



BCA POLICY 4 - CODE OF BEHAVIOUR

Updated – January 2022

BALLARAT CRICKET ASSOCIATION CODE OF CONDUCT AND GUIDELINES FOR PENALTIES

This Code of Behaviour document should be read in conjunction with the [Laws of Cricket](#), the [BCA Constitution](#), [Admin and Playing Conditions](#) and is not intended to replace them.

PREAMBLE

Cricket is a game that owes much of its unique appeal to the fact that it is to be played not only within its Laws, but also within the spirit of the game. Any action seen as abusing this spirit causes injury to the game itself.

Embracing the spirit of the game means participating, either as a player or as an official, fairly and exhibiting respect for other players and officials 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 particular 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.

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 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. Few people are willing to continually subject themselves to the childish behaviour and offensive language which is too frequently prevalent on and beyond the cricket field.

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.

SECTION 1: RULES FOR BEHAVIOUR – OFFENCES

Each of the rules for behaviour has a guideline. The guidelines are intended as an illustrative guide only and in the case of any doubt as to the interpretation of the Rule, the provisions of the Rule itself shall take precedence over the provisions of the guidelines. The guidelines should not be read as an exhaustive list of offences or prohibited conduct.

1. Level 1 Offences

The Offences set out at 1.1 to 1.5 below are Level 1 Offences. The range of penalties which shall be imposed for a Level 1 Offence is set out in Section 2 of this Code.

CLUB PLAYERS, OFFICIALS, MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES must not:

No.	Rule	Guidelines
1.1	Abuse cricket equipment or clothing, ground equipment or fixtures and fittings	Includes actions outside the course of normal cricket actions such as hitting or kicking the wickets and actions which intentionally or negligently result in damage to any advertising boards, boundary fences, or any part of, or contents of, any building or structure at the ground.
1.2	Show dissent at an umpire's decision by action or verbal abuse	<ul style="list-style-type: none">· Includes excessive, obvious disappointment with an umpire's decision or with an umpire making the decision and obvious delay in resuming play or leaving the wicket.· This Rule does not prohibit the team captain from requesting an umpire to provide an explanation for a decision, or the captain from commenting on the umpires' performance in their Captain's Report.
1.3	Use language that is obscene, offensive or insulting and/or the making of an obscene gesture	<ul style="list-style-type: none">· This includes swearing and offensive gestures which are not directed at another person such as swearing in frustration at one's own poor play or fortune.· The extent to which such behaviour is likely to give offence shall be taken into account when assessing the seriousness of the breach.
1.4	Engaging in excessive appealing	Excessive shall mean repeated appealing when the bowler/fielder knows the batter is not out, with the intention of placing the umpire under pressure. It is not intended to prevent loud or enthusiastic appealing. However, the practice of celebrating or assuming a dismissal before the decision has been given may also come within this Rule.
1.5	Point or gesture towards the pavilion in an aggressive manner, or behave aggressively or derisively towards either batter, upon the dismissal of a batter	Includes charging or running up to the batter and getting "in their face".

2. Level 2 Offences

The Offences set out at 2.1 to 2.8 below are Level 2 Offences. The range of penalties which shall be imposed for a Level 2 Offence is set out in Section 2 of this Code.

CLUB PLAYERS, OFFICIALS, MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES must not:

No	Rule	Guidelines
2.1	Show serious dissent at an umpire's decision by action or verbal abuse	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Dissent should be classified as serious where expressed by a specific action such as shaking of the head, snatching cap from umpire, pointing at pad or bat, other displays of anger or abusive language directed at the umpire or excessive delay in resuming play or leaving the wicket. · This Rule does not prohibit the team captain from requesting an umpire to provide an explanation for a decision, or the captain from commenting on the umpires' performance in their Captain's Report.
2.2	Engage in inappropriate and deliberate physical contact with other players or officials in the course of play	Without limitation, players will breach this regulation if they deliberately walk or run into or shoulder another player, official or match official.
2.3	Charge or advance towards the umpire in an aggressive manner when appealing	Self-explanatory.
2.4	Deliberately and maliciously distract or obstruct another player or official on the field of play	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · This does not replace Law 42 (4) and (5) of the Laws of Cricket. · Without limitation, players will breach this rule if they deliberately attempt to distract a striker by words or gestures or deliberately shepherd a batter while running or attempting to run between wickets.
2.5	Throw the ball at or near a player or official in an inappropriate and/or dangerous manner	This Rule will not prohibit a fielder or bowler from returning the ball to the stumps in the normal fashion.
2.6	Use language that is obscene, offensive or of a seriously insulting nature to another player, official or spectator	This is language or gestures which are directed at another person. See comments under Rule 1.3 above in relation to the seriousness of the breach.
2.7	Change the condition of the ball in breach of Law 42.3	Prohibited behaviour includes picking the seam or deliberately throwing the ball into ground for the purpose of roughening it up and the application of moisture to the ball, save for perspiration and saliva.
2.8	Attempt to manipulate a match in regard to the result, net run rate, percentage points or otherwise. The captain of any team guilty of such conduct shall be held responsible.	Prohibited conduct under this rule will include incidents where a team bats in such a way as to either adversely affect its own, or improve its opponent's, percentage points or net run rate.

3. Level 3 Offences

The Offences set out at 3.1 to 3.3 below are Level 3 Offences. The range of penalties which shall be imposed for a Level 3 Offence is set out in Section 2 of this Code.

CLUB PLAYERS, OFFICIALS, MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES must not:

No	Rule	Guidelines
3.1	Intimidate an umpire whether by language or conduct	Includes appealing in an aggressive or threatening manner.
3.2	Threaten to assault another player, Team official or spectator	Self-explanatory.
3.3	Use 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 or ethnicity	Self-explanatory.

4. Level 4 Offences

The Offences set out at 4.1 to 4.4 below are Level 4 Offences. The range of penalties which shall be imposed for a Level 4 Offence is set out in Section 2 of this Code.

CLUB PLAYERS, OFFICIALS, MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES must not:

No	Rule	Guidelines
4.1	Threaten to assault an umpire or referee	Self-explanatory.
4.2	Physically assault another player, umpire, referee, official or spectator	Self-explanatory.
4.3	Engage in any act of violence on the field of play	Self-explanatory.
4.4	Use language or gestures that seriously offends, insults, humiliates, intimidates, threatens, disparages or vilifies another person on the basis of that person's race, religion, colour, descent or national or ethnic origin	Self-explanatory.

5. Laws of Cricket and Spirit of the Game

No	Rule	Guidelines
5	Players must obey the Laws of Cricket and play within the spirit of the game. The captain and team coach must use their best efforts to ensure that their team and individual members of the team comply with this rule	<ul style="list-style-type: none">· This is meant as a general Rule to deal with situations where the facts of or the gravity or seriousness of the alleged incident are not adequately or clearly covered by the offences set out in Rules 1-4 (inclusive) of the Code.· Conduct which will be prohibited under the clause includes time wasting and any conduct which is considered "unfair play" under Law 42 of the Laws of Cricket.· This Rule is not intended to punish unintentional breaches of the Laws of Cricket.· Reference may be made to any statement or explanation of the Spirit of Cricket published in conjunction with the Laws of Cricket.· Nothing in this Rule or the Code alters the onus on the captain to ensure that the Spirit of the Game is adhered to as stated and defined in the preamble to the Laws of Cricket.

6. Unbecoming Behaviour, includes breaches of BCA policies

No	Rule	Guidelines
6	Without limiting any other rule, players and officials must not at any time engage in behaviour unbecoming to a player or official that could bring the game of cricket into disrepute or be harmful to the interests of cricket	<ul style="list-style-type: none">· This is also meant as a general rule to deal with situations where the facts of or seriousness of the alleged incident are not adequately or clearly covered by the offences set out in Rules 1 – 4 (inclusive) of the Code.· It is intended to include serious or repeated criminal conduct, public acts of misconduct including by written word (refer BCA Policy 9 - Electronic & Social Media), unruly public behaviour and cheating during play.

CLUB TO ATTEND UMPIRES

For the purpose of ascertaining whether there are to be any persons reported, irrespective of any earlier notification, the Captain or a representative or an official of all Clubs shall attend and wait on the Umpires after the close of each days play.

MATCH DAY NOTIFICATION OF REPORT

Where an Umpire intends to lodge a report to the MRO (Match Report Officer) of the Association, that Umpire shall notify the person concerned and/or the Captain after the close of that day's play. If either the player so reported or the Captain of the player's team is not able to be notified by the Umpire within one hour after the end of the day's play it will be sufficient for a written statement to be submitted to the MRO of the Association by 12pm on the Monday following the end of the day's play out of which the report has arisen. Such statement is to contain reasons for which either the player so reported or the Captain of the team were not able to be notified.

UMPIRES LODGE REPORTS OF MISCONDUCT

An Umpire may lodge a report with the MRO of the Association for any member, official, employee or player of any Club who engages in misconduct or bringing the game of cricket into disrepute. (In the absence of Umpires either Captain may make an official report in the same manner as Umpires).

LODGEMENT OF REPORT

By 12pm Monday upon conclusion of the match from which a report arises the Umpire shall lodge with the MRO of the Association a report on the appropriate form showing the reported person's name, Club and detail the nature of the misconduct or bringing the game of cricket into disrepute.

CLUB NOTIFICATION OF REPORT

By 5pm Monday upon conclusion of the match from which a report arises the Operations Officer of the Association will notify, via email, the Club Executives of the person reported the penalty applied by the MRO. With the notification of the report an option to accept the penalty or choose to have the case heard at Tribunal will be given.

CLUB ACCEPTANCE OF PENALTY OR REQUEST FOR TRIBUNAL

Within 24 hours of receipt of notification a Club Executive must respond with an acceptance of the penalty or request for a Tribunal hearing. If no response is received within this time the penalty shall be considered accepted and any sanction applied immediately. If a Tribunal hearing is requested, it shall take place on the Wednesday evening at BCA HQ at a time no earlier than 6pm.

All players should be aware of the standards expected by the Ballarat Cricket Association. Any person appearing before the tribunal can expect little sympathy and, if found guilty, an appropriate penalty handed down. Unacceptable behaviour will not be tolerated.

SECTION 2: PENALTIES

1. In the event the MRO decides that any person has breached any of Levels 1- 4 (inclusive) of Section 1 of this Code of Behaviour, they will normally apply a penalty but are not bound by a penalty or form of penalty, within the range of penalties for each level of offence set out in the table below. However, the MRO may also apply any or all of the penalties set out in Level 2 of this Section where circumstances require a greater penalty than the guideline (such as in the case of a player having been found guilty of previous offences, whether in this or other competitions, or where the offence is particularly serious).

Should a player receive two official written cautions within a 24-month period by the umpires, then upon receiving the second caution an automatic one week suspension will be applied, and the player will miss the next match after the second caution is issued.

Set apart penalties relevant to all senior competitions

Level of Offence	Applicable to all BCA sanctioned and fixtured matches.
Level 1	Official reprimand and/or a fine up to \$500 and/or a ban of up to 4 days play
Level 2	Ban of 4 to 6 days play
Level 3	Ban of 6 to 10 days play
Level 4	Ban of 10 or more days play up to life ban.

- I. Any part of a suspension handed down may be suspended
- II. Any suspended sentence so imposed will automatically apply for a minimum period of two (2) years.
- III. If a player is subsequently found guilty of a further offence whilst that suspended sentence is still current no allowance will be given to suspending any part a new penalty.
- IV. As well as the penalty imposed against the player as outlined in 1 (i) the MRO may apply a match point penalty within the range of penalties for each level of offence set out in the tables below. The penalty will be applied to the offending player's team in the grade in which the offence occurred.

Level of Offence	Applicable to all BCA sanctioned and fixtured matches.	Match Point Range
Level 1	Official reprimand and/or a fine up to \$500 and/or a ban of up to 4 days play	1 to 3 points
Level 2	Ban of 4 to 6 days play	4 to 6 points
Level 3	Ban of 6 to 10 days play	7 to 10 points
Level 4	Ban of 10 or more days play up to life ban.	11 to 20 points

- V. The following penalty range will automatically be enacted and continue to be applied upon the third instance of a player from the same club being subject to a guilty finding during the current season. That additional penalty, as well as being applied in its entirety to the team for which the offending player played, will be also applied up to a maximum of 5 Match Points, equally across all the clubs other teams participating in all designated BCA Competitions. For the purposes of this Bylaw the Senior and Junior competitions shall be regarded as separate standalone competitions.

Number of Players	Match Point Range
3	1 to 4 points
4	5 to 8 points
5	9 to 12 points
6+	13 to 20 points

- VI. The MRO or Tribunal Panel has a discretion, based on the premise of exceptional circumstances, to waive all or part of the imposition of the extra penalty for any player or team who has been penalised under part (v).
- VII. Match Point Penalties incurred during the round of finals will be applied at the beginning of the next season.
NOTE: The penalty will be applied irrespective of the fact that part of the penalty may be suspended. Suspended penalties carried over from the previous season and activated in the current season fall within the parameters of this section.
2. Without limiting the penalties in Level 1 of this Section, in the event the MRO or Tribunal Panel decides that any person has breached any of Levels 5 or 6 of Section 1 of this Code of Behaviour, the following penalties may be applied:-
- I. Ban the person from participating in any Match;
 - II. Fine the person any amount up to \$500 and/or Reprimand the person
 - III. Official reprimand and/or fine the person any amount up to \$500 and/or
 - IV. Impose a suspended sentence
 - V. A combination of a fine or ban, including an either/or option
 - VI. Any match bans are also subject to match point penalties using above criteria and table/s
3. When imposing any penalty under Section 2, upon a person who has breached this Code of Behaviour, the MRO or Tribunal Panel may take into account any circumstance it considers relevant, including the following:-
- I. The seriousness of the breach;
 - II. The harm caused by the breach;
 - III. The person's seniority and standing in the game;
 - IV. Remorse shown by the person and the prospect of further breaches;
 - V. The person's prior record
 - VI. The impact of the penalty on the person.
4. Any decision by the Tribunal Panel may be appealed as per [Policy 7 – Tribunal and Appeals Process](#).