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British Tamils Cricket League

CODE OF CONDUCT AND SPIRIT OF CRICKET

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1.0 CODE OF CONDUCT AND SPIRIT OF CRICKET

1.1 Code of Conduct

- 1.1.1 The League 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 registration with the League, explicitly agree to abide by this Code of Conduct, which incorporates the Spirit of Cricket, and are bound by the provisions in these Regulations.
- 1.1.2 The captains are responsible at all times for ensuring that play is conducted within the Spirit and Laws of Cricket.
- 1.1.3 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.
- 1.1.4 Players and club officials shall not intimidate assault or attempt to intimidate or assault an umpire, another player, a club official or a spectator.
- 1.1.5 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.
- 1.1.6 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.
- 1.1.7 Players and club officials shall not use or in any way be concerned in the use or distribution of illegal drugs.
- 1.1.8 Players and club officials shall not make any public or media comment which is detrimental to the League, 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.
- 1.1.9 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.
- 1.1.10 Clubs must take adequate steps to ensure the good behaviour of their players, officials, members and supporters.

1.2 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.

- 1.2.1 There are two Laws which place the responsibility for the team's conduct firmly on the captain.
 - (a) **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.
 - (b) **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 (if applicable) and to the player's captain, requesting the latter to take action.

- 1.2.2 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.
- 1.2.3 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.
- 1.2.4 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
- 1.2.5 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
- 1.2.6 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.
- 1.2.7 Violence
There is no place for any act of violence on the field of play.
- 1.3 Failure to comply with the provisions of this **paragraph 1** may lead to disciplinary action, irrespective of an alleged breach being related to a match not under the jurisdiction of the League.

2.0 BREACHES

- 2.1 A breach of the disciplinary regulations occurs when:-
- Any player in the course of, or in connection with a match, offends against the Code of Conduct or acts at any time to prejudice the good name or interests of the League
 - b. Any club fails to properly control or discipline its players or acts in a manner prejudicial to the good name or interests of the League.
- 2.2 Any player or club committing such a breach shall be liable to penalties in the manner prescribed in this document.
- 2.3 A breach of paragraph 1 will normally be categorised as Level 1, 2, 3 or 4, as set out in **Appendix 1**.
- 2.4 First & Final Warnings**
- 2.4.1 For a Level 1 breach of paragraph 1, the umpires will caution the player as to his conduct, advise him and his captain that it is a **First and Final warning** and that the player will be named on the umpires' report form.
- 2.4.2 Any player so named **three times** in a season will receive an automatic ban – **see section 6**.

2.4.3 If any player who has been warned under paragraph 1.4.1 above commits a subsequent breach in the same match, the umpires will advise him or his captain or the executive of his club that they will be submitting a **Level 1** report.

2.4.4 Umpires have authority to decide that a player has committed a breach of paragraph 1 without having previously issued any informal or formal warnings.

2.5 Reports

2.5.1 For any Level 1 breach under paragraph 1.4.2 above or for any Level 2, 3 or 4 breach, the umpires will submit a report using the standard disciplinary report form.

2.5.2 If any player has been reported under paragraph 3.5.1 above, the umpires will advise the player or captain or the executive of the club that they will be submitting a Level 1 report

3.0 PROCEDURE

3.1 Any alleged breach of paragraph 1 which will be the subject of a report (to be known as “a complaint”) shall be notified by telephone/text/email to the League’s Secretary, Disciplinary Chairman or delegated official before 10pm on the match day and confirmed in writing by email (**Secretary@btcluk.com**) with more description within 24 hrs of the end of the match.

3.1.1 Any complaint so initiated must be referred to the League’s Secretary or delegated official who shall, as soon as reasonably practicable, inform the club against whom the complaint has been made. If any player has been reported, the umpires will advise the player or captain or the executive of the club that they will be submitting a report.

3.2 Any player so named twice in a season will receive an automatic one match ban and any subsequent naming will receive two matches ban

3.3 It is intended that any breach of paragraph 1 should in the first instance be dealt with by the participant’s club who shall notify the League’s Secretary or delegated official of any action taken. In the case of Level 1 and Level 2 breaches, this shall, as a minimum, be a two match ban to be effective immediately.

3.4 Within 48 hours of receipt of the written complaint, the League Disciplinary Chairman or delegated official shall consider the complaint and resolve either:

- a) To take no action except to record the complaint and notify the club; or
- b) To endorse any action taken by the club and confirm that no further action is required; or
- c) To refer the matter for a full Disciplinary Hearing.

3.5 In the case of an incident involving a player under the age of 18 years old, the County Board Welfare Officer will immediately be informed. In such circumstances, the incident may be regarded as

- a) a. A welfare and child protection case or
- b) b. An outright disciplinary case. If the incident is being investigated by another organisation (e.g. the Police, ECB Welfare Department etc.) the League will await the outcome of that investigation.

4.0 DISCIPLINARY HEARINGS

4.1 In any case which is referred for a Disciplinary Hearing, the League Disciplinary Chairman or delegated official shall convene the hearing within 10 days of the decision to refer. Any delay may only be granted at the discretion of the Chairman of the Disciplinary Hearing.

4.2 At least five days’ notice in writing of the hearing shall be given to the player via his club Secretary/League Delegate. In the case of a club, its Secretary/League Delegate shall be so notified. The notice shall specify the alleged breach or breaches of paragraph 1 above.

4.3 The accused player or club shall be entitled:

- To submit written statements ahead of the hearing

- To attend the hearing
 - To state his case (in the case of a club, by its Secretary/League delegate or other official)
 - To be supported by a colleague and to call witnesses.
- 4.4 If the player or club is to have representation present at the hearing then the details of that representation must be given to the League Disciplinary Chairman or delegated official not less than 24 hours before the date of the hearing.
- 4.5 The Hearing shall be conducted by a Disciplinary Committee appointed by the League Disciplinary Chairman or delegated official and shall consist of not less than three persons and not more than five persons drawn from a list approved by the League's management Committee. None of the Panel should be connected with the player, the club or their opponents at the time of the alleged breach, or a club which might directly benefit from any disciplinary action.
- 4.6 A club or player involved in disciplinary proceedings will be solely responsible for meeting such costs or expenses as it or they may incur, including the cost of any legal or other representation.
- 4.7 The standard of proof shall be on the balance of probabilities rather than the criminal standard of beyond reasonable doubt.

5.0 PENALTIES

5.1 Level 1

- 5.1.1 Automatic suspension by the club for the next TWO League matches played.
- 5.1.2 Any player reported for the second time in any one season shall be suspended by his club for the next THREE League matches played.
- 5.1.3 Any player reported on three occasions in any one season shall be suspended by his club for the next FIVE League matches played
- 5.1.4 Where the same player of a club is reported on more than one occasion in any one season, that club shall have FIVE league points deducted, on the second, and each subsequent occasion the player is the subject of a report.
- 5.1.5 Any individual club having three or more different players reported in any one season shall have TEN league points deducted, in addition to deductions made above
- 5.1.6 Any appeal against an automatic sanction imposed for a Level 1 breach shall only be allowed on the grounds of mistaken identity, misrepresentation or failure of the umpires to follow the procedures in paragraph 4 above.

5.2 Level 2

- 5.2.1 As a minimum, automatic suspension by the club for the next TWO League matches played.
- 5.2.2 If the Chairman of the Discipline Committee of the League is satisfied with the action taken by the club, the case will be closed.
- 5.2.3 Should the Chairman of the Discipline Committee decide the breach is sufficiently serious, he will refer the complaint for a full disciplinary hearing.

5.3 Levels 3 & 4

- 5.3.1 All complaints reported as Level 3 or Level 4 will be referred for a full disciplinary hearing.
- 5.3.2 Where a charge against a player is referred to a disciplinary hearing, his captain and club may be charged separately under their responsibilities as set out in paragraph 1 above.

5.3.3 If at a hearing a breach of paragraph 1 is proved, the Disciplinary Panel shall have the power to impose one or more of the following penalties, together with such order as to costs as it deems appropriate:

In the case of a player :-

- To require the player to submit appropriate letter(s) of apology within a specified time
- To record a reprimand and to give a warning as to future conduct
- To impose a fine
- To suspend the player for one or more matches, or for a stated period of time
- To deduct League points from the player's team
- To expel the player from the League

In the case of a club :-

- To require the club to submit appropriate letter(s) of apology within a specified time
- To record a reprimand and to give a warning as to future conduct
- To impose a fine
- To deduct League points from the club's team
- To expel the club from any competition of the league
- To relegate to any lower division of the League or to a 'linked' league

5.4 Panels will take the following factors into account when determining the penalties to be imposed:

- a) If the accused player/club has pleaded guilty
- b) b.The player's previous disciplinary record
- c) If the player is also the captain
- d) The conduct of the player subsequent to him being warned and told that he will be reported
- e) If an appeal is considered to be spurious

5.5 In addition, where an individual or their representative and/or witness(es) behave inappropriately or fail to respect the formality at any level during a Disciplinary hearing, the Disciplinary Panel assumes the right to impose further corrective actions or penalties as it sees fit.

5.6 The Disciplinary Panel shall have the power to suspend the operation of any part, or all, of the penalty it imposes for such period and subject to such terms and conditions it deems appropriate.

5.7 Decisions of the Disciplinary Panel (a finding that a complaint is proved or not proved or a decision on penalty) shall be by majority vote; where necessary the Disciplinary Panel Chairman shall have a casting vote.

6.0 APPEALS

6.1 There are no appeals allowed against an automatic ban instigated for a Level 1 or 2 offence.

6.2 Where a breach of paragraph 1 has been proved at a Disciplinary Hearing, a player or club shall have the right of appeal. Where a player and his club are appealing in relation to the same incident, they must do so separately.

6.3 A notice of appeal setting out the grounds must be given in writing to the League Disciplinary Officer or delegated official within seven days of the decision of the Disciplinary Panel, together with a deposit of £50.

6.4 If a notice of appeal is given, the penalty shall not take effect pending the hearing of the Appeal, which shall take place as soon as is practicable and in any event within 14 days of receipt of notice of the appeal.

- 6.5 The Appeal shall be by way of a re-hearing before a different Panel. The Appeal Panel shall be appointed by the League Disciplinary Officer or delegated official and shall consist of not less than three persons drawn from a list approved by the League's Executive Committee. None of the Panel should be connected with the individual or the club or their opponents, or a club which might directly benefit from any disciplinary action or have been a member of the original Disciplinary Panel.
- 6.6 The player or club shall have the same entitlements as set out in paragraph 5.3 above.
- 6.7 If the player or club is to have representation present at the hearing then the details of that representation must be given to the League Disciplinary Officer or delegated official not less than 7 days before the date of the hearing.
- 6.8 Non-attendance at a hearing of the Appeals Panel by the club or person that submitted the appeal without good and valid reason for such non-attendance will automatically result in forfeiture of their right of appeal.
- 6.9 The Appeals Panel may confirm, vary or reverse the decision of the Disciplinary Panel and it shall have the power to increase the penalty and award costs of the Appeal hearing and forfeit the whole or part of the deposit. Decisions of the Appeal Panel shall be by majority vote; where necessary, the Chairman shall have a casting vote.
- 6.10 The decision of the Appeals Panel or, if no appeal, of the Disciplinary Panel, shall be final and binding.
- 6.11 The League shall report match bans in writing to the relevant club's County Board for national circulation. Players should understand that match bans will normally apply to all cricket played under the auspices of ECB.

7.0 NON PAYMENT OF FINES

- 7.1 Any fine levied under these procedures or imposed for the breach of any match rule must be paid to the Treasurer of the League within twenty-eight days of the Club being notified of such fine.
- 7.2 Any fines still outstanding at the end of that period shall be increased by 100% of the original fine, when the Secretary/League Delegate of the offending Club shall be notified to the effect that the fine is outstanding. They will be given a reminder that if after a period of fourteen days from that reminder, the fine is still outstanding, a deduction of five points shall be made from the points gained by the side that received the fine.
- 7.3 In respect of other payments owed to the League by member Clubs, these shall be treated as if they were a fine, except that points shall not be deducted. Such payment shall continue to increase by 100% for each further twenty-eight day period that the payment remains outstanding.

APPENDIX 1 – BREACHES OF DISCIPLINE

Certain conduct, whether on or off the field of play of play, amounting to a breach of the Laws of Cricket and/or the Spirit of Cricket has been categorised into 4 levels which are set out below:-

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 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

The following is a guide to the match bans and penalties that may be imposed by Disciplinary/Appeals Panels for individual breaches of discipline, as set out in Appendix 1:

- Level 1 - 2 to 6 matches
- Level 2 - 2 to 8 matches
- Level 3 - 4 to 10 matches
- Level 4 - A minimum of 10 matches