

Law 42 – Players Conduct

Unacceptable conduct procedure

There are four Levels of offence and If either umpire considers that the conduct of a player, at any time during the match, is unacceptable, the umpire concerned shall

1. **Call and signal Dead ball**
2. **Call Time**
3. **Report the matter to the other umpire**
4. **Determine into which of the Levels the conduct falls**
5. The umpires **shall summon and inform the offending player's captain** of the offence
6. **Apply the relevant sanction**
7. As soon as practicable the umpire **shall call Play. Note** that no playing time is lost during this procedure as play is suspended and any time lost dealing with Player Conduct will be added to the time for play.

LEVEL 1: SANCTIONS/PENALTIES

Initially a warning and a report to the MCA

Any repeat offence of ANY level 1 offence will result in 5 penalty runs being awarded to the opposition & REPORT

LEVEL 1: Offences

Any of the following actions by a player shall constitute a Level 1 offence:

1. **Wilfully mistreating any part of the cricket ground, equipment or implements used in the match** which includes any action such as
 - banging the bat into the ground or against the fence or race, etc.
 - throwing the bat or equipment during or after the batsman's return to the boundary/pavilion
 - hitting the stumps upon dismissal
 - kicking/hitting the ball away upon dismissal
2. **Showing dissent at an umpire's decision by word or action** which includes excessive, obvious or inappropriate disappointment (dissent) with an Umpire's decision such as
 - an obvious delay in resuming play by the fielding team
 - batsman not leaving the wicket promptly or shaking the head
 - batsman pointing or looking at the inside edge when given out lbw
 - batsman pointing to the pad or rubbing shoulder when caught behind
 - a bowler snatching a cap from umpire
 - fielders requesting a referral to a "TV Umpire"
 - arguing or entering into a prolonged discussion with the Umpire about their decision

It shall not be a defence to any charge brought under this Level of offence to show that the Umpire might have, or in fact did, get any decision wrong

3. **Using language that, in the circumstances, is obscene, offensive or insulting or making an obscene gesture** e.g.
 - Audible (which can be heard beyond the boundary) or repetitious swearing
 - obscene gestures which are directed at another person
 - swearing in frustration at one's own poor play or misfortune
 - insulting/abusive comments to opposition players designed to distract or intimidate

This offence is not intended to penalise trivial behaviour. When assessing the seriousness of the breach, the Umpire shall be required to take into account the context of the particular situation and whether the words or gesture are likely to be regarded as obscene; give offence; or insult another person

4. **Appealing excessively - advancing towards an umpire in an aggressive manner when appealing** - excessive shall include
 - repeated appealing of the same decision/appeal
 - repeated appealing of different decisions/appeals when the bowler/fielder knows the batter is not out with the intention of placing the umpire under pressure
 - celebrating or assuming a dismissal before the decision has been given

This offence is not intended to prevent loud or enthusiastic appealing

5. **Pointing or gesturing towards the pavilion by a bowler or other member of the fielding side upon the dismissal of a batsman** eg
 - verbal send off
 - visual send off
6. **Any other misconduct, the nature of which is, in the opinion of the umpires, equivalent to a Level 1 offence**

LEVEL 2: SANCTIONS/PENALTIES

Immediate 5 Penalty runs to the opposition & a report to MCA.

A warning that ANY level 1 offence will result in 5 penalty runs being awarded to the opposition & a further REPORT

LEVEL 2: Offences

Any of the following actions by a player shall constitute a Level 2 offence:

1. Showing serious dissent at an umpire's decision by word or action

Dissent – including those in Level 1 - will be classified as serious when

- the conduct contains anger or abuse that is directed at the Umpire or the Umpire's decision
- there is an excessive delay in resuming play or leaving the wicket
- there is persistent reference to the incident over time

It shall not be a defence to any charge brought under this Level of offence to show that the Umpire might have, or in fact did, get any decision wrong

2. Making inappropriate and deliberate physical contact with another player.

Cricket is a non-contact sport and, as such, inappropriate physical contact of a serious nature will not be tolerated. Without limitation, Players will breach this regulation

- if they deliberately walk or run into or shoulder another Player
- if they deliberately brush past a player
- if they deliberately touching another player

Accidental or genuinely unavoidable physical contact which occurs during the course of play shall not be considered an offence under this Level

3. Throwing the ball (or any other item of cricket equipment) at a player, umpire or another person in an inappropriate and dangerous manner such as

- throwing at the stumps in a mock run out attempt
- any unnecessary throw near a batsman or umpire

This offence will not prohibit a fielder or bowler from returning the ball to the stumps in the normal fashion.

4. Using language or gesture to another player, umpire, team official or spectator that, in the circumstances, is obscene or of a serious insulting nature

It is acknowledged that there will be verbal exchanges between Players in the course of play. Rather than seeking to eliminate these exchanges entirely, Umpires will be required to assess the seriousness of the breach and report such conduct that is regarded as

- being obscene
- giving personal offence
- insulting a person
- swearing directed at a player, umpire official or spectator
- abusive comments to opposition players
- verbal harassment directed at a player

5. Or any other misconduct, the nature of which is, in the opinion of the umpires, equivalent to a Level 2 offence such as

- comments directed at a player about his bowling action.

LEVEL 3

Any of the following actions by a player shall constitute a Level 3 offence:

1. Intimidation or attempted intimidation an umpire by language, behaviour or gesture

This is self-explanatory because

- if the umpire feels intimidated by anything the players say or do then immediate action is necessary.

2. Threatening to assault a player or any other person except an umpire.

- It will be obvious if a threat is made or an assault occurs

3. Use language or gestures that offend, insult, humiliate, intimidate, threaten, disparage or vilify another person on the basis of that person's race, religion, gender, colour, descent, sexuality or national or ethnic origin.

- Any form of vilification will not be tolerated.

LEVEL 3: SANCTIONS/PENALTIES

- Offending player is immediately suspended for a number of overs. Either 10 overs or 1/5th of the overs in a limited overs match. (This may be less than 10 overs)
- 5 Penalty runs awarded to the opposition & a report being made to the MCA
- If the offending player is a fielder, no substitute shall be allowed for him/her

If the offending player is a batsman he may return to bat after having served the suspension BUT only at the fall of a wicket.

LEVEL 4

Any of the following actions by a player shall constitute a Level 4 offence:

All these offences are self-explanatory

1. Threatening to assault an umpire

2. Making inappropriate and deliberate physical contact with an umpire

3. Physically assaulting a player or any other person

4. Committing any other act of violence

LEVEL 4: SANCTIONS/PENALTIES

- Offending player is removed from the field for the rest of the match
- 5 Penalty runs awarded to the opposition & a report being made to the MCA.

When assessing the seriousness of any breaches of Law 42 the Umpire shall be required to take into account the context of the particular situation and whether the words or gesture are likely to a. be regarded as obscene; b. give offence; or c. insult another person. Where the facts of the alleged incident are not adequately or clearly covered by any of the above offences, conduct at any time that either (a) is contrary to the spirit of the game; (b) is unbecoming of a representative or official; (c) is or could be harmful to the interests of cricket: or (d) does or could bring the game of cricket into disrepute.