

UCA DISCIPLINARY DOCUMENT

Version 25.2.1



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Utah Cricket Association Disciplinary Committee Code of Conduct starting 2025 Season (V.25.2.1)

1. Introduction

The Disciplinary Committee is an independent body responsible for ensuring fair and neutral adjudication of misconduct during the Utah Cricket Association (UCA) season. This Code of Conduct aims to uphold the spirit of cricket, promote sportsmanship, and maintain discipline across all matches. It outlines the complaint process, offense levels, penalties, and procedures for addressing misconduct.

2. Role of the Disciplinary Committee

The Disciplinary Committee is the final authority in deciding and enforcing penalties for misconduct during the season. It operates independently of the UCA Board but will keep the Board informed of all decisions. The Committee will ensure that all decisions are made fairly, neutrally, and in accordance with this Code of Conduct.

3. Complaint Process

3.1 Who Can File a Complaint?

Complaints can only be filed by:

- Team captain or vice-captain
- Umpires officiating the match
- Other stakeholders (e.g., league officials) in serious cases where the spirit of the game is violated

3.2 How to File a Complaint?

All complaints must be submitted in writing via email to the UCA at contact@ucacricket.org within 24 hours of the match in question. The 24-hour clock will start when the game officially ends. **No complaints will be addressed if received late and/or through any other source, such as WhatsApp or any unofficial channels.**

The complaint must include:

- A detailed description of the incident, including the level of the offense (e.g., Level 1, Level 2, etc.)
- A statement from the umpire/s officiating the match (umpires must indicate the level of the offense as they deemed appropriate)
- The names of individuals involved
- Any supporting evidence (e.g., video footage, witness statements)

Note: Incomplete complaints may be rejected at the discretion of the Committee Head. **Once a complaint is filed, it cannot be withdrawn by the complainant.** The complaint will proceed through the adjudication process, and the Disciplinary Committee will make a final decision based on the evidence provided.

3.3 Adjudication Timeline

- Complaints will be addressed and adjudicated within 7 days of submission.
- Once a complaint is filed, it will be shared with the Disciplinary Committee. The body of the complaint will also be shared with the UCA Board members and all team captains via email for informational purposes only.
- The accused player will be notified of the complaint via email and given an opportunity to respond.

4. Offense Levels and Definitions

Level 1 Offenses (Minor Misconduct)

4.1.1 Abuse of Equipment or Facilities:

- Hitting or kicking boundary flags, fences, or any other equipment during a match.
- Any action outside normal cricket play that results in damage to property.

4.1.2 Excessive Dissent:

- Showing obvious dissent towards an umpire's decision (e.g., shaking head, pointing at the pad, arguing with the umpire) regardless of umpire's judgement.
- Deliberately delaying the resumption of play.

4.1.3 Obscene Language or Gestures:

- Using language or gestures deemed obscene, offensive, or insulting during a match.
- Swearing in frustration at one's own performance (if excessive or audible).

This includes:

(a) Excessively audible or repetitive swearing¹; and

(b) Obscene gestures that are not directed at another person, such as expressing frustration at one's own performance or misfortune.

This offense is not intended to penalize minor or trivial behavior. When determining the severity of the breach, the umpire must consider the context of the situation and assess whether the language or gestures are likely to:

¹ For 4.1.3 (a): A player will only be subject to disciplinary action under this rule if the umpire has first issued a warning first by clearly explaining to the player and respective team captain.

- (a) Be considered obscene;
- (b) Cause offense; or
- (c) Insult another person.

4.1.4 Excessive Appealing:

- Repeated or aggressive appealing by the fielding side.²

4.1.5 Pointing to the Pavilion:

- A bowler or fielder gesturing towards the pavilion after dismissing a batter.

4.1.6 Disrespectful Behavior:

- Making sarcastic or disrespectful comments towards teammates, opponents, or officials.

4.1.7 Time Wasting:

- Deliberately wasting time during the match (e.g., slow over rates, unnecessary delays).

4.1.8 Unruly Behavior in the Pavilion:

- Causing disturbances in the pavilion or dressing room (e.g., shouting, throwing objects).

Level 2 Offenses (Serious Misconduct)

4.2.1 Serious Dissent:

- Aggressive or prolonged dissent towards an umpire's decision.
- Charging or advancing towards the umpire in an aggressive manner.

4.2.2 Physical Contact:

- Deliberate and inappropriate physical contact between players during a match.

4.2.3 Dangerous Behavior:

- Throwing a ball or any cricket equipment at or near a player, umpire, or spectator in a dangerous manner.

4.2.4 Unauthorized Field Entry:

- A captain or scorer entering the field of play to argue with the umpire about the score, rules, or conditions without being invited.

² From 4.1.4 – 4.1.8, umpires have to give a formal warning to the players by involving captain of the respective teams before this offense can be triggered.

4.2.5 Verbal Abuse:

Using abusive or threatening language towards teammates, opponents, or officials.³

4.2.6 Deliberate Distraction:

- Deliberately distracting or obstructing a batter or fielder during play.

4.2.7 Breach of Team Discipline:

- Repeatedly ignoring team rules or instructions from the captain or coach.

4.2.8 Using Foul Language in UCA's Communication Channels:

- Use of foul, abusive, or inappropriate language in any UCA-affiliated social media accounts, including but not limited to Facebook, Instagram, and WhatsApp community groups, is strictly prohibited.⁴

Level 3 Offenses (Very Serious Misconduct)

4.3.1 Hitting or Kicking Wickets:

- Hitting or kicking the wickets during a match in frustration or anger.

4.3.2 Intimidation of Umpires:

- Using language, gestures, or conduct to intimidate an umpire.

4.3.3 Threats of Assault:

- Threatening to assault another player, umpire, or spectator during a match.

4.3.4 Racial or Discriminatory Abuse:

- Making racial, ethnic, or discriminatory remarks towards anyone involved in the match.

4.3.5 Deliberate Cheating:

- Deliberately attempting to cheat (e.g., tampering with the ball, falsifying scores).⁵

³ Any verbal abuse towards umpires or team officials will result in a **4.2.5** offense. As such, no warning is required from the umpires when this occurs. However, for verbal abuse directed at teammates or opponents, umpires have the sole authority to determine the severity of the incident. They may decide whether it occurred in the heat of the game and issue a warning first (follow 4.1.3) or if the severity is high enough (uncontrolled situation determined by the umpires) to immediately trigger a **4.2.5** offense.

⁴ UCA does not have the authority to intervene in personal matters or discussions that take place outside of its official communication channels. This rule strictly applies when foul language is used directly on UCA's social media accounts or platforms associated with the organization.

⁵ A normal error in scoring doesn't fall in this category.

4.3.6 Aggressive Behavior Towards Spectators:

- Engaging in aggressive or abusive behavior towards spectators.

4.3.7 Financial Fraud and Kickbacks under the name of UCA

- Any form of financial fraud, misrepresentation, or kickbacks conducted under the name of UCA is strictly prohibited.⁶

4.3.8 Influencing Committee Members:

- Attempting to influence a committee member's vote, asking a committee member to share screenshots of discussions, or any action that undermines the credibility of the voting process.

Level 4 Offenses (Extreme Misconduct)

4.4.1 Threat of Physical Assault to Umpires:

- Threatening to physically assault an umpire or match referee.

4.4.2 Physical Assault:

- Physically assaulting another player, umpire, or spectator during a match.

4.4.3 Acts of Violence:

- Any act of violence on the field of play.

4.4.4 Bringing the Game into Disrepute:

- Any conduct that is contrary to the spirit of the game or brings the league into disrepute.

4.4.5 Match Fixing / Deliberately Loosing a Match:

- Engaging in match-fixing, spot-fixing, or any form of deliberately losing the game.

4.4.6 Severe Racial or Discriminatory Abuse:

- Repeated or severe racial, ethnic, or discriminatory abuse towards anyone involved in the match.

5. Adjudication Process

5.1 Role of the Committee

The Disciplinary Committee's task is to determine whether an offense occurred based on the evidence provided in the complaint. **The Committee is not responsible for deciding penalties.**

⁶ Detailed instructions are provided under the penalty section of level 3

Penalties will be applied based on the offense level as defined in this Code of Conduct once the committee confirms that an offense occurred.

5.2 Complaint Review and Evidence Presentation

A detailed process of how the disciplinary committee operates once a complaint is filed is provided in Figure 1.

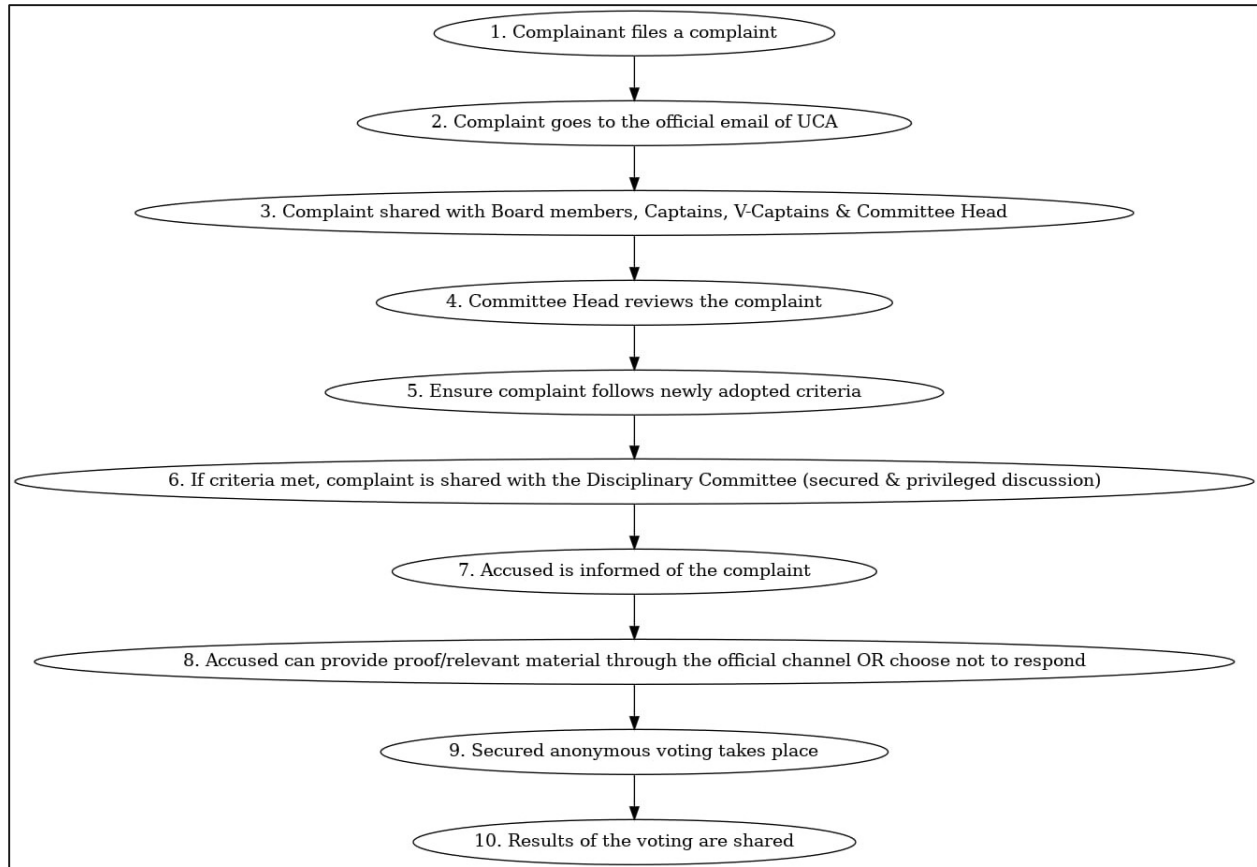


Figure 1: Process of Disciplinary Committee Review When a Complaint is Filed

All complaints must be submitted in writing via email to the UCA at contact@ucacricknet.org within 24 hours of the match in question (24 clock starts when the game ends). The complaint must include:

- A detailed description of the incident, including the level of the offense (e.g., Level 1, Level 2, etc.)
- A statement from the umpire/s officiating the match (umpires must indicate the level of the offense as they deemed appropriate)
- The names of individuals involved
- Any supporting evidence (e.g., video footage, witness statements)

Incomplete complaints may be rejected at the discretion of the Committee Head. All evidence submitted must be original and unaltered. Any attempt to tamper with or falsify evidence will result in immediate disciplinary action, including a Level 3 offense for the individual(s) involved.

The Committee Head will review the complaint and all supporting evidence. If the Committee Head believes the offense level cited in the complaint is incorrect, they will discuss this with the complainant and request a change only to the level of offense. The complainant will have 24 hours to accept the change or keep their original complaint. Once the offense level is finalized, the Committee Head will present the evidence to the committee members and explain the perspective and the context of the complaint.

Direct Communication with Committee Head and President:

Any team member from the accused side may communicate directly with the Committee Head or UCA President to share their point of view before the case is presented to the committee.

This communication must be done in writing (via email) or through a scheduled meeting to ensure transparency and proper documentation.

5.3 Committee Discussion

The committee's discussion will focus on whether the evidence supports the claim that the alleged offense occurred at the level suggested by the Committee Head. Committee members must declare any conflicts of interest before participating in the discussion. If a conflict exists, the member must excuse themselves from the case.⁷

Key Points of Discussion:

- Evidence Review: Committee members will examine the evidence (e.g., video footage, witness statements, umpire reports) to determine if it aligns with the alleged offense.

⁷ Conflict of interest includes, but not limited to, relatives, employment relationships etc

- Contextual Analysis: The context of the incident (e.g., intensity of behavior, impact on the game, intent) will be considered.
- Clarification of Doubts: Committee members may request clarification from the Committee Head during the discussion.

The committee's role is solely to determine whether the evidence supports the claim that the alleged offense occurred at the level suggested by the Committee Head.

5.4 Anonymous Voting on Offense Occurrence

After the discussion period, committee members will vote anonymously on whether the alleged offense occurred. Voting options:

Yes: The evidence supports the claim that the offense occurred at the level suggested by the Committee Head.

No: The evidence does not support the claim that the offense occurred at the level suggested by the Committee Head.

The voting will be conducted using a **secure, anonymous voting tool** (e.g., Google Forms, SurveyMonkey, or a dedicated voting platform). Once the vote is casted, it can't be changed by the member.

5.5 Voting Outcome

If the majority votes "Yes": The committee confirms that the offense occurred at the level suggested by the Committee Head. The Committee Head will determine the penalty based on the offense level defined in this Code of Conduct and share it with the involved parties. The fine must be paid within **seven (7) days** of the announcement of the decision. Failure to pay on time will result in an additional **\$50 per day** penalty, and the player will be ineligible to participate in any matches until the fine is fully paid.⁸

If the majority votes "No": The committee concludes that the offense did not occur at the level suggested by the Committee Head. No further action will be taken, and the complaint will be dismissed.

5.6 Timeline for Adjudication

The entire process, from complaint review to final decision, will be completed within 7 days of the complaint being filed. Committee members must adhere to the following timeline:

- 24 hours for voting after the discussion period.

⁸ Player and Team captain are the responsible parties to make sure that the fine is paid on time. If in any circumstances, the fine isn't paid within 2 weeks, team will not be allowed to play until the matter is resolved.

5.7 Record Keeping

All records of the complaint, evidence, discussions, and voting results will be maintained in a secure digital system. Committee members are prohibited from sharing any information outside the Committee. Any breach of confidentiality will result in immediate removal from the Committee.

5.8 Finality of Decision

The Disciplinary Committee's decision on whether an offense occurred is final and binding. There is no appeals process.

6. Penalties

Level 1 Offenses

- First Offense: Public reprimand and a \$200 fine.
- Repeat Offense: Public reprimand and a \$400 fine.

Third Offense: A third Level 1 offense in the same season will trigger a Level 2 offense.

Level 2 Offenses

- First Offense: \$400 fine and a 2-game ban.
- Repeat Offense: 2-game ban, \$400 fine, and loss of points equivalent to one win for the team.

Third Offense: A third Level 2 offense in the same season will trigger a Level 3 offense.

Level 3 Offenses

- First Offense: 5-game ban for the player, \$400 fine for the team, and loss of points equivalent to two wins. The player will enter a probation period for the remainder of the season. If the player commits any Level 1 offense during this probation period, it will automatically trigger a Level 3 Repeat Offense.

Repeat Offense: Season ban for the player, \$500 fine for the team, \$200 fine for the player, and loss of points equivalent to three wins for the team.

- Financial fraud: If found guilty, return the money to UCA/vendor/ and/or grievied party plus penalty under first offense of level 3.⁹

⁹ Fraud is defined as a deliberate deception intended to secure a gain. As such, the complainant must provide clear evidence that the act was deliberate, within the jurisdiction of UCA, and that a direct/indirect loss occurred or could have occurred to UCA. Before this offense can be triggered, following instructions must be followed:

- Upon receiving a complaint, the accused will be notified and given the opportunity to settle the accounts voluntarily. If the accused admits fault and agrees to settle the amount, a formal warning will suffice.

Level 4 Offenses

- First Offense: Minimum 2-season ban up to a lifetime ban for the player, \$600 fine for the team, and loss of points equivalent to four wins.

Repeat Offense: Lifetime ban for the player, \$600 fine for the team, and loss of points equivalent to four wins.¹⁰

- Special Situation: Influencing Committee Members.

If a committee member provides proof that they were approached by a player, team official, or any other individual to influence their vote or share confidential information, the offending team will be penalized with the loss of points equivalent to three wins and \$600 fine.

7. Record Keeping

All records of the Disciplinary Committee will be maintained in a secure digital. Committee members are prohibited from sharing any information outside the Committee. Any breach of confidentiality will result in immediate removal from the Committee.

8. Umpiring Guidelines

Each team must provide umpires for designated matches. Umpires must follow the ICC limited-overs format rules and maintain neutrality. Umpires are required to submit a report to the Disciplinary Committee in case of any misconduct.

9. COVID-19 Related Rules

Saliva on the Ball:

Umpires will issue two warnings per match for applying saliva to the ball. On the third offense, the player will be suspended for one match. Next offense in a match will result in a \$100 fine. Another offense will result in termination of the game.

However, if the accused denies the allegation, the burden of proof lies with the complainant, who must establish the fraud beyond any shadow of a doubt.

- If the accused is found guilty, they must repay the amount within one week and will face penalties as outlined under a **Level 3 offense**. Failure to pay within the timeframe will escalate the offense to **Level 4**.

¹⁰ Repeat offense will occur only if the player's offense falls under level 4 in the season of his return after the ban. If in the season of player's return, no offense of level 4 has occurred then this wouldn't result in a repeat offense.

10. Final Notes

The Disciplinary Committee's decisions are final and binding. There is no appeals process. This Code of Conduct will be reviewed at least annually and updated as necessary to reflect changes in the league's needs and priorities.