



Svenska Cricketförbundet

Disciplinary Procedure

Background and Purpose

The purpose of this document is to define and describe the Disciplinary Procedure as established by the board of the SCF in accordance to its mandate and authority to govern cricket in Sweden.

Regulations for Cricket Leagues

1. Aims and Jurisdiction

- 1.1. These regulations shall apply to any member of any club at any level under the auspices of the SCF and are intended to provide assistance and uniformity to all Clubs in dealing with any alleged breach of the SCF Code of Conduct or the SCF League Rules.

2. Procedure

- 2.1. Any alleged breach of SCF Code of Conduct or SCF League Rules shall be notified in writing (to be known as 'a Complaint') to the Disciplinary Committee. The complaint should use Appendix B – Written Report Form.
- 2.2. Upon receipt of such complaint, and as soon as reasonably practicable, the Disciplinary Committee shall consider the complaint and resolve either:
 - a) To take no action except to record the complaint and notify the club; or
 - b) To refer the matter for a Disciplinary Hearing, convened by the Disciplinary Committee as soon as practicable.

3. Disciplinary Hearing

- 3.1. In any case which is referred for a Disciplinary Hearing, at least seven days' notice in writing of the hearing and of the offence(s) alleged shall be given to the member, or in the case of a club, to its Secretary or Chairman.
- 3.2. The Disciplinary Committee shall convene a hearing as soon as is practicable and in any event within 21 days of the decision to refer. Any adjournments may be granted at the discretion of the Disciplinary Hearing.
- 3.3. The member and club shall be entitled to attend the hearing, state their case (in the case of a club by its Secretary, Chairman or other official), to be supported by a colleague and to call witnesses.
- 3.4. The Hearing shall be conducted by the Disciplinary Committee, none of whom shall be connected with the member, the club or their opponents at the time of the alleged breach.

4. Penalties

4.1. If at the hearing the Disciplinary Committee finds the alleged offence proved it shall have the power to impose one or more of the following penalties, together with such order as to costs as it deems appropriate:

4.2. In the case of a player or member:

- a) To require the player or member to submit appropriate letter(s) of apology within a specified time.
- b) To record a reprimand and to give a warning as to future conduct.
- c) To impose a fine (Not to exceed 5000 SEK).
- d) To suspend the player or member for one or more specified matches or for a stated period of time, unless in the case of a registered player. In cases where a registered player is to be penalised the committee should carefully consider whether a time or match ban is most appropriate and in any case no more than five specified days or matches can be levied.
- e) To deduct League points from the player's or member's team.
- f) To expel the player or member from involvement in the League.

4.3. In the case of a club:

- a) To require the club to submit appropriate letter(s) of apology within a specified time.
- a) To record a reprimand and to give a warning as to future conduct.
- b) To impose a fine.
- c) To deduct League points from the club's team(s).
- d) To relegate to any lower division of the League.
- e) To expel the club from any competition of the League.
- f) To expel the club from the League.

4.4. The SCF Code of Conduct and League Rules specify penalties for different levels of offences. These guidelines, as summarised in Appendix A – Table of Code of Conduct and League Rules Offences, will be used by the Disciplinary Committee when imposing penalties.

4.5. The Disciplinary Committee shall have the power to suspend the operation of any part, or all, of the penalty it imposes for such period and subject to such terms and conditions it deems appropriate.

4.6. If the penalty involves suspension of a player or member; the name of the player or member, club and duration of the suspension will be published on the SCF website during the period of suspension.

5. Appeals Procedure

A member or club shall have the right to appeal a decision of the Disciplinary Committee. Appeal(s) is to be filed to Riksidrottsförbundets Disciplinnämnd according to their procedures as stated on www.RF.se.

5.1. If a club or a member decides to appeal a decision, a written Notice of Appeal shall be sent to the Disciplinary Committee. The given penalty shall not take effect pending the outcome of the Appeal's procedure.

5.2. The decision of the Riksidrottsförbundets disciplinnämnd, or if disciplinnämnden do not grant or reject the notice of the appeal(s), of the Disciplinary Committee, shall be final and binding.

6. Guidelines on the Conduct of Disciplinary Hearings

6.1. Natural Justice

The rules of natural justice are the minimum standards of fair decision-making imposed on persons or bodies acting in a judicial capacity. The standard of proof shall be on the balance of probabilities rather than the criminal standard of beyond reasonable doubt.

The rules of natural justice consist of the following elements:

- The right to a fair hearing
- The rule against bias.

6.2. The right to a fair hearing

The right to a fair hearing requires that an individual or club shall not be penalised by a decision affecting his/its rights or legitimate expectations unless he/it has been given prior notice of the case against him/it and a fair opportunity to answer the case against him/it and to produce his/its own case.

6.2..1. Prior notice of the hearing

The accused person or representative of accused club should be given adequate notice of the allegations against him and of the procedure to be followed so that he may be in a position to make representations on his own behalf, to appear at the hearing, to prepare his own case and to answer the case against him. The time and possible location of the hearing must also be properly notified to the reported person.

6.2..2. Opportunity to be heard

The reported person or representative of reported club has a right to participate at the hearing and be allowed to present his case. If the Disciplinary Panel is satisfied that the reported person or representative of reported club has been given adequate notice of the alleged breach and of the time and possible location of the hearing, they may allow the hearing to proceed if the reported person or representative of reported club fails to participate. However, it may not be justifiable to proceed if the time or possible location fixed for the hearing is such that the person cannot reasonably be expected to attend or due to reasons of force majeure. Within the Model Discipline Regulations it states that "at least seven days' notice in writing of the hearing and of the offence(s) alleged shall be given to the member, or in the case of a club, its Secretary or Chairman."

6.3. The rule against bias

A person adjudicating on a dispute must have no pecuniary or proprietary interest in the outcome of the proceedings and must not reasonably be suspected, or show a real likelihood, of bias.

The rule against bias also provides that a party should not normally be judged by his accuser.

7. Complaints process

7.1. A complaint for alleged breach of the SCF Code of Conduct or SCF League Rules can be reported by:

- a) the umpires,
- b) the clubs representing the playing teams
- c) the SCF League Administrator
- d) any member of the cricketing society through the SCF secretary

7.2. The complaint for alleged breaches of the SCF Code of Conduct or SCF League Rules committed on the field of play during a Match or otherwise than on the field, but within the precincts of the ground on the day of the match shall be reported as soon as practical. Such a report shall be lodged within forty-eight (48) hours when lodged by an umpire, or ninety-six (96) hours when lodged by another party.

7.3. The complaint for alleged breaches of the SCF Code of Conduct or SCF League Rules committed at any time other than on the field of play shall be reported as soon as practical. Within forty-eight (48) hours for level 1 or 2 offences, or seven (7) days for level 3 or 4 offences from when it has been brought to the attention of the person lodging the report.

7.4. In the event of a complaint where it is not possible to identify the particular member who has breached the SCF Code of Conduct or SCF League Rules, the Captain may be the person charged and, if appropriate, sanctioned

7.5. A complaint must be made in writing (using Appendix B – Written Report Form), by the person(s) making the report. This report is to be e-mailed to the SCF Disciplinary Committee at disciplinarende@swedishcricket.org.

8. Conduct of Hearings

8.1. A written complaint is received by the Disciplinary Committee who decides whether or not to refer the matter to a Disciplinary Hearing.

8.2. The hearing is conducted by the Disciplinary Committee. If any of the members of the Disciplinary Committee is connected with the individual or the club, or their opponents, or a club which might directly benefit from any disciplinary action (e.g. by the deduction of points), they shall not take part in the particular hearing.

8.3. The accused person(s)/club should be notified of the offence(s) alleged against him/them and the time and possible location of the hearing. The notification should be in email or

in writing if email is not possible, include all relevant documentation and give at least seven days' notice.

- 8.4. The accused will be asked to reply to the complaint in email, or in writing if email is not possible, within seven days of the receipt of the notification.
- 8.5. In serious offences, the Disciplinary Committee may after consultation with the SCF Board impose a temporary suspension until a disciplinary decision is reached. Any matches the charged member(s) misses during this/their suspension will be deducted from the final sanctions.
- 8.6. The hearing will be conducted via teleconference or video-conference. At the discretion of the Disciplinary Committee the hearing may be held physically. Any reference to "room" in the procedures refers to a virtual room unless the hearing is to be conducted physically.
- 8.7. Evidence may be provided in a written form or video/recording and must have been received by the Panel at least one day prior to the hearing. The Disciplinary Committee may request evidence to be provided in person at the hearing.
- 8.8. The accused person(s) is entitled to be supported by a colleague. There is no right to legal representation but the Disciplinary Committee may, on their discretion, permit the accused person to be legally represented. In the case of a minor it is recommended that he/she should be supported by an appropriate adult.
- 8.9. If the complaint has been made by the umpires, they should be available to give evidence at the hearing.
- 8.10. Witnesses should not be present in the room at the outset but should be called in individually to give their evidence at the appropriate time. (Ideally, a separate waiting area should be provided for each party). It is recommended that in the case of a minor attending to give evidence on behalf of either party he should be supported by an appropriate adult.
- 8.11. The Disciplinary Committee open the hearing and introduce all the parties. They should then briefly outline the procedure to be followed, specifying the standard of proof to be adopted.
- 8.12. The charges against the accused person/club should be specified.
- 8.13. Witnesses should be called individually and asked to give their evidence. The Panel may question the witnesses. The accused person (or representative)/club may question the witnesses.
- 8.14. The accused person/club should be asked to give his/their account and may call witnesses. The Disciplinary Committee may question the witnesses during the hearing. Once the witnesses have given their evidence and answered any questions, they should

either leave the room or, with the permission of the Disciplinary Committee, they may remain but should take no further part in the hearing.

- 8.15. The Disciplinary Committee may at the hearing question the accused person/club.
- 8.16. The Disciplinary Committee should deliberate in private.
- 8.17. The accused person/club should be called back in and the Disciplinary Committee should give their decision as to whether the case is proved or not proved. If proved, the accused person/club should be asked to give any mitigation which might affect the Disciplinary Committee's decision as to sentence, if they have any discretion in this area.
- 8.18. The Disciplinary Committee should consider the sentence in private.
- 8.19. The accused person/club should be called back in and the Disciplinary Committee should announce the sentence. The accused person/club should be made aware of the Appeals Process, particularly the time within which an appeal should be lodged.
- 8.20. The decision of the Disciplinary Committee and if appropriate the penalty should be communicated to the accused person/club in writing/email within 21 days

9. Appeals Process

- 9.1. Notice of appeal against the decision of the Disciplinary Committee, whether as to verdict or sentence, is to be given in writing, signed by either the person/club that reported the complaint or by the person/club being reported within three weeks from day the decision was communicate to Riksidrottsförbundets disciplinnämnd according to their procedures and to the SCF Disciplinary Committee.
- 9.2. Any penalty imposed by the Disciplinary Committee should not take effect until the appeal has been heard. An exception to this is in the case of serious offences for which a temporary suspension has been imposed.

10. Sentencing Guidelines

The following are guidelines to sentencing policy which may be used by Disciplinary Committee in determining the appropriate sentence in any individual case. The guidelines provide a method of considering individual cases but are not a tariff and should not be considered as such. Only the Disciplinary Committee can decide on the penalty appropriate to any individual case.

10.1. Players' Behaviour

In the event of any player failing to comply with the instructions of an umpire, criticising his decision by word or action, showing dissent, or generally behaving in a manner which might bring the game into disrepute, the umpire concerned shall in the first place report the matter to the other umpire and to the player's captain, requesting the latter to take action.

Breaches of the Spirit of the Game should automatically be reported as soon as reasonably practicable by the umpires to the Secretary of the club concerned and to the

SCF league administration. Such breaches will be treated seriously and are likely to result in suspension.

10.2. Accumulated Bad Behaviour

Repeated infringements by an individual of the Spirit of the Game (where it is decided that each infringement in itself does not merit any immediate disciplinary action), should always result in a Disciplinary Hearing. Taking into account captains' responsibilities as set out in the SCF Code of Conduct repeated infringements by a team are likely to result in the captain being held responsible for the conduct of his team (whether or not individual members are also identified for disciplinary action) and being called before a Disciplinary Hearing. The penalties available includes suspension.

When issuing the penalty, the Disciplinary Committee may take account of instances of poor team discipline in previous years, particularly where the on-the-field captain is the same. The SCF and Clubs shall ensure that captains understand their responsibility for the "on the field" behaviour of themselves and their team members.

If suspension is the penalty, this will normally take effect immediately.

10.3. Violence

There is no place for any act of violence on the field of play.

Proven cases of violent conduct against an official will inevitably result in a lengthy term of suspension. Offenses of this kind will be reported to the police.

Violence against a spectator or another player will also normally result in suspension, the length depending upon the circumstances. Offenses of this kind will be reported to the police.

If suspension is the penalty, this should take effect immediately.

10.4. Racial or Gender Abuse

Players, members and team officials must not make racially or gender abusive comments nor indulge in racially or gender abusive actions against fellow players, officials, members and supporters. Racially and gender abusive comments or actions will normally result in suspension, the length depending upon the circumstances.

10.5. Drugs

It is SCF's policy that there should be no distinction drawn between 'performance enhancing' and 'recreational' drugs. Use or distribution of illegal drugs by players or team officials is a breach of the SCF Code of Conduct.

The SCF also discourages the use of tobacco products at and around the field of play.

Appendix A – Table of Code of Conduct and League Rules Offences

	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4
Offense	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Showing dissent at an umpire's decision by word or by action. 2. Using language or a gesture that is obscene, offensive or insulting. 3. Excessive appealing. 4. Aggressive pointing towards the pavilion by a member of the fielding side upon the dismissal of a batsman. 5. Where the facts of the alleged incident are not adequately or clearly covered by any of the above offences, conduct that either: (a) is contrary to the spirit of the game; or (b) brings the game into disrepute. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Repeat of any Level 1 Offence within 12 months. 2. Showing serious dissent at an umpire's decision by word or action. 3. Public criticism of a match related incident or match official. 4. Inappropriate and deliberate physical contact between players during play. 5. Aggressively charging towards an umpire while appealing. 6. Deliberate distraction or obstruction on the field. 7. Throwing the cricket ball or any other piece of equipment (including, for example, a water bottle) at or towards a player, umpire or official in an inappropriate and/or dangerous manner. 8. Using language or a gesture that is obscene, offensive or of a seriously insulting nature to another player, umpire, referee, team official or spectator. 9. Changing the condition of the ball in breach of Law 42.3. 10. Any attempt to manipulate a match in regard to the result (In a negative way), net run rate, bonus points or otherwise. (Example: Intentionally losing so that a team will face a weaker opponent in the Finals.) 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Repeat of any Level 2 Offence within 12 months. 2. Intimidation of an umpire or referee. 3. Threat of assault on a player, team official, or spectator. 4. Using language or gestures that offends race, religion, colour, descent or national or ethnic origin, gender or sexual orientation. 5. Where the facts of the alleged incident are not adequately or clearly covered by any of the above offences, conduct that either: (a) is contrary to the spirit of the game; or (b) brings the game into disrepute. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Repeat for any Level 3 Offence within 12 months. 2. Threat of assault on an umpire or referee. 3. Physical assault of another player, umpire, referee, official or spectator. 4. Any act of violence during play. 5. Using language or gestures that seriously offends race, religion, colour, descent or national or ethnic origin. 6. Where the facts of the alleged incident are not adequately or clearly covered by any of the above offences, conduct that either: (a) is contrary to the spirit of the game; or (b) brings the game into disrepute.

	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4
		11. Where the facts of the alleged incident are not adequately or clearly covered by any of the above offences, conduct that either: (a) is contrary to the spirit of the game; or (b) brings the game into disrepute.		
Penalty (Player or Individual)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Warning of future conduct, and/or Fine (max 1000 SEK) 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Severe reprimand Suspension for 1–2 SCF 40/30-over matches, 1–2 T20 League matches or 2–3 Indoor matches, and/or Fine (max 5000SEK) 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Possible temporary suspension during disciplinary process, and Suspension for 2–5 SCF 40/30-over matches, 2–5 T20 League matches or 4–9 Indoor matches, and/or Fine (max 5000SEK) 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Temporary suspension during disciplinary process, and Suspension for 5 SCF 40s to life, 5 T20s League to life, or 10 Indoor matches to life, and/or Fine (max 5000SEK) <p><i>If a criminal act is deemed to have occurred, SCF will report the incident to the police</i></p>
Penalty (Club)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Requirement for the club to submit appropriate letter(s) of apology within a specified time, and/or Warning of future conduct, and/or Deduction of league points from the clubs team, and/or Relegation to any lower division of the League, and/or Expulsion of the club from any competition of the League, and/or Expulsion of the club from the SCF, and/or Fine (not to exceed 5000kr). 			

PENATLY MATRIX from League Rules	
Offence	Penalty
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Team guilty of fielding an ineligible player (umpires should submit team photos, see umpiring duties) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Forfeit match, points to opposing team, 3 league points deduction and 1500 SEK fine (if not paid within 7 working days after the invoice received, 3 league points deduction)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Team fails to provide/arrange umpires 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1000 SEK fine (if not paid within 7 working days after the invoice received, 3 league points deduction)

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Scorecard lost/missing/incomplete by the umpire 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 500 SEK fine (if not paid within 7 working days after the invoice received, 3 league points deduction)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Player name on scorecard not corresponding to squad list 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Warning and on 2nd offence 500 SEK fine. (if not paid within 7 working days after the invoice received, 3 league points deduction)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Home or Away team not producing umpires equipment i.e. Jumpers, counters. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 250 SEK fine (if not paid within 7 working days after the invoice received, 1 league point deduction)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Walkovers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The team that gives the walkover will receive a financial penalty of 500kr and deduction of 3 points from its league's accumulated points for the current season. Teams giving 2 walkovers in any format will be disqualified from the league in that format.

Appendix B – Written Report Form

Written Report Form

THE REPORT FORM SHALL BE COMPLETED USING COMPUTER OR TYPEWRITER

In accordance to rule _____ of the SCF Code of Conduct and/or to rule _____ of the SCF League Rules I make the following report:

MATCH ID: *[if applicable]*

MATCH: *[Team 1 vs Team 2]*

VENUE: *[if applicable]*

UMPIRES: *[if applicable]*

I wish to bring to your attention my belief that during the match on _____ *[date]* conduct amounting to a breach of the Code of Conduct and/or League rules occurred. Those involved were:

[PLAYER(S)/TEAM OFFICIAL(S) / TEAM]:

I believe that the conduct breached Rule(s) _____ of the Code, and as described in the SCF Code of Conduct, clause(s) _____. And/or the conduct breached Rule(s) _____ of the League Rules. The circumstances were:

Number of Attachments: _____

The day's play concluded at _____ *[date and time]* and the SCF Disciplinary Committee was notified at _____ *[date and time]*.

Name: _____

Name: *[Second person optional]*

Club: _____

Club: _____

Phone number: _____

Phone number: _____

Email: _____

Email: _____

Notes

Disciplinary Procedure Document

Asset Description

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Effective date (current version): 2017-05-31			
Date	Version	Reason	Description
2016-02-15	02	Creation of new committee structure in line with Board decision	
2016-03-21	03	Alignment of document with Code of Conduct updates	
2017-05-23	03	Committee initiated	
2017-05-31	04	Updated and aligned with league rules, Code of conduct and Disciplinary Charter and after input of Disciplinary Committee	
2017-06-27	04	Board decision on the new version.	