



Graces Cricket Club

The Spirit of Graces – club principles

Members of Graces are united by a shared enthusiasm and love of cricket and its wish to pursue this interest within a Club where all are welcome and encouraged whatever their previous experience of the sport. Graces strength lies in the breadth of its membership and its commitment to ensure that regardless of ability and experience everyone enjoys the game. There is a duty of the more experienced to encourage and help build-up the self-esteem of the less confident; anything less, on or off the field of play, is divisive and undermines the ethos of the Club. Graces strives to be an environment where everyone can be themselves and any form of discrimination or bullying will not be tolerated.

In addition to the club principles, Graces's code of conduct for members includes the Spirit of Cricket and general ECB Club Code of Conduct, as below.

ECB Code of Conduct

1.1 The ECB is committed to maintaining the highest standards of behaviour and conduct. This Code of Conduct incorporates the Spirit of Cricket, as set out below. It applies to all matches played under the auspices of the ECB and may be applied to cricket in general.

1.2 The captains are responsible at all times for ensuring that play is conducted within the Spirit of Cricket as well as within the Laws.

1.3 Players and team officials must at all times accept the umpire's decision. Players must not show dissent at the umpire's decision or react in a provocative or disapproving manner towards another player or a spectator.

1.4 Players and team officials shall not intimidate, assault or attempt to intimidate or assault an umpire, another player or a spectator.

1.5 Players and team officials shall not use crude and/or abusive language (known as "sledging") nor make offensive gestures or hand signals nor deliberately distract an opponent.

1.6 Players and team officials shall not make racially abusive comments nor indulge in racially abusive actions against fellow players, officials, members and supporters. Clubs must operate an active open door membership policy whilst respecting player qualification regulations and welcome players/members irrespective of ethnic origin.

1.7 Players and team officials shall not use or in any way be concerned in the use or distribution of illegal drugs.

1.8 Clubs must take adequate steps to ensure the good behaviour of their members and supporters towards players and umpires. Any club found to be in breach of the ECB Code of Conduct may be expelled from ECB Competitions for the current and future seasons.

Spirit of Cricket - Preamble to the Laws of Cricket (2017 Code 2nd Edition 2019, MCC)

“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.”

Spirit of Cricket ECB Guidance

2.1 There are two Laws which place the responsibility for the team’s conduct firmly on the captain:

Responsibility of Captains

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.

Player’s Conduct

In the event of any player failing to comply with the instructions of an umpire, criticising his decision by word or action, 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 player’s captain, requesting the latter to take action.

2.2 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, applying Law 42 (Players Conduct) when deemed appropriate, and it is the responsibility of the captain to take action where required.

2.3 The umpires are authorised to intervene in cases of:

- Time wasting
- Damaging the pitch
- Dangerous or unfair bowling
- Tampering with the ball
- Any other action that they consider to be unfair.

2.4 The Spirit of the Game involves RESPECT for:

- Your opponents

- Your own captain and team
- The role of the umpires
- The game's traditional values

2.5 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
 - a) appeal knowing the batsman is not out
 - b) advance towards an umpire in an aggressive manner when appealing
 - c) 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.

2.6 Violence

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

2.7 Players

Captains and umpires together set the tone for the conduct of a cricket match. Every player is expected to make an important contribution to this.

Complaints

Complaints about the behaviour of a Club member must be addressed to the Chair or, in their absence, the Safeguarding Officer, who will deal with it informally or, if they feel it necessary, refer the matter to the Committee. The Committee may then decide to speak to the member, write to them or, in extreme cases, expel the member from the club without reimbursement of fees. The Committee's decision is final. And will supersede any league sanction if the incident occurs during a league match. General disciplinary problems are rare and every member of Graces should be reassured that the Chair and Committee do their utmost to solve any dispute, in as timely, discreet, fair and constructive manner as possible.

Graces Committee Jan 2024