

NORTHERN CRICKET UNION

DISCIPLINARY BYE-LAWS

1. Disciplinary Offence

It shall be a disciplinary offence:

- (a) for any player in the course of, or in connection with, a match to misconduct himself as defined under the offences set out in Levels 1, 2 and 3 at Disciplinary Bye-Law 3(a)(ii) below, or to act at any time in a manner calculated to prejudice the good name or interests of the Union;
- (b) for any club to fail properly to control or discipline its players or to act in a manner calculated to prejudice the good name or interests of the Union;
- (c) for any club to fail to fulfil a 1st XI fixture except for a reason beyond its control;
- (d) for any player or club to contravene the provisions of the statement 'Drug Abuse in Sport' published by the Sports Council for Northern Ireland. Copies of this will be available from the General Secretary;
- (e) for any player or club to contravene the *Code of Ethics and Good Practice for Children's Sport in Ireland*. Copies will be available from the General Secretary; or
- (f) for any Union official to contravene the Union's child protection policy applying to teams selected to represent the Union, or to act at any time in a manner calculated to prejudice the good name or interests of the Union.

Any player, club or Union official committing an offence shall be liable to penalties in the manner and as described hereafter.

2. Disciplinary Hearing

- (a) Before the hearing of evidence by the Disciplinary Committee, the General Secretary or the Honorary Secretary, on receipt of a written complaint, shall:
 - (i) within seven days of receipt of the complaint, fix a date for the allegation to be heard by the Disciplinary Committee;
 - (ii) give at least seven days' notice, in writing, of the date, time and place of the disciplinary hearing to the player, or, in the case of a club, to its Honorary Secretary, or to the Union official, such notice to include details of the precise nature of the alleged offence;
 - (iii) where applicable, obtain written reports from both umpires and any other appropriate witnesses, all of whom shall be served notice of, and be invited to attend, the disciplinary hearing; and
 - (iv) provide copies of any written material, including the umpires' reports, to the player, or club, or the Union official alleged to have committed an offence, provided this material is received at least three days prior to the hearing; otherwise such material shall be made available at the disciplinary hearing.
- (b) The player, club or Union official alleged to have committed an offence may make written representations to the General Secretary before the hearing, provided such representations are received at least two days before the day of the hearing.
- (c) At the disciplinary hearing, the player, club or Union official alleged to have committed an offence shall be entitled to attend (in the case of a club, its Honorary Secretary or other official), to be represented by another club member, or, in the case of a school pupil, by his/her parent(s), and to call witnesses. None of these parties shall be permitted to question witnesses other than those called by themselves.
- (d) After the hearing of evidence, the General Secretary, or Honorary Secretary, shall serve notice in writing to the player, club or Union official of the Disciplinary Committee's decision within seven days of the hearing.

3. Penalties

If, at the hearing, the Disciplinary Committee finds the alleged offence to be proven, it shall have power to impose one or more of the following penalties:

- (a) in the case of a player:
 - (i) cancellation of registration;
 - (ii) suspension for one or more matches, or until a specified date, as follows

LEVEL 1 OFFENCES

Penalty – a reprimand / warning or a 1 or 2 match suspension depending on the Disciplinary Committee’s assessment of the gravity of the offence for;

- (a) abuse of cricket equipment or clothing, ground equipment or fixtures / fittings;
- (b) showing dissent at an umpire’s decision by action or verbal abuse;
- (c) using language that is obscene, offensive or insulting and / or the making of an obscene gesture;
- (d) excessive appealing;
- (e) pointing or gesturing towards the pavilion in an aggressive manner by a bowler or other member of the fielding side upon the dismissal of a batsman;
- (f) inappropriate public criticism or comment on a match-related incident or match official;
- (g) inappropriate and deliberate physical contact between players in the course of play;
- (h) charging or advancing towards the umpire in an aggressive manner when appealing;
- (i) deliberate and malicious distraction or obstruction on the field of play;
- (j) throwing the ball at or near a player, umpire or official in an inappropriate or dangerous manner;
- (k) changing the condition of the ball in breach of Law 42.3; or
- (l) infringement of the Spirit of Cricket by the Captain, by not ensuring that play is conducted within the spirit of the game as well as within the Laws

LEVEL 2 OFFENCES

Penalty – a suspension for 3 – 6 matches for:

- (a) repeat of any Level 1 offence within 12 months of such offence;
- (b) intimidation of an umpire whether by gesture or language; or
- (c) using language or gesture that 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

LEVEL 3 OFFENCES

Penalty – a suspension for more than 6 matches with the possibility of cancellation of the player’s registration for:

- (a) repeat of any Level 2 offence within 12 months of such offence;
- (b) threat of assault on an umpire;
- (c) physical assault on another player, umpire, official or spectator; or
- (d) any act of violence on the field of play.

The Disciplinary Committee shall have powers to deal with any other offences not specified above

(iii) reprimand and warning as to future conduct;

(b) in the case of a club:

- (i) expulsion from the Union;
- (ii) expulsion from any cup competition;
- (iii) deduction of league points;
- (iv) a fine of not more than £200.

(c) in the case of a Union official

- (i) reprimand and warning as to future conduct;
- (ii) removal from the official position in connection with which the offence occurred, for the current season or for some other prescribed period; or
- (iii) declaration of ineligibility for future appointment in the same, or a similar capacity.

4. Right of Appeal

- (a) A player, club or Union official may appeal to the Appeals Committee against the whole or any part of the decision of the Disciplinary Committee. Grounds of appeal shall be submitted, in writing, to the General Secretary within seven days of the decision of the Disciplinary Committee, together with a deposit of £50. Upon notice of appeal being given, the penalty shall not take effect pending the hearing of the appeal.
- (b) The appeal shall be by way of a re-hearing. The player, club or Union official shall have the same rights of attendance and of representation and of calling witnesses as before the Disciplinary Committee.
- (c) The Appeals Committee may confirm, vary, or reverse the decision of the Disciplinary Committee, and may increase or reduce any penalty imposed. The Appeals Committee shall also have the power, where it considers the appeal to be without merit, to order the deposit to be forfeited.
- (d) The decision of the Disciplinary Committee or, on appeal, the Appeals Committee shall be final and binding.

5. Irish Cricket Union

Any disciplinary penalty in relation to club cricket imposed by the Irish Cricket Union shall automatically apply to matches organised by the Union. There shall be no right of appeal against such a penalty other than to the Irish Cricket Union.

6. Terminology

For the purposes of these Bye-Laws:

'Match' means any game either organised by the Union or involving any player representing the Union, including matches involving affiliated schools;

'Notice' means any written notice of the disciplinary hearing or decision of the Disciplinary or Appeals Committee, given by the General Secretary or Honorary Secretary, to the addressee at his/her last known address;

'Player' means and includes not only any player, but also any member or official of any club, or if appropriate, any other person involved in any incident of possible misconduct occurring on the field of play or on the premises of the club, as may be appropriate in the particular circumstances; and

'Club' means an affiliated club or school.

'Union official' shall mean an Officer of the Union or any person appointed by the Union to a managerial or coaching position.