



## Peel Cricket Association

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### Peel Cricket Association Code of Conduct

Traditionally, cricket has been one sport to maintain and exhibit the highest levels of conduct and sportsmanship. While always a most competitive game, the continued strength of the sport has relied upon the acceptance of the umpire's decision and the preparedness to play within the "spirit of the game".

All members, players, administrators, umpires, parents, guardians and supporters of the Peel Cricket Association who partake in the playing, administration and support of cricket within the association are bound by the constitution, by-laws, playing conditions and codes of conduct.

The general principles in which all members should adhere to are as follows;

- Show respect and courtesy to all individuals involved in the sport
- Uphold the values of fair play, sportsmanship, and integrity
- Comply with all rules, regulations, and policies of the Peel Cricket Association
- Promote the health, safety, and well-being of all participants

The general principles in which all players should adhere to are as follows;

- Show respect towards teammates, opponents, coaches, officials, and spectators.
- Refrain from using foul or abusive language, engaging in violent or aggressive behavior, and any form of harassment or discrimination.
- Play by the rules, respect decisions made by officials, and accept outcomes gracefully.
- Avoid activities that could endanger the health or safety of themselves or others

The Peel Cricket Association will continue to closely monitor player behaviour in matches.

The areas of focus to the PCA are:

- (a) The use of offensive language - generally as a disparaging remark to an opposing player or toward an umpire, or even as an expression of frustration or self-admonishment. This includes racial or religious vilification (any act that is reasonably likely to threaten, disparage, vilify, offend, insult, humiliate or intimidate another person or group based on race, religion, descent, colour or national or ethnic origin).
- (b) The questioning/disputing of the umpire's decision - often in an aggressive or sarcastic manner. This applies equally to dismissals and unsuccessful appeals as to the judgment of calls on no-balls, wides, byes, etc.
- (c) The excessive number of frivolous and ridiculous appeals - primarily aimed at pressuring and intimidating the umpire into a favourable decision.
- (d) The actions of the dismissed batter - in failing to leave the crease promptly on being given out and any equipment abuse (e.g. banging the bat into the ground or against the fence or race, etc. and/ or throwing the bat or equipment during or after his return to the pavilion).
- (e) "Send offs" – usually to a dismissed batter by the bowler or a member of the fielding side.

This can often inflame the situation and lead to a more serious altercation.

Whether or not such behaviour is evident in international or interstate cricket or whether the language used is considered "acceptable" by today's society is of little concern to the PCA.

The PCA has two processes for the reporting and consideration of unsatisfactory behaviour:

1. Serious breaches of misbehaviour will see the player immediately reported by the umpire(s) controlling the match or by the match referee after the conclusion of the match. (Refer Peel Cricket Association Bylaws - **Section 4**).
2. For less serious breaches where an umpire has occasion to speak to a player regarding his behaviour, but does not believe a report is necessary, the incident will be noted on the Umpires' Match Report and the player will receive a caution. Should a player receive three such cautions over a two season duration, the player will receive an automatic one match suspension (Refer Peel Cricket Association Bylaws - **Section 4.4.11**).

In both instances, should a person be found guilty of an act of misconduct, they may be liable for a suspension as determined by the PCA Disciplinary Committee. All players found guilty of a Code of Conduct offence will have the details of the offence and applicable penalty publish on the Peel Cricket Association webpage.

The recruitment and retention of umpires has become increasingly difficult and it is certainly not being made any easier by the regularly unacceptable levels of player conduct. Few people are willing to continually subject themselves to the poor behaviour and offensive language which is too frequently prevalent on and beyond the cricket field.

All players can play a role in raising the general standard of umpiring and the level of experience within the Peel Cricket Association by lifting their personal level of behaviour and permitting the umpires to concentrate on those aspects of the game for which they are responsible.

All umpires will be 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 decision.

All players should be well aware of the standards expected by the PCA and consequently any player called to appear before the PCA Tribunal can expect little sympathy and, if found guilty, a period of suspension.

**It is the responsibility of everyone involved within the Peel Cricket Association - club officials, team captains and the players, to maintain the levels of conduct and sportsmanship traditionally inherent in the game.**