

QUEENSLAND VETERANS CRICKET INC.

CODE of BEHAVIOUR

GOVERNING

**ALL MATCHES PLAYED by QVC
PLAYERS ANYWHERE ANYTIME**



**QUEENSLAND
VETERANS
CRICKET**

INDEX – BEHAVIOUR

(NOTE: This policy applies to all QVC sanctioned matches.)

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INTRODUCTION

Traditionally, Cricket has been the one sport to maintain and promote the highest levels of conduct and sportsmanship. While always a competitive sport, its continued strength and its image relies on the acceptance of the Umpire's decision and a preparedness to play within the "spirit of the game".

The areas that concern the Conducts Commissioner, the Conducts Committee or the VCA Management and Match Committees are:

(a) the use of offensive language – generally in the form of a disparaging and abusing remark to an opposing Player or toward an Umpire, or even as an expression of frustration or self-admonishment.

Not only is such language generally audible beyond the playing arena but too frequently is an over-reaction to some quite straight-forward incident.

(b) the questioning/disputing of the Umpire's decision – often in an aggressive or sarcastic manner.

This applies equally to the Striker or Non-Striker and Bowlers on dismissals and unsuccessful appeals as to the judgement of calls and No balls, wides and byes etc.

(c) the excessive number of frivolous and orchestrated appeals – primarily aimed at pressuring and intimidating the Umpire into a favourable decision.

(d) the actions of the dismissed Striker or Non-Striker – in failing to leave the crease promptly on being given out and then banging their bat into the ground or throwing the bat when returning to the pavilion.

The Conducts Commissioner and Conducts Committee are primarily interested in having all cricket under its control played within the spirit and traditions of the game. There is now one process for the reporting and consideration of unsatisfactory conduct.

Serious breaches of the Code of Behaviour will see the Player reported at the end of the match by the Umpire(s) controlling the match to the QVC Operations Manager for referral to a Conducts Commissioner who will call the Player to appear before the Conducts Committee to answer the report. Details of that report will appear on the relevant match report form.

SHOULD THE PLAYER BE FOUND GUILTY OF AN ACT OF MISCONDUCT, THEY SHALL BE LIABLE TO A PENALTY AS DETERMINED BY THE COMMITTEE

The recruitment and retention of Umpires is certainly NOT being made any easier by unacceptable levels of Player conduct. Few people are willing to continually subject themselves to childish behaviour and offensive language which is too frequently prevalent on and beyond the cricket field.

All Players can certainly play a role in raising the general standard of Umpiring and the level of experience with QVC's Umpires by lifting their personal level of behaviour and permitting the Umpire to concentrate on those aspects of the game for which they are responsible.

All Umpires have been requested to take a firm line with respect to Player misconduct especially with regard to the use of offensive language and the disputation of any decisions.

ALL PLAYERS SHOULD BE WELL AWARE OF THE STANDARDS EXPECTED BY THE COMMITTEE AND CONSEQUENTLY ANY PLAYER CALLED BEFORE THE COMMITTEE WITH RESPECT TO MISCONDUCT CAN EXPECT LITTLE SYMPATHY FROM THE COMMITTEE, IF FOUND GUILTY.

It is the responsibility of everyone associated with QVC sanctioned matches - Regional Coordinators, Team Captains and especially the Players - to ensure the level of conduct and sportsmanship traditionally inherent in the Game is observed.

1. CODE OF BEHAVIOUR

1.1 Definitions

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| “Player” | includes all players listed on team sheets for a match and participating in the match, and includes any substitutes subsequently participating in the match. |
| “Families” | includes all extended family members present at a match. |
| “Coaches” | include the team coach as well as any person(s) assisting or substituting for them in that role. |
| “Managers” | means the manager of a team; a member of the medical or fitness staff of a team; the selectors of a team; a regional office bearer or any other person acting in an official capacity in relation to a team. |
| “Cricket officials” | includes Umpires, Scorers and Match Referees. |
| “Spectators” | includes all persons present at a match not otherwise defined above. |

1.2 Code of Behaviour

- 1.2.1 This code applies to all registered players, officials and umpires whether participating or as a spectator at any match or event under the auspices of Veterans Cricket Australia or Queensland Veterans Cricket. It applies in addition to and not in substitution of the ICC Code of Conduct and the Cricket Australia *Code of Behaviour, Racial and Religious Vilification Code and the Anti- Harassment policy*.
- 1.2.2 The captains are responsible at all times for ensuring that play is conducted within the “Spirit of the Game” as well as within the Laws of Cricket.
- 1.2.3 Players, families, coaches, managers, cricket officials and spectators must not assault, attempt to assault or act in any way to intimidate any player, family member, coach, manager, cricket official or spectator.
- 1.2.4 Players, families, coaches, managers, cricket officials and spectators must not abuse cricket equipment or clothing; or the facilities equipment, fixtures or fittings at any club or ground.
- 1.2.5 Players, families, coaches, managers, cricket officials and spectators must not react showing dissension, displeasure or disapproval either towards an umpire, his/her decision, or generally following an umpiring decision.
- 1.2.6 Players, families, coaches, managers, cricket officials and spectators must not engage in any form of racial or religious abuse or harassment as defined in the Queensland Cricket Racial and Religious Vilification Code, the Cricket Australia Racial and Religious Vilification Code or Anti-Harassment Policy. This means that players, families, coaches, managers and cricket officials must never use language that is abusive or discriminates on the basis of race, gender or sexuality; or indulge in crude or abusive hand signals.
- 1.2.7 Players, families, coaches, managers, cricket officials and spectators must not engage in conduct detrimental to the “spirit of the game”, including not using crude or abusive language. Note that an Umpire would normally caution any player(s) and advise their Captain of his/her concern before reporting the player(s) for such conduct.
- 1.2.8 Players, families, coaches, managers, cricket officials and spectators must not engage in conduct defined as detrimental to the game. This includes:
- Possessing or using illegal or illicit drugs.
 - Possessing or using any substance meant to enhance or be harmful to their own or others performance.
 - Smoking outside a designated area at a club or ground, or near any person <16 years of age.

- (d) Consuming, being affected by or possessing alcohol on the field of play.
 - (e) Consuming alcohol outside of a designated area at a club or ground; and never
 - (i) Gambling on matches (betting).
 - (ii) Failing to perform in a match in return for a benefit, such as money or goods (match fixing).
 - (iii) Inducing a player to perform one of the above two actions.
 - (iv) Failing to report knowledge of incidents relating to betting or match-fixing.
- 1.2.9 Without limiting their rights under the laws of Queensland and Australia, players, families, coaches, managers, cricket officials and spectators:
- (a) Must not make media or any other public comment likely to bring the game into disrepute; or which is detrimental to the interests of the game (Note that this includes comments on social media); and
 - (b) Should not take or distribute photographs or videos of anyone under the age of 16yrs (NB: This does not apply for parents/grand with their children/grand).

1.3 Code of Conduct and Offences

- 1.3.1 Queensland Veterans Cricket Inc (QVC) will adopt from time to time and modify as appropriate to its Competitions the Code of Conduct published by Cricket Australia and the International Cricket Council (ICC), which contains details of undesirable conduct. The QVC Code of Conduct is set out in Section 1.2 above.
- 1.3.2 All players, umpires and officials participating in QVC Competitions, or in matches organised by the QVC are bound by and required to comply with the QVC Code of Conduct published in these Rules.
- 1.3.3 The following offences are adopted from the Cricket Australia Code of Conduct and for illustrations of the application of each; reference should be made to the guidelines that accompany the Cricket Australia Code of Conduct. The provisions of the Rule itself take precedence over any guidelines.

1.4 Recommended Penalties for Code of Conduct Breaches

In respect to the Code of Conduct, the following are the recommended penalties for Level 1 to 4 offences:

- Level 1 - Official reprimand or a ban of up to 1 match.
- Level 2 - A ban of 1 or 2 matches.
- Level 3 - A ban of 2 to 4 matches.
- Level 4 - A ban of 5 or more matches, or a lifeban.

For all Levels- An appropriate suspended sentence to ensure the player/official does not return to undesirable behavior on resumption

LEVEL 1 OFFENCES

L1.1 Abuse cricket equipment or clothing, ground equipment or fixtures and fittings.

Includes actions outside the course of normal cricket actions such as hitting or kicking the wickets and actions which intentionally or negligently result in damage to the advertising boards, boundary markers or any part of or the contents or any building or structure at the ground.

L1.2 Show dissent at an umpire's decision.

Includes excessive, obvious disappointment with an umpire's decision or with an umpire making the decision and obvious delay in resuming play or leaving the wicket. This Rule does not prohibit the bowler involved in the decision or a team captain from asking an

umpire to provide an explanation for a decision, or the captain from commenting on the umpires' performance in their Captain's report.

L1.3 Use language that is obscene, offensive or insulting and/or the making of an obscene gesture.

This includes swearing and offensive gestures which are not directed at another person such as swearing in frustration at one's own poor play or fortune. The extent to which such behaviour is likely to give offence shall be taken into account when assessing the seriousness of the breach.

L1.4 Engaging in excessive or unnecessary appealing.

Excessive shall mean repeated appealing when the bowler/fielder knows the batsman is not out, with the intention of placing the umpire under pressure. It is not intended to prevent loud or enthusiastic appealing. However, the practice of celebrating or assuming a dismissal before the decision has been given may also come within this Rule.

L1.5 Point or gesture towards the pavilion in an aggressive manner upon the dismissal of a batsman.

Includes charging or running up to the batsman and "getting in his or her face".

L1.5 Breach any regulation regarding approved clothing or equipment

LEVEL 2 OFFENCES

L2.1 Show serious dissent at an umpire's decision.

Dissent should be classified as serious where the dissent is expressed by a specific action such as the shaking of the head, snatching cap from the umpire, pointing at pad or bat, other displays of anger or abusive language directed at the umpire or excessive delay in resuming play or leaving the crease. This Rule does not prohibit the bowler involved in the decision or a team captain from asking an umpire to provide an explanation for a decision, or the captain from commenting on the umpire's performance in their captain's report.

L2.2 Engage in inappropriate and deliberate physical contact with other players or officials.

Without limitation, players will breach this Rule if they deliberately walk or run into or shoulder another player, official or match official.

L2.3 Charge or advance towards the umpire in an aggressive manner when appealing.

L2.4 Deliberately and maliciously distract or obstruct another player or official on the field of play.

This is not intended to replace Law 41(4) and (5) of the Laws of Cricket. Without limitation, players will breach this Rule if they deliberately attempt to distract a striker by words or gestures or deliberately shepherd a batsman while running or attempting to run between wickets.

L2.5 Throw the ball at or near a player or official in an inappropriate and/or dangerous manner.

This Rule will not prohibit a fielder or bowler from returning the ball to the stumps in the normal fashion.

L2.6 Use language that is obscene, offensive or of a generally insulting nature to another player, official or spectator.

This is language or gestures which are directed at another person. See comments under Rule L1.3 above in relation to the seriousness of the breach.

L2.7 Change the condition of the ball in breach of law 41.

Prohibited behaviour includes picking the seam or deliberately throwing the ball into the ground or any other method for the purpose of roughening it up and the application of moisture to the ball other than perspiration and saliva.

L2.8 Without limiting Rule L2.3 above, attempt to manipulate a Match in regard to the result, net run rate, bonus points or otherwise. The captain of any team guilty of such conduct shall be held responsible.

Prohibited conduct under this Rule will include incidents where a team bats in such a way as to either adversely affect its own or improve its opponent's performance points or net run rate.

L2.9 Seriously breach any regulation regarding approved clothing or equipment.

LEVEL 3 OFFENCES

L3.1 Intimidate or attempt to intimidate an umpire or referee whether by language or conduct.

Includes appealing in an aggressive or threatening manner.

L3.2 Threaten to assault another player, Team official or spectator.

L3.3 Use language or gestures that offend, insult, humiliate, threaten, disparage or vilify another person on the basis of that person's race, religion, colour, descent, sexuality or national or ethnic origin.

L3.4 Make public or media comment detrimental to the interests of the game

LEVEL 4 OFFENCES

L4.1 Threaten to assault an umpire or referee.

L4.2 Physically assault another player, umpire, referee, official or spectator.

L4.3 Engage in any act of violence on the field of play.

L4.4 Use language or gestures that seriously offends, insults, humiliates, intimidates, threatens, disparages, or vilifies another person on the basis of that person's race, religion, colour, descent, sexuality or national or ethnic origin.

2. CONDUCTS COMMISSIONERS

2.1 The QVC Management Committee will appoint a person (s) to the position of QVC Conducts Commissioner who will be responsible for receiving, investigating and dealing with any alleged breach of the Code of Behaviour.

2.2 Any alleged breach of the Code of Behaviour will in the first instance be heard and determined by a QVC Conducts Commissioner unless the Commissioner decides to refer the matter to a Conducts Committee hearing;

2.3 The Commissioner will conduct a hearing, when possible to be held on a Tuesday evening:

- in private unless all parties to the report and the Commissioner agree otherwise; and
- in other respects as the Commissioner determines;
- with as little formality and technicality as reasonable; and
- as quickly, as proper consideration of the report or complaint permits.

- 2.4** The Commissioner:
- may conduct the hearing by telephone or other conference facility;
 - may themselves and may permit the person alleged to have breached the Code and the person who lodged the report to examine and cross-examine witnesses;
 - may appoint another person to assist with the hearing; and
 - may allow the person alleged to have breached the Code to be assisted by another person (such as a Region representative).
- 2.5** All people attending a hearing before the Commissioner must:
- dress in a manner acceptable to the Commissioner;
 - behave with due decorum;
 - comply with the directions of the Commissioner as to the manner in which the hearing will be conducted; and
 - any person who fails to comply may be ejected from the hearing room and sanctioned under this Code
- 2.6** The Commissioner may impose any penalty thought fit in accordance with the QVC Rules and Playing Conditions or may refer the matter to a Conducts Committee hearing.
- 2.7** In the event that a hearing cannot be completed before the start of a relevant match the Commissioner may make such interim ruling as deemed appropriate including the interim suspension of a Player pending completion of the hearing.
- 2.8** The Commissioner shall ensure that a completed Findings Sheet is lodged with the Secretary QVC. The Secretary will distribute copies of the Findings Sheet to the accused player/official/umpire, the teams involved or any other relevant party.
- 2.9** Any person aggrieved by a finding of the Commissioner or as to the penalty imposed may appeal to the Conducts Committee by giving notice to the Secretary within 24 hours of the decision by the Commissioner.

3. CONDUCTS COMMITTEE

- 3.1** The QVC Management Committee will appoint a Panel of suitable persons, including Conducts Commissioners who may be called to sit on a Conducts Committee. Each Conducts Committee will consist of three persons selected from this Panel, one of whom must be a Conducts Commissioner, which will hear matters brought before them by QVC's Conducts Commissioners.
- 3.2** The Conducts Committee shall hear appeals from a decision of a Commissioner. Such appeal may be by way of re-hearing, but the onus shall be on the appellant to show error in the decision, the subject of the appeal.
- 3.3** The Commissioner who made the original decision may appear to assist at the hearing of the appeal.
- 3.4** Members of the Conducts Committee shall not be representative of the Region or Regions involved in the Hearing.
- 3.5** The Conducts Committee may conduct a hearing or may make a decision based on written submissions, including the Findings Sheet and summary of outcomes from the original decision.
- 3.6** The Conducts Committee will conduct hearings, when possible to be held on a Thursday evening:
- in private unless all parties to the report and the Commissioner agree otherwise;
 - in other respects as the Conducts Committee Chairman determines;
 - with as little formality and technicality as reasonable; and
 - as quickly, as proper consideration of the report or complaint permits.

- 3.7** The Conducts Committee:
- may conduct the hearing by telephone or other conference facility;
 - may itself and may permit the person alleged to have breached the Code and the person who lodged the report to examine and cross-examine witnesses through the Chairman;
 - may appoint another person to assist it; and
 - may allow the person alleged to have breached the Code to be assisted by another person (such as a team representative).

3.8 All people attending a hearing before the Conducts Committee must:

- dress in a manner acceptable to the Conducts Committee;
- behave with due decorum; and
- comply with the directions of the Conducts Committee Chairman as to the manner in which the hearing will be conducted.
- any person who fails to comply may be ejected from the hearing room and sanctioned under this Code.

3.9 All parties except the Conducts Committee must leave the room when the Conduct Committee is deliberating on its decision.

3.10 The Conducts Committee may impose any penalty it thinks fit in accordance with Regulation 39.

3.11 In the event that a Conducts Committee hearing cannot be completed before the start of a relevant match the Conducts Committee may make such interim ruling as it deems appropriate including the interim suspension of a Player pending completion of the hearing.

3.12 The Conducts Committee Chairman shall ensure that a completed Findings Sheet is lodged with the Secretary, QVC. The Secretary will distribute copies of the Findings Sheet to the accused player/official/umpire, the Regions involved, and the Conducts Commissioner or any other relevant party.

4 METHOD OF HANDLING BREACHES OF THE CODE OF BEHAVIOUR

4.1 An alleged breach of the Code of Behaviour may be reported by:

- 4.1.1 Either or both Umpires;
- 4.1.2 The Regional Coordinators of the Regions participating in the match in which the alleged breach occurred;
- 4.1.3 A Player participating in the particular match in which an alleged breach occurs;
- 4.1.4 A Queensland Cricket Conducts Commissioner or QVC Conducts Commissioner; or
- 4.1.5 Any member of the QVC Management Committee Member.

4.2 Where an Umpire is considering or wishes to report an alleged breach of the Code of Behaviour, the umpire(s) must inform captains of the lodgment or pending lodgment of a report of his/her player as soon as practical at the close of the day's play. The umpire(s) must complete the prescribed Umpire's Report Form and forward a copy of the Report, together with any further written submission to the QVC Operations Manager by 6:00 pm Monday after the completion of the match or days play who in turn must forward the submission to the QVC President. The President shall then determine who will hear the report and where and when the hearing will be held.

NOTE: Umpire(s) must nominate the grade of offence on the report.

4.3 Any person as outlined in 4.1.4 – 4.1.5 above may lodge a report or instigate an investigation within 48 hours of becoming aware of any facts, which are capable of substantiating a breach under this Code.

- 4.4 Where any person as outlined in 4.1.2 – 4.1.3 above wishes to report an alleged breach of the Code of Behaviour, he shall forward a written submission to the QVC Operations Manager by 6:00 pm Monday after the completion of the match. The Operations Manager shall refer the matter to the QVC President for further investigation and determination.
- 4.5 The Conducts Commissioner may refer any matter to the Conducts Committee for determination.
- 4.6 There are four (4) levels of Grading of Offences to apply:(Refer to 3 CODE of BEHAVIOUR, Clause 3.2 Recommended Penalties for Code of Conduct Breaches.)
- Level 1: The Commissioner or Conducts Committee may invoke any of the following options:
- 4.6.3 official reprimand, or
 - 4.6.4 a ban of up to 1 match
- Level 2: The Commissioner or Conducts Committee may invoke any of the following options:
- 4.6.5 a ban of 1 or 2 matches
- Level 3: The Commissioner or Conducts Committee may invoke any of the following options:
- 4.6.6 a ban of 2 to 4 matches
- Level 4: The Commissioner or Conducts Committee may invoke any of the following options:
- 4.6.7 a ban of 5 or more matches, or a life ban
- For all Levels, an appropriate suspended sentence option.
- 4.7 If found guilty of a Level 1 offence, a player would ordinarily expect to receive a minimum one (1) match suspension. If found guilty of a Level 2 offence, a player would ordinarily expect to receive a minimum two (2) match suspension.
- 4.8 The Conducts Commissioner may vary the level of offence (higher or lower)
- 4.9 A breach of the Code of Behaviour will be graded and the penalty determined within the four (4) levels as outlined.
- 4.10 For level 3 or level 4 offences, the Commissioner or Conducts Committee has discretion to determine whether a suspension applies for representative matches.
- 4.11 The findings of the Conducts Commissioner or Conducts Committee should clearly define the time frame of the suspension, be it for one day match (es), two day match (es) or a time frame.
- 4.12 Each of the rules for behaviour has a guideline. The guidelines are intended as an illustrative guide only and in the case of any doubt as to the interpretation of the Rule, the provisions of the Rule itself shall take precedence over the provisions of the guidelines. The guidelines should not be read as an exhaustive list of offences or prohibited conduct.

5 QVC APPEALS TRIBUNAL

There shall be an Appeals Tribunal appointed by the QVC Management Committee.

- 5.1 The membership of the Appeals Tribunal shall be determined by the QVC at its first meeting following the Annual General Meeting.
- 5.2 The Tribunal shall consist of three members.
- 5.3 Subject to 6.8 below the Appeals Tribunal shall be responsible for receiving all appeals from decisions of the Conducts Committee or the QVC Match Committee.
- 5.4 Any appeal against a decision of the Conducts Committee or the QVC Match Committee, must be lodged within 7 Days of a Hearing with the QVC Secretary. The suspended Player or Players shall not be permitted to participate in any Division or other Competitions until the penalty has been met or an appeal against such finding and/or severity of the sentence has been adjudged by the Appeals Tribunal.

- 5.5 The Appeals Tribunal shall hear and determine each appeal by reference only to all documentary and written evidence presented to a hearing before the Conducts Committee together with the Findings Sheet and summary of outcomes from the relevant hearing and shall receive from all interested parties written submissions only with respect to the evidence and submissions presented before the initial hearing of either the Conducts Committee.
- 5.6 Subject to 6.8 below the appeal shall not constitute a re-hearing.
- 5.7 Subject to 6.9 below there shall be no right of appearance before the Appeals Tribunal by any of the parties or their representatives who appeared before the initial hearing of either the Conducts Committee.
- 5.8 Any new or additional evidence shall be received by the Appeals Tribunal only at the discretion of the Appeals Tribunal;
- 5.9 Where the matter under appeal is regarded by a majority of the Appeals Tribunal as sufficiently serious, leave may be given by the Chairman of the Appeals Tribunal to permit appearance by any or all of the interested parties and/or their representatives.
- 5.10 The Appeals Tribunal shall be furnished with all information and documentation relevant to the hearing of the Appeal including information on prior offences, the Register of Penalties and Findings Sheet/s. For Conducts Committee appeals the Secretary of the Conducts Committee or, for QVC Management Committee appeals the QVC Secretary, from whichever body the appeal originates should furnish this information to the Appeals Tribunal. The papers should be bound in chronological order with a List of Contents appended.
- 5.11 Unless special circumstances are demonstrated, the appellant's Affiliate body and/or Region should present any appeal made to the Appeals Tribunal;
- 5.12 The Appeals Tribunal may order a re-hearing if, in their opinion, sufficient anomalies exist in the process followed by a Conducts Committee. At its discretion, the Appeals Tribunal may designate the membership of the Conducts Committee to re-hear the case.
- 5.13 The Appeals Tribunal shall, in each case, be the final arbiter and its decision can only be appealed upon application to Queensland Cricket.
- 5.14 Should an appeal subsequently be upheld then any suspension or penalty previously served shall nevertheless be deemed to be valid.
- 5.15 An appeal may be withdrawn at any time, except that once the hearing of the appeal has commenced the appeal may be withdrawn only with the Appeals Tribunal's approval

