

Dealing with disciplinary issues in DCB cricket – guide for umpires

Introduction

The Laws of Cricket were modified in 2017 to include a preamble on the Spirit of the Game:

“Cricket owes much of its appeal and enjoyment to the fact that it should be played not only according to the Laws, but also within the Spirit of Cricket. The major responsibility for ensuring fair play rests with the captains, but extends to all players, match officials and, especially in junior cricket, teachers, coaches and parents.

Respect is central to the Spirit of Cricket.

- *Respect your captain, team-mates, opponents and the authority of the umpires.*
 - *Play hard and play fair.*
 - *Accept the umpire’s decision.*
- *Create a positive atmosphere by your own conduct, and encourage others to do likewise.*
 - *Show self-discipline, even when things go against you.*
- *Congratulate the opposition on their successes, and enjoy those of your own team.*
- *Thank the officials and your opposition at the end of the match, whatever the result.*

Cricket is an exciting game that encourages leadership, friendship and teamwork, which brings together people from different nationalities, cultures and religions, especially when played within the Spirit of Cricket.”

However, as always in competitive sport, incidents do occur that have to be dealt with accordingly. It is therefore important that such incidents – while still rare – are reported correctly. Not reporting disciplinary issues – or not reporting them correctly – allows misbehaviour to go unpunished and leaves players and captains free to think they can behave the same way the next weekend with you or a different colleague.

This quick guide is intended to help you when confronted with cases of misconduct that have to be reported. The best umpires know when to stop such cases in advance of them escalating, but sometimes these are sadly unavoidable.

To prepare yourself for a good day in the middle and beyond, please first bear in mind the following points:

- Set the standard in advance, whether this is being clothed appropriately, being on time and being confident in your body language and decisions.
- Be completely up to date with the latest Laws of Cricket and the DCB Playing Regulations, in particular Law 42 on dealing with misconduct. Consider printing out [cards of what constitutes a Level 1 to 4 offence](#) and keep them with you to refer to on field.
- Seek help from experienced umpires in your region (particularly DCB Panel umpires) if you are unsure with reporting or any other aspects of umpiring.
- Dealing with conflict is also part of ICC training and accreditation, so consider visiting a course in your area when they are held, or ask your local Umpire Officer whether they could hold one.
- Teamwork is everything. Remember your on-field colleague is there to help you and vice versa. Always act together as a team towards all stakeholders.

Dealing with cases of misconduct and reporting

It is important to remember that dealing with misconduct consists of two parts that are linked together and must both be dealt with accordingly for a proper outcome:

1. On-field action
2. Reporting after the game

1. On-field action

Since the introduction of Law 42, a system is now in place in the official laws (and in the DCB Playing Conditions) that allows umpires to enforce in-game sanctions against misconduct. More serious offences come with run penalties against the team of the player, so it is critically important that the way such penalties are communicated (both to captains and scorers via signals) is clear and the run penalties are enforced. Remember to work with the captain here.

Again, simply stating that the incident will be reported is not sufficient in such cases – consult the [cards](#) and stick to them. Most importantly of all is the sequence that you and your colleague make together as a team in enforcing the Law when a reportable incident takes place:

Note down the following on your match card:

- The time the incident occurred
- The over/ball the incident occurred
- The name of the player(s) involved, their team, their shirt number
- Any brief aspects of what was said, key events, sequence
- Other people involved
- The action taken on field

2. Reporting after the game

Once the game is done, it's best to get together with your colleague as quickly as possible to align yourselves with what happened during the game. Events become less clear over time and details fade, so it is a good idea to sit down together after the match to make sure both people are on the same page. Please also remember to take a picture of the final team sheet where the name of the offending player can be seen.

The ideal report should be:

- As brief as possible
- Factual (what happened and when?)
- Free of personal opinion
- Made as a team

Remember that the umpires are not responsible for handing out punishment, nor for giving recommendations; this is the job of the regional or national disciplinary committees to whom the report is sent.

a) Report in CricClubs

Once both you and your colleague are clear on the details, it's time to fill out the report sheet in CricClubs by 22:00 on the Tuesday after the match. It is sufficient for one of you to write the report here on the others behalf, but any subsequent correspondence should have both the names of both umpires at the end. In CricClubs, it is sufficient to state only that a report has been made, against whom and the Law. More in-depth information about the incident is sent in the subsequent report as detailed in the next step.

1. Access the match in CricClubs, you should have been informed by mail that you were appointed when the match was scheduled. Go to "Admin Actions", then "Umpire Match Report" in the dropdown menu that appears:



2. Add brief information about the player being reported in the corresponding field:

OVERALL TEAM BEHAVIOUR SCORE

Home Team	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Away Team	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Names/clubs of PLAYERS reported for an Offence:?

Player reported: Dave Smith
Club of reported player: BWCV U15 Boys
Imposed penalty: Level 1 (MCC LOC 42.2.1)
Reason: Showing dissent at an umpire's decision by word or action

Other Offences:

Over Ratings

We're Online!

3. Fill in the rest of the form completely and click on "Submit" to submit your report:

ANY OTHER COMMENTS:

Documents

New Uploads

Upload Documents Drag & Drop Files

Submit ←

b) Report to the relevant disciplinary bodies

After this, you should inform the relevant parties (also by 22:00 on the Tuesday after the match) that there was a report made for the match in question. Although they have access to it in CricClubs, league management or disciplinary committees are not informed automatically that a report has been made.

In local league cricket, this is your regional disciplinary committee. Their email address should be in the "To:" field, together with your regional league manager (Ligaleiter), regional Umpire Officer and the other umpire (if applicable) in CC. If there is no regional disciplinary committee, the mail should be addressed to your regional league manager (Ligaleiter).

In interregional cricket (knockout games and finals), this is the DCB and their disciplinary committee. The email should be sent to the DCB League Manager (sport@cricket.de) with the other umpire in CC.

With this mail, attach the following:

- Your more detailed report (signed by both umpires)
- A copy/photo of the DCB team sheet
- Any other documentation or evidence needed

Here is an e-mail template for the notification to the relevant body that a report has been made – the specific Law in question can be copied from the [MCC Laws online](#):

Dear xx,

This is to formally confirm that Dave Smith of BWCV U15 Boys was reported in the match between BWCV U15 Boys and BCV U15 Boys at Maifeld 1, Berlin on 4 April 2026.

The incident was deemed a Level 1 (MCC LOC 42.2.1) for showing dissent at an umpire's decision by word or action.

The corresponding detailed report can be found attached to this e-mail together with the official team sheet. Please pass this on to the relevant competent disciplinary body.

Many thanks and kind regards

Umpire 1 (on behalf of umpire 2)

Here is an example of the detailed report that is then attached to this e-mail as a Word or PDF file:

To whom it may concern,

Please find below our detailed disciplinary report.

Player reported: Dave Smith (shirt 22)

Club of reported player: BWCV U15 Boys

Match where incident took place: BWCV U15 Boys vs. BCV U15 Boys at Maifeld 1, Berlin

Date of incident: 4 April 2026

Time of incident: 12:05

Imposed penalty: Level 1 (MCC LOC 42.2.1)

Reason: Showing dissent at an umpire's decision by word or action

Description of incident: In the 15th over of the BWCV batting innings, Dave Smith (shirt number 22) was given out caught behind by umpire Mark Jameson. The batter did not leave his position for 10 seconds and then held his arms out to the umpire before walking off slowly. The umpires came together and deemed this a Level 1 offence. The BWCV captain was informed of this at the end of the over when there was a drinks break, and that the player would be reported. Dave Smith came to us at the end of the match with his coach and apologised for his behaviour.

Thank you for dealing with this matter accordingly.

Best regards

<Signature>

Mark Jameson

<Signature>

Rohit Patel

The report will then be received by the relevant bodies and dealt with accordingly, including passing the report on to the teams involved for statements. You may then be asked to give further written statements as the disciplinary process progresses. Important here is again that you present a "united front" with a statement from both umpires jointly.

Final word – reporting is an absolutely necessary and sometimes unavoidable part of officiating, and one that should be made professionally. Remember – the standard you walk past as umpires is the standard you accept.