***Disciplinary procedures in respect of the Welsh Cricket Cup Competition***

**Code of Conduct and Spirit of Cricket**

***Code of Conduct***

* Cricket Wales is committed to maintaining the highest standards of behaviour and conduct at cricket matches both on and off the field. All clubs and players, by virtue of their affiliation to Cricket Wales, explicitly agree to abide by this Code of Conduct, which incorporates the Spirit of Cricket, and are bound by the provisions in these Regulations.
* The captains are responsible at all times for ensuring that play is conducted within the Spirit and Laws of Cricket.
* Players and club officials must at all times accept the umpire’s decision. Players must not show dissent at the umpire’s decision or react in a provocative or disapproving manner towards another player or a spectator.
* Players and club officials shall not intimidate assault or attempt to intimidate or assault an umpire, another player, a club official or a spectator.
* Players and club officials shall not use crude and/or abusive language (known as “sledging”), nor make offensive gestures or hand signals, nor deliberately distract an opponent.
* Players and club officials shall not use language or gestures that offend, insult, humiliate, intimidate, threaten, disparage or vilify another person on the basis of that person’s race, religion, sexual orientation, colour, descent or national or ethnic origin.
* Players and club officials shall not use or in any way be concerned in the use or distribution of illegal drugs.
* Players and club officials shall not make any public or media comment which is detrimental to Cricket Wales, clubs, umpires or the game in general. In this instance, media shall include press, radio, television, external websites, club websites, social networking sites and club match programmes.
* Players and club officials shall not disclose or comment upon any alleged breach of this Code or upon hearing any report or decision arising from such breach.
* Clubs must take adequate steps to ensure the good behaviour of their players, officials, members and supporters.

***Disciplinary procedures in respect of the Welsh Cricket Cup Competition***

***Spirit of Cricket***

**Cricket is a game that owes much of its unique appeal to the fact that it should be played not only within its Laws, but also within the Spirit of the Game. Any action which is seen to abuse this spirit causes injury to the game itself. The major responsibility for ensuring the spirit of fair play rests with the captains.**

There are two Laws which place the responsibility for the team’s conduct firmly on the captain.

**Responsibility of Captains**

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.

**Player’s Conduct**

In the event of any player failing to comply with the instructions of an umpire, criticising his decision by word or action, showing dissent, or generally behaving in a manner which might bring the game into disrepute, the umpire concerned shall in the first place report the matter to the other umpire and to the player’s captain, requesting the latter to take action.

**Players**

Captains and umpires together set the tone for the conduct of a cricket match. Every player is expected to make an important contribution to this.

**Fair and Unfair Play**

According to the Laws the umpires are the sole judges of fair and unfair play. The umpires may intervene at any time, and it is the responsibility of the captain to take action where required.

**The umpires are authorised to intervene in cases of:**

Time wasting

Damaging the pitch

Dangerous or unfair bowling

Tampering with the ball

Any other action that they consider to be unfair

**The Spirit of the Game involves RESPECT for:**

Your opponents

Your own captain and team

The role of the umpires

The game’s traditional values

**It is against the Spirit of the Game:**

To dispute an umpire’s decision by word, action or gesture

To direct abusive language towards an opponent or umpire

To indulge in cheating or any sharp practice, for instance

Appeal knowing the batsman is not out

Advance towards an umpire in an aggressive manner when appealing

Seek to distract an opponent either verbally or by harassment with persistent clapping or unnecessary noise under the guise of enthusiasm and motivation of one’s own side.

**Violence**

There is no place for any act of violence on the field of play.

Failure to comply with the provisions of the Code of Conduct and

Spirit of Cricket could lead to disciplinary action.

**Cricket Wales Disciplinary Committee**

The Disciplinary Committee of **at least** five members shall be appointed by the Senior Cricket Council and chaired by the Vice-Chairman of that Council. **Any meeting should include at least three of this committee, none of whom should have any direct relationship with any of the clubs or players who are the subject of disciplinary action.**

The Sub Committee shall be appointed at the first Council meeting held after the Annual General Meeting.

The Disciplinary Committee shall elect a Chairman and Minutes Secretary at the commencement of each meeting. The Chairman shall cast a second vote if required.

**Disciplinary Process**

This section refers to structures and events organised and controlled by Cricket Wales, or to cases where Cricket Wales has been requested by both parties to intervene or adjudicate. Cricket Wales also strongly recommends that all member Clubs, Leagues and Associations adopt the appropriate parts of the following Disciplinary Process, which will enable it to accede to requests to intervene and adjudicate, as well as to gain co-operative action of all member Clubs, Leagues and Associations to the rightful Disciplinary Process of one of them.

(a) It shall be a disciplinary offence:

(i) For any player in connection with, or in the course of, Cricket Wales Structures or Events to misconduct himself, or to act at any time in a manner calculated to prejudice the good name or interests of Cricket Wales.

(ii) For any Club or Body to fail properly to control or discipline its players, or to act in a manner calculated to prejudice the good name or interests of Cricket Wales.

(iii) Providing that the disciplinary procedure including right of appeal, **where appropriate**, can be shown to have followed the model as described below, then Cricket Wales will take disciplinary action against any League or Club that plays a cricketer during the period of a ban by an affiliated League or Club.

The Players and/or Body committing an offence shall be liable to penalties in the manner and as described hereafter.

(b) For the purposes of these Rules the expression ‘the player’ shall throughout these Rules be deemed to mean and include not only any player, whether a professional or otherwise, but also any member or official of any Body 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 Body as may be appropriate in the particular circumstances.

(c) Any complaint or report will be investigated only if made in writing (or e-mail) to the Competition Organiser within 3 days of the alleged event. The Competition Organiser will decide what level of breach has occurred.

(d) (i) If the alleged breach is a Level 1 breach, Cricket Wales shall impose the appropriate penalty (as shown below). There shall be no appeal process allowed unless mistaken identity or misrepresentation can be demonstrated.

 (ii) If the alleged breach is a level 2 breach, Cricket Wales shall impose the appropriate penalty (as shown below). There shall be no appeal against the compulsory element of the penalty unless mistaken identity or misrepresentation can be demonstrated.

**The Competition Organiser will deal with Level 1 and Level 2 offences. He will inform the club of the player reported of any punishments imposed and will also inform the appropriate league or association authorities of the decisions.**

 (iii) If the alleged breach is a Level 3 or 4, the matter will be heard by the Cricket Wales Disciplinary Committee.

**Notes**

* Cricket Wales will decide at which level the alleged breach has been committed
* In the case of a low level breach of the Code of Conduct, the umpires have the option of issuing a formal warning to the player concerned. If a second warning is required, umpires must submit a written report to Cricket Wales.

(d) **The Disciplinary Committee of Cricket Wales**. At least 7 days’ notice in writing (or e-mail) of the hearing and of the alleged offence shall be given to the player, or in the case of a Body, its Secretary, in writing (this may be by e-mail). The player or Body shall be entitled to attend the hearing, to be legally or otherwise represented and to call witnesses – as shall Cricket Wales.

(e) If at the hearing the Disciplinary Committee find the alleged offence proved it shall have the power to impose one or more of the following penalties:

 (1) *In the case of a player*:

 (i) suspension for a number of ‘Cricket Wales’ matches as shown below in Index 2;

 (ii) a fine of not more than £100;

 (iii) a recommendation to the appropriate body that further penalties be applied.

 (2) *In the case of a Body:*

 (i) expulsion from Cricket Wales;

 (ii) expulsion from any Cricket Wales competition;

 (iii) a fine not exceeding £250.

**Any decision reached by the Disciplinary Committee will be based on the balance of probabilities.**

(f) A player found by the Disciplinary Committee to have committed an offence or upon whom the Disciplinary Committee has imposed a penalty for a Level 3 or Level 4 breach shall have the right of Appeal to the Appeals Committee. A Body found by the Discplinary Committee to have committed an offence shall have the right of appeal to the Appeals Committee. This committee (minimum of three persons and maximum of five persons) will be appointed by the Chairman of the SCC**.** Notice of Appeal, setting out the grounds for the appeal, must be given in writing to the Secretary to the SCC within 14 days of the notification of the decision of the Disciplinary Committee together with a deposit of £50. Upon receipt of the Notice of Appeal the penalty shall not take effect pending the hearing of the Appeal.

(g) The Appeal shall be by the way of a re-hearing. The player or Body shall have the same rights of attendance and representation, and to call witnesses as they had before the Disciplinary Committee – as shall Cricket Wales.

If leave is sought to present any fresh evidence to the Appeals Committee, particulars of such evidence and of the reason why it was not presented to the Disciplinary Committee must be forwarded to the Secretary to the SCC.

(h) The Appeals Committee may confirm, vary or reverse the decision of the Disciplinary Committee. The Appeals Committee shall also have the power at its discretion not to return the deposit where it considers the appeal to be without merit.

(i) The decision of the Appeals Committee, or, if no appeal, of the Disciplinary Committee shall be final and binding.

**APPENDIX 1**

**Level 1**

a) time wasting by either the fielding side or the batting side

b) abuse of the cricket ground, equipment or fixtures

c) showing dissent at an umpire’s decision by word or action

d) using language that is obscene, offensive or insulting and/or the making of an obscene gesture

e) excessive appealing

**Level 2**

a) showing serious dissent at an umpire’s decision by word or action

b) inappropriate and deliberate physical contact between players in the course of play

c) charging or advancing towards an umpire in an aggressive manner when appealing

d) deliberate and malicious distraction or obstruction on the field of play, regardless as to whether such conduct is deemed to be fair under law 42.5

e) throwing the ball at or near a player, umpire or official in an inappropriate and dangerous manner

f) using language or gesture that is obscene or of a serious insulting nature to another player, umpire, team official or spectator

g) changing the condition of the ball other than as permitted by Law 42.3

h) the bowling of fast short pitched balls that result in the bowler being disallowed from bowling further in that innings

i) causing avoidable damage to the pitch contrary to Laws 42.13 and/or Law 42.14 that results in a five run penalty being awarded

**Level 3**

a) intimidating an umpire

b) threatening to assault another player, team official or spectator

c) using language or gesture that offend, insult, humiliate, intimidate, threaten, disparage or vilify another person on the basis of that person’s race, religion, sexual orientation, colour, descent or national or ethnic origin

d) the deliberate bowling of any high full-pitched ball contrary to Law 42.8

**Level 4**

a) threatening an umpire

b) physical assault of another player, umpire, official or spectator

c) any act of violence on the field of play

d) using language or gestures that seriously offend, insult, humiliate, intimidate, threaten, disparage or vilify another person on the basis of that person’s race, religion, sexual orientation, colour, descent or national or ethnic origin.

The conduct listed in Level 1 to Level 4 above cannot be considered to be exhaustive.

**APPENDIX 2**

 **Standard Penalties**

Level 1 – **A ban from the next Welsh Cup match** (even if that means that the ban cannot be served until a subsequent season) and an immediate ban from all cricket activities for one weekend, starting on the Saturday following the incident.

Level 2 - **A ban from the next Welsh Cup match** (even if that means that the ban cannot be served until a subsequent season) and an immediate ban from all cricket activities for two successive weekends, starting on the Saturday following the incident.

Level 3 - **A ban from any Welsh Cup tie for the rest of the current season and the whole of the following season, a possible fine** and a recommendation to the appropriate body that a further ban of a minimum of 4 weekends be applied.

Level 4 - **A ban from the Welsh Cup for the rest of the season and the whole of the following two seasons, a possible fine** and a recommendation to the appropriate body that a further ban of a minimum of 8 weekends be applied