

RCA Code of Conduct & Pledges

Effective Date: 21 September 2012

It is the goal of RCA Executive Committee to provide a positive and fair environment for all the participants of the RCA. As a player the responsibility rests with you to be willing to play hard and be committed to fair play. Cricket is a team sport and each player is an important component in the success of the team and the RCA. Player's adherence to this code of conduct will promote fair play, discipline and sportsmanship for the good of the RCA, other Players, Clubs and the game of Cricket.

As a Player/Club Official of the RCA, I agree to the following Code of Conduct:

1. Players:

A. Play by the rules: Take extra effort to understand the rules of the game completely before participating in any tournament of the RCA. RCA Executive committee, Umpiring Committee and other officials are there to help you understand them if you have questions.

B. Accept Umpires' and Officials' decisions: Traditionally cricket has been the sport to maintain and exhibit the highest levels of conduct and sportsmanship. Though it is a most 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".

C. Control Emotions: Playing and participation in to enjoy your involvement in the game is for your enjoyment and the enjoyment of the other players and spectators and the company of others. No verbal or equipment abuse will be tolerated.

D. Save Time: When coming into bat & between overs, avoid unnecessary conversation. Move back to your bowling mark and fielding positions without delay between deliveries. Pay attention to right-left batting combinations and anticipate changing your field positions accordingly. Play "ready-cricket"

E. Respect Others: Treat all players and property as you would like to be treated yourself. Encourage your team-mates and bowlers in moderation.

F. Safety and Hygiene: RCA Executive committee / Umpiring Committee give the highest priority to the safety and hygiene of all players. Make sure to understand safety requirements of the game. Wear appropriate apparel and safety kit equipment as required all the time. Be aware of your surroundings, neighborhood, and other players and people/kids on and around the ground. Report all (minor and major) injuries and also safety violations to your club managers and RCA Executive committee/Umpiring Committee officials.

Please ensure to clean up all the garbage including drink bottles, food wrappers, & bags etc. and leave the place clean. All the players & volunteers are required to help in this effort at the end of every game and practice session. Observe Rules & Regulations of the grounds facilities.

RCA Executive committee encourage all players to have their own cricket kit during practice sessions and during the games to ensure proper hygiene.

G. Ground/Field Use: Understand the ground use limitations and follow the set

guidelines all the time. Ensure to follow all the guidelines set by officials regarding the use of each ground. If you have questions, check with your Club managers & RCA Executive committee officials.

H. General Conduct Rules:

- All players should arrive at least 15 minutes before the scheduled start of the play.
- All players will be dressed in their full cricket attire before the start of the play.
- The captains are responsible at all times for ensuring that play is conducted within the spirit of the game as well as within the laws.
- Players shall not at any time engage in conduct that could bring them or the game into disrepute.
- Players must at all times accept the Umpires decision.
- Players must not show dissent at the Umpires decision.
- Batsmen are allowed external/visible protective gear of a helmet, external leg guards (batting pads), batting gloves and, if visible, forearm guards. All other protective gear should be worn under the clothes. Keepers are allowed wicket-keeping pads, gloves, & helmets, and other fieldsmen are allowed only helmets as visible protective gear. All other items should be under the clothes.
- The captains will make the initial contact with the opposition.
- The two captains will perform a coin toss on the playing surface in the presence of umpires/RCA officials.
- Play will be conducted in the spirit of the game and according to its rules.
- All team members will (are encouraged to) shake hands of the opposition before and after the game.
- The captain will (is encouraged to) shake hand of the other captain, their coach and the umpires.
- All team members will (are encouraged to) give three cheers for the opposition and umpires at the end of play.
- All the decisions made by umpires on the ground will be honored. Only umpires and/or Team captain/manager may escalate an issue or dispute to the RCA discipline committee.

2. Captains/Managers/Team Officials:

- Provide opportunities for your players to improve his skills.
- Encourage them to improve their cricketing skills in batting, bowling and fielding. Give them positive feedback about their skills and efforts.
- Encourage them to communicate openly with coaches. Remember to help them understand that winning is only one aspect of playing the game and should not overpower all other aspects of the game.
- Encourage to play within the rules, honest effort, skilled performance, goal setting and team loyalty (the process for success).
- Be a model of good sports behavior for your player.
- Be courteous in your communication with players, officials and RCA Executive committee.

3. Guests & Spectators:

- Demonstrate appropriate social behavior.
- Let the officials conduct the game without interference and respect their decisions.
- Applaud good performances and efforts from each team.
- Respect the opposing team players, their officials and their supporters.

General Categories of Serious Offences

Following areas of Player, Manager & Captains behavior are of major concern to RCA Executive Committee / Umpiring Committee and are clearly unacceptable and may incur penalties including the disqualification of related players or team:

- The use of offensive language - generally as a disparaging remark to an opposing player or toward an Umpire, or even as an expression of frustration or self-admonishment. This includes racial vilification (any act that is reasonably likely to threaten, disparage, vilify, offend, insult, humiliate or intimidate another person or group based on skills, race, religion, descent, color or national or ethnic origin).
- The questioning/disputing of the Umpire's decision - often in an aggressive or sarcastic manner. This applies equally to dismissals and unsuccessful appeals as to the judgment of calls on no-balls, wides, byes, etc. Crowding or touching of an umpire by players or the team can be considered grounds for disciplinary action resulting in individual or team disqualification.
- Entering the field of play without umpire's permission, disputing decisions on the field and interfering with the progress of the game.
- The excessive number of aggressive appeals – primarily aimed at pressuring and intimidating the Umpire into a favorable decision.
- The actions of the fielding team on an unfavorable decision from the umpire (e.g. banging the ball on the ground, wicket keeper throwing his gloves and inappropriate language).
- The actions of the dismissed batsman - in failing to leave the crease promptly on being given out, confronting or verbally abusing the Umpire, and any equipment abuse (e.g. banging the bat into the ground or against the fence, etc and/or throwing the bat or equipment during or after his return to the pavilion).
- "Send offs" — verbal taunting usually to a dismissed batsman by the bowler or a member of the fielding side. This can often inflame the situation & lead to a more serious altercation.
- Be honest and consistent by acknowledging balls crossing the boundary. Although boundaries can sometimes be hard to determine, if the ball crosses the boundary, give the credit to the batting team. The boundary may not be adjusted once the game has started.

If a player/team, continue to breach the code of conduct in any manner

despite warnings, may result in disciplinary action against the player/team and the concerned offending team.

Application and Enforcement of the Code

- The Code of Conduct will serve as a guide to the Executive/Disciplinary/Umpiring Committee in dealing with the infractions.
- The Code of Conduct is applicable to all the games played within RCA, including Thursday League and representative games.
- The Executive/Board may in addition to, or as an alternative to any of the penalties, impose a term of probation not exceeding one year. Any subsequent offence committed while on probation will be dealt with more severely.
- Penalties can be in the form of suspension from games, fines or both. Maximum penalties are intended to be reserved for the worst instance of a breach of the rule or when dealing with repeat offenders.
- The period of suspension will be specified as a number of games (inclusive of life) depending on the nature and seriousness of the infraction. Suspension must be served in (or must apply to) the year in which the infraction occurred, and if not completed in a given season, must be carried over to the subsequent seasons. Suspension from one division will debar a player from participating in another division.
- Suspension penalty includes suspension from all RCA activities and events, all matches and all RCA representative matches till the period of suspension is completed.
- No player under probation shall hold any office in the RCA until after the end of the probationary period.
- Lack of knowledge of the existence of this document does not constitute as an excuse for non-compliance.

Infractions & Penalties

Level I infractions:

1. Any player/Umpire not complying with Dress Code of RCA.
2. Failure of a Batsman to immediately leave the field after being given "Out" by the Umpire.
3. Any audible on-field expression of criticism or dissent by a player to an Umpire's decision, whether or not it is expressed directly at an Umpire
4. Deliberate distraction or obstruction on the field.
5. Throwing the cricket ball at a player, umpire or official in a dangerous manner.
6. Any player involved in a further minor incident subsequent to receiving a warning or caution.
7. Smoking inside the ground.
8. Using mobile phone inside the ground.

Level I penalties:

- Automatic Probation for a 1 month/4matches period from the date of imposition.
- Sr.100.

Level II Infractions:

1. Captain, RCA Executive Committee officials involved in any of the Level I infraction.
2. Any confrontational or threatening language or gesture directed at an Umpire or any player(s).
3. Failure to comply with an Umpire's instruction.
4. Showing dissent at an umpire's decision by word or by action
5. Using language or gesture that is obscene, offensive or of a seriously insulting nature to another player, umpire, team official or spectator.
6. Any attempt to manipulate in a match in regard to the result (in a negative way),net run-rate Point or otherwise. (Example intentionally losing so that team will face a weaker opponent in the Finals.
7. Any player under probation committing another Level I infraction.
8. Using language or gestures that offends race, religion, colour, descent or national or ethnic origin.
9. Any player involved in repetitive Level I infraction, whether they are currently on probation or not.

Level II Penalties:

- Automatic Probation for a 2month/8matches period from the date of imposition.
- Fine of upto Sr. 200
- Suspension for a period encompassing up to 1-2 RCA scheduled games.

Level III Infractions:

This infraction is considered as the worst incident and maximum penalties can be applied.

1. Any Captain involved in a Level II infraction.
2. Intimidation of an umpire.
3. Threat of a assault on a player, team official or spectator.
4. Any player or team involved in any physical abuse of Ground equipment or facilities.
5. Any player or team engaging in conduct which can jeopardize future use of ground facilities.
6. A player under suspension violating any of the previously imposed penalties.
7. Repeat for any Level 2 Offence within four months.

Level III Penalties:

- Automatic Probation for a 6months period to commence after the suspension term is served.

- Sr. 500
- Suspension for a period of not less than 3 RCA scheduled games.

Level IV Infractions:

1. Repeat for any Level 3 Offence within 12 months.
2. Any act of physical aggression or violence towards a Player, Umpire or Spectator.
3. Any Captain/Manager involved in a Level III infraction.
4. Threat of assault on an umpire or referee
5. Any act of violence during play.

Level IV Penalties:

- Fine of up to Sr. 1000
- Suspension for a period of not less than 3-5 RCA scheduled games.