This message is sent on behalf of:

The Sussex Cricket Foundation

1st Central Sussex Cricket League

Aldridge@BACA Sussex Women’s Cricket League

Sussex Cricket Foundation Junior Leagues

Sussex Junior Cricket Festival.

Over the last few seasons there has been a worrying increase in reports of poor behaviour and ill-disclipline in cricket played in our county. This has been on the field of play, but also includes poor and disrespectful behaviour by some coaches/managers, spectators and parents (in junior matches) outside the boundary.

In 2023 there were also too many reports of unacceptable behaviour in clubhouse bars, sometimes involving poor bar management and excessive alcohol consumption after matches. Some of these incidents included safeguarding concerns and potentially discriminatory actions.  Several of these incidents were referred to the ECB and these resulted in sanctions against players and officials directly by the ECB.

The Sussex Cricket Foundation would like to take this opportunity to remind all clubs about their own **Codes of Conduct** and that these should be used proactively by clubs to encourage good, respectful and sporting behaviour from all players and members, before, during and after matches.

We all wish to encourage matches being played according to the “spirit of cricket”.   Please seek to discourage such poor behaviour, and where necessary take sanction actions against those who fall below the high standards we expect in our sport.

Matters of this kind which are reported to the League Disciplinary committee, to the County Safeguarding Officer or through other means, will be dealt with using the ECB guidelines and referred to the ECB itself for further investigation where necessary. This can result in suspension from all involvement in cricket in some circumstances.

We would expect clubs to be proactive in dealing with matters themselves and in holding players, coaches and spectators accountable for their actions. If you need advice on your club’s code of conduct, please contact the County Safeguarding Officer, Nick May, or speak to your local Foundation Territory Manager, Carl Tupper (west), Hamish Russell (east) or Charlotte Burton or Matt Parsons in the central area.

Steve Grant [league.disciplinary@sussexcricket.co.uk](mailto:league.disciplinary@sussexcricket.co.uk) is also available for advice on codes of conduct or disciplinary matters. (also see the attachment, for the 2023 message with further details of conduct matters)

As well as **face-to-face behaviour**, this also applies to **on-line harassment**, bullying or other inappropriate social media posts. There is no room for this in cricket in Sussex and these on-line and social media matters should also be addressed proactively by clubs. Again, please seek guidance from the Foundation officers or the relevant League where necessary.

Please help us to ensure that cricket remains a safe, sporting and enjoyable game for all in Sussex.

Best regards,

Gary Wallis-Tayler,

Director of Community Cricket,

Sussex Cricket Foundation.