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Expected behaviour in the Hampshire Cricket League (July 2010)

The Management Committee is concerned about the level of discipline in Hampshire Cricket League matches.

It is essential that players and officials have read and understood the ECB Code of Practice in the HCL Handbook and this document.

The information below expands on the ECB code and provides guidelines on the expected level of behaviour during HCL games.

Summary

EVERYONE has a responsibility to ensure that the match is played within the Spirit of the Game. These include: captains, players, umpires, scorers, managers and coaches, and parents and spectators.

EVERYONE should respect:

- their opponents
- their captain and team mates
- the role of the Umpires
- the game and its traditional values.

It is Against the Spirit of the Game to:

- dispute an Umpire's decision
- direct abusive language towards an opponent or umpire.
- indulge in cheating or any sharp practice.
- advance aggressively towards an Umpire when appealing.
- seek to distract an opponent

THERE IS NO PLACE FOR VIOLENCE OF ANY SORT

1. General

- Players should acknowledge efforts of opposition.
e.g. acknowledging a batsman's 50 or 100 or the taking of 5 wickets by a bowler.
- It is correct to applaud your own team's efforts.
e.g. applaud a good catch, shot, piece of fielding.

- It is not sporting to applaud errors and/or misfortunes of opposition e.g. do not applaud when a bowler delivers a No Ball or Wide or a fielder drops a catch or misfields the ball.
- At end of game teams should shake hands. It is only common courtesy that, at the end of the game, you thank umpires, scorers, coaches & managers, ground staff, caterers and home club officials.

2. Actions of the fielding side

- Do not appeal when you know batsman is not out e.g. when a catch has not been fairly completed.
- Do not put undue pressure on Umpires by unnecessary appeals loud, orchestrated & constant appeals or advancing towards Umpire when appealing.
- Help Umpires by signalling when the ball has reached the Boundary.
- Do not keep up an incessant verbal barrage of comments to a batsman, or about his ability to play the ball.
- Bowlers should not follow through and engage in eye to eye contact with batsman or make rude comments about the batsman or the shot he has just played.
- If questioning the Umpire on any point do it politely and accept his reply even though you may not agree with him.
- Apologise to a batsman if an accidental full pitch delivery (beamer) is bowled.
- Thank a batsman if he 'walks'.

3. Actions of the batting side

- Accept the Umpire's decision even though you may not agree with it and/or are disappointed.

Do not:- stand at the crease in defiance of the decision
 wave your bat in the air or point to it when given out L.B.W.
 knock stumps with the bat or body
 criticise the Umpire and/or his decision to your team-mates or spectators

4. Actions of the Umpire

- Always answer appeals – do not ignore the players.
- Talk to players as you would wish to be spoken to.
- If bowler asks - move your position, back or forward (as long as you are still in a position to make decisions).