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***Sent on behalf of the:***

***Sussex Cricket Foundation***

***1st Central Sussex Cricket League***

***Aldridge@BACA Sussex Womens Cricket League***

I hope you have all had an enjoyable season. It was another hugely successful summer for the recreational game in Sussex and the game continues to be in an incredibly strong position as we approach the winter months.

As the curtain draws on the 2023 season, we are writing to all our affiliated clubs to raise awareness of the implications and impact of social media content on club, players, and club members accounts.

During the season, we have seen a lot of negative social media activity both in junior and senior cricket, and we feel now is the right time to remind you all of your responsibilities as clubs & individuals.

**CONDUCT OBLIGATIONS**

Off-field conduct 10. 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: (a) making an abusive, obscene, offensive or otherwise insulting comment or gesture (in any form) in relation to any other Participant or any other person; (b) any act of violence towards another person; (c) engaging in behaviour that constitutes any form of abuse or harassment, whether physical, sexual, emotional, neglectful or bullying in nature; (d) any breach of the ECB Anti-Discrimination Code; (e) 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); (f) failing to report to their Club, any Relevant Criminal Offence for which they have been subject to investigation and/or charged with; (g) 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: (i) fixing the result, progress, conduct or any aspect of a match; (ii) ensuring the occurrence of a particular incident in a match; (iii)accepting a bribe to conduct the activities described in (a) or (b) above; and/or (iv)receiving a custodial sentence for any of the activities described in (a)-(c) above; and/or 08 GENERAL CONDUCT REGULATIONS FOR RECREATIONAL CRICKET 2023 (h) failing to comply with any decisions or sanctions validly imposed on them following due process as prescribed by these Regulations. See Appendix 4, guidance notes 3, 14 and A for further information.

 11. 1. A Club shall be in breach of these Regulations if, at any time: (a) it fails to take reasonable steps to ensure the good behaviour and conduct of their Participants for any breach of these Regulations; (b) it knowingly permits a cricketer who is suspended as a result of a previous breach of these Regulations to play in any match or competition; (c) any of its Participants commit any serious, collective or repeated breaches of these Regulations; (d) it commits any breach of its obligations under the ECB Anti-Discrimination Code; and/or (e) it fails to comply with any decision(s) and/or sanction(s) validly imposed on it or on any person within the organisation, which has arisen following due process as prescribed by these Regulations. 12. A League shall be in breach of these Regulations if, at any time, it: (a) commits any breach of its obligations under the ECB Anti-Discrimination Code; or (b) fails to comply with any decision(s) and/or sanction(s) validly imposed on it or on any person within the organisation, which has arisen following due process as prescribed by these Regulations. 13. Participants are considered responsible for any relevant posts on their social media accounts and may be in breach of Regulations 10-12 for posting, repeating, commenting, or supporting posts or comments by others (e.g., ‘retweeting’ or ‘liking’) on social media. See Appendix 4, guidance notes 3, 6 and A for further information.

The regulations are clear.

No Individual or Club or any officer, member of said Club can post images or stories which are described and outlined in section 10-12 above.

There have been too many instances this season of posts which make personal /offensive/derogatory comments, often about individuals and sometimes teams /clubs in general.

It is no different to doing it face to face except there is a legacy which remains (in most cases) online and often disputes will become more serious and won’t “go away” when this happens.

It has also been noticed that this practice has permeated into Junior Cricket. We sent out a message earlier in the season, but it has not been adhered to by some.

On-line bullying and social media use/abuse should be part of every club’s code of conduct. This should be signed by all members, players, and parents of junior players at the beginning of every season.

We would like to remind all our clubs of your responsibilities in maintaining a high standard of conduct within your club membership.

If you have any questions, please contact Gary Wallis-Tayler on gary.wallis-tayler@sussexcricket.co.uk

Yours Sincerely

***Gary Wallis-Tayler, Community Cricket Director***

***Gary Stanley, Chair 1st Central Sussex Cricket League***

***Steve Grant, Disciplinary Chair, 1st Central Sussex Cricket League***

***Nick May, County Safeguarding Officer***