



East Ballarat Cricket Club

Code of Conduct

Introduction

Cricket has traditionally been one sport to maintain and promote the highest levels of conduct and sportsmanship. We are all familiar with the saying “It isn’t cricket” which implies that a certain type of behaviour is unacceptable. This document is a set of guidelines to provide an understanding of the expectations the club has of each player, member, and spectator. These guidelines are relevant during match days (on and off the field), training, and club functions and at any other time when representing the East Ballarat Cricket Club.

The guidelines form part of the Players’ Code of Conduct (Cricket Victoria) and will be enforced by the committee of the East Ballarat Cricket Club, and/or a Tribunal of the Ballarat Cricket Association.

Players and spectators in breach of these guidelines can expect to receive penalties varying from a caution through to suspension, depending on the severity and the nature of the breach.

Objective

Our objective is to ensure that all players, when representing East Ballarat Cricket Club, play cricket in the true spirit and traditions of the game so that the game can be enjoyed by all, including spectators, opposing players and umpires.

CODE OF CONDUCT (Incorporating the By-Laws of Cricket Victoria)

No person bound by this Code of Conduct shall engage in disorderly or improper conduct or behaviour. Disorderly or improper conduct or behaviour includes, but is not restricted to, a person:

- Assaulting or attempting to assault, or abusing, either verbally or physically, an umpire, player, or spectator
- Disputing, as distinct from questioning, an umpire’s decision, or reacting in an obviously provocative manner towards and umpire
- Using crude or abusive language, or hand signals or other gestures
- Engaging in any form of conduct or behaviour detrimental to the spirit of the game or likely to bring the game or club into disrepute
- Refusing to supply that person’s name and that person’s address when required by another person who is lodging a report

The captain of a team shall ensure that the players (including the person acting as 12th man) comply with the Code of Conduct. The captain of a team breaches the Code of Conduct if a player in that team engages in continuing disorderly or improper conduct or behaviour.

Anti-Vilification Code

No person who is participating in a match under the jurisdiction or auspices of the Cricket Victoria or its affiliates shall engage in any conduct, act towards, or speak to any other person in a manner which offends, insults, humiliates or vilifies such person on the basis of that person’s race, religion, colour, descent, ethnic origin, gender, or orientation.

The captain of a team shall ensure that the players (including any person acting as a substitute) comply with the Anti-Vilification Code.

Under no circumstances will the club tolerate such behaviour. The committee will investigate & address any incidents with East Ballarat players, members, or spectators, regardless of if an official BCA report is not made. Likewise, if an East Ballarat player is subjected to such abuse, the club will take the matter to the BCA and ensure the matter is dealt with in the appropriate manner.



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Social Media

The use of social media sites and electronic media including but not limited to Facebook, Myspace, Twitter and Email are all forms of public domain communication. As such, users are fully responsible and liable for anything they say or represent on these sites.

The proliferation of information spreads very quickly through status updates, linked in friend communities and so on. As such, East Ballarat Cricket Club members have an important responsibility to not say or communicate anything untoward with respect to all the Ballarat Cricket Association (players, clubs, umpires and committees) and its members or anyone associated with the conduct of playing of cricket within our league. This includes racist or vilifying comments, bad language, insulting comments, religious connotations or positioning, personal attacks or slander, personal comments relating to family or associated friends within the cricket community.

This behaviour not only reflects badly on you as a member but brings the entire club into disrepute. It is not a tool to criticise behind a keyboard.

The East Ballarat Cricket Club Committee will take very seriously any reported or discovered incidents relating to social and electronic media communication and will impose strict penalties on any member found guilty by the club with respect to abuse and /or misuse of this form of communication in the public domain.

Umpiring Decisions

The umpire's decision is final and should be accepted immediately, whether batting or fielding. A bowler or captain is entitled to ask the umpire why he turned the appeal down, but should accept this explanation, if one is given, and immediately play on. The use of offensive language-generally in the form of a disparaging and abusing remark to an umpire is not acceptable.

Walking

When there are no neutral umpires, a batsman must walk if he is in no doubt that he has been dismissed fairly. Placing pressure on your team-mate, who is acting as umpire, can place doubt in his mind and lead to unnecessary friction between the two teams.

Upon being dismissed

The actions of the dismissed batsmen – in failing to leave the crease promptly on being given out and then banging his bat on the ground or throwing the bat on returning to the pavilion, including audible foul language, or damage to any property or equipment, is unacceptable.

Post-Match Drinks

Players are encouraged to have a drink and friendly chat with the opposition after a match, either home or away, but are requested to make every effort to return to the East Ballarat clubrooms in time for the after-match presentations.

Training Expectations

All players are expected to train at least once a week. It is understood that work commitments can clash with those of the cricket club, but every effort should be made to attend training. Your coach, captain or chairman of selector should be made aware if you are unable to attend training.

Training is to be used to improve your game and those that you are training with. The bowling of excessive deliberate short-pitched deliveries and the continual 'slogging' of balls out of the nets will not be tolerated. Remember, the players you are training with are your teammates. Players who need to leave training early are requested to notify the person in charge of training.



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Training Attire

The club's official training outfit should be worn at all training sessions. Alternatively, tracksuit pants/shorts and an appropriate white or coloured cricket shirt can be worn.

East Ballarat Cricket Club Social Rooms

These rooms are to be always treated with respect.

Playing Fees

All Fees should be paid as soon as possible as the season commences; The club is willing to extend payment options after consultation with the Treasurer for genuine cases where an extension of time may be needed. Fee structures are announced at the AGM each year for the coming season

Under-age Drinking

Members under the age of 18 are not permitted to drink alcohol at club functions, including training and match days/nights. Members assisting under-age players to gain access to alcohol is considered, by the committee, to represent a serious breach of our Code of Conduct.

Player Availability

All players are expected make themselves available to be selected in any grade that the selection committee sees fit. Player selection should always be based on what benefits the club.

Selection Policy

Where a player is unavailable for selection, he should notify his coach, captain, or the chairman of selectors as early as possible. Teams will be selected using the selection criteria set out by the club.

Social Functions

Throughout the season there are several functions organised by the club. Key functions include a Trivia Night and the Annual Presentation Night. It is expected that players will make every effort to attend club functions, and where possible, invite as many of their friends as possible.

Match Days

Players are to arrive at the ground, at least 30 minutes before the commencement of play. At home games there are various duties that need to be done. These include laying boundary markers and setting up the scoreboard. After play, these need to be placed away. Facilities and areas used at all grounds (home and away) should be left clean and tidy, with rubbish placed in bins or taken home.

The 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 brings both the game and club into disrepute. The major responsibility for ensuring the spirit of fair play, not only rests with the captains, but with all players alike.

Breaches of the Code of Conduct

Any breach of this code can be reported to a member of the Committee who in turn will advise the Club President. An independent person, from within the Committee, will be appointed to investigate the breach and report to the Full Committee with recommendations of an appropriate penalty should the breach be proven.

The Committee

East Ballarat Cricket Club Incorporated