

Gloucestershire Cricket Board- Code of Conduct for the Cricket Pathway

When you become a Gloucestershire Cricket Board coach, parent, or carer, you agree to be bound by the following Code of Conduct.

This document has been produced in accordance with the ECB guidelines on behaviour and conduct and incorporates the spirit of cricket.

As such all players, managers and coaches and parents are asked to:

- Be aware of and have read the appropriate code of conduct
- Play cricket within the Laws and Spirit of the Game
- Always accept that the Manager and Coach of each respective age group have total responsibility, before, during and after matches, for the conduct and behaviour of players in their charge. During Gloucestershire Cricket Board activities, conduct in residence and in free time activities should be such as to cause no inconvenience or annoyance to anyone. The team manager and coach of the respective age group are responsible for the behaviour of the squad on and off the field. They are also totally responsible for the preparation and selection of the squad and team and should receive the full cooperation of all players and parents of players within the squad.

We must make every effort to maintain a family atmosphere within Gloucestershire Cricket Board activities and as such players are reminded that their voices can be heard around the ground by members of the public and that the use of loud inappropriate/offensive language is unacceptable.

Parents and Carers

- Encourage your child to learn the rules and play within them.
- Discourage unfair play and arguing with officials.
- Help your child to recognise good performance, not just results.
- Never force your child to take part in sport.
- Set a good example by recognising fair play and applauding the good performances.
- Never punish or belittle a child for losing or making mistakes.
- Publicly accept officials' judgements.
- Support your child's involvement and help them to enjoy their sport.
- Always use correct and proper language.
- Take responsibility for taking your child to matches and arrange for them to be picked up after matches.

Managers and Coaches

- Respect the rights, dignity and worth of every person within the context of Cricket
- Treat everyone equally and do not discriminate on the grounds of age, gender, religion, race, sexual orientation, or disability.

- Place the well-being and safety of the Young Person above the development of performance.
- Develop an appropriate working relationship with Young People, based on mutual trust and respect.
- Ensure that physical contact is appropriate and necessary and is carried out within recommended guidelines with the Young Person's full consent and approval.
- Always work in an open environment.
- Do not engage in any form of sexually related contact with a Young Player. This is strictly forbidden as is sexual innuendo, flirting or inappropriate gestures and terms.
- Know and understand the ECB Welfare of Young People Policy and Procedures.
- Respect Young People's opinions when making decisions about their participation in cricket.
- Display high standards of language, manner, punctuality, preparation, and presentation.
- Do not smoke, drink alcohol, or use banned substances whilst actively working with Young People. This reflects a negative image and could compromise the safety of the young people.
- Do not give young people alcohol.
- Hold relevant qualifications and insurance cover.
- Ensure the activities are appropriate for the age, maturity, experience, and ability of the individual.
- Promote the positive aspects of Cricket e.g., fair play.
- Display high standards of behaviour and appearance.
- Be aware of and follow ECB guidelines set out in the Welfare of Young People Policy and any other relevant guidelines issued.
- Ensure that you attend appropriate training to keep up to date with your role and the welfare of Young People.
- Report any concerns you may have in relation to a Young Person, following reporting procedures laid down by the ECB.

Players

- You must play within the rules and respect officials and their decisions.
- You must respect opponents and officials.
- Keep to agreed timings for training and competitions or inform the coach or team manager if you are going to be late.
- Must wear suitable kit for training and match sessions.
- Abdominal guard and support when batting, cap or sunhat, cricket helmet.
- Pay any fees for training or events promptly.
- Do not smoke whilst representing the Gloucestershire Cricket Board.
- Do not consume alcohol or drugs of any kind.

In accordance with ECB Directives, it is the Gloucestershire Cricket Board policy that all cricketers under the age of 18 who participate in matches or coaching sessions under its jurisdiction will be expected to wear a helmet with a faceguard when batting and when wicket keeping or fielding close in front of the wickets.

No young player in the Under 15 age group or younger shall be allowed to field closer than 7.3 metres from the middle stump, except behind the wicket on the off side, until the batsman has played at the ball. For players in the Under 13 age group and below the distance is 10 metres. These minimum distances apply even if the player is wearing a helmet.

In addition, any young player in the Under 16 to Under 18 age groups, who has not reached the age of 18, must wear a helmet and, for boys, an abdominal protector (box) when fielding within 5.5 metres of the bat, except behind the wicket on the off side. Players should wear appropriate protective equipment whenever they are fielding in a position where they feel at risk.

Fast Bowling Guidelines

Age	Max overs per spell	Max overs per day
Up to U13	4	8
U14 & 15	5	10
U16 & U17	6	18

Playing and Coaching Discipline Regulations

The Gloucestershire Cricket Board has adopted the following Discipline Regulations, which are based on the ECB Model Discipline Regulations and are adapted for its own purposes.

1. Aims and Jurisdictions

These regulations shall apply to all players who play for the Gloucestershire Cricket Board at any level and are intended to provide assistance and uniformity to all players in dealing with an alleged breach of the Code of Conduct and The Spirit of Cricket.

These regulations will equally apply to managers, coaches, scorers, and parents.

Any alleged breach of the Code of Conduct and The Spirit of Cricket, that is reported verbally, will in the first instance, be dealt with by the coach and manager who shall notify the Performance Cricket Manager of the result of any action taken against the player within seven days. If the Performance Manager is not satisfied with the action taken by the respective age group manager and coach, a disciplinary hearing will be convened within 21 days. The County Safeguarding Officer should be notified.

Any alleged breach of the Code of Conduct and The Spirit of Cricket, that is reported officially (in writing) will be dealt with by the Performance Manager and the Lead Safeguarding Officer.

Should Disciplinary action need to be taken, the Gloucestershire Cricket Board committee shall comprise the following members: -

- The Chief Executive Officer shall act as Chairman of Disciplinary Committee. If the Chairman of the above committee is directly involved in the incident, then the Chair of the Gloucestershire Cricket Board will act as chair of the Gloucestershire Cricket Board Disciplinary Committee in their place.
- County Safeguarding Officer

2. Gloucestershire Cricket Board Code of Conduct

Gloucestershire Cricket Board is committed to maintaining the highest standards of behaviour and conduct. The Gloucestershire Cricket Board Code of Conduct incorporates the ECBs Clubmark Codes of Conducts and The Spirit of Cricket, as set out below. It applies to all matches played under the auspices of Cricket Shropshire and can be applied to cricket in general.

- The managers and coaches are always responsible for ensuring that play is conducted within The Spirit of Cricket as well as within the Laws. However, on the field of play the captain is responsible for the conduct and behaviour of his players.
- Players, team officials and parents must always accept the umpire's decision.
- Players, team officials and parents must not show dissent at the umpire's decision or react in a provocative or disapproving manner towards another player or a spectator.
- Players, team officials and parents shall not intimidate assault or attempt to intimidate or assault an umpire, another player, or a spectator.
- Players, team officials and parents shall not use crude and/or abusive language (known as "sledging") nor make offensive gestures or hand signals nor deliberately distract an opponent.
- Players, team officials and parents shall not make racially abusive comments nor indulge in racially abusive actions against fellow players, officials, members, and supporters.
- Players, team officials and parents shall not use or in any way be concerned in the use or distribution of illegal drugs including alcohol.
- Gloucestershire Cricket Board will take adequate steps to ensure the good behaviour of its players, coaches, managers, scorers and parents towards players and umpires.

3. 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. The major responsibility for ensuring the spirit of fair play rests with the captains on the field of play but in terms of Gloucestershire Cricket Board, the overall responsibility rests with the coach and manager of the respective age group squad.

There are two laws which place the responsibility for the team's conduct firmly on the captain (Laws 1:4 and 42:1)

Responsibility of Captains

The captains are always responsible for ensuring that play is conducted within the Spirit of the Game as well as within the Laws.

4. 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 act.

5. Fair and Unfair Play

According to the laws, the umpires are the sole judges of fair and unfair play. The umpire may intervene at any time, and it is the responsibility of the captain to act 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
- 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

6. Violence

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

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

Failure to comply with these provisions may lead to disciplinary action.

7. Procedure

Any alleged breach of the Code of Conduct and The Spirit of Cricket will be notified in writing (to be known as 'a Complaint') to the chairman of Gloucestershire Cricket Board Disciplinary Committee by the appropriate manager and coach and must be forwarded to the Performance Manager of Gloucestershire Cricket Board within 14 days.

Upon receipt of such complaint, and as soon as reasonably practicable, the Chairman of the Gloucestershire Cricket Board Disciplinary Committee shall consider the complaint and resolve either:

- To take no action except to record the complaint and notify the player, coach, manager, scorer, or parent concerned.
- To hold an internal disciplinary hearing and report its finds to the Performance Manager or Gloucestershire Cricket Board.

If disciplinary action is to be taken, the Chairman of the Gloucestershire Cricket Board Disciplinary Committee should notify the relevant parties involved and the Performance Manager.

After a disciplinary hearing has been held, the results of its findings will be reported to the Gloucestershire Cricket Board of Directors within 30 days.

8. Appeals Procedure

The individual involved shall have the right to appeal to the Gloucestershire Cricket Board Management Committee provided that the appeal is received within ten days from the date of the original hearing.

The decision of the Gloucestershire Cricket Board Management Committee shall be final and binding.