Northern Metropolitan Cricket Association Incorporated

(Inaugurated 1922)

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Match Review Panel Procedures

2025-2026

NMCA Procedures for Misconduct Cases:-

The Laws of Cricket, VMCU Code of Conduct and NMCA Rules and Policy Statements all refer to behaviour standards for cricket, in general and the NMCA in particular. Where these standards are breached the NMCA has a range of options to deal with offenders.

The NMCA Executive:-

Any case on any issue can be referred to the NMCA Executive under Rule 2.2. The Appeal body for these decisions is the Regional Appeal Panel.

Match Review Panel:-

The Match Review Panel (MRP) shall be appointed by the Board and shall review official match day Umpires Match Reports following the completion of each match. Reserve Umpires, where appointed, have the same reporting duties as the officially appointed umpires.

Umpires shall submit reports where breaches of conduct codes are clear. Where umpire's report players for misconduct the MRP will decide the charges based on the contents of the report, and may need to consult with the reporting Umpire/s (if required):-

The Club will be issued with the charge/s as described in the General Offence/ Penalty Table.

- Club's will receive the charge by 9.00PM on the Monday following the end of the match.
- Club's will receive a copy of the Umpire's report at the same time as the charge.
- Club's will receive a copy of any further enquiries/ interviews made of the Umpire.

The Club must then submit within 48 hours from the date stamp of the email sent from the MRP (no later than 9.00PM Wednesday):-

- Club Advocacy Statement* including a plea.
- Failure to submit the Club Advocacy Statement, including a plea, within the subscribed 48 hours, will result in the MRP deeming a plea of guilty. However, in this circumstance, the early guilty plea discount does not apply.

The MRP will then decide on the penalty or penalties consistent with the Offence/Penalty Table.

The MRP will consider Prior misconduct and/or the probationary status of the charged player.

The MRP decision will be advised to Club's by no later than 10.00PM on the Thursday following the report.

The MRP may conduct hearings at its discretion. Hearings will be conducted under VMCU Guidelines for Tribunals.

The decision will be advised to the club via the club webmail account.

**The pursuit of influencing the outcome. E.g. Outstanding Record, mitigating circumstances.*

The Appeal body for MRP decisions is the Regional Appeal Panel.

Junior Matches:-

All cases from any junior match will be first referred to the MRP. The MRP shall determine if the case is heard by the MRP or referred to the Junior Development Committee for their determination.

If the Junior Development Committee hear the case, it shall be chaired by the Junior Development Manager.

The Appeal body for these decisions is the Regional Appeal Body.

Scheduling of Hearings or Reviews:-

Cases referred will be considered at the first opportunity and clubs will be given at least 24 hours notice to attend any hearing or to provide statements or advocacy reports.

In considering cases The Executive, MRP or JDC may:-

- hold over hearings or reviews if players, the umpire/s or witnesses are unavailable.
- may decide if a player can or cannot play in a match if a stay of proceedings is required, and
- may consider written statements from, and or use phone contact to, any relevant person.

Decisions will be advised to the club via the club webmail account.

Appeals:-

The Appeal body for MRP decisions is the Regional Appeal Panel.

Appeals against Executive and MRP decisions must be made within 48 hours from the issue of the decision and include the Appeal Fee prescribed in the schedule Rule (2.18).

Grounds for Appeals include:-

- The availability of new evidence which could have reasonably affected the original decision had it been presented at the original hearing,
- Demonstration of an error in law or decision contrary to the Rules of the Association,
- Severity of the penalty (only if the penalty is for four (4) or more matches).

Full details on Appeal Procedures are available on the NMCA website.

General Offence/Penalty Table:-

Player/Umpire Offences	Low	Early Guilty	Medium	Early Guilty	High	Early Guilty
	Level	Plea	Level	Plea	Level	Plea
Abuse of Umpire	N/A	N/A	4 Matches	3 Matches	Executive	Executive
Charging or advancing towards the Umpire in an aggressive manner when appealing	1 Match	Citation	2 Matches	1 Match	3 Matches	2 Matches
Disputing or showing dissent (verbal or physical in nature) towards/or at an Umpire (and his decision).	Citing	N/A	1 Match	Citing	2 Matches	1 Match
Excessive Appealing	Citing	N/A	1 Match	Citing	2 Matches	1 Match
Failing to follow an Umpire's instruction	Citing	N/A	1 Match	Citing	2 Matches	1 Match
Intimidation of an Umpire whether by language or conduct	N/A	N/A	4 Matches	3 Matches	Executive	Executive
Threat of an assault on an Umpire	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Executive	Executive
Equipment						
Abuse of cricket equipment, clothing, fixtures or fittings	Citing	N/A	1 Match	Citing	2 Matches	1 Match
Changing the condition of the ball in breach of Law 42.3	1 Match	Citation	2 Matches	1 Match	3 Matches	2 Matches
Kicking or knocking over stumps in an inappropriate manner	1 Match	Citation	2 Matches	1 Match	3 Matches	2 Matches
Player Behaviour						
Abuse or use of language of a generally insulting nature towards another Player, Umpire, Referee, Team Official or Spectator	1 Match	Citation	2 Matches	1 Match	3 Matches	2 Matches
Any attempt to manipulate a match in regard to the result (contrived result). The Captain of any team guilty of such conduct shall be held responsible.	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Executive	Executive
Captain failing to control his Players	1 Match	Citation	2 Matches	1 Match	3 Matches	2 Matches
Deliberate and malicious distraction or obstruction on the field of play	1 Match	Citation	2 Matches	1 Match	3 Matches	2 Matches
Drinking Alcohol on the ground or at a ground, whilst participating in a match	1 Match	Citation	2 Matches	1 Match	3 Matches	2 Matches
"Send off". Provocation of an outgoing batsmen by a member/s of the fielding team.	N/A	N/A	2 Matches	1 Match	3 Matches	2 Matches
"Sledging". Any comments or actions directed to, or about a player, which is designed to distract or erode his confidence.	1 Match	Citation	2 Matches	1 Match	3 Matches	2 Matches
Threat of an assault of another Player, Team Official of Spectator	N/A	N/A	4 Matches	3 Matches	Executive	Executive
Throwing the ball at or near a Player, Umpire or Official in an in appropriate or dangerous manner	1 Match	Citation	2 Matches	1 Match	3 Matches	2 Matches
Using language that is obscene, offensive and/or t25he making of an obscene gesture	Citing	N/A	1 Match	Citing	2 Matches	1 Match
Player/Player Behaviour						
Any act of violence on the field of play	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Executive	Executive
Inappropriate physical contact between players (Deliberate)	N/A	N/A	4 Matches	3 Matches	Executive	Executive
Physical assault of another player, Umpire or Spectator	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Executive	Executive
Using any language or gesture that seriously offends, insults, humiliates, intimidates, disparages or vilifies another person on the basis of that person's race, religion, colour, descent or sexuality.	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Executive	Executive
Miscellaneous						
2 Citing's in One season	N/A	N/A	1 Match	N/A	2 Matches	N/A
Unauthorised personnel entering the playing area without permission of an Umpire.	N/A	N/A	2 Matches	1 Match	3 Matches	2 Matches

Guidelines:-

Where the facts of or the gravity or seriousness of the alleged incident are not adequately or clearly covered by any of the above offences, the panel laying the charge may allege Unfair play, or Conduct that brings the game into disrepute. These charges will be referenced against the appropriate level.

In deciding penalty, the MRP is entitled to and should take into account the prior record of the person charged, and the probationary status of the person charged.

If damage has been caused to any property, the MRP may order compensation to the aggrieved party as part of the penalty.

Penalties are to be applied in the form of matches (One or Two day competition) in which the player is likely to play. If the Player usually plays only one or other form of the game, the MRP is to apply the ban for the form of the game played by the Player. The MRP is to specify the number of two or one day matches in respect of which the Player is suspended.

Where there are separate incidents in the course of the match, the MRP shall decide on each separately. If the MRP finds the person to be guilty of more than one offence, then separate penalties in respect of each offence will apply. Penalties in such cases are cumulative and not concurrent.

ANY MATCH REVIEW PANEL VERDICTS HANDED DOWN DURING FINALS MAY CARRY DOUBLE THE SCHEDULED PENALTIES.

The Appeal Body for MRP decisions is the Regional Appeals Panel.

Probation:-

Players shall be placed of Probation for a period of time consistent to their penalty. That is, for each match penalty, the probation will increase by twelve (12) calendar months, beginning at the completion of the suspension. A player who receives a citation shall be placed on Probation for a period of 12 calendar months. The maximum period of probation for any single offence is 5 years from the completion of the suspension.

A subsequent citation while on Probation shall automatically enforce a penalty of 1 Match and an extension of the Probation period of twelve (12) calendar months after the completion of the suspension.

A subsequent suspension while on Probation shall automatically enforce a further penalty of the original Suspension onto the penalty received for the latest report. That is, if a player is suspended for 2 Matches and was on a 12 month Probation; his suspension shall increase to 3 Matches. The Probation period shall be extended by the length of the penalty received, once the suspension has been served.

Nothing in this Code of Conduct alters the onus on the captain to ensure that the Spirit of the Game is adhered to, as stated and defined in the preamble to the Laws of Cricket.

Similarly, (save where the board has laid the charge) the Board shall be entitled to appeal against a finding and/or penalty imposed in respect of charges with the minimum of Level 4 offence. In determining the appropriate penalty (if any) on an appeal, it is open to the person(s) hearing the appeal to increase or decrease the penalty.

Promulgation:-

Penalties will be published on the NMCA website until the expiration of the Probationary period. Where penalties exceed 4 weeks duration the VMCU will be advised. In accordance with VMCU rules the suspension will be notified to affiliates of Cricket Victoria.

All enquiries to:-
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