponent are not acceptable or permitted behaviours in cricket.
- Work equally hard for yourself and your teammates. Your team's performance will benefit and so will you.
- Be a good sport. Applaud all good plays whether they are made by your team or the opposition.
- Treat all participants in cricket as you like to be treated. Do not bully or take unfair advantage of another competitor.
- Cooperate with your coach, teammates, and opponents. Without them there would be no competition.
- Participate for your own enjoyment and benefit, not just to please parents, teachers or coaches.
- Respect the rights, dignity and worth of every person regardless of their gender, ability, cultural background, or religion.



PARENTS CODE OF BEHAVIOUR

Some of the greatest role models we have in our cricketing community are our parents. When assisting and supporting at your club's games please keep in mind the codes of behaviour listed below:

- Do not force an unwilling child to participate in cricket.
- Remember, children are involved in cricket for their enjoyment, not yours.
- Encourage your child to play by the rules.
- Focus on the child's efforts and performance rather than winning or losing.
- Never ridicule or yell at a child for making a mistake or losing a game.
- Remember that children learn best by example. Appreciate good performances and skillful play by all participants.
- Support all efforts to remove verbal and physical abuse from sporting activities.
- Respect officials' decisions and teach children to do likewise.
- Show appreciation for volunteer coaches, officials, and administrators. Without them, your child could not participate.
- Respect the rights, dignity and worth of every person regardless of their gender, ability, cultural background, or religion.