



NORTHLAND CRICKET ASSOCIATION

# CODE OF CONDUCT

### **NCA Mission**

1. *The NCA is dedicated to creating a grassroots, family and whanau friendly cricket environment that promotes fair play, is inclusive and delivers a fun cricket experience that develops our Northland people to be high performers. Our code of conduct is led by our values and the 'Spirit of the Game'. Ensuring the NZC and NCA values, alongside the 'Spirit of the Game', is adhered to is very important and it is paramount to our reputation, success, and growth of cricket.*

### **NCA Rationale**

2. The NCA believes that the reputation of the game, and the way it is played, is paramount. Players, officials and supporters are expected to show sportsmanship and tolerance towards others. The NCA believes that clubs and schools are a vital component to the reputation of the game, and those that play it. Therefore, the NCA requests, and encourages, clubs and schools to show strong leadership regarding the code of conduct and have a process in place, to work alongside players, officials and supporters in supporting the code of conduct. Our players, officials, supporters and wider communities are integral partners to New Zealand's Summer Game. It is 'A Game for All New Zealanders, A game for life.'

### **The Spirit of Cricket:**

3. The NCA endorses fair play and tolerance by, and for, players, officials and supporters, at all times. The game is based on the spirit of cricket – the way the game should be played – this is vital to the success and growth of our game. Gamesmanship and competitiveness is a part of our game – sledging and bullying is not. To keep the integrity of our game intact, games can certainly be played hard, but they must be played fairly – it is up to all players, officials and spectators to adhere to and endorse fair play and tolerance of others. This is the Spirit of Cricket – **play hard, but play fair.**

### **Northland Cricket Association Values**

4. Inclusivity, Respect, Tenacity, Optimism, Fun, Sportsmanship and Integrity

### **Code of Conduct**

5. The Code of Conduct shall apply to all NCA cricket competitions and events, to be conducted on and off the ground. All players involved in NCA administered cricket games will recognise and play within both the laws and the spirit of the game of cricket.
6. This Code of Conduct has been established by NCA based on New Zealand Cricket, Northern Districts Cricket Association and NCA values, expectations and policies and the spirit of the game.

### **Captain and Club Responsibilities**

- 7.1 Captains and clubs are to understand, promote and endorse the code of conduct.
- 7.2 Captains are responsible for ensuring that play is conducted within the Spirit of Cricket, as well as within the laws.
- 7.3 Clubs are to establish a process to follow, regarding the self-regulation of player and/or spectator behaviour.
- 7.4 Captains and Clubs are responsible for endorsing and promoting the Spirit of Cricket.
- 7.5 NCA regulates and administers the Code of Conduct for any serious matters that require an official stance and/or judgement.

### **NCA Administration**

- 8.1 In regulating and administering this Code of Conduct the NCA will appoint such persons as commissioners to hear and determine any reports of alleged breaches of the Code.

### **Coding Process**

- 9.1 Any umpire, officially appointed or otherwise, can ask/instruct the captain to inform his/her players and/or spectators to follow this Code of Conduct.
- 9.2 Officially appointed umpires can award 5 penalty runs to a non-offending team, during a match on each occasion of a breach of the Code.
- 9.3 Where officially appointed umpires are officiating, they can code players, officials and/or spectators.
- 9.4 Only an officially appointed umpire can code a bowler's action, that they deem illegal. This is to be done via a phone call to the NCA General Manager and in turn, in writing, by the said umpire by Tuesday, following the match. Where no official umpires are appointed, a phone call will be made to the NCA General Manager by the following Tuesday, and the NCA will follow the correct protocols. It is recommended that non-appointed umpires do not call no balls, that are deemed to be so, by an illegal action.
- 9.5 Where no official umpires are officiating a game, a complaint of a breach may be lodged with NCA by the Chairman/Club Captain of any club officially recognised by NCA such to be in the same manner as if lodged by an official umpire.
- 9.6 While NCA prefers that alleged breaches of the code be submitted in the prescribed form as attached to this Code, NCA will accept complaints of breaches of the Code in any form, and from any person, so long as there is sufficient detail within such complaint to

enable it to be properly considered with NCA reserving the right to determine whether any form of complaint will be accepted by it or not.

- 9.7 All official complaints must be lodged, in writing, to the NCA General Manager by the Tuesday, following the match ([nealp@northcricket.co.nz](mailto:nealp@northcricket.co.nz)). The NCA also encourages the club delegate to phone or meet with NCA's General Manager before official complaints are made in writing.
- 9.8 At any time, clubs can self-regulate their own player and/or spectator behaviour, by any means they see fit although that will not preclude NCA from following such process as it considers appropriate upon receipt of a complaint.

#### **Rules of the Code**

- 10.1 Players and Team Officials must not indulge in unacceptable behaviour on any part of a cricket ground including the field of play. A non-exhaustive list of examples of unacceptable behaviour is set out below.
- 10.2 Players and Team Officials must not make any public announcement, media comment, social media post/comment or engage in any act, omission or conduct prejudicial to the interest of cricket or which may bring the game of cricket or any cricketer or group or cricketers into disrepute.
- 10.3 For the purposes of this Code a 'Team Official' includes any Team Manager or Team Coach appointed to manage and/or coach a team or any other person holding any official position within cricket or the club or team whose conduct is in issue.
- 10.4 This Code also applies to people other than Players and Team Officials, where such people are connected to the cricket game, venue or event in question. For example, reserves, spectators, club members, parents, as well as Club and NCA staff.
- 10.5 In the event that it is difficult to establish the identity or connection of any person alleged to have breached this Code, it is expected that Clubs will use their best endeavours to do so. In the event that it is not possible to identify the person(s) allegedly responsible for any breach, the NCA is entitled to make a finding against a Club to whom the individual(s) could be reasonably assumed to be connected to, as if that Club had breached the Code. Clubs can be held responsible for the conduct of people connected to them.

For the purposes of this code the level of any offence shall be categorised by reference to the levels of offence as are recorded in the New Zealand Cricket Code of Conduct.

#### **Individual Penalties**

- 12.1 For a Level 1 offence the indicative penalty is a written censure and/or the imposition of a short term of suspension.
- 12.2 For a Level 2 offence the indicative penalty is a period of suspension, the period of which will be dependent upon the level of the seriousness of the offending.
- 12.3 For a Level 3 offence the indicative penalty is suspension for a period of no less than 6 weeks.
- 12.4 For a Level 4 offence the indicative penalty is suspension for a period of no less than 2 years.
- 12.5 For the most serious of offences the NCA reserves to itself the right to ban a person for such extended period as it considers appropriate up to and including a life ban.

#### **Team Penalties**

- 13.1 In addition to the penalties set out above penalties can include the deduction of points for the team of which the cited / coded player is a member together with a penalty on the team captain.
- 13.2 Indicative levels of deduction of points are as follows:
- 13.2.1 A second or further citing / coding for a player –2 points or points equivalent to a draw in the relevant competition lost.
- 13.2.2 Suspension – points or points equivalent to a win in the relevant competition lost.
- 13.2.3 Second or further suspension – 8 points or points equivalent to a win in the relevant competition lost.
- 13.2.4 Where there are two suspensions within a team during a season then the captain of that team will be stood down for one game, normally the next game in the relevant competition, this being at the discretion of the Commissioner.
- 13.2.5 An adult who is suspended for abuse towards a player aged 18 years or younger will automatically result in an additional deduction of 4 points as well as any other penalty which might be imposed.
- 13.2.6 Team and player penalties will be carried forward for three seasons. For clarity and by way of example, if a player was suspended under 12.2 above, then any further suspension within the following three-year period would be considered as a second or further suspension under 12.3 above.

13.3 The NCA reserves the right to publish the outcome of any proceeding under this Code of Conduct on its website.

**Appeals Process**

14.1 The Commissioner(s) appointed by the NCA under this Code have the discretion to act as inquisitors and have discretion to request people and entities connected with any allegation, to provide information or be questioned.

14.2 The Commissioner(s) conclusions as to fact and appropriate consequence are final and no correspondence will be entered into.

14.3 The Player, person or entity who is the subject of any finding has up to seven days in which to lodge an appeal with the NCA. The only grounds for appeal are that new factual evidence has come to light since the hearing, or that the finding itself is in breach of this Code.

14.4 The NCA has complete discretion as to whether to accept and act on any appeal, and how to proceed should an appeal be accepted.

***The NCA reserves the right to enforce NDCA's and/or NZC's Code of Conduct and Spirit of the Game policies, if and as needed.***