

UKFast Cheshire Cricket League Disciplinary Process

Advice for umpires when reporting incidents of indiscipline

Firstly, if you are in doubt about whether an incident is serious enough to warrant a report, report it anyway, The Disciplinary Panel will make a judgement as to whether action is required or just to keep it on file for future reference.

Don't feel that reporting an incident reflects badly on your umpiring abilities. Umpires are not responsible for poor behaviour by players. It is better to report an incident than try to ignore it. In most cases, the player who lacks discipline in your match will have been like that in the past and will be like that in the future unless something is done.

Act sooner rather than later to diffuse growing tension. A quiet word to a captain and player can prevent an incident from getting out of hand. Make a note of this on your match card as this may be helpful if your quiet word is ignored and more forceful action is required later.

If an act of indiscipline occurs on or off the pitch, you should follow this process:

1. If the act of indiscipline is relatively minor, for example, audible swearing, minor dissent, relatively minor insulting remarks to an opponent or official, etc. then you should (with your colleague) speak to the captain and the offending player(s) and instruct the captain that such behaviour is unacceptable and that any further occurrence will result in a report being made.
2. If the act of indiscipline is of a more serious nature, then you should (with your colleague) inform the captain and the offending player(s) that a breach of the disciplinary regulations has occurred and that a report will be made.
3. At the time of the incident, obtain the name(s) of the player(s) involved and make a note on your match card of the details of what was said or done. Such contemporaneous notes are invaluable when writing up your report.
4. After the match, discuss the incident with the captain and inform him of the action you will be taking. If there is a club official present, inform him or her that you will be making a disciplinary report so that the club can begin to consider what action it might take in respect of the breach of discipline. You should note what response you received from any club official, the captain and the player(s) involved. For example, where any apologies offered?
5. Agree with your colleague who will be writing the report.
6. When you get home, write up your report which should contain the match details, the approximate time of the incident, or over in which it occurred, the players involved, the nature of the incident and direct quotes of what was said (refer to your notes for details) and the action taken by the umpire(s). You should also include a description of any gestures, actions by players and the general demeanour of the players involved. It is also helpful to describe what led up to the incident being reported. For example, where there previous (minor) incidents that might have contributed to the incident being reported and did any of the opposition players contribute to incident in a positive or negative way?

It is not necessary for you to decide the level of the disciplinary breach or any possible

sanctions as this will be determined by the Disciplinary Committee.

7. Send a draft of your report to your colleague for comment and once you have agreed the content, email your report to Tony Sayle (Chairman, CCLUA) and Chris Moore (Deputy Chairman, CCLUA). Their email addresses are in the handbook and on the League website.
8. You may be asked for further information, although if you have followed the guidelines above, this is unlikely.
9. The incident will then be referred to the Disciplinary Committee and you will be informed of the outcome.

If you require any guidance on making a disciplinary report, please contact Tony Sayle or Chris Moore.