

Birmingham Unicorns Cricket Club

Code of Conduct



Updated May 2026

This code of conduct applies to club members during club activities (including matches, training and organised socials) and to guests and spectators associated with the club.

If you do not comply with this code of conduct it may lead to disciplinary action and ultimately removal from the club. Section 11 of the Club Constitution details the disciplinary and appeals process.

- Always behave in ways that promote the values of the club and the spirit of cricket.
- Treat everyone with respect at all times. When playing respect your captain, team-mates, opponents and the umpires.
- Do not discriminate against anyone
- Use a shared spoken language when speaking in groups/teams so that everyone can understand what you're saying.
- Do not say anything that is obscene, offensive or insulting;
- Use gender-neutral terms and avoid gendered words.
- Respect people's names, pronouns, accents, and communication styles – do not make assumptions and use the names/pronouns that they ask.
- Do not assume what people can or can't do. If you're unsure ask.
- Respect people's confidentiality and do not share photos or videos of them outside the club, including on your personal social media accounts, without their permission.
- Always act with the safety of yourself and others in mind. You should follow instructions from coaches and officials, wear appropriate protective equipment and during matches and training ensure you are aware of your surroundings and activities happening around you.
- Behaviour such as discrimination, bullying, harassment or verbal abuse are not acceptable and will not be tolerated.

If you experience or witness unacceptable behaviour by a member or someone associated with the club, for the well-being of everyone concerned please speak to a member of the Club committee

The Code of Conduct is based on the England & Wales Cricket Board's Anti-Discrimination Code, General Conduct Regulations for Recreational Cricket, ECB Recreational Conduct Regulations and the Marylebone Cricket Club's Spirit of Cricket Preamble to the Laws of the Cricket. It also incorporates the Inclusivity checklist. These are produced as appendices to this code of conduct.

MCC 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, 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.

General Behaviour

Birmingham Unicorns Cricket Club is committed to maintaining the highest standards of behaviour and conduct.

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

Anti-Discrimination & Anti-Bullying

All members should, at all times, act in accordance with the ECB's Anti-Discrimination Regulations and with any BUCC policies or guidance relating to inclusion, anti-discrimination, equity and diversity.

ECB Anti-Discrimination Regulations

It is a breach of these regulations for any participant to:

1. discriminate against any person or persons based upon the basis of any relevant Protected Characteristic (age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex or sexual orientation). whether by act or omission, directly or indirectly, unless permitted by law;

2. engage in conduct related to a relevant Protected Characteristic which has the purpose or effect of violating another's dignity, or creating an intimidating, hostile, degrading, humiliating or offensive environment for that person or persons; and/or
3. subject another person to a detriment because that person has made (or the Participant believes that person has or might make) an allegation or complaint in good faith about any conduct described in 1 or 2 above or has otherwise participated in good faith in any process designed to establish whether such conduct has occurred.

BUCC has a zero tolerance approach to any form of discrimination or bullying.

Conduct Obligations

BUCC is committed to complying with the obligations and disciplinary process set out under the ECB General Conduct Regulations for Recreational Cricket and the ECB Recreational Conduct Regulations. The following are the key obligations under these regulations and links to the full regulations can be found at the end of this document.

On and around the field of play

All players must conduct themselves fairly and properly on and around the field of play and otherwise in accordance with the Laws of Cricket or the Spirit of Cricket. Especially in relation to conduct specified in Law 42 of the Laws of Cricket, namely they should not:

- willfully mistreat any part of the cricket ground or any equipment or implements used in the match;
- show dissent at, or intimidate an umpire's decision by word or action;
- use language that, in the circumstances, is obscene, offensive or insulting;
- make obscene gestures;
- appeal excessively;
- make inappropriate and deliberate physical contact with another cricketer;
- throw the ball at a cricketer, umpire or another person in an inappropriate and dangerous manner;
- use language or gesture to another cricketer, umpire, team official or spectator that, in the circumstances, is obscene or of a seriously insulting nature;
- threaten to, or actually, assault a cricketer, umpire or any other person
- make inappropriate and deliberate and/or dangerous physical contact with another cricketer, umpire, team official or spectator
- commit any other act of violence
- act in a manner contrary to the ECB's Anti-Discrimination Code.
- commit any breach of Law 41; or
- act in a manner contrary to the ECB's Anti-Discrimination Code; or
- conduct themselves in a manner or act in a manner which is improper, or which may be prejudicial to the interests of cricket, or which may bring the ECB, the game of cricket or any cricketer or group of cricketers into disrepute.

Off-field conduct

A Participant shall be in breach of these Regulations if they commit any misconduct as set out below which either relates to their participation in Recreational Cricket and/or is of a sufficiently serious nature to justify disciplinary action being taken in relation to their participation in Recreational Cricket:

- making an abusive, obscene, offensive or otherwise insulting comment or gesture (in any form) in relation to any other Participant or any other person;
- any act of violence towards another person;
- engaging in behaviour that constitutes any form of abuse or harassment, whether physical, sexual, emotional, neglectful or bullying in nature;
- any breach of the ECB Anti-Discrimination Code;

- making any adverse public statement or comment in any form and by any means about the performance and/or decision(s) of any match official(s);
- failing to report to their Club, any Relevant Criminal Offence for which they have been subject to investigation and/or charged with;
- conducting themselves in a manner, or doing or omitting to do anything which is or may be prejudicial to the best interests of cricket, or which may bring or does bring the game of cricket or the ECB into disrepute; engaging in any corrupt conduct in relation to cricket, in particular:
 - fixing the result, progress, conduct or any aspect of a match;
 - ensuring the occurrence of a particular incident in a match;
 - accepting a bribe to conduct the activities described in (a) or (b) above; and/or
 - receiving a custodial sentence for any of the activities described in (a)-(c) above; and/or
- failing to comply with any decisions or sanctions validly imposed on them following due process as prescribed by these Regulations.

Links to other documents

The overall governance of the club is outlined in the club constitution. This is published on the club website at:

<https://www.bhamunicorns.co.uk/about?tp=f77636e4-c0b2-4b71-aff9-7a59349e2a9f>

BUCC has adopted and is committed to enforcing the ECB Anti-Discrimination Code and complying with the obligations and disciplinary process set out under the ECB General Conduct Regulations for Recreational Cricket and the ECB Recreational Conduct Regulations and with the provisions of the ECB Recreational Cricket Safety Regulations and Guidelines.

Links to these regulations in full can be found at:

ECB Anti-Discrimination Regulations

<https://resources.ecb.co.uk/ecb/document/2025/03/03/08a70261-24bd-498c-a16b-8a5f8a6e4087/Anti-Discrimination-Regulations.pdf>

ECB General Conduct Regulations for Recreational Cricket

<https://resources.ecb.co.uk/ecb/document/2023/03/01/1732bdea-fac9-4c5f-84e2-dd1ede452d2e/26.-GCR.pdf>

ECB Recreational Conduct Regulations

<https://resources.ecb.co.uk/ecb/document/2023/03/01/e83cc03a-3671-42e5-a433-c0c1d50b360c/27.-RCR.pdf>

ECB Recreational Cricket Safety Regulations

<https://resources.ecb.co.uk/ecb/document/2025/12/16/79efc12c-b0a0-4aeb-9774-347c138e00c0/Recreational-Cricket-Safety-Regulations-Dec-2025-Update.pdf>

ECB Recreational Cricket Safety Guidelines

<https://resources.ecb.co.uk/ecb/document/2025/12/16/28c76edf-7e04-4193-933d-cb2866010440/Recreational-Cricket-Safety-Guidelines-Dec-2025-Update.pdf>