



JAPAN CRICKET ASSOCIATION DISCIPLINARY POLICY FOR MATCHES

Established: 17 March 2015

The Japan Cricket Association (the “JCA”) issues this Japan Cricket Association Disciplinary Policy for Matches (this “**Disciplinary Policy**”) to provide disciplinary rules for all matches played under the authority of the JCA. This Disciplinary Policy applies to all teams, players, team officials, and team members involved in JCA-authorized matches, and the captains and representatives of all teams in JCA competitions and all umpires participating in JCA-authorized matches are required to read this Disciplinary Policy. The JCA also recommends that all players and team officials involved in JCA-authorized matches be familiar with this Disciplinary Policy.

Notes on Reading this Disciplinary Policy:

When reading this Disciplinary Policy, please do the following:

- *read all references to “the Competition” to mean the JCA-authorized competition in which your team participates (e.g., if your team plays in the Japan Cricket League (the “JCL”), read “the Competition” as “the JCL”); and*
- *read all references to “the Committee” to mean the JCA-authorized governing authority or committee for the Competition in which your team participates (e.g., if your team plays in the Japan Cricket League (“JCL”), read “the Committee” as “the JCL Committee”).*

Contents

Section 1	Players’ Code of Conduct and Spirit of Cricket	1
Section 2	Initial Incident Report	4
Section 3	Investigation Procedure	5
Section 4	Disciplinary Panel and Disciplinary Review	6
Section 5	Penalty Guidelines	8
Section 6	Final Decision and Notification by Committee	9
Section 7	Appeals	10
Appendix 1	Breach Level Guidelines	11
Appendix 2	Disciplinary Policy Flow	13

Section 1 Players’ Code of Conduct and Spirit of Cricket

1.1 Outline

The JCA is committed to maintaining the highest standards of behaviour and conduct. All teams and their players, officials and members, by registering with the JCA, agree to



comply with the “Player’s Code of Conduct” set out in 1.2 below and abide by the Spirit of Cricket (provided for in the Preamble to the Laws of Cricket) set out in 1.3 below.

1.2 Players’ Code of Conduct

The captains are responsible at all times for ensuring that play is conducted in accordance with the Spirit of Cricket, the Laws of Cricket (the “Laws”), and other related policies, codes and playing conditions stipulated by the JCA or the Competition.

- (1) Players and team officials must at all times accept the umpire’s decision. Players must not show dissent at the umpire’s decision or react in a provocative or disapproving manner towards another player or a spectator.
- (2) Players and team officials shall not intimidate, assault, or attempt to intimidate or assault, an umpire, another player, any team official or spectator.
- (3) Players and team officials shall not use crude or abusive language, make offensive gestures or hand signals, or deliberately distract an opponent.
- (4) Players and team officials shall not use language or gestures that offend, insult, humiliate, intimidate, threaten, disparage or vilify another person on the basis of that person’s race, religion, sexual orientation, age, colour, descent or national or ethnic origin.
- (5) Teams must take adequate steps to ensure the good behaviour of their players, officials, members and supporters.

1.3 Spirit of Cricket

(Note: The Spirit of Cricket also appears in the JCA Captains’ Code of Conduct. It is repeated here in order to emphasize that the Spirit of Cricket applies to both captains and players. Please remember that cricket is a minor and relatively unknown sport in Japan. The JCA urges all people involved in cricket in Japan to promote a favourable image of the game. Bad publicity for the sport is even more damaging in Japan than it might be in a country where cricket is well-known or popular.)

Cricket is a game that owes much of its unique appeal to the fact that it should be played not only within its Laws but also within the Spirit of the Game. Any action which is seen to abuse this spirit causes injury to the game itself.

- (1) There are two Laws which place the responsibility for the team’s conduct firmly on the captain:

Responsibility of Captains

The captains are responsible at all times for ensuring that play is conducted within the Spirit of the Game as well as within the Laws.

Player’s Conduct



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.

(2) Fair and Unfair Play

According to the Laws the umpires are the sole judges of fair and unfair play. The umpires may intervene at any time, and it is the responsibility of the captain to take action where required.

(3) The umpires are authorised to intervene in cases of:

- Time wasting
- Damaging the pitch
- Dangerous or unfair bowling
- Tampering with the ball
- Any other action that they consider to be unfair.

(4) The Spirit of the Game involves RESPECT for:

- Your opponents
- Your own captain and team
- The role of the umpires
- The game's traditional values.

(5) It is against the Spirit of the Game:

- To dispute an umpire's decision by word, action or gesture
- To direct abusive language towards an opponent or umpire
- To indulge in cheating or any sharp practice, for instance
 - a) Appeal knowing the batsman is not out
 - b) Advance towards an umpire in an aggressive manner when appealing
 - c) Seek to distract an opponent either verbally or by harassment with persistent clapping or unnecessary noise under the guise of enthusiasm and motivation of one's own side.

(6) Violence

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

(7) Players

Captains and umpires together set the tone for the conduct of a cricket match. Every player is expected to make an important contribution to this.

1.4 Compliance

If a player or team official fails to comply with the Players Code of Conduct or to abide by the Spirit of Cricket set out above, he or she might be subject to disciplinary action under

this Disciplinary Policy, irrespective of whether that failure is related to a match under the authority of the JCA.

Section 2 Initial Incident Report

2.1 Submission of Initial Incident Reports by Umpires

If an appointed umpire at a match believes that during the match a player, team official or team member (collectively, a “**Match Participant**”) has possibly breached the Players’ Code of Conduct set out in Section 1 (a “**Potential Breach**”), the umpire must report to the Committee to that effect as soon as possible (and no later than 24 hours) after the match (an “**Initial Incident Report**”). In principle, an Initial Incident Report will be a simple statement of events that occurred in the match and that the umpire believes constitutes a Potential Breach.

2.2 No Warnings from Umpire Required

Where possible, the umpires will conduct the following warning and notification; however, neither the warning nor notification is a requirement, and an umpire may submit an Initial Incident Report without issuing in advance the following warning or notification to the Match Participant considered to have committed a Potential Breach (the “**Potentially Breaching Match Participant**”):

- (1) during the match, warn a Match Participant who appears likely to commit a Potential Breach, and the captain of the Match Participant’s team, before the Potential Breach occurs in order to avoid the Potential Breach from occurring; and
- (2) during or immediately after the match, notify a Potentially Breaching Match Participant, and the captain of the Potentially Breaching Match Participant’s team, that the Potentially Breaching Match Participant will be the subject of an Initial Incident Report.

2.3 Submissions by Other Sources

If the Committee receives a report or information from the captain of a team involved in a match or another credible source, including local law authorities, in relation to a Potential Breach, the Committee may decide that the report or information constitutes an Initial Incident Report.

2.4 Multiple Potential Breaches in Single Initial Incident Report

An Initial Incident Report may, in relation to one match, contain information about multiple Potential Breaches by one Potentially Breaching Match Participant, or multiple



Potential Breaches by multiple Potentially Breaching Match Participants. In this case, the Initial Incident Report will be construed as applying to each of the multiple Potentially Breaching Match Participants. For the sake of clarity, in such a case, multiple Initial Incident Reports will not be required for multiple Potential Breaches in one match.

2.5 Associated Reporting of Captains

In the case of 2.1 or 2.3 above, the Committee may (a) decide that as a possible breach of a captain's responsibilities under Section 1, the captain of the team to which each Potentially Breaching Match Participant belongs is also to be separately considered a Potentially Breaching Match Participant and (b) deem that an Initial Incident Report has been submitted to that effect.

2.5 Investigations

If an Initial Incident Report under 2.1 through 2.5 above is received by the Committee, the Committee will, no later than 24 hours of receipt of that Initial Incident Report, decide either (a) to conduct further investigation of the facts (an "**Investigation**") to determine whether each Potential Breach is an actual breach (a "**Breach**") or (b) that the facts presented in the Initial Incident Report are inconsequential and disregard the Initial Incident Report. In the case of (b), the Committee will immediately notify the submitter of the Initial Incident Report to that effect.

2.6 Conducting an Investigation

If the Committee decides to conduct an Investigation, it must follow the procedure set out in Section 3 below.

Section 3 Investigation Procedure

3.1 Requested Reports

If the Committee decides to conduct an Investigation, then it must, no later than 24 hours after making that decision, inform each of the following persons of each Potential Breach mentioned in the Initial Incident Report and request of, and receive from, each of those persons a written report regarding the incident in question if a report has not already been received from that person (a "**Requested Report**"):

- (1) each Potentially Breaching Match Participant;
- (2) the captain of each team; and
- (3) the umpires.



3.2 No Consultation

Each person requested to provide Requested Reports must not consult with other persons submitting Requested Reports in relation to the content of those Requested Reports.

3.3 Action After Review of Requested Reports, etc.

No later than 24 hours after receipt of the Requested Reports, the Committee will review the Initial Incident Report and the Requested Reports and resolve to do the following:

- (1) take no action, except to record that an Investigation has been conducted, record the details of that Investigation, and notify the teams involved;
- (2) endorse any action already taken by the teams involved and notify the teams involved; or
- (3) notify the teams involved that a disciplinary review will be conducted and establish a disciplinary panel (a “**Disciplinary Panel**”) to do the following (a “**Disciplinary Review**”):
 - (a) judge whether each Potential Breach is a Breach; and
 - (b) if a Breach has occurred, determine the level of the Breach in accordance with the guidelines presented in “Appendix 1 Breach Level Guidelines” and recommend to the Committee an appropriate penalty based on “Section 6 Penalties” below.

Section 4 Disciplinary Panel and Disciplinary Review

4.1 Disciplinary Panel Composition

If the Committee establishes a Disciplinary Panel under 3.3(3), the Disciplinary Panel must be composed of three persons, one of whom is a Committee member who is not affiliated with any team involved in the match in question, and the other two persons being respected persons who are not affiliated with any team involved in the match in question and who have thorough knowledge of this Disciplinary Policy and other rules and guidelines issued by the JCA and the Competition.

4.2 Disciplinary Review Proceedings

The Disciplinary Review will be conducted in the manner set out below.

- (1) The Committee will provide the Disciplinary Panel with the Initial Report, the Requested Reports, and records concerning previous Investigations, Breaches, and penalties involving each Potentially Breaching Match Participant.
- (2) In conducting a Disciplinary Review, each of the Disciplinary Panel members will review and discuss with each other (by email or the like) the Initial Incident Report

and the Requested Reports as the main source of evidence. Unless there is good reason to do otherwise, evidence from umpires (as, in principle, impartial observers) is to be given relatively more credence than information from Match Participants.

- (3) If after the review and discussion provided for in 4.2(2), the Disciplinary Panel believes that more evidence is necessary, it may request further information from the Committee, the umpires, or Match Participants. However, in this case, the Disciplinary Panel will act without delay to secure and review this information, and such action will only be taken in exceptional cases.
- (3) When the Disciplinary Panel completes all discussion and review of each Potential Breach, it will decide on one or more recommendations to the Committee based on a consensus by the majority within the Disciplinary Panel, and if a consensus by the majority cannot be formed, the Committee representative on the Disciplinary Panel will have the casting vote.

4.3 Disciplinary Review Considerations

In deciding on one or more recommendations in accordance with 4.2(3), the Disciplinary Panel will take into consideration precedent for recommendations in similar cases within that Competition as well as the following considerations and may decide to increase the severity or leniency of the recommendation, as provided for under each consideration below.

- (1) The existence of any general caution (see 4.4(2) below) against, or Breaches by, the Potentially Breaching Match Participant in question in the past and penalties or suspended penalties imposed on that Potentially Breaching Match Participant during the current season of the Competition or the preceding season of the Competition:
More severe
- (2) The Potentially Breaching Match Participant in question is also the captain:
More severe
- (3) The Potentially Breaching Match Participant in question has admitted culpability with respect to the Potential Breach:
More lenient

4.4 Disciplinary Panel Recommendations

Each Disciplinary Panel recommendation under 4.2(3) will, in principle, fall under one of the recommendations set out below.

- (1) The Potential Breach in question does not constitute a Breach, and no further action is necessary.
- (2) The Potential Breach in question does not constitute a Breach, but a general caution about proper conduct in accordance with the Players' Code of Conduct is required with respect to one or more of the Match Participants.



- (3) The Potential Breach in question constitutes a Breach. In this case, the Disciplinary Panel will state a level of Breach in accordance with “Appendix 1 Breach Level Guidelines” and also recommend a penalty in accordance with “Section 6 Penalties”.

4.5 Notification of Disciplinary Panel’s Recommendation to Committee

In principle, no later than 24 hours after of the Disciplinary Panel’s establishment under 3.3(3), the Disciplinary Panel will notify the Committee of the Disciplinary Panel’s recommendation, in a manner that can, if necessary, be easily forwarded to the Potentially Breaching Match Participant and the umpires and captains for the match in question.

Section 5 Penalty Guidelines

5.1 Recommended Penalties

If the Disciplinary Panel recommends the imposition of a penalty under 4.4(3) against a Potentially Breaching Match Participant who is found to have actually committed a Breach (a “**Breaching Match Participant**”), then, in principle, that penalty will be based on the level of the Breach (determined in accordance with “Appendix 1 Breach Level Guidelines”). The penalties imposed on a Breaching Match Participant below are provided as a guideline.

- (1) In the case of a **Level 1 Breach**:
An official warning; if the Disciplinary Panel decides it is necessary, it may also recommend that the warning be combined with a suspended ban of 2 matches if this is the Breaching Match Participant’s first Breach of any level
- (2) In the case of a **Level 2 Breach**:
Ban of 2 to 4 matches
- (3) In the case of a **Level 3 Breach**:
Ban of 4 to 6 matches
- (4) In the case of a **Level 4 Breach**:
Ban of a minimum 6 matches

5.2 Letter of Apology

The Disciplinary Panel may recommend that, in addition to the penalties provided in 5.1, the Breaching Match Participant deliver to any aggrieved party a letter of apology, a copy of which will also be submitted to the Committee.

5.3 Aggravated Cases



If the Breaching Match Participant commits a Breach or, in the current season and previous season, has committed Breaches that individually or collectively exceed the level of Breaches provided for in “Appendix 1 Breach Level Guidelines”, the Disciplinary Panel may recommend stronger penalties than those provided for in 5.1 above, including the expulsion of the Breaching Match Participant from the Competition.

5.4 Applicable Period of Penalties

Penalties will be carried over to the following season if applicable, even if the Breaching Participant changes team.

Section 6 Final Decision and Notification by Committee

6.1 Final Decision and Notification to Breaching Match Participant, etc.

No later than 24 hours after the Disciplinary Panel notifies the Committee of the Disciplinary Panel’s recommendation as provided for in 4.5, the Committee will do the following:

- (1) review the recommendation;
- (2) decide whether to:
 - (a) adopt “as is” the recommendation as the Committee’s final decision; or
 - (b) adopt the recommendation as the Committee’s final decision after making amendments; and
- (3) notify each Potentially Breaching Match Participant or Breaching Match Participant (as the case might be), the captains of the teams involved, and the umpires involved; in providing this notification, the Committee will, where possible, provide the dates of the Breaching Match Participant’s matches subject to a ban if imposed.

6.2 Acceptance of Disciplinary Panel’s Recommendation

With respect to 6.1(2) above, in principle the Committee will accept the Disciplinary Panel’s recommendation as is (as provided for in 6.1(2)(a)), unless there is a compelling reason to amend the recommendation in making the Committee’s final decision.

6.3 Notification to Competition; Keeping of Records

After 24 hours has elapsed since the notification provided for in 6.1, the Committee will notify the Competition (meaning all team representatives) of that final decision, and record it for future reference. In notifying the Competition, the Committee will, where possible, provide the dates of the Breaching Match Participant’s matches subject to a ban if imposed.



6.4 Suspended Penalties

The Committee may suspend the execution of any part, or all, of each penalty it imposes as it considers appropriate.

Section 7 Appeals

7.1 No Appeals

No person subject to a Disciplinary Review holds the right to appeal the final decision of the Committee.

7.2 Revocation Due to False Information, etc.

The Committee may, at its discretion, decide to amend or revoke its final decision or cancel the Disciplinary Review procedure if it becomes clear that there has been a case of mistaken identity, facts have been misrepresented, or any procedure provided for in the Disciplinary Policy has not been correctly implemented.



Appendix 1 Breach Level Guidelines

In principle, Breaches are divided into the four levels set out below.

Level 1 Breach

- (1) Time wasting by either the fielding side or the batting side
- (2) Abuse of the cricket ground, equipment or fixtures
- (3) Showing dissent at an umpire's decision by word or action
- (4) Using language that is obscene, offensive or insulting and or the making of an obscene gesture
- (5) Excessive appealing

Level 2 Breach

- (1) Showing serious dissent at an umpire's decision by word or action
- (2) Inappropriate and deliberate physical contact between players in the course of play
- (3) Charging or advancing towards an umpire in an aggressive manner when appealing
- (4) Deliberate and malicious distraction or obstruction on the field of play, regardless of whether such conduct is deemed to be fair under Law 42.5
- (5) Throwing the ball at or near a player, umpire or official in an inappropriate and dangerous manner
- (6) Using language or any gesture that is obscene or of a seriously insulting nature with respect to another player, umpire, team official or spectator
- (7) Changing the condition of the ball other than as permitted by Law 42.3
- (8) The bowling of fast short pitched balls that result in the bowler being disallowed from bowling further in that innings
- (9) Causing avoidable damage to the pitch contrary to Laws 42.13 or Law 42.14 that results in a five-run penalty being awarded

Level 3 Breach

- (1) Intimidating an umpire
- (2) Threatening to assault another player, team official or spectator
- (3) Using language or any gesture that offends, insults, humiliates, intimidates, threatens, disparages or vilifies another person on the basis of that person's race, religion, sexual orientation, colour, descent or national or ethnic origin
- (4) The deliberate bowling of any high full-pitched ball contrary to Law 42.8 (d)

Level 4 Breach

- (1) Threatening an umpire
- (2) Physical assault of another player, umpire, official or spectator



- (3) Any act of violence on the field of play
- (4) Using language or any gesture that seriously offends, insults, humiliates, intimidates, threatens, disparages or vilifies
- (5) Another person on the basis of that person's religion, sexual orientation, colour, descent or national or ethnic origin.



Appendix 2 Disciplinary Policy Flow

The following is provided as simply a guiding timeline for implementation of this Disciplinary Policy.

Match	Saturday
Initial Report Submitted within 24 hours	At latest Sun night
Committee decides within 24 hours whether to conduct an Investigation	



Investigation Committee starts procedure for Requested Reports	No Investigation Announcement made to Submitter of Initial Report within 24 hours	At latest Mon night
Investigation Committee receives Requested Reports		At latest Tue night
Committee decides within 24 hours to (a) take no action, (b) endorse action taken by clubs, or (c) establish Disciplinary Panel		



Result of Investigation Committee establish Disciplinary Panel (notifies teams)	Result of Investigation Committee takes no action (notifies teams)	Result of Investigation Committee endorses actions of clubs (notifies teams)		At latest Wed night
Disciplinary Review Disciplinary Panel reviews evidence and notifies the Committee of the Disciplinary Panel's recommendation				At latest Thu night
Final Decision and Notification Committee makes final decision and notifies persons involved				At latest Fri night
Committee notifies Competition				At latest Sat night