**Leigh-on-Sea Cricket Club**

**Code of Conduct for all Club Members**

Leigh-on-Sea Cricket Club is fully committed to safeguarding and promoting the well-being of all its members and guests. The Club believes it is important that members, coaches, administrators and parents associated with the Club should, always show respect and understanding of the safety and welfare of others. Therefore, members are expected to be familiar with and abide by the Club’s Code of Conduct.

The Club also supports the Essex Cricket League Disciplinary Code, which applies to First XI League cricket only, and will apply the principles of this Code, to all players, both senior and youth, irrespective of the team they are representing. A copy of the Essex Cricket League Disciplinary Code is posted as an addendum to the Club Code of Conduct.

***The Spirit of Cricket***

*Cricket is a game that owes much to its unique appeal to the fact that it should be played not only within the 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.*

**General Guidelines**

Two Laws clearly highlight the captain’s duties regarding team discipline and conduct:

* **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.
* **Player’s conduct**: In the event of a player failing to comply with instructions by an umpire, or criticising by word or action the decision of an umpire, or 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 payer’s captain, and instruct the latter to take action.

**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 captains to take action where required.

 **The umpires are authorised to intervene in case of:**

* Time wasting
* Damaging the pitch
	+ - * Dangerous and 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
			* The roles 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, for instance
1. To appeal knowing that the batsman is not out
2. To advance towards an umpire in an aggressive manner when appealing
3. To 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

 **Violence**

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

 **Players**

 Captains and umpires together set the tone for the conduct of a cricket

match. Every player is expected to make an important contribution towards

 this.

**Specific requirements of the Club Code of Conduct**

As a member of Leigh-on-Sea Cricket Club you are expected to:

* Play within the Laws and respect the umpires and their decisions
* Respect and obey instructions from captains or any Club official. The Club will not tolerate any display of dissent, verbal or not, or failure to follow an instruction during a match or not
* Respect the rights, dignity and worth of all participants regardless of gender, ability, age, cultural background, sexual orientation, ethnicity or religious belief
* Wear suitable kit for training and matches as agreed with the Captain or Club official
* Pay all fees due to the Club promptly. The Club does not operate a “credit” policy.
* Not to consume alcohol if legally under age, not to take any prohibited drugs either on or in the proximity of the pavilion or on the premises of any opponents
* Complete Match Manager, Bar and any other duties requested by the Club to the best of your ability ensuring you make the necessary arrangements to gain access if required.
* Ensure that you do not enter the bar area of the Club, unless specifically requested to do so by a General Committee or Bar Sub-committee member or team captain, or as part of your Bar duty responsibilities. You are also expected to report any suspicious activity or unauthorised entry to the Bar by other persons as soon as is practicable to a General Committee member.
* To arrive promptly for all designated meeting times and, where necessary, to ensure you have arranged adequate transport, if needed.
* To complete a “Self-Declaration” form as required by the Club to comply with Child Protection requirements.

**Additional requirements for parents/carers**

* Encourage your child to learn the Laws 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 of all
* Never punish or belittle your child for losing or making mistakes
* Publicly accept officials’ judgements
* Support your child’s involvement and help them to enjoy their sport
* Use the correct and proper language at all times
* Encourage and guide participants to accept responsibility for their own performance and behaviour
* Never use threatening behaviour towards children, officials, coaches or other parents.

**Additional requirements for Club Officials and Volunteers**

The essence of good ethical conduct and practice is summarised below. All coaches, officials and volunteers must:

* Consider the wellbeing and safety of participants before the development of performance
* Develop an appropriate working relationship with performers, based on mutual trust and respect
* Make sure all activities are appropriate to the age, ability and experience of those taking part
* Promote the positive aspects of the sport (e.g. fair play)
* Display consistently high standards of behaviour and appearance
* Follow all guidelines laid down by the National Governing body and the Club
* Hold the appropriate, valid qualifications and insurance cover
* Never exert undue influence over performers to obtain personal benefit or reward
* Never condone rule violations, rough play or the use of prohibitive substances
* Encourage performers to value their performances and not just results
* Encourage and guide participants to accept responsibility for their own performances and behaviour

**Disciplinary Procedures**

A Disciplinary Committee, appointed by and comprising General Committee members, will be responsible for disciplinary hearings of members who infringe Club rules, the Constitution or the Code of Conduct. The Committee has the responsibility to take any action of suspension or discipline following such hearings which may include:

* To require a member to write a letter of apology within a specified period of time
* To record a reprimand and give a warning over future conduct
* To suspend a player from consideration for selection for a defined period or number of matches
* To suspend membership from the Club for a defined period
* To impose a fine not exceeding £100
* To refer the case to the General Committee

The General Committee only can terminate the membership of an individual or impose a fine of more than £100.

**Discipline and Appeals**

All complaints, written or oral, regarding the behaviour of members should be submitted to the Club Chairman in the first instance.

The Disciplinary Committee will gather evidence and take submissions and convene a hearing within 15 days of the complaint being lodged. Any member requested to attend any hearing is entitled to be accompanied and represented by another Club member or other representative.

The Disciplinary Committee will notify the outcome of the hearing within 15 days of the hearing to all parties concerned and will then determine whether details of the complaint are made public or be subject to confidentiality rules.

Members are given the right of appeal to the Club Chairman within 7 days of notification of any outcome reached by the Disciplinary Committee. Any appeal will be heard within 15 days of notification of the appeal and all decisions reached thereafter are deemed final.

Outcomes reached by the General Committee are deemed final with no right of appeal.

**Summary**

The Code of Conduct is intended to give clear guidance to all Club members of the expectations of the Club. The Code also forms a key part of our overall Child Welfare and Clubmark Accreditation policy.