



UMPIRE CODE OF CONDUCT / SCHIEDSRICHTERREGULARIEN

1. This Code of Conduct is intended as a supplement to the overriding applicable clauses and laws detailed in both the DCB Playing Conditions (DCB-PC) and the official MCC Laws of Cricket (MCC-LOC).
2. In particular, §11 of the DCB-PC (“Umpires”) and Law 2 of the MCC-LOC (“The Umpires”) shall apply, unless stated here otherwise.

Pre-match obligations

3. The umpires shall be present at the ground no later than 45 minutes before the scheduled start of play.
4. Umpires shall be clothed appropriately, consulting in advance of the game where necessary to ensure they are clothed as uniformly as possible.
Specifically this means:
 - dark trousers (not denim/jeans or shorts)
 - a dark top/jacket (preferably not in the colours of either of the playing teams)
 - dark hat/cap
 - white/light-coloured footwear (not open shoes, sandals or flip-flops)
 - For finals and Elite League games where only members of the DCB panel may officiate, the official DCB clothing (hat, polo shirt, jacket) must be worn.
5. Before the toss, the umpire(s) shall meet with the captains and determine the following:
 - which players are taking part in the match, ensuring that the players on the completed DCB team sheet are present, with their original, official DCB card or NOC and identification document (see in particular DCB-PC §9 “Registration and Eligibility of Players”)
 - the balls to be used during the match
 - the hours of play and the times and durations of any agreed intervals, including drinks breaks
 - which clock or watch and back-up time piece is to be used during the match,
 - the boundary of the field of play and allowances for boundaries,
 - the use of covers, where applicable, and
 - any special conditions of play affecting the conduct of the match, including health and safety guidelines (COVID-19 etc.).

- The umpires shall then inform the scorers of all agreements under the aforementioned points

Obligations during the match

6. Before the toss and during the match, the umpires shall satisfy themselves that:
 - the wickets are properly pitched
 - the creases are correctly marked
 - the boundary of the field of play complies with the requirements of MCC-LOC 19.1 (Determining the boundary of the field of play), 19.2 (Identifying and marking the boundary) and 19.3 (Restoring the boundary)
 - the scores are correct (see MCC-LOC 2.15)
 - the conduct of the match is strictly in accordance with the Laws
 - the ball, bat, stumps, bails and equipment used comply with the corresponding Laws
 - the match takes place within the allotted time and according to the respective minimum over rates.
7. Fitness for play

It is solely for the umpires together to decide whether either conditions of ground, weather or light or exceptional circumstances mean that it would be dangerous or unreasonable for play to take place. Conditions shall not be regarded as either dangerous or unreasonable merely because they are not ideal. The fact that the grass and the ball are wet does not warrant the ground conditions being regarded as unreasonable or dangerous. Conditions shall be regarded as dangerous if there is actual and foreseeable risk to the safety of any player or umpire. Conditions shall be regarded as unreasonable if, although posing no risk to safety, it would not be sensible for play to proceed. If the umpires consider the ground is so wet or slippery as to deprive the bowler of a reasonable foothold, the fielders of the power of free movement, or the batsmen of the ability to play their strokes or to run between the wickets, then these conditions shall be regarded as so bad that it would be dangerous and unreasonable for play to take place.
8. Suspension of play in dangerous or unreasonable circumstances

All references to ground include the pitch. See MCC-LOC 6.1 (Area of pitch). The umpires shall immediately suspend play, or not allow play to start or to recommence, if either umpire considers that the conditions of ground, weather or light, or any other circumstances are either dangerous or unreasonable. When there is a suspension of play it is the responsibility of the umpires to monitor conditions. They shall make inspections as often as appropriate, unaccompanied by any players or officials. Immediately the umpires together agree that the conditions are no longer dangerous or unreasonable they shall call upon the players to resume play.
9. Lightning

When making decisions regarding starting, continuing or resuming play, the umpires must err on the side of caution and must prioritise safety over and above the optimisation of play, irrespective of the state of the match. If there is any doubt as to the likely threat of lightning,

the umpires should not start or should suspend play; if play is already suspended, they should not resume play until they have agreed that the threat has passed.

In addition to official weather warnings, the following 20/20 protocol should be considered by the umpires:

Play should not start or resume, or should be suspended and shelter immediately sought, when there are 20 seconds or less between the flash of lightning and the associated thunder clap.

It is generally safe to return to the field of play a minimum of 20 minutes after the final flash of lightning or clap of thunder has been seen or heard.

It might be possible to start or resume play earlier than 20 minutes but only if it is clear and agreed by both the umpires that the storm has moved on and there is no threat of lightning.

For the sake of clarity, the final decision remains in the hands of the umpires.

Post-match obligations

10. Once the match is completed, the umpires shall consult with the scorers to ensure that the details entered in the DCB team sheet are correct, and sign the form confirming the result. They shall also consult and agree upon the "Player of the Match".
11. The umpires shall then complete the DCB match report, sending it to their regional authority no later than 10 p.m. on the Tuesday following the match. Any players reported for an offence must be detailed here, together with an explanation of the respective case. It is essential that this report is kept factual, concise and free of personal opinion, and is signed and agreed upon by both umpires. Any violations of the minimum over rate must also be documented in the report.