



SANCTIONS GUIDELINE effective 2024

as referred to in Article 16(8) of the Disciplinary Regulations and adopted by a resolution of the General Meeting held in Amstelveen on 13 April 2024

This text is an English translation of the Dutch text of the Richtlijn Straffen. Should there be any inconsistency or conflict between the Dutch and the English versions, the Dutch version shall prevail.



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Article 1 GENERAL

This Sanctions Guideline is used when imposing Disciplinary Sanctions on parties other than Clubs and Teams.

The Sanctions Guideline takes account of the offences published by the ICC in its *Code of Conduct for Players and Player Support Personnel* with severity indication so as to match international developments, but with the Dutch situation firmly in mind.

Terms used in this Sanctions Guideline have the meanings set out in the Disciplinary Regulations.

Article 2 OFFENCES

The levels used in the table indicate the severity (also known as gravity) of the offence: level 1 is the lightest, level 4 the most severe. There is a high degree of agreement with the Levels of the *ICC Code of Conduct for Players and Player Support Personnel*, but not full agreement.

A number of offences appear in more than one level: the Report will state against which provision the offence breached and what degree of severity the offence is given, i.e. on which level it is placed.

Level 1 offences		
1.1	Misuse of cricket equipment or clothing, ground equipment, systems or fittings.	This includes conduct that is not part of normal cricket behaviour, such as hitting or kicking wickets, as well as conduct which, intentionally or unintentionally, results in damage to advertising hoardings, boundary fences or markings, ground equipment or systems or fittings, doors, mirrors, windows or the fixtures or fittings or inventory of the accommodation, whether inside or outside.
1.2	Showing dissent at an Umpire's decision in words or actions.	This includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. showing excessive and obvious disappointment with an Umpire's decision, b. an obvious delay in resuming play or leaving the wicket, c. shaking one's head, d. pointing or looking at the inside edge if given out LBW, e. pointing to a pad or rubbing one's shoulder when caught behind, f. snatching from the Umpire's hands his jersey, cap, hat or other article of clothing, g. arguing or entering into a discussion with the Umpire about his decision.
1.3	Using obscene, hurtful, offensive or insulting language and/or making an obscene, hurtful or insulting gesture.	This includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. excessive audible or repeated swearing, b. obscene gestures not directed at another person, such as swearing in frustration at one's own play or fortune. <p>The rule is not meant to punish trivial behaviour. In determining the gravity of the offence, the Umpire shall take into account the context of the specific case as well as the circumstance of whether the words or gesture</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. would be deemed obscene, ii. would cause offence, or iii. would insult another person.



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1.4	Excessive appealing.	<p>Excessive appealing includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. repeated appealing of the same decision, b. repeated appealing of different decisions when the bowler/fielder knows the batter is not out, with the intention of placing the Umpire under pressure, or c. celebrating a dismissal before the Umpire has made a decision. <p>The rule is not meant to prevent loud and enthusiastic appealing.</p>
1.5	When a batter is out, aggressively pointing or gesturing to the boundary by a bowler or any other member of the fielding side.	
1.6	Public criticism or inappropriate comments in relation to an incident occurring in a Match or any Player, Player Support Personnel or KNCB Official or Team involved in that Match, irrespective of when such criticism or comments are made	<p>Without limitation, Players and Player Support Personnel will breach this article when they publicly criticise the KNCB Officials involved in that Match or denigrate a Player or Team against which they have played in relation to an incident that occurred during that Match.</p> <p>When assessing the seriousness of the offence, the context within which the comments were made and the gravity of the offending comments must be taken into account.</p> <p>For the avoidance of doubt, any posting by a Player or Player Support Personnel of comments on a social media platform (including, without limitation, Facebook, X, YouTube, Google+, Pinterest and LinkedIn) shall be deemed to be 'public' for the purposes of this article. Consequently, a Player or Player Support Personnel may breach this article when they criticise or make an inappropriate comment in relation to an incident occurring in any Match or any Player, Player Support Personnel, KNCB Official or Team participating in any Match in any posting they make on a social media platform.</p>
1.7	Bowling dangerous and unfair short pitched deliveries (bouncers). Bowling non-bouncing deliveries (beamers).	Repeatedly, i.e. again, after a first warning from an Umpire. Provision 2.10 deals with deliberate bowling of these types of deliveries.
1.8	Time wasting by a Player.	Applies to both fielders and batters. Repeatedly, i.e. again, after a first warning from an Umpire.
1.9	A bowler in his follow-through running on the protected area (clause 41.13 of the Playing Conditions of the relevant Competition or League) without apparent reason.	'No running on the pitch'. Repeatedly, i.e. again, after a second warning from an Umpire.
1.10	Failure to meet the minimum over rate by a Team bowling one or two overs less than required within the allotted time.	The Playing Conditions state that the Captain is responsible for meeting the required over rate. ¹

¹ The Team may also be sanctioned, but the Sanctions Guideline only applies to natural persons.



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1.11	Failure to complete the Captain's report in full or on time for the assessment of the KNCB Umpire or Umpires in a Match.	The Competition Rules state that the Captain is responsible for completing the Captain's report for the assessment of the KNCB Umpire or Umpires. ²
1.12	Where the facts of the case are not adequately or specifically covered by any of the preceding provisions: conduct that a. is contrary to the Spirit of Cricket, or b. brings the game into disrepute.	This provision is intended as a catch-all article and covers all forms of less serious conduct that are not covered by the provisions elsewhere in this Sanctions Guideline (and by their nature cannot be). Thus, depending on the severity and context of the offence, the following may be included in a.: i. use of an unauthorised bat, ii. deliberate time-wasting, iii. cheating during a Match, including attempting to mislead an Umpire, iv. any conduct deemed to be unfair play under Article 42 of the Playing Conditions of the relevant Competition or League. Thus, depending on the severity and context of the offence, the following may be included in b.: i. public debauched conduct, ii. public misconduct, and iii. inappropriate comments that may bring the game into disrepute.
	Level 2 offences	
2.1	Showing serious dissent at an Umpire's decision in words or actions.	Dissent, including the examples mentioned in clause 1.2, is serious when that behaviour contains an element of anger or coarse language directed against the Umpire or his decision, or when there is excessive delay in resuming play or leaving the wicket, or when there is a persistent re-reference to the incident over time. It shall not be a defence to any charge brought under this article to show that the Umpire might have, or in fact did, get any decision wrong.

² The Club may also be sanctioned, but the Sanctions Guideline only applies to natural persons.



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2.2	Public criticism or serious inappropriate comments in relation to an incident occurring in a Match or any Player, Player Support Personnel or KNCB Official or Team involved in that Match, irrespective of when such criticism or comments are made.	<p>Without limitation, Players and Player Support Personnel will breach this article when they publicly criticise the KNCB Officials involved in that Match or denigrate a Player, Player Support Personnel or Team against which they have played in relation to an incident that occurred during that Match.</p> <p>When assessing the seriousness of the breach, the context within which the comments have been made and the gravity of the hurtful comments must be taken into account.</p> <p>For the avoidance of doubt, any posting by a Player or Player Support Personnel of comments on a social media platform (including, without limitation, Facebook, X, YouTube, Google+, Pinterest and LinkedIn) shall be deemed to be 'public' for the purposes of this article. Consequently, a Player or Player Support Personnel may breach this article where they seriously criticise or make a serious inappropriate comment in relation to an incident occurring in any Match or any Player, Player Support Personnel, KNCB Official or Team participating in any Match in any posting they make on a social media platform.</p>
2.3	Intimidation of a Player or Player Support Personnel, whether by language or conduct, including gestures.	
2.4	Inappropriate and deliberate physical contact between Players during the Match.	Without limitation, Players violate this rule if they intentionally run into or shoulder another Player.
2.5	Charging or advancing towards the Umpire in an aggressive manner when appealing.	This clause reads 'when appealing'; clause 3.1 says the same but without direct reason.
2.6	Intentional and malicious distraction, deception or obstruction on the field of play.	
2.7	Inappropriately and/or dangerously throwing a ball (or any other cricket equipment such as a water bottle) at or near or towards a Player, Player Support Personnel, an Umpire or a KNCB Official.	This provision does not prohibit a fielder or bowler from throwing (returning) the ball to the stumps in a normal manner.
2.8	Directing seriously obscene, seriously hurtful or objectionable or generally seriously insulting language or gestures at any Player, Coach, Umpire, any other KNCB Official or any other person, including a spectator, during a Match.	<p>It is acknowledged that there may be altercations between Players during the game. Instead of trying to eliminate these altercations entirely, Umpires will have to act when they cross the line of propriety. The rule is not meant to punish trivial behaviour.</p> <p>In determining the seriousness of the offence, the Umpire shall take into account the context of the specific case as well as the circumstance of whether the words or gesture</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. would be deemed to be seriously obscene, b. would cause offence, or c. would insult another person.



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2.9	Changing the condition of the ball in breach of clause 41.3 of the Playing Conditions of the relevant Competition or League.	<p>Any action which is likely to alter the condition of the ball and which is not specifically permitted in clause 41.3.2 of the Playing Conditions of the relevant Competition or League may be considered unfair. The following actions are not permitted (this list of actions is not exhaustive, but included for illustrative purposes):</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. intentionally throwing the ball into the ground for the purpose of roughening it up; b. applying any artificial substance to the ball; applying any non-artificial substance to the ball for any purpose other than polishing the ball; c. lifting or otherwise interfering with the seam of the ball; d. scratching the surface of the ball with the finger or thumb nails or any implement. <p>Umpires shall use their judgment to apply the principle that actions taken to maintain or improve the condition of the ball, provided that no artificial substances are used, shall be permitted. Any actions taken with the purpose of damaging the condition of the ball or accelerating the deterioration of the condition of the ball shall not be permitted.</p>
2.10	Deliberate bowling of dangerous non-pitching deliveries (beamers).	No prior warning required. Clause 1.7 deals with non-deliberate bowling of this type of delivery.
2.11	Intentionally bowling front foot no balls.	No prior warning required.
2.12	Batter causing deliberate or avoidable damage to the pitch.	No prior warning required. After a first warning by an Umpire to any batter, any subsequent offence by any batter of the same Team shall count as a breach of this clause.
2.13	Fielder causing deliberate or avoidable damage to the pitch.	No prior warning required. After a first warning by an Umpire to any fielder, any subsequent offence by any fielder of the same Team shall count as a breach of this clause.
2.14	Unfair actions not mentioned separately in clause 41 of the Playing Conditions of the relevant Competition or League.	After a first warning by an Umpire. Examples: we have agreed that you cannot bowl with tape on your bowling hand. Or with white sleeves.
2.15	Failure to meet the minimum over rate by a Team bowling one or two overs less than required within the allotted time.	<p>The Playing Conditions state that the Captain is responsible for meeting the required over rate.³</p> <p>If within the probationary period imposed on a Captain for a previous minimum over rate offence, in a Match someone else is Captain who fails to realise the minimum over rate and the former Captain also plays in the same Team, then it shall be the second or subsequent offence for that former Captain. Additional explanation: it counts as the first offence for the Captain acting in that Match.</p>

³ In addition, the Team may also be sanctioned, but the Sanctions Guideline only applies to natural persons.



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2.16	Any other attempt to manipulate a Match for inappropriate strategic or tactical reasons.	This provision aims to prevent the manipulation of a Match for strategic or tactical reasons (such as losing a Match deliberately to affect the standings). It might also apply to the inappropriate manipulation of a net run rate or any other matter that affects the standings or reclassification. The Captain of a Team that is guilty of such conduct shall be held responsible (and subject to sanctions) for any offence found to have been committed under this Article.
2.17	Where the facts of the case are not adequately or specifically covered by any of the preceding provisions: conduct that a. is contrary to the Spirit of Cricket, or b. brings the game into disrepute.	This provision is intended as a catch-all article and covers all forms of serious conduct that are not covered by the provisions elsewhere in this Sanctions Guideline (and by their nature cannot be). See the notes to clause 1.12 for examples of conduct that may fall under this provision, depending on the severity and context of the offence.
	Level 3 offences	
3.1	Intimidation of an Umpire or KNCB Official, whether by language or conduct (including gestures).	This includes appealing in an aggressive or threatening manner, but in a more serious form than as referred to in clause 2.5.
3.2	Threatening to physically harm another Player, Player Support Personnel or any other person, including a spectator.	
3.3	Using any language or making any gesture that is hurtful or objectionable, insulting, humiliating, intimidating, threatening, belittling or defamatory towards another person on the basis of that person's race, religion, gender, skin colour, ancestry or national or ethnic origin.	When assessing the seriousness of an offence, consideration should be given to the extent to which the conduct should be deemed to offend (a normal person) and whether it was specifically directed against one or more particular persons.
3.4	Where the facts of the case are not adequately or specifically covered by any of the preceding provisions: conduct that a. is contrary to the Spirit of Cricket, or b. brings the game into disrepute.	This provision is intended as a catch-all article and covers all forms of very serious conduct that are not covered by the provisions elsewhere in this Sanctions Guideline (and by their nature cannot be). See the notes to clause 1.12 for examples of conduct that may fall under this provision, depending on the severity and context of the offence.
	Level 4 offences	
4.1	Threat of assault on an Umpire or KNCB Official.	
4.2	Physical assault of another Player, Player Support Personnel or KNCB Official, Umpire or any other person (including a spectator).	



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4.3	Any act of violence on the field of play.	
4.4	Using any language or making any gesture that is seriously hurtful or objectionable, insulting, humiliating, intimidating, threatening, belittling or defamatory towards another person on the basis of that person's race, religion, gender, skin colour, ancestry or national or ethnic origin.	See the notes to Article 3.3 regarding the severity of the offence.
4.5	Where the facts of the case are not adequately or specifically covered by any of the preceding provisions: conduct that a. is contrary to the Spirit of Cricket, or b. brings the game into disrepute.	<p>This provision is intended as a catch-all article and covers all forms of extremely serious conduct that are not covered by the provisions elsewhere in this Sanctions Guideline (and by their nature cannot be).</p> <p>See the notes to clause 1.12 for examples of behaviour that may fall under this provision, depending on the severity and context of the offence.</p>



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Article 3 SANCTIONS

level of offence		penalties
1	First offence: Second offence within 12 months: Third offence within 24 months: Fourth and subsequent offence within 48 months:	Warning or suspension of 1 Match Day. Suspension of up to 4 Match Days. Suspension of 4 to 6 Match Days. Suspension from 6 Match Days to 2 years.
2	First offence: Second offence within 12 months: Third offence within 24 months: Fourth and subsequent offence within 48 months:	Suspension of 1 or 2 Match Days. Suspension of 4 to 6 Match Days. Suspension of 6 to 8 Match Days. Suspension from 8 Match Days to 2 years.
3	First offence: Second offence within 36 months: Third offence within 60 months:	Suspension of 2 to 4 Match Days. Suspension of at least 6 Match Days up to a maximum of 2 years. Suspension of at least 2 years or permanent ban.
4	First offence: Second offence within 60 months:	Suspension of at least 6 Match Days, or permanent ban. Suspension of at least 2 years or permanent ban.

A second or subsequent offence as referred to above is when the offence falls under the same provision of this, or any prior, Sanctions Guideline.

When a Player or Player Support Officer is guilty of two (or more) breaches of provisions in this Sanctions Guideline and those breaches do not relate to the same case or situation, and the Player is punished separately for each of those breaches, the Disciplinary Committee will determine that the enforcement of the sanctions will be cumulative.

When a Player or Player Support Officer is guilty of two (or more) breaches of provisions in this Guideline Penalties and those breaches relate to the same case or situation, and the Player is punished separately for each of those breaches, the Disciplinary Committee may determine that the enforcement of the penalties will take place simultaneously.

Article 4 FINAL PROVISIONS

1. This Sanctions Guideline will take effect on 14 April 2024 and will remain in force until a new Sanctions Guideline enters into force.
2. This Sanctions Guideline shall apply only to offences occurring after the effective date of this Sanctions Guideline.