Code of Behaviour

1. Code of Behaviour – Preamble

[A] 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. 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.

2. Code of Behaviour – General

[A] All Players are reminded that the competition's Code of Behaviour is as per Cricket Australia's guidelines. Please refer to MCC 2026 laws of cricket. Cricket Gold Coast excludes the new Law 42 – Player's conduct. Our rules sufficiently cover player conduct. Law 41 shall only be in effect when an official umpire is officiating the game. The one exception to this is when the ball strikes a helmet placed on the ground by the fielding team. The standing umpire may call five penalty runs when this happens.

[B] The captains are responsible at all times for ensuring that play is conducted within the spirit of the game as well as with the Laws.

i. Where an official umpire considers that a player has breached the Code of Behaviour, they may issue the player with a yellow card. This shall indicate that the player will be mentioned in the umpire's match report.

ii. If the player again breaches the code of conduct in the same game, they shall be issued with a red card and may take no further part in the game. If the umpire is of the opinion that the first offence is sufficiently serious, they may issue a red card immediately. The player may NOT play in any CGC match until they have faced the Commissioner or Judiciary Panel.

iii. A team who has a player that has been removed from the match due to a red card will be required to play with ten fielders and have 10 batters (ie 9 wickets are required to fall for the innings to be considered all out). The player removed from the match is unable to be replaced by another player within the playing 12 or 13 (as applicable) or with a substitute fielder.

3. Code of Behaviour – Procedures

Lodgement of Complaints

[A] A complaint can be made by any Player, Club Official, Umpire, Director of the Board of Cricket Gold Coast, or any other person.

[B] All complaints must be in writing and forwarded to the Commissioner (commissioner@cricketgoldcoast.com.au) on the approved form that is available on the Cricket Gold Coast website.

[C] The following must occur for all complaints.

i. The complainant must have completed the official complaint form and lodge that with the Commissioner no later than 5pm on the Monday following the incident and or the match.

ii. If the complaint is by an Umpire, the Umpires Association must forward the specific offence alleged along with the Umpires recommendation for penalty on the appropriate form to the Commissioner.

Notification of Complaints

[D] Upon receipt of any complaint by the Commissioner, the Commissioner must before Tuesday 12pm forward the complaint to the player, official or persons registered club secretary.

[E] The club secretary must inform the player, official or person, and forward a copy of the complaint to the player, official or person by Tuesday 5pm. The club secretary is to provide a contact mobile phone number for the reported player, official or person to the Commissioner by Tuesday 5pm. At No Stage is a representative of the reported player, official or persons club to make direct contact with the Commissioner in relation to the reported incident during or post the reported incidents review period. The Commissioner will immediately suspend the phone call should direct contact with the Commissioner be attempted.

Charge and Plea Process

[F] The Commissioner before Wednesday 5pm after receiving the complaint will attempt to contact the player, official or person directly and ask the following:

i. Is the player, official or person in receipt of the formal complaint against them.

ii. If not, the Commissioner will immediately suspend the call and arrange delivery of the complaint and also advise the player, official or person that they may have another person present when the call resumes.

iii. The Commissioner will not proceed with a telephone call until the player, official or person has the complaint. The Commissioner will again call, confirm receipt of the complaint, outline the complaint and the offence(s) charged, explain the applicable penalty range for each offence, and advise the player, official or person of the penalty that would be imposed should an early guilty plea be entered. The Commissioner shall then ask whether the player, official or person pleads guilty or not guilty to the charge or charges alleged.

[G] If a player, official or person pleads guilty to the offence or offences as outlined in the formal complaint, then the Commissioner by Wednesday 8pm must in formal letter to the player, official or person and the player, official or persons registered club of the decision and penalty reached in relation to the plea of guilty entered.

Commissioner Powers

[H] The Commissioner may, in their sole and absolute discretion, extend any time limit prescribed under these Rules, including the time by which documentation must be submitted, received or exchanged, and the time by which a decision or determination must be delivered. The Commissioner is not required to provide notice of, reasons for, or communicate any such extension to any party.

Referral to the Judiciary Panel

[I] If a player pleads not guilty to any offence charged, the Commissioner must then call a formal hearing of the complaint and offence or offences alleged and a hearing called. There must be at least 3 members on the Judiciary Panel to hear the complaint.

Judiciary Hearings

[J] Cricket Gold Coast shall ordinarily set aside **Thursday evenings** for the hearing and determination of matters referred to the Judiciary Panel.

[K] Notwithstanding clause (J), the Commissioner may, in their absolute discretion, postpone, adjourn, reschedule or otherwise alter the date and time of any Judiciary hearing as the Commissioner considers appropriate, having regard to the circumstances of the matter and the availability of the parties, witnesses and Judiciary Panel members.

[L] No player, club or other person shall have any entitlement to require that a hearing be conducted on a Thursday evening or on any particular date.

Hearing Format

[M] Unless otherwise determined by the Commissioner, all Judiciary hearings shall be conducted by electronic means, including videoconference or other online communication platform as approved by the Board of Cricket Gold Coast.

[N] A Judiciary hearing may be conducted in person where:

i. the Commissioner considers it appropriate; or

ii. both the complainant and the person charged agree that the hearing should be conducted face-to-face.

[O] Where a hearing is conducted in person, the Commissioner shall determine the date, time and venue of the hearing.

[P] Participation by electronic means shall constitute attendance at the hearing for all purposes under these Rules.

Representation and Witnesses

[Q] The player, official or person may call witnesses in their defense but must notify the Commissioner of the names and number of witnesses at least 12 hours before the hearing.

Interim Suspension Pending Hearing

[R] The player must not partake in any match until such time as the matter is heard and any match missed will be taken into consideration by the Judiciary Panel in any penalty that is issued.

Decisions and Notification

[S] Upon the complaint being determined by the Judiciary Panel, the Commissioner shall notify in writing, the player, official or person and their registered club.

i. Non adherence to the foregoing regulations does not preclude the Commissioner or Judiciary Panel from hearing any case, whether reported or not, providing that in all such cases the principals of natural justice apply and the player alleged to have committed a breach of the code of behaviour is not in any way unfairly disadvantaged by the failure to adhere to the regulations.

ii. The Judiciary Panel has the power to increase or decrease the charge at their discretion.

iii. The Board of Cricket Gold Coast and any player, official or person has the right to appeal the decision of the Judiciary Panel.

4. Level of 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.

Level 1 Offences

The Offences set out at 1.1 to 1.4 below are Level 1 Offences. The range of penalties which shall be imposed for a Level 1 Offence is set out in Section 4.1 of these rules. Players, officials and/or any person must not:

No.	Rule	Guidelines
1.1	Show dissent at an umpire's decision	Includes showing dissent at an umpire's decision by way of showing inappropriate or excessive disappointment, an obvious delay in resuming play or leaving the wicket, shaking the head, pointing or looking at the inside edge when given out LBW, pointing to the pad or rubbing the shoulder when caught behind, snatching the cap from the umpire, a bowler or fielder arguing or entering into an unduly prolonged discussion with the umpire about the umpire's decision. This Rule does not prohibit the bowler involved in the decision or a team captain from asking an umpire to provide an explanation for a decision or a

		Team official from making a formal complaint. It shall not be a defense to any charge brought under this article to show that the umpire might have, or in fact did, get a decision wrong.
1.2	Use language or make a gesture that is offensive, inappropriate or disrespectful	This offence includes: • Swearing in frustration at one's own play, circumstances or fortune. • Minor offensive language or gestures directed at another player, official or spectator. • Conduct which falls below the standards of expected behaviour but is not seriously abusive, threatening, intimidating, discriminatory, obscene or highly insulting. This offence is intended to address lower-level misconduct that would ordinarily be dealt with through a warning in the first instance. When determining whether a breach has occurred, regard should be had to the context of the incident, including the words used, the manner in which they were delivered, the audience present, and the likelihood that the conduct would cause offence. This offence is not intended to penalise trivial behaviour.
1.3	Engage 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.
1.4	Point or gesture towards the pavilion in an aggressive manner upon the dismissal of a batter	Self-explanatory.

Note:	Any repeat of the same Level 1 Offence within 12 months of such offence will for the purposes of penalty only be regarded as a Level 2 Offence

Level 2 Offences

The Offences set out at 2.1 to 2.9 below are Level 2 Offences. The range of penalties which shall be imposed for a Level 2 Offence is set out in Section 4.1 of these rules. Players, officials, and/or any person must not:

No.	Rule	Guidelines
2.1	Show serious dissent at an umpire's decision	Dissent (including examples given in 1.1 above) will be classified as serious where the conduct contains an element of anger or abuse that is directed at the umpire or the umpire's decision or where there is excessive delay in resuming play or leaving the wicket. This Rule does not prohibit the bowler involved in the decision or a team captain from asking an umpire to provide an explanation for a decision or a Team official from making a formal complaint.

		It shall not be a defense to any charge brought under this article to show that the umpire might have, or in fact did, get a decision wrong.
2.2	Engage in inappropriate and deliberate physical contact with other players or officials	Without limitation, players will breach this regulation if they deliberately walk or run into or shoulder another player, official or match official either during the course of play of a Match or during the periods before or after play at the relevant venue.
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	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 or make a gesture that is abusive, obscene, threatening or of a seriously insulting nature towards another player, official or spectator	This offence applies to language or gestures directed at another person or persons where the conduct exceeds the standard contemplated by Level 1. In determining whether the behaviour constitutes a Level 2 offence, consideration should be given to whether the language or gesture is reasonably likely to: • Be regarded as obscene or grossly offensive; • Humiliate, intimidate, threaten or abuse another person; • Seriously insult or degrade another person; or • Provoke a strong adverse reaction or escalate conflict. In assessing the seriousness of the conduct, regard should be had to the context of the incident, including the nature of the language used, the manner and volume in which it was delivered, whether it was repeated after a warning, and the extent to which it was likely to cause offence. This offence is not intended to penalise trivial behaviour.
2.7	Attempt to manipulate a Match in regard to the result, net run rate, bonus 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, bonus points, net run rate or quotient.

2.8	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 the advertising boards, boundary fences, dressing room doors, mirrors, windows and other fixtures and fittings.
2.9	Not wearing an unmodified compliant Cricket Helmet whilst batting	Failure to wear an unmodified British Standard 7928:2013 compliant helmet whilst batting

Note:	Any repeat of the same Level 2 Offence within 12 months of such offence will for the purposes of penalty only be regarded as a Level 3 Offence

Level 3 Offences

The Offences set out at 3.1 to 3.4 below are Level 3 Offences. The range of penalties which shall be imposed for a Level 3 Offence is set out in Section 4.1 of these rules. Players, officials, and/or any person must not:

No.	Rule	Guidelines
3.1	Intimidate or attempt to intimidate an umpire or referee whether by language or conduct	Includes appealing in an aggressive or threatening manner. It shall not be a defense to any charge brought under this article to show that the umpire might have, or in fact did, get a decision wrong.
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 a protected attribute, including but not limited to their race, colour, nationality, ethnic origin, descent, religion or religious belief, sex, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, intersex status, age, disability, marital or relationship status, pregnancy, family or carer responsibilities.	Self-explanatory
3.4	Change the condition of the ball in breach of Law 42.3	Prohibited behaviour includes picking the seam or deliberately throwing the ball into the ground for the purpose of roughing it up and the application of moisture to the ball, save for perspiration. Note: The use of saliva is an illegal method to change the condition of the ball in relation to this Rule.

Note:	Any repeat of the same Level 3 Offence within 12 months of such offence will for the purposes of penalty only be regarded as a Level 4 Offence

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 4.1 of these rules. Players, officials, and/or any person 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 a protected attribute, including but not limited to their race, colour, nationality, ethnic origin, descent, religion or religious belief, sex, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, intersex status, age, disability, marital or relationship status, pregnancy, family or carer responsibilities.	Self-explanatory.

Level 5 – Laws of Cricket and Spirit of the Game
The Offences set out at 5.1 to 5.3 below are Level 5 Offences. The range of penalties which shall be imposed for a Level 5 Offence is set out in Section 4.1 of these rules. Players officials, and/or any club affiliate must not:

No.	Rule	Guidelines
5.1	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 complies with this rule This includes a match where the result is contrived.	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 using an illegal bat, cheating during play, time wasting and any conduct which is considered "unfair play" under Law 41 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.
5.2	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 them or the game of cricket into disrepute or be harmful to the interests of cricket.	This is also 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. It is intended to include serious or repeated acts of misconduct, unruly behaviour and cheating during play.
5.3	Without limiting any other rule, players and officials must not make public or media comment which is detrimental to the interests of the game. This includes comments on club websites or other electronic / social media. (e.g. Facebook, Twitter).	Without limitation, players and officials will breach this rule and be deemed to be making comment detrimental to the interests of the game if in making any public or media comment they: • Publicly denigrate or criticise another player or publicly denigrate or criticise an, official, umpire, referee or team against which they have played or will play, whether in relation to incidents which occurred in a match or otherwise; or • Publicly denigrate or criticise Cricket Gold Coast or any of its respective commercial partners; or • Denigrate or criticise another player or official by inappropriately commenting on any aspect of his or her performance, abilities or characteristics; or • Comment on the likely outcome of a hearing or a report or an appeal, criticise the outcome of a hearing or an appeal; or • Criticise any evidence, submission or other comment made by any person at the hearing of a report or any appeal

4.1 Code of Behaviour – Penalties

[A] In the event the Commissioner decides that any person has breached any of Rules 1 – 5 (inclusive) of Section 4 of this Code of Behaviour, the Commissioner will apply a penalty within the range of penalties for each level of offence set out in the table below and may also apply any or all of the penalties set out in this Section.

Level of Offence	
Level 1	Official reprimand, suspended ban (of up to 4 weeks) and/or ban of up to 2 weeks.
Level 2	Ban of between a minimum of 2 weeks and a maximum of 6 weeks. If the offending person is a player or official, their team will automatically incur a minimum deduction of four (4) competition points. If the offending person is any other person, any deduction of competition points will be determined at the discretion of the Grades Committee.
Level 3	Ban of between a minimum of 4 weeks and a maximum of 10 weeks. If the offending person is a player or official, their team will automatically incur a minimum deduction of eight (8) competition points. If the offending person is any other person, any deduction of competition points will be determined at the discretion of the Grades Committee.
Level 4	Ban of a minimum of 10 weeks up to a life ban. If the offending person is a player or official, their team will automatically incur a minimum deduction of sixteen (16) competition points. If the offending person is any other person, any deduction of competition points will be determined at the discretion of the Grades Committee.

Level 5	One or more of the following penalties will apply • a ban from playing for a period to be determined • direct that the person make reparation for any damage made by that person to any property require that person to perform voluntary service to cricket or to the cricket community reprimand the person • impose a fine • a competition points penalty to be determined by the Grades Committee

[B] When imposing any penalty upon a person who has breached this Code of Behaviour, the Commissioner or Judiciary 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 to the interests of cricket;
iii. The person's seniority and standing in the game;
iv. Remorse shown by the person and the prospect of further breaches;
v. The prior record of the person in abiding by this Code, and any similar code of behaviour; and
vi. The impact of the penalty on the person, including the person's capacity to pay a fine.

5. Code of Behaviour – Duties of a Captain

The Offences set out at 6.1 to 6.3 below are Level 1 Offences relating to the failure of a captain to discharge their duties as set out in the MCC Laws of Cricket.

No.	Offence	Penalty Guidelines
6.1	Failing to bowl the required number of overs within the allotted time. This rule is not intended to punish teams who fail to bowl their overs due to allowances made due to lost balls, weather or other stoppages in play. Umpires are responsible for regularly informing captains on their over rate but it is the captains responsibility to ensure all overs are bowled within the allotted time	Warning in First and Second Instance (12 month carry over period); 1 week suspension for every subsequent offence in 12-month period. Players found guilty of repeated offences within the 12-month period restarts the 12 month warning period
6.2	Team engages in significant and deliberate time wasting	Warning in First and Instance (12 month carry over period); 1 week suspension for every subsequent offence in 12-month period. Players found guilty of repeated offences within the 12-month period restarts the 12-month warning period If the timewasting is overly excessive then the Commissioner may issue a 1 match suspension in the first instance
6.3	Captain fails to discharge their duties under the Laws of Cricket. This rule is designed to capture instances where captains fails to control their team. This is not designed to punish a captain where a player has a single "blowup" but is designed to place responsibility on the captain for controlling situations where player/s continue to act in a way that is	Warning in First and Instance (12 month carry over period); 1 week suspension for every subsequent offence in 12 month period. Players found guilty of repeated offences within the 12-month period restarts the 12 month warning period

	provocative or engaging in conduct that is not within the spirit of cricket.	

6. Code of Behaviour – Appeals

[A] Any player, official, person or Cricket Gold Coast may appeal a decision of the Judiciary Panel by lodging a written notice of appeal with the Commissioner within 14 days of the decision being communicated.

[B] An appeal lodged by a player, official, or person must be accompanied by an appeal bond of $500, payable to Cricket Gold Coast at the time the appeal is lodged. No appeal bond is required where the appeal is lodged by not fewer than two (2) Directors of the Cricket Gold Coast Board acting in their official capacities.

[C] The appeal shall be heard and determined by the Cricket Gold Coast Board of Directors. Any Director(s) who participated in the original matter (including the Commissioner), lodged the appeal (where relevant), has a conflict of interest, or is otherwise unable to act impartially must not take part in the appeal.

[D] The Board may determine the appeal on the written materials before the Judiciary Panel and any written submissions lodged by the parties. The Board may, in its absolute and sole discretion, permit additional evidence or require the parties to attend before the Board.

[E] The Board may:

1. dismiss the appeal and confirm the original decision;
2. vary the finding or penalty;
3. set aside the decision and substitute a new decision; or
4. refer the matter back to the Judiciary Panel for reconsideration with directions.

[F] Where an appeal is unsuccessful, the $500 appeal bond shall be forfeited and credited to the Cricket Gold Coast Future Fund. Where an appeal is successful, the appeal bond shall be refunded in full.

[G] A penalty imposed by the Judiciary Panel shall remain in force pending the determination of any appeal unless the Board directs otherwise.

[H] The decision of the Cricket Gold Coast Board shall be final and binding.