

Disputes and Misconduct Policy

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 (2000 Code 6th Edition – 2015), including the Preamble “The Spirit of Cricket”.

A player may be reported to SAVCA for behaving in a manner which breaches the code of conduct and/or the spirit of cricket. Captains should be vigilant and look to defuse situations before they develop into a breach.

A well-considered approach should be applied at all times. Before reporting a player, the player should be given an opportunity to redress the situation since sometimes things are said or done in the heat of the moment, and subsequently regretted. This may include, but is not limited to, an apology to the individual, individuals, or teams to whom the breach applied. Unless the behaviour was egregious, if the apology is accepted, then no breach should be reported.

The player should also be counselled by their captain in relation to their behaviour. If the player offends again then the same steps should occur. However, the player must also be reported to SAVCA for any second or subsequent offence, regardless of the acceptance or not of any apology offered to those to whom the breach applied.

Players may only be reported by a neutral umpire (if standing) or by the captain of either team.

The captain of the team that is reporting the player for a breach must advise both the player and the player’s captain, as well as the neutral umpire(s) if standing, immediately following the close of play.

EXPLANATORY NOTES:

1. Captains or neutral umpires must lodge a report to SAVCA with full details of the breach within 48 hours of the conclusion of the game. A copy of the report will be provided to the reported player by SAVCA as soon as possible, and the reported player will be given 48 hours from receipt to respond to the allegations in the report. A reported player is not obliged to provide SAVCA with a response. Reports and responses must be sent via email to the SAVCA President at president@savca.com.au and should contain sufficient detail for the SAVCA to be able to make a decision. SAVCA may or may not decide to interview the player or any witnesses, although if the player requests an interview this must be granted. The player is also entitled to bring an advocate to any interviews.

SAVCA will make a decision within 72 hours of all information being received. Details of the decision will be communicated to:

- a. the player who committed the breach, using their SAVCA-registered email address, and
 - b. the captain of the player who committed the breach, and
 - c. the Secretary of the club for which they were playing when the breach occurred, and
 - d. the captain of the opposition team, and
 - e. the neutral umpire(s), if any.
2. Any penalty imposed on the player may only comprise a ban from playing in any SAVCA competition and / or from representing SAVCA in representative games for a specific period or a specified number of games. Bans will not commence until after any dispute process is settled.
 3. If a player wishes to lodge a dispute, this must be done within 7 days of the receipt of the decision. Any disputes will be heard by an independent committee appointed by SAVCA. This committee will comprise three nominated representatives, sourced from a different age group to that in which the breach occurred. Representatives must not be from either of the clubs involved in the match during which the incident(s) occurred.

4. The player and the player's club are jointly responsible for complying with any ban imposed by SAVCA. If a player plays for their club in a SAVCA competition prior to a ban being completed, the club will be deemed to have forfeited that match and the opposition team will be awarded the match points for a win. If applicable, the opposition team will also be awarded the match scores from the game in which the highest wickets/run quotient was achieved by any team in that same competition for that round

Code of Conduct

SAVCA players and Club Officials shall not engage in Crude language or gesture.
The Preamble to the Laws of Cricket sets out the Spirit of Cricket as follows:

The Spirit of Cricket

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 and match officials.

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.