

# CODE OF CONDUCT FOR PLAYERS AND TEAM OFFICIALS

Effective from 7<sup>th</sup> March 2018

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## INTRODUCTION

Cricket is a game that owes much of its unique appeal to the fact that it is to be played not only within the Laws, but also within the spirit of the game. Any action seen as abusing this spirit causes injury to the game itself. Embracing the spirit of the game means participating, either as a Player or as a Team Official, fairly and exhibiting respect for other Players and Team Officials, Umpires and Match Referees and the game's traditional values such as graciousness in defeat and humility in victory. This Code of Conduct for Players and Team Officials (the "**Code of Conduct**") is intended to protect and enshrine these important qualities and standards so that all may continue to enjoy the game of cricket now and in the future. MCA is the body responsible for the operation of the League and the Code of Conduct is adopted and implemented as part of MCA's continuing efforts to maintain the public image, popularity and integrity of the League by providing: (a) an effective means to deter any participant or other relevant person from conducting themselves improperly on and off the 'field-of-play' or in a manner that is contrary to the 'spirit of cricket'; and (b) a robust disciplinary procedure pursuant to which all matters of improper conduct can be dealt with fairly, with certainty and in an expeditious manner. Unless otherwise indicated, references to Articles and Appendices are to articles and appendices of the Code of Conduct.

## ARTICLE 1 SCOPE AND APPLICATION

**1.1** By their participation (in the case of a Player) or assistance in a Player's participation or other involvement (in the case of a Team Official) in a Match or T20 MUMBAI LEAGUE Event, such Players or Team Officials shall be deemed to have agreed:

**1.1.1** that they are automatically bound by and required to comply with all of the provisions of the Code of Conduct;

**1.1.2** that it is their personal responsibility to familiarise themselves with all of the requirements of the Code of Conduct, including what conduct constitutes an offence under the Code of Conduct;

**1.1.3** to submit to the exclusive jurisdiction of any Match Referee, Commissioner or Appeal Commission convened under the Code for Conduct to hear and determine charges brought pursuant to the Code of Conduct (and any appeals in relation thereto); and

**1.1.4** not to bring any proceedings in any court or other forum that are inconsistent with the foregoing submission to the jurisdiction of the Match Referee, Commissioner or Appeal Commission.

**1.2** All Players and Team Officials shall continue to be bound by and required to comply with the Code of Conduct until three (3) months after the termination of his or her contract or other arrangement with a Team Operator and MCA shall continue to have jurisdiction over him/her under the Code of Conduct thereafter in respect of matters relating to the League taking place prior to that point.

**1.3** It is acknowledged that certain Players and Team Officials may also be subject to other rules of the relevant Team Operator, the ICC, BCCI and/or National Cricket Federations that govern discipline and/or conduct, and that the same conduct of such Players and/or Team Officials may implicate not only the Code of Conduct but also such other rules that may apply. For the avoidance of any doubt, Players and Team Officials acknowledge and agree that: (a) the Code of Conduct is not intended to limit the responsibilities of any Player or Team Official under such other rules; and (b) nothing in such other rules shall be capable of removing, superseding or amending in any way the jurisdiction of the Match Referee, Commissioner or Appeal Commission to determine matters properly arising pursuant to the Code of Conduct.

## ARTICLE 2

### CODE OF CONDUCT OFFENCES

The conduct described in Articles 2.1 – 2.5, if committed by a Player or Team Official, shall amount to an offence by such Player or Team Official under the Code of Conduct.

**COMMENT:** *Where considered helpful, guidance notes have been provided in text boxes beneath the description of a particular offence. Such notes are intended only to provide guidance as to the nature and examples of certain conduct that might be prohibited by a particular Article and should not be read as an exhaustive or limiting list of conduct prohibited by such Article. For the purposes of the Code of Conduct, the phrase “during a Match” should be interpreted broadly to cover all conduct which takes place at the ground on the day of a Match, and not just conduct which takes place on the field of play, for example in the changing rooms, or during any of the intervals in the Match.*

#### **2.1 Level 1 Offences:**

**2.1.1** Conduct that is contrary to the spirit of the game.

**NOTE:** *Article 2.1.1 is intended to cover all types of conduct of a minor nature that is contrary to the spirit of the game and which is not specifically and adequately covered by the specific*

*offences set out elsewhere in the Code of Conduct. The spirit of the game is defined by reference to the Preamble to the Laws of Cricket and involves respect for (a) your opponents, (b) your captain and team, (c) the role of the Umpires and (d) the game and its traditional values. By way of example, Article 2.1.1 may (depending upon the seriousness and context of the breach) prohibit, without limitation, the following: (a) the use of an illegal bat or illegal wicket-keeping gloves; (b) cheating during a Match, including deliberate attempts to mislead the Umpire; and (c) failure to comply with the provisions of clause 7.1 of the Match Playing Conditions.*

### **2.1.2** Conduct that brings the game into disrepute.

**NOTE:** *Article 2.1.2 is intended to cover all types of conduct of a minor nature that brings the game into disrepute and which is not specifically and adequately covered by the specific offences set out elsewhere in the Code of Conduct, including*

*Article 2.1.1. By way of example,*

*Article 2.1.2 may (depending upon the seriousness and context of the breach) prohibit, without limitation, the following: (a) public acts of misconduct; (b) unruly public behaviour; and (c) inappropriate comments which are detrimental to the interests of the game.*

**2.1.3** Public criticism of, or inappropriate comment in relation to an incident occurring in a Match or any Player, Team Official, Umpire, Match Referee or Team participating in any Match, irrespective of when such criticism or inappropriate comment is made.

**NOTE:** *Without limitation, Players and Team Officials will breach Article 2.1.3 if they publicly criticise the Umpires or Match Referee or denigrate a Player or Team against which they have played in relation to incidents which occurred in a Match. When assessing the seriousness of the breach, the context within which the comments have been made and the gravity of the offending comments must be taken into account. For the avoidance of doubt, any posting by a Player or Team Official of comments on a social media platform (including, without limitation, Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, Google+, Pinterest and LinkedIn) shall be deemed to be 'public' for the purposes of this offence. Consequently, a Player or Team Official may breach Article 2.1.3 where they criticise or make an inappropriate comment in relation to an incident occurring in a Match or any Player, Team Official, Umpire, Match Referee or Team participating in any Match in any posting they make on a social media platform.*

**2.1.4** Using language or a gesture that is obscene, offensive or insulting during a Match.

**NOTE:** *Article 2.1.4 includes: (a) excessively audible or repetitious swearing; and (b) obscene gestures which are not directed at another person, such as swearing in frustration at one's own poor play or fortune. In addition, this offence is not intended to penalise trivial behaviour. When assessing the seriousness of the breach, the Umpire shall be required to take into account the context of the particular situation and whether the words or gesture are likely to: (a) be regarded as obscene; (b) give offence; or (c) insult another person. This offence is not intended to cover any use of language or gestures that are likely to offend another person on the basis of their race, religion, gender, colour, descent, national or ethnic origin. Such conduct*

*is prohibited under the T20 MUMBAI LEAGUE's Anti-Racism Code and must be dealt with according to the procedures set out therein.*

### **2.1.5** Showing dissent at an Umpire's decision during a Match.

**NOTE:** *Article 2.1.5 includes: (a) excessive, obvious disappointment with an Umpire's decision; (b) an obvious delay in resuming play or leaving the wicket; (c) shaking the head; (d) pointing or looking at the edge of his bat when given out lbw; (e) pointing to the pad or rubbing the shoulder when caught behind; (f) snatching the cap from the Umpire; (g) requesting a referral to the TV Umpire and (h) arguing or entering into a prolonged discussion with the Umpire about his decision. It shall not be a defence to any charge brought under this Article to show that the Umpire might have, or in fact did, get any decision wrong.*

### **2.1.6** Excessive appealing during a Match.

**NOTE:** *For the purposes of Article 2.1.6, 'excessive' shall include: (a) repeated appealing of the same decision/appeal; (b) repeated appealing of different decisions/appeals when the bowler/fielder knows the batter is not out with the intention of placing the Umpire under pressure; or (c) celebrating a dismissal before the decision has been given. It is not intended to prevent loud or enthusiastic appealing.*

### **2.1.7** Using language, actions or gestures which disparage or which could provoke an aggressive reaction from a batsman upon his dismissal during a Match.

**NOTE:** *Article 2.1.7 includes any language, action or gesture used by a Player and directed towards a batsman upon his dismissal which has the potential to provoke an aggressive reaction from the dismissed batsman, whether or not any reaction results, or which could be considered to disparage or demean the dismissed batsman, regardless of whether the batsman himself feels disparaged or demeaned. Without limitation, Article 2.1.7 includes: (a) excessive celebrations directed at and in close proximity to the dismissed batsman; and (b) verbally abusing the dismissed batsman. Nothing in this Article 2.1.7 is, however, intended to stop Players celebrating, in an appropriate fashion, the dismissal of the opposing team's batsman.*

### **2.1.8** Abuse of cricket equipment or clothing, ground equipment or fixtures and fittings during a Match.

**NOTE:** *Article 2.1.8 includes any action(s) outside the course of normal cricket actions, such as hitting or kicking the wickets and any action(s) which intentionally or negligently results in damage to the advertising boards, boundary fences, dressing room doors, mirrors, windows and other fixtures and fittings.*

## **2.2 Level 2 Offences:**

### **2.2.1** Conduct that is contrary to the spirit of the game.

**NOTE:** *Article 2.2.1 is intended to cover all types of conduct of a serious nature that is contrary to the spirit of the game and which is not specifically and adequately covered by the specific offences set out elsewhere in the Code of Conduct. The spirit of the game is defined by*

reference to the Preamble to the Laws of Cricket and involves respect for (a) your opponents, (b) your captain and team, (c) the role of the umpires and (d) the game and its traditional values. See guidance note to Article 2.1.1 for examples of conduct that may (depending upon the seriousness and context of the breach) be prohibited under Article 2.2.1.

### **2.2.2** Conduct that brings the game into disrepute.

**NOTE:** Article 2.2.2 is intended to cover all types of conduct of a serious nature that brings the game into disrepute and which is not specifically and adequately covered by the specific offences set out elsewhere in the Code of Conduct, including Article 2.2.1 See guidance note to Article 2.1.2 for examples of conduct that may (depending upon the seriousness and context of the breach) be prohibited under Article 2.2.2.

### **2.2.3** Serious public criticism of, or inappropriate comment in relation to an incident occurring in a Match or any Player, Team Official, Umpire or Match Referee or Team participating in any Match, irrespective of when such criticism or inappropriate comment is made.

**NOTE:** Without limitation, Players and Team Officials will breach this rule if they publicly criticise the Umpires or Match Referee or denigrate a Player or Team against which they have played in relation to incidents which occurred in a Match. When assessing the seriousness of the breach, the context within which the comments have been made and the gravity of the offending comments must be taken into account. For the avoidance of doubt, any posting by a Player or Team Official of comments on a social media platform (including, without limitation, Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, Google+, Pinterest and LinkedIn) shall be deemed to be 'public' for the purposes of this offence. Consequently a Player or Team Official may breach Article 2.2.3 where they seriously criticize or make an inappropriate comment in relation to an incident occurring in a Match or any Player, Team Official, Umpire, Match Referee or Team participating in any Match in any posting they make on a social media platform.

### **2.2.4** Using language or gesture(s) that is seriously obscene, seriously offensive or of a seriously insulting nature to another Player, Team Official, Umpire, Match Referee or any other third person during a Match.

**NOTE:** It is acknowledged that there will be verbal exchanges between Players in the course of play. Rather than seeking to eliminate these exchanges entirely, Umpires will be required to report such conduct that falls below an acceptable standard. This offence is not intended to penalise trivial behaviour. When assessing the seriousness of the breach, the Umpire shall be required to take into account the context of the particular situation and whether the words or gesture are likely to: (a) be regarded as seriously obscene; or (b) give serious offence; or (c) seriously insult another person. This offence is not intended to cover any use of language or gestures that are likely to offend another person on the basis of their race, religion, gender, colour, descent, national or ethnic origin. Such conduct is prohibited under the T20 MUMBAI LEAGUE's Anti-Racism Code and must be dealt with according to the procedures set out therein.

### **2.2.5** Showing serious dissent at an Umpire's decision during a Match.



**NOTE:** *Dissent, including the examples given in Article 2.1.5 above, will be classified as 'serious' when the conduct contains an element of anger or abuse which is directed at the Umpire or the Umpire's decision or where there is excessive delay in resuming play or leaving the wicket or where there is persistent re-reference to the incident over time. It shall not be a defence to any charge brought under this Article to show that the Umpire might have, or in fact did, get any decision wrong.*

**2.2.6** Charging or advancing towards the Umpire in an aggressive manner when appealing during a Match.

**2.2.7** Inappropriate and deliberate physical contact with a Player, Team Official, Umpire, Match Referee or any other person (including a spectator) in the course of play during a Match.

**NOTE:** *Without limitation, Players will breach this regulation if they deliberately walk or run into or shoulder another Player.*

**2.2.8** Throwing a ball (or any other item of cricket equipment such as a water bottle) at or near a Player, Team Official, Umpire, Match Referee or any other third person in an inappropriate and/or dangerous manner during a Match.

**NOTE:** *This regulation will not prohibit a fielder or bowler from returning the ball to the stumps in the normal fashion.*

**2.2.9** Changing the condition of the ball in breach of Law 41.3 of the Laws of Cricket, as modified by clause 41 of the Match Playing Conditions.

**NOTE:** *This offence supplements and does not replace clause of the Match Playing Conditions. Any action(s) likely to alter the condition of the ball which were not specifically permitted under Law 41.3(a) may be regarded as 'unfair'. The following actions shall not be permitted (this list of actions is not exhaustive but included for illustrative purposes): (a) deliberately throwing the ball into the ground for the purpose of roughening it up; (b) applying any artificial substance to the ball; and applying any non-artificial substance for any purpose other than to polish the ball; (c) lifting or otherwise interfering with any of the seams of the ball; (d) scratching the surface of the ball with finger or thumb nails or any implement. The Umpires shall use their judgment to apply the principle that actions taken to maintain or enhance the condition of the ball, provided no artificial substances are used, shall be permitted. Any actions taken with the purpose of damaging the condition of the ball or accelerating the deterioration of the condition of the ball shall not be permitted.*

**2.2.10** Dangerous and unfair bowling in breach of Law 41.6, 41.7 or 41.8 of the Laws of Cricket, as modified by the Match Playing Conditions clause 41.

**NOTE:** *This offence supplements and does not replace Match Playing Conditions clauses 41.6, 41.7 or 41.8. Article 2.2.10 is intended to cover any breach of law 41.8, or any dangerous and unfair bowling in breach of Law 41.6 or 41.7 which the umpires determine should be reported under the Code of Conduct due to the seriousness of the breach.*

**2.2.11** Causing avoidable damage to the pitch during a Match in breach of Law 41.13 or 41.14 (as applicable) of the Laws of Cricket, as modified by the Match Playing Conditions clause 41.

**NOTE:** *This offence supplements and does not replace Match Playing Conditions clauses 41.13 or 41.14 Article 2.2.11 is intended to cover deliberate action by a Player to cause damage to the pitch, including, without limitation, action which is intended to give the Player's team an unfair advantage in the Match.*

**2.2.12** Deliberate time wasting by any Player or team in breach of law 41.9 or 41.10 of the Laws of Cricket as modified by Match Playing Conditions clause 41.

**NOTE:** *This offence supplements and does not replace Match Playing Conditions clauses 41.9 or 41.10. Article 2.2.12 is intended to cover deliberate action by a Player or team to waste time during a Match in breach of Law 41.9 or 41.10.*

**2.2.13** Any attempt to manipulate a Match for inappropriate strategic or tactical reasons.

**NOTE:** *Article 2.2.13 is intended to prevent the manipulation of Matches for inappropriate strategic or tactical reasons (such as when a Team deliberately loses a Match in order to affect the standings of other Teams in the League). It might also apply to the inappropriate manipulation of a net run rate or otherwise. Article 2.2.13 is not intended to cover any corrupt or fraudulent acts (including any use of inside information and/or related betting activity). Such conduct is prohibited under the MCA's Anti-Corruption Code and must be dealt with according to the procedures set out therein. The Team Captain of any Team guilty of such conduct shall be held responsible (and subject to sanction) for any offence found to have been committed under this Article.*

### **2.3 Level 3 Offences:**

**2.3.1** Conduct that is contrary to the spirit of the game.

**NOTE:** *Article 2.3.1 is intended to cover all types of conduct of a very serious nature that is contrary to the spirit of the game and which is not specifically and adequately covered by the specific offences set out elsewhere in the Code of Conduct. The spirit of the game is defined by reference to the Preamble to the Laws of Cricket and involves respect for (a) your opponents, (b) your captain and team, (c) the role of the umpires and (d) the game and its traditional values. See guidance note to Article 2.1.1 for examples of conduct that may (depending upon the seriousness and context of the breach) be prohibited under Article 2.3.1.*

**2.3.2** Conduct that brings the game into disrepute.

**NOTE:** *Article 2.3.2 is intended to cover all types of conduct of a very serious nature that brings the game into disrepute and which is not specifically and adequately covered by the specific offences set out elsewhere in the Code of Conduct, including 2.3.1. See guidance note to Article 2.1.2 for examples of conduct that may (depending upon the seriousness and context of the breach) be prohibited under Article 2.3.2.*

**2.3.3** Intimidation of an Umpire or Match Referee whether by language or conduct (including gestures) during a Match. **NOTE:** *Includes appealing in an aggressive or threatening manner.*

**2.3.4** Threat of assault on another Player, Team Official or any other person (including a spectator) during a Match. NOTE: This offence is not intended to cover threats of assault against Umpires or Match Referees which are prohibited under Article 2.4.3.

#### **2.4 Level 4 Offences:**

**2.4.1** Conduct that is contrary to the spirit of the game.

**NOTE:** Article 2.4.1 is intended to cover all types of conduct of an overwhelmingly serious nature that is contrary to the spirit of the game and which is not specifically and adequately covered by the specific offences set out elsewhere in the Code of Conduct. The spirit of the game is defined by reference to the Preamble to the Laws of Cricket and involves respect for (a) your opponents, (b) your captain and team, (c) the role of the umpires and (d) the game and its traditional values. See guidance note to Article 2.1.1 for examples of conduct that may (depending upon the seriousness and context of the breach) be prohibited under Article 2.4.1.

**2.4.2** Conduct that brings the game into disrepute.

**NOTE:** Article 2.4.2 is intended to cover all types of conduct of an overwhelmingly serious nature that brings the game into disrepute and which is not specifically and adequately covered by the specific offences set out elsewhere in the Code of Conduct, including Article 2.4.1. See guidance note to Article 2.1.2 for examples of conduct that may (depending upon the seriousness and context of the breach) be prohibited under Article 2.4.2.

**2.4.3** Threat of assault on an Umpire or Match Referee during a Match.

**2.4.4** Physical assault of another Player, Team Official, Umpire, Match Referee or any other person (including a spectator) during a Match.

**2.4.5** Any act of violence on the field of play during a Match.

**2.5 Minimum Over Rate Offences:** Failure by a fielding Team participating in a Match to meet the Minimum Over Rate requirements contained in Appendix 2 constitutes an offence under this Code of Conduct by the relevant Team Captain and each of the Players in that fielding Team.

**NOTE:** Subjective intent on behalf of the Team Captain to waste time is not required. It is sufficient to establish that the Minimum Over Rate was not met. To avoid liability under this offence the Team Captain would need to establish, on the balance of probabilities, that the shortfall was due to factors beyond his control and that the time allowances permitted by the Match Officials in calculating the required over rate were not sufficient. The presence or absence of subjective intent and the extent of the shortfall shall be relevant in relation to the issue of penalty. The identity of the relevant Team Captain for the purpose of this Article 2.5 and Appendix 2 shall be determined in accordance with clause 1.3 of the Playing Conditions.

### **ARTICLE 3 REPORTING AN ALLEGED OFFENCE UNDER THE CODE OF CONDUCT**

**NOTE:** Where a Minimum Over Rate Offence may have occurred, see Appendix 2 for the reporting process, disciplinary process and sanctions that are to be applied.



**3.1** Any one of the following individuals can report an alleged offence under the Code of Conduct (other than Minimum Over Rate Offences - as to which see Appendix 2) by lodging a report in the manner described in Article 3.2, below (a **“Report”**):

**3.1.1** an Umpire that officiated in the Match during, or in relation to which, the alleged offence was committed; or

**3.1.2** the CEO (or other senior representative of the Team Operator if there is no CEO) of either of the two Teams who participated in the Match during, or in relation to which, the alleged offence was committed; or

**3.1.3** the MCA Honorary Secretary; or

**3.1.4** provided it is a Level 3 Offence or Level 4 Offence that is alleged to have been committed, the Match Referee that was appointed to officiate in the Match during, or in relation to which the alleged offence was committed. (For the avoidance of any doubt, the Match Referee is not entitled to lodge a Report in relation to an alleged Level 1 Offence or Level 2 Offence.)

**3.2** All Reports must be completed on such form as may be made available for such purpose by MCA from time to time. All Reports must be signed and dated by the person lodging the Report.

**3.2.1** Where the Report is lodged by any of the individuals described in Articles 3.1.1 or 3.1.2 in relation to:

**3.2.1.1** a Level 1 Offence or a Level 2 Offence that is alleged to have been committed on the field of play during a Match, then the Report must be lodged with the Match Referee (or, where, for logistical reasons, it is impractical to lodge with the Match Referee, the MCA Chief Executive Officer, in which event the MCA Chief Executive Officer shall forward the Report to the Match Referee as soon as practicable) within eighteen (18) hours of the end of the relevant Match; or

**3.2.1.2** a Level 1 Offence or a Level 2 Offence that is alleged to have been committed at any time or place other than on the field of play then the Report must be lodged with the Match Referee (or, where, for logistical reasons, it is impractical to lodge with the Match Referee, the MCA Chief Executive Officer, in which event the MCA Chief Executive Officer shall forward the Report to the Match Referee as soon as practicable) as soon as reasonably practicable, and in any event, no later than eighteen (18) hours after the later of: (a) the commission of the alleged offence; and (b) the time when the alleged offence was brought to the attention of the person lodging the Report; or

**3.2.1.3** a Level 3 Offence or a Level 4 Offence that is alleged to have been committed, then the Report must be lodged with the MCA Chief Executive Officer as soon as reasonably practicable, and in any event no later than thirty six (36) hours after the later of: (a) the commission of the alleged offence; and (b) the time when the alleged offence was brought to the attention of the person lodging the Report.

**3.2.2** Where the Report is lodged by the individual described in Article 3.1.3 in relation to:

**3.2.2.1** a Level 1 Offence or a Level 2 Offence that is alleged to have been committed at any time or place (whether on the field of play or otherwise), then the Report must be lodged with the Match Referee (or, where, for logistical reasons, it is impractical to lodge with the Match Referee, the MCA Chief Executive Officer in which event the MCA Chief Executive Officer shall forward the Report to the Match Referee as soon as practicable) within twenty-four (24) hours of the later of (a) commission of the alleged offence; and (b) the time when the alleged offence was brought to the attention of the MCA CEO; or

**3.2.2.2** a Level 3 Offence or a Level 4 Offence that is alleged to have been committed at any time or place (whether on the field of play or otherwise), then the Report must be lodged with the MCA Chief Executive Officer as soon as reasonably practicable, and in any event no later than thirty-six (36) hours after the later of: (a) the commission of the alleged offence; or (b) the time when the alleged offence was brought to the attention of the MCA CEO.

**3.2.3** Where the Report is lodged by the Match Referee pursuant to Article 3.1.4 in relation to a Level 3 Offence or a Level 4 Offence that is alleged to have been committed, then the Report must be lodged with the MCA Chief Executive Officer as soon as reasonably practicable, and in any event no later than thirty six (36) hours after the later of: (a) the commission of the alleged offence; or (b) the time when the alleged offence was brought to the attention of the Match Referee.

**3.3** Where it is alleged that a Player or Team Official has committed more than one offence under the Code of Conduct during or in relation to a Match (whether arising out of the same set of facts or otherwise), then a separate Report should be filed in accordance with this Article 3 for each of the offences that are alleged to have been committed.

**NOTE:** *For the avoidance of doubt, only one Report should be laid per offence. As such, where the incident in question could fall within more than one offence under Article 2, for example Article 2.2.3 (serious public criticism or inappropriate comment) and Article 2.2.2 (conduct of a serious nature that brings the game into disrepute) a Report should be laid only in respect of the offence which most specifically covers the relevant conduct (in the example above, Article 2.2.3) and not both offences.*

## ARTICLE 4 **NOTIFICATION PROCEDURE**

### **Level 1 Offences, Level 2 Offences and Minimum Over Rate Offences:**

**4.1** Where a Match Referee receives a Report lodged under Articles 3.2.1.1, 3.2.1.2, 3.2.2.1 or where the matter relates to an alleged Minimum Over Rate Offence which is reported to the Match Referee under the procedure in Appendix 2, he/she must promptly provide a copy of the Report, together with a summary of any other relevant details of the matter (such documents comprising the “**Notice of Charge**”), to the following individuals:

**4.1.1** the Player or Team Official named in the Report, or, where appropriate in the case of an offence under either Article 2.2.9 (changing the condition of the ball), 2.2.13 (manipulating a Match), or 2.5 (failure to meet the Minimum Over Rate), the relevant Team Captain;

**4.1.2** the Team Manager of the relevant Player or Team Official named in the Report;

**4.1.3** the MCA CEO.

**4.2** The Notice of Charge referred to in Article 4.1 shall specify that the Player or Team Official shall have the following three options:

**4.2.1** he/she may admit the offence charged and accede to the proposed sanction specified in the Notice of Charge (which sanction shall be strictly at the Match Referee's discretion, but at all times within the appropriate range for the level of offence). In such circumstances, and provided that such admission has been received by the Match Referee prior to the commencement of the hearing at the time/place specified in the Notice of Charge, the hearing before the Match Referee shall not be required and no further action shall be taken (and he/she will be taken to have waived his/her right to bring any appeal under the Code of Conduct and/or to bring any proceedings of any kind in any other court or similar forum), save that MCA shall promptly issue a public statement confirming: (a) the commission of an offence under the Code of Conduct; and (b) the imposition of the applicable sanction specified in the Notice of Charge; or

**4.2.2** he/she may admit the offence charged but dispute the proposed sanction specified in the Notice of Charge, in which case the matter shall proceed to a hearing in accordance with Article 5.1.1; or

**4.2.3** he/she may deny the offence charged, in which case the matter shall proceed to a hearing in accordance with Article 5.1.1.

### **Level 3 Offences and Level 4 Offences:**

**4.3** Where the MCA Chief Executive Officer receives a Report lodged under Articles 3.2.1.3, 3.2.2.2 or 3.2.3, he/she must promptly conduct a review to determine whether the Player or Team Official named in the Report has a case to answer in relation to the specific type and/or level of offence identified in the Report (i.e. to determine, in the MCA's opinion, whether the specific type and level of offence noted in the Report is properly identified when reviewed against the conduct complained of).

**4.4** If the initial review of the Report reveals that there is no case to answer in relation to the specific type and/or level of offence, then the MCA shall notify the person who filed the Report of that fact, advising them of the reasons that such a determination has been made and, where applicable, providing guidance on which specific type and level of offence the MCA considers to be appropriate. Upon receipt of such a decision, the person who filed the Report shall, notwithstanding the provisions of Article 3.2, and having considered the MCA's guidance in good faith, within a period of twenty-four (24) hours from the time of notification by the MCA, notify the MCA whether they wish

to: (a) revise the specific type and/or level of the offence charged, in which case a revised Report must be lodged with the MCA within such twenty-four (24) period; (b) proceed on the basis of the original Report lodged; or (c) withdraw the Report.

**4.5** If the initial review of the Report reveals that there is a case to answer, or a revised report is lodged with the MCA pursuant to Article 4.4, then MCA shall promptly provide a copy of the Report, together with a summary of any other relevant details of the matter (such documents comprising the “**Notice of Charge**”) to the following individuals:

**4.5.1** the Player or Team Official named in the Report; and

**4.5.2** the Team Manager of the relevant Player or Team Official named in the Report.

**4.6** The Notice of Charge referred to in Article 4.5 shall specify that the Player or Team Official shall have the following options:

**4.6.1** he/she may admit the offence charged and accede to the proposed sanction specified in the Notice of Charge (which sanction shall be strictly at MCA’s discretion, but at all times within the appropriate range for the level of offence). In such circumstances, and provided that such admission has been received by the MCA Chief Executive Officer prior to the commencement of the hearing at the time/ place specified in the Notice of Charge, the hearing before the Commissioner shall not be required and no further action shall be taken (and he/she will be taken to have waived his/her right to bring any appeal under the Code of Conduct and/or to bring any proceedings of any kind in any other court or similar forum), save that MCA shall promptly issue a public statement confirming: (a) the commission of an offence under the Code of Conduct; and (b) the imposition of the applicable sanction specified in the Notice of Charge; or

**4.6.2** he/she may admit the offence charged but dispute the proposed sanction specified in the Notice of Charge, in which case the matter shall proceed to a hearing in accordance with Article 5.1.2; or

**4.6.3** he/she may deny the offence charged, in which case the matter shall proceed to a hearing in accordance with Article 5.1.2.

## **ARTICLE 5 THE DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURE**

**NOTE:** *Where a Match Referee appointed to adjudicate any matter brought under the Code of Conduct is not physically present at the relevant Match (and therefore required to perform his/her duties remotely) then all relevant hearings arising under Article 5.1 may be held by telephone conference or video conference (if available) and the provisions of Article 5.1 are to be interpreted accordingly.*

**5.1** Where a matter proceeds to a hearing:

**5.1.1** under Article 4.2.2 or 4.2.3, then the case shall be referred to the Match Referee for adjudication in accordance with the procedure described in Article 5.2.

**5.1.2** under Article 4.6.2 or 4.6.3, then MCA shall appoint one member of the Commission (who has had no prior involvement with the case) to sit alone as the

Commissioner and the case shall be referred to him/her for adjudication in accordance with the procedure described in Article 5.2.

## **5.2 Disciplinary Procedure**

**5.2.1** Subject to the discretion of the Match Referee or Commissioner to order otherwise for good cause shown by the Player or Team Official, the hearing will take place at the time specified in the Notice of Charge (which should, wherever practicable, be no more than twenty-four (24) hours after the receipt by the Player or Team Official of the Notice of Charge) and in such location as the Match Referee or Commissioner considers appropriate. For the avoidance of doubt, nothing in this Article 5.2.1 prevents a hearing from being convened at a time during which the Match or T20 MUMBAI LEAGUE Event in relation to which the alleged offence took place, remains in progress.

**5.2.2** The procedure followed at the hearing shall be at the discretion of the Match Referee or Commissioner, provided that the hearing is conducted in a manner which offers the Player or Team Official a fair and reasonable opportunity to present evidence (including the right to call and to question witnesses by telephone or videoconference where necessary), address the Match Referee or Commissioner and present his/her case.

**5.2.3** The hearing before the Match Referee or Commissioner shall be in English, and certified English translations shall be submitted of any non-English documents put before the Match Referee or Commissioner. The cost of the translation shall be borne by the party offering the document(s). In the case of a Level 3 Offence or Level 4 Offence only: (a) if required by the Commissioner (at his/her discretion), MCA shall make arrangements to have the hearing recorded or transcribed; and (b) if requested by the Player or Team Official, MCA shall also arrange for an interpreter to attend the hearing. Such costs of transcription and interpretation shall be paid by MCA.

**5.2.4** Where video evidence of the alleged offence is available at the hearing before the Match Referee or Commissioner, then it may be relied upon by any party, provided that all other parties shall have the right to make such representations in relation to it that they may see fit.

**5.2.5** Unless exceptional circumstances apply, each of the following individuals must attend any hearing before the Match Referee or Commissioner: (a) the Player or Team Official who has been charged with the alleged offence; and (b) the person who lodged the Report (or, in the case of the MCA CEO (at his/her discretion), his/her representative/nominee). Where any such individual has a compelling justification for his/her non-attendance, then they shall be given the opportunity to participate in the hearing before the Match Referee or Commissioner by telephone or video conference (if available). Without prejudice to the Player or Team Official's ability to call and to question such witnesses as may be necessary and/or to be represented by such other person of his/her own choosing pursuant to Article 5.2.6, one of the Team Captain, Team Vice-Captain or Team Manager of the Team that the Player or Team Official represents may also attend such hearing before the Match Referee or Commissioner to provide additional support and assistance to the Player or Team Official. If requested to do so by the Match Referee or Commissioner the Player or Team Official



who has been charged with the alleged offence must remain at the ground where the alleged offence took place for a period of up to 90 minutes following the later to occur of (a) the end of the Match taking place at the ground on the day of the alleged offence, and (b) the time such request is made to enable a hearing in respect of the alleged offence to take place as expeditiously as possible.

**5.2.6** Each of the individuals described in Article 5.2.5(a) and (b) shall have the right (at his/her or its own expense) to be represented at the hearing before the Match Referee or Commissioner by such representative (including legal counsel) of his/her or its own choosing. Where the person lodging the Report is an Umpire or Match Referee that officiated in the Match in question or the MCA CEO, then such person shall be entitled to be represented prior to, and during, the hearing (if he/she considers necessary) by a representative of the MCA's Legal Department (or another lawyer duly authorised to attend by the MCA Chief Executive Officer).

**5.2.7** The non-attendance of any Player or Team Official or his/her representative at the hearing, shall not prevent the Match Referee or Commissioner from proceeding with the hearing in his/her absence and issuing a ruling in relation to the offence charged.

**5.2.8** At the end of a hearing, where the Match Referee or Commissioner considers that further evidence is necessary or further time is required to consider the evidence that has been presented, he/she shall adjourn the hearing for an appropriate period of time and make such directions as may be necessary.

**5.2.9** Alternatively, at the end of a hearing:

**5.2.9.1** brought under Article 4.2.2 or Article 4.6.2: as soon as possible after the conclusion of the hearing (and, in the absence of unforeseen circumstances, no later than twenty-four (24) hours thereafter), the Match Referee or Commissioner will confirm the Player or Team Official's admission that he/she had committed a Code of Conduct offence and announce his/her decision in writing, with reasons, setting out: (a) what sanctions, if any, are to be imposed (including any fine and/or period of suspension); (b) that any period of suspension shall come into force with immediate effect; and (c) any rights of appeal that may exist pursuant to Article 8.

**5.2.9.2** brought under Article 4.2.3 or Article 4.6.3 (or where the Player or Team Official has failed to respond in a timely fashion to the Notice of Charge): (a) the Match Referee or Commissioner shall adjourn the hearing (for a period of no less than ten (10) minutes and no more than two (2) hours), following which he/ she will reconvene the hearing and verbally announce his/her finding as to whether a Code of Conduct offence has been committed; (b) where the Match Referee or Commissioner determines that a Code of Conduct offence has been committed, the Player or Team Official may request a short adjournment (of no more than thirty (30) minutes) to prepare any submissions that he/she might wish to make in relation to the appropriate sanction that ought to be applied; and (c) as soon as possible after the conclusion of the hearing (and, in the absence of unforeseen circumstances, no later than twenty-four (24) hours thereafter), the Match Referee or Commissioner will announce his/her decision in writing, with reasons, setting out: (a) the finding as to whether a Code of Conduct offence has been committed; (b) what sanctions, if any, are to be imposed

(including any fine and/or period of suspension); (c) that any period of suspension shall come into force with immediate effect; and (d) any rights of appeal that may exist pursuant to Article 8.

**5.2.10** The Match Referee or Commissioner shall have the discretion to announce the substance of his/her decision prior to the issue of the written reasoned decision referred to in Article 5.2.9.

**5.2.11** A copy of the written reasoned decision will be provided to the Player or Team Official, the Team Manager of the Player or Team Official's Team Operator and the MCA CEO.

**5.2.12** Subject only to the rights of appeal under Article 8, the Match Referee's or Commissioner's decision shall be the full, final and complete disposition of the matter and will be binding on all parties.

### **General Principles of Procedure**

**5.3** Where a Report is filed by more than one of the individuals described in Article 3.1 in relation to the same alleged offence under the Code of Conduct, then the Player or Team Official alleged to have committed the offence will only be served with one Notice of Charge in accordance with the procedures set out in Article 4. However, all persons who filed a Report (or, in the case of the MCA CEO (at his/her discretion), his/her representative/nominee) in relation to the alleged offence are required to attend the hearing before the Match Referee or Commissioner unless there is a compelling justification for his/her non-attendance, in which case they shall be given the opportunity to participate in the hearing by telephone or video conference (if available).

**5.4** Where two or more Players or Team Officials are alleged to have committed offences under the Code of Conduct, they may both be dealt with at the same hearing where the proceedings arise out of the same incident or set of facts, or where there is a clear link between separate incidents, as follows:

**5.4.1** any number of Level 1 Offences and/ or Level 2 Offences can all be determined by a Match Referee at the same hearing; and

**5.4.2** any number of Level 3 Offences and/ or Level 4 Offences can all be determined by a Commissioner at the same hearing; and

**5.4.3** a Level 1 Offence and/or Level 2 Offence can be determined by a Commissioner at the same hearing as a Level 3 Offence and/or a Level 4 Offence; but

**5.4.4** a Level 3 Offence or Level 4 Offence cannot be determined by a Match Referee at the same hearing as a Level 1 Offence or a Level 2 Offence, and separate proceedings should therefore be issued in relation to each alleged offence.

**5.5** Where a Player or Team Official is alleged to have committed more than one breach of the Code of Conduct during or in relation to the same Match then all of the alleged offences may be dealt with at the same hearing, as follows:

**5.5.1** any number of Level 1 Offences and/ or Level 2 Offences can all be determined by a Match Referee at the same hearing; and

**5.5.2** any number of Level 3 Offences and/ or Level 4 Offences can all be determined by a Commissioner at the same hearing; and

**5.5.3** a Level 1 Offence and/or Level 2 Offence can be determined by a Commissioner at the same hearing as a Level 3 Offence and/or a Level 4 Offence; but

**5.5.4** a Level 3 Offence or Level 4 Offence cannot be determined by a Match Referee at the same hearing as a Level 1 Offence or a Level 2 Offence, and separate proceedings should therefore be issued in relation to each alleged offence.

**5.6** Any failure or refusal by any Player or Team Official to provide assistance to a Match Referee or Commissioner in connection with any charge made pursuant to this Code of Conduct may constitute a separate offence (depending upon the seriousness and context of such failure or refusal) under Articles 2.1.8, 2.2.12, 2.3.3 or 2.4.3 of the Code of Conduct.

**5.7** Where a Match Referee is, or becomes unwilling or unable to hear a case (for example, where he/she finds him/herself in a position of conflict), then the MCA CEO shall have the discretion to appoint another referee from the T20 MUMBAI LEAGUE panel of referees for the Season or such other person as MCA deems to be appropriate in all the circumstances or a member of the Commission (who shall have had no prior involvement with the case) as a replacement for the Match Referee and all of the remaining procedure will apply accordingly.

**5.8** Where a Commissioner is, or becomes unwilling or unable to hear a case (for example, where he/she finds him/herself in a position of conflict), then the MCA CEO shall have the discretion to appoint another member of the Commission (who shall have had no prior involvement with the case) as a replacement for the Commissioner and all of the remaining procedure will apply accordingly.

**5.9** MCA will issue a public announcement regarding any decision of the Match Referee or Commissioner made under the Code of Conduct as soon as is reasonably practicable after the decision has been communicated to the parties. The public announcement of the decision may include details of the offences committed under the Code of Conduct and of the sanctions imposed, if any. Until such time as a public announcement is published, all parties and participants in the proceedings shall treat such proceedings as strictly confidential. For the avoidance of doubt, nothing in this Article shall prevent the Match Referee or the Commissioner or the relevant party mentioned in Article 3.1 or the relevant party mentioned in either Article 4.1.1 or Article 4.5.1 (or MCA) publicly confirming the date of the hearing, the offence that is alleged to have been committed and/or the name of the Player or Team Official charged.

## **ARTICLE 6 STANDARD OF PROOF AND EVIDENCE**

**6.1** Unless otherwise described herein, the standard of proof in all cases brought under the Code of Conduct shall be whether the Match Referee or Commissioner is

comfortably satisfied, bearing in mind the seriousness of the allegation that is made, that the alleged offence has been committed. This standard of proof in all cases shall be determined on a sliding scale from, at a minimum, a mere balance of probability (for the least serious offences) up to proof beyond a reasonable doubt (for the most serious offences).

**6.2** The Match Referee or Commissioner shall not be bound by judicial rules governing the admissibility of evidence. Instead, facts relating to an offence committed under the Code of Conduct may be established by any reliable means, including admissions.

**6.3** The Match Referee or Commissioner may draw an inference adverse to the Player or Team Official who is asserted to have committed an offence under the Code of Conduct based on his/her refusal, without compelling justification, after a request made in a reasonable time in advance of the hearing, to appear at the hearing (either in person or telephonically as directed by the Match Referee or Commissioner) and/or to answer any relevant questions.

## **ARTICLE 7 SANCTIONS ON PLAYERS AND TEAM OFFICIALS**

**7.1** Where a Match Referee or Commissioner determines that an offence under the Code of Conduct has been committed, he/she will be required to impose an appropriate sanction on the Player or Team Official.

**7.2** In order to determine the sanction that is to be imposed in each case, the Match Referee or Commissioner must first consider whether the Player or Team Official has previously been found guilty of an offence under the same Article (or any equivalent Article in any predecessor regulations that may have applied) in any previous Matches during the same Season or in any Matches in the Season immediately prior to that in which the alleged offence took place (and any such offence which took place during this period shall be a “**Previous Offence**”). The MCA Chief Executive Officer will maintain a register of all reports of alleged breaches of the Code of Conduct. The register must record the outcome of any hearings and appeals including any sanctions imposed.

**7.3** Once the Match Referee or Commissioner has established whether there was a Previous Offence then he/ she shall go on to take into account any other factors that he/she deems relevant and appropriate to the mitigation or aggravation of the nature of the Code of Conduct offence (including, without limitation, the nature and frequency of any other prior offences under the Code of Conduct) before determining, in accordance with the following table, what the appropriate sanction(s) should be:

### **Level 1**

**First Offence.** Warning/reprimand and/or the imposition of a fine of up to Rs.10000..

**One other previous offense** The imposition of a fine of between Rs.10000 to Rs.20000 and/or a suspension of up to two (2) Matches.

**Two other Previous offence.**The imposition of a suspension of between two (2) and eight (8) Matches.

**Three or More other previous offence.** The imposition of a suspension of between eight (8) Matches and a suspension of one (1) year.

## **Level 2**

**First Offence.** the imposition of a fine of up to Rs.10000 to Rs.20000 from the Match Fee. and/or a suspension of up to two (2) Matches.

**One other previous offence** The imposition of a suspension of between two (2) and eight (8) Matches.

**Two other previous offence.** The imposition of a suspension of between eight (8) Matches and a suspension of one (1) year.

**Three or More other previous offence.** The imposition of a suspension of between one (1) and five (5) years.

## **Level 3**

**First Offence.** the imposition of a fine of up to Rs. 50000 from the Match Fee and a suspension of between four (4) and eight (8) Matches.

**One other previous offence** The imposition of a suspension of between eight (8) Matches and a suspension of one (1) year.

**Two other previous offence.** The imposition of a suspension of between one (1) year and a lifetime.

## **Level 4**

**First Offence.** The imposition of a suspension of between eight (8) Matches and a lifetime.

**One other previous offence:** the imposition of a suspension of between one (1) year and a lifetime.

Minimum Over Rate Offences See specific sanctions described in Article 4 of Appendix 2.

### **7.4 For the avoidance of any doubt:**

**7.4.1** the Match Referee or Commissioner will have no jurisdiction to adjust, reverse or amend the results of any Match;

**7.4.2** where a Player or Team Official is found guilty of committing two separate Code of Conduct offences that do not relate to the same incident or set of circumstances



arising during a Match, then any sanctions should run cumulatively (and not concurrently);

**7.4.3** where a Player or Team Official is found guilty of committing two Code of Conduct offences in relation to the same incident or set of circumstances arising during a Match, then any sanctions imposed should run concurrently (and not cumulatively);

**7.4.4** nothing in the Code of Conduct shall permit plea bargaining in relation to any alleged offence committed under the Code of Conduct;

**7.4.5** where the Match Referee or Commissioner finds a Player or Team Official not guilty of the offence allegedly committed under the Code of Conduct, then it remains open to him/her, at his/ her discretion, to find the Player or Team Official guilty of an offence of a lower level than that with which he/she has been charged. For example, where a Player or Team Official has been charged with (but been found not guilty of) the Level 2 Offence of 'showing serious dissent at an Umpire's decision' (Article 2.2.5), the Match Referee may, instead, find the Player or Team Official guilty of the Level 1 Offence of 'showing dissent at an Umpire's decision' (Article 2.1.5) and impose an appropriate sanction; and

**7.4.6** where a fine and/or costs award is imposed against a Player or Team Official, then such fine and/or costs award must be paid: (a) by the Player or Team Official (and not any other third party, including a Team Operator); (b) to MCA within fourteen (14) days of receipt of the decision imposing the fine. However, MCA will consider any request from any Player or Team Official to make the payment of such fines and/or costs over a prolonged period of time on the grounds of financial hardship. Should any fine and/ or costs award (or agreed part-payment or instalment thereof) not be paid to MCA within such deadline or by the time of the next agreed payment date, the Player or Team Official may not play, coach or otherwise participate or be involved in any capacity in any Match or in any matches representing any Team Operator (such as friendly matches or warm-up matches) or T20 MUMBAI LEAGUE Event until such payment has been satisfied in full.

## **7.5 Prohibited activities during suspension**

**7.5.1** Where a Player or Team Official has been suspended for a period of time, he/she may not play, coach or otherwise participate or be involved in any capacity in Match (es) for any Team or in any matches representing any Team Operator (such as friendly matches or warm-up matches) or T20 MUMBAI LEAGUE Events which take place during the period of his/her suspension. He/she may play, coach or otherwise participate or be involved in another capacity in cricket other than (a) Matches for any Team or (b) any matches representing a Team Operator.

**7.5.2** Where a Player or Team Official has been suspended for a number of Matches, then, in addition, he/she may not play, coach or otherwise participate or be involved in any capacity in any matches representing any Team Operator (such as friendly matches or warm-up matches) or T20 MUMBAI LEAGUE Events which take place during the period of his/her suspension (from the Suspension Date until the end of the day of the last Match of the suspension). He/she may play, coach or otherwise

participate or be involved in another capacity in cricket other than in relation to (a) Matches for any Team or (b) any matches representing any Team Operator.

**NOTE:** *For the avoidance of any doubt, a Player or (where relevant) Team Official who has been suspended for a number of Matches or a fixed period of time shall not, during the Matches which are covered by his/her period of suspension: (a) be nominated as, or carry out any of the duties or responsibilities of, a substitute fielder; or (b) enter any part of the playing area (which shall include, for the avoidance of doubt, the field of play and the area between the boundary and perimeter boards) at any time, including during any scheduled or unscheduled breaks in play. In addition, any Team Official so sanctioned shall not be permitted to enter the players' dressing room (including the viewing areas) during any Match covered by his/her period of suspension. Players so sanctioned will, however, be permitted to enter the players' dressing room provided that the players' dressing room (or any part thereof) for the Match is not within the player area described in (b) above (for example, no such Player shall be permitted access to an on-field 'dug-out'). Finally, any Player or Team Official so sanctioned shall not be prevented from attending any post-match ceremonies or presentations taking place anywhere on the field of play or otherwise following the conclusion of a Match covered by his/her period of suspension unless the suspension has been imposed in respect of a Level 3 or Level 4 Offence under this Code of Conduct. In such circumstances, the Player or Team Official shall not be permitted to attend such ceremonies or presentations.*

**7.6** Once any period of suspension has expired, the Player or Team Official will automatically become re-eligible to participate (in the case of a Player) or assist a Player's participation or otherwise be involved (in the case of a Team Official) in Matches and any matches representing the Team Operator (such as friendly matches or warm-up matches) and to participate in T20 MUMBAI LEAGUE Events provided that he/she has paid, in full, all amounts forfeited under the Code of Conduct, including any fines, compensatory awards or award of costs that may have been imposed against him/her.

### **7.7 Period of Suspension**

**7.7.1** In imposing any suspension of any number of Matches on a Player or Team Official the Match Referee, Commissioner or Appeal Commission shall select the Matches which are the most proximate (i.e. nearest in time) to the Suspension Date. However, where selecting the most proximate Match(es) would result in the suspension being applied in relation to a Match in which the Player would not participate or would, at the Suspension Date, not be likely to participate in each case as a result of the Player being involved in International Duty then the Match Referee, Commissioner or Appeal Commission shall in imposing the suspension choose the next most proximate Match(es).

**7.7.2** Any suspension of a fixed period of time or for a number of Matches shall commence on the Suspension Date.

**7.7.3** Where the period of suspension applies in respect of two or more Seasons the suspension shall continue to apply irrespective of the fact that the Team for which the Player is contracted to play may have changed.

**7.7.4** If a Match for which a Player or Team Official has been suspended is cancelled, postponed or otherwise abandoned prior to the commencement of such Match (being the bowling of the first ball) then the Match shall not be deemed to have formed part of the suspension and the most proximate next Match shall (subject, in the case of a Player, to the same exception and procedure as in Article 7.7.1 for any Match in which such Player is unable or is not likely to be able to participate as a result of national or international duty) be deemed to be a Match to which the suspension applies. If a Match for which a Player or Team Official is suspended commences (i.e. the first ball is bowled) then that Match shall count as one of the number of Matches which is the subject of the suspension whether such Match is completed or not.

**7.7.5** The following examples (included for illustrative purposes only) have been included to seek to assist the Match Referee, Commissioner or Appeal Commission in applying suspensions under the Code of Conduct but shall not bind the Match Referee, Commissioner or Appeal Commission.

**Example 1 Situation:** Player A is suspended for 4 Matches. The Team for which the Player has played in the relevant Season has two further Matches in the Season and has not qualified for the Playoff Matches. The Player is expected to be unavailable for the first six Matches of the Team in the following Season by reason of national or International Duty.

**Suspension:** Player A is suspended from playing in the two remaining Matches in the current Season and the seventh and eighth Matches of the Team in the next Season. If Player A moves to another Team for the next Season, he would be suspended for the seventh and eighth Matches of his new Team in the next Season.

**Example 2 Situation:** Player B is suspended for 5 Matches. The Team for which the Player has played in the relevant calendar year (a) has one Match remaining in the League and (b) qualifies for the Play-Off Matches as a result of its performance in that one remaining Match in the League and (c) is eliminated after one Play-Off Match. The Player is not affected by International Duty in relation to either the remaining Matches in that Season or the following Season.

**Suspension:** Player B is suspended for his Team's one remaining Match in the League, the one Play-Off Match featuring his Team and the first three Matches of the following Season featuring his Team.

## ARTICLE 8 APPEALS

**NOTE:** *For the avoidance of doubt, any right of appeal will be determined by reference to the Level of offence which the decision of the Match Referee or Commissioner (as applicable) relates to, and not necessarily the Level of offence originally reported.*

**Example:** *A Commissioner has been asked to determine a Level 3 offence, but in coming to his/her decision, he/she has exercised the right afforded to him/her in Article 7.4.5 and found the Player or Team Official concerned not guilty of the Level 3 Offence, but guilty of a Level 2 Offence. In such circumstances, the right of appeal shall be determined on the basis of the Level 2 offence and thus in accordance with Article 8.2. In circumstances where the application of this note would lead to the same level of adjudicator hearing the appeal as heard the first instance case, then the relevant adjudicatory body shall be the higher body. In the example listed above, the Appeal Commission would have the jurisdiction to hear the appeal against*

*the Level 2 Offence even though technically under the Code of Conduct a Commissioner would hear the appeal, as the first instance hearing was held before a Commissioner. The terms of this Article 8 should therefore be construed accordingly.*

## **8.1 Appeals from decisions in relation to a first Level 1 Offence**

**8.1.1** Decisions made under the Code of Conduct by a Match Referee in relation to a first Level 1 Offence shall be non-appealable and shall remain the full and final decision in relation to the matter.

**NOTE:** *For the avoidance of doubt, a Level 1 Offence will not be considered to be a first Level 1 Offence where the Player of Team Official concerned has committed a Previous Offence.*

## **8.2 Appeals from decisions in relation to: (a) a Level 1 Offence with at least one other Offence in the Previous Sanction Period; (b) a Level 2 Offence; or (c) a Minimum Over Rate Offence**

**8.2.1** Decisions made under the Code of Conduct by a Match Referee in relation to: (a) cases where there were Previous Level 1 Offence(s); or (b) a Level 2 Offence; or (c) a Minimum Over Rate Offence, may be challenged solely by appeal as set out in this Article 8.2. Such decisions shall remain in effect while under appeal unless any Commissioner properly convened to hear the appeal orders otherwise.

**8.2.2** The only parties who may appeal a decision of this nature shall be: (a) the Player or Team Official found guilty of the offence or, where appropriate in the case of an offence under either Article 2.2.9 (changing the condition of the ball), 2.2.13 (manipulation of a Match), or 2.5 (failure to meet the Minimum Over Rate), the relevant Team Captain; and (b) the MCA CEO (or his/her designee).

**8.2.3** Any notice to appeal under this Article must be lodged with the MCA Chief Executive Officer within 24 hours of receipt of the written decision of the Match Referee. In all cases, a copy of such notice will also be provided to the Team Manager of the Team Operator to which the Player or Team Official is affiliated. Thereafter, the following will apply:

**8.2.3.1** Within 24 hours of receipt of a notice to appeal: (a) the MCA CEO will appoint a member of the Commission to act as Commissioner and hear the appeal sitting alone; and (b) the Match Referee will provide a written statement to the MCA Chief Executive Officer setting out any relevant facts (to be copied to the Player or Team Official).

**8.2.3.2** The provisions of Article 5.2 applicable to proceedings before the Match Referee, shall apply mutatis mutandis (i.e. with changes deemed to have been made as required to reflect the different context) to appeal hearings before the Commissioner.

**8.2.3.3** The Commissioner shall hear and determine all issues arising from any matter which is appealed pursuant to this Article on a de novo basis, i.e. he/ she shall hear the matter over again, from the beginning, without being bound in any way by the

decision being appealed. For the avoidance of doubt, the Commissioner shall have the power to overturn the original decision completely or, in all cases other than those under Article 2.5, increase or decrease, amend or otherwise substitute a new decision on the appropriateness (or otherwise) of the sanction imposed at first instance, provided that any new sanction must be within the permitted range of sanctions set out in the table in Article 7.3.

**8.2.3.4** Appeal hearings pursuant to this Article 8.2 should be completed expeditiously. Save where all parties agree or fairness requires otherwise, the appeal hearing shall be commenced no later than forty-eight (48) hours after the appointment of the Commissioner.

**8.2.3.5** The Commissioner shall have the power to order some or all of the costs of the appeal proceedings (including the costs of holding the hearing, any interpretation costs, the legal and/or travel/ accommodation costs of the Commissioner and/or any other relevant parties) to be paid by the appealing party if he/she considers that such party has acted spuriously, frivolously or otherwise in bad faith.

**8.2.3.6** Any decision made by the Commissioner under this Article 8.2, shall be the full, final and complete disposition of the matter and will be binding on all parties.

### **8.3 Appeals from decisions in relation to a Level 3 Offence or Level 4 Offence**

**8.3.1** Decisions made under the Code of Conduct by a Commissioner in relation to a Level 3 Offence or Level 4 Offence may be challenged solely by appeal as set out in this Article 8.3. Such decision shall remain in effect while under appeal unless any properly convened Appeal Commission orders otherwise.

**8.3.2** The only parties who may appeal a decision made in relation to a Level 3 Offence or Level 4 Offence shall be: (a) the Player or Team Official found guilty of the offence; and (b) the MCA CEO. **8.3.3** Any notice to appeal under this Article must be lodged with the MCA Chief Executive Officer within forty-eight (48) hours of receipt of the written decision of the Commissioner. In all cases, a copy of such notice will also be provided to the Team Manager of the Team Operator to which the Player or Team Official is affiliated. Thereafter, the following will apply:

**8.3.3.1** Within forty-eight (48) hours of receipt of a notice to appeal: (a) the MCA will appoint three members of the Commission (excluding the Commissioner whose decision is being appealed) to sit as the Appeal Commission to hear the appeal; and (b) the Commissioner will provide a written statement to the MCA Chief Executive Officer setting out any relevant facts (to be copied to the Player or Team Official).

**8.3.3.2** The provisions of Article and 5.2 applicable to proceedings before the Commissioner, shall apply mutatis mutandis (i.e. with changes deemed to have been made as required to reflect the different context) to appeal hearings before the Appeal Commission.

**8.3.3.3** The Appeal Commission shall hear and determine all issues arising from any matter which is appealed to it pursuant to this Article on a de novo basis, i.e. it shall hear the matter over again, from the beginning, without being bound in any way by the decision being appealed. For the avoidance of doubt, the Appeal Commission shall



have the power to increase or decrease, amend or otherwise substitute a new decision on the appropriateness (or otherwise) of the sanction imposed at first instance, provided that any new sanction must be within the permitted range of sanctions set out in the table in Article 7.3.

**8.3.3.4** Appeal hearings pursuant to this Article 8.3 should be completed expeditiously. Save where all parties agree or fairness requires otherwise, the appeal hearing shall be commenced no later than seventy-two (72) hours after the appointment of the Appeal Commission. For Level 3 and Level 4 offences it shall be open to the Appeal Panel, in its discretion, to determine that the matter (or any part thereof) be dealt with by way of written submissions only.

**8.3.3.5** The Appeal Commission shall have the power to order some or all of the costs of the appeal proceedings (including the costs of holding the hearing, any interpretation costs, the legal and/or travel/accommodation costs of the Appeal Commission and/or any other relevant parties) to be paid by the appealing party if it considers that such party has acted, spuriously, frivolously or otherwise in bad faith.

**8.3.3.6** Any decision made by the Appeal Commission under this Article 8.3, shall be the full, final and complete disposition of the matter and will be binding on all parties.

#### **8.4 No appeal in relation to an accepted sanction**

**8.4.1** For the avoidance of doubt, where a Player or Team Official admits the offence charged and accedes to the proposed sanction specified in the Notice of Charge in accordance with the procedure specified in Article 4.2.1 or 4.6.1, the Player or Team Official waives his/her right to any appeal against the imposition of such sanction.

**8.5** MCA will issue a public announcement regarding any decision regarding an Appeal by the Commissioner or the Appeal Commission made under the Code of Conduct as soon as is reasonably practicable after the decision has been communicated to the parties. The public announcement of the decision may include details of the offences committed under the Code of Conduct and of the sanctions imposed, if any. Until such time as this public announcement is published, all parties and participants in the proceedings shall treat such proceedings as strictly confidential. For the avoidance of doubt, nothing in this Article shall prevent the Commissioner, the Appeal Commission or the relevant party mentioned in either Article 4.1.1 or Article 4.5.1 (or MCA) publicly confirming the date of the Appeal hearing.

### **ARTICLE 9 RECOGNITION OF DECISIONS**

**9.1** Any hearing results or other final adjudications under the Code of Conduct shall be recognised and respected by MCA and the Team Operators automatically upon receipt of notice of the same, without the need for any further formality. Each of MCA and the Team Operators shall take all steps legally available to it to enforce and give effect to such decisions.

**9.2** It shall be a condition of participation in the League that all Team Operators shall comply with the Code of Conduct.

## **ARTICLE 10 AMENDMENT AND INTERPRETATION OF THE CODE OF CONDUCT**

**10.1** The Code of Conduct may be amended from time to time by MCA, with such amendments coming into effect on the date specified by MCA.

**10.2** The headings used for the various Articles of the Code of Conduct are for the purpose of guidance only and shall not be deemed to be part of the substance of the Code of Conduct or to inform or affect in any way the language of the provisions to which they refer.

**10.3** The Code of Conduct shall come into full force and effect on the date referred to at the start of the Code of Conduct (the “**Effective Date**”). It shall not apply retrospectively to matters pending before the Effective Date. Any case pending prior to the Effective Date, or brought after the Effective Date but based on an offence that is alleged to have occurred before the Effective Date, shall be governed by the predecessor version of the Code of Conduct in force at the time of the alleged offence, subject to any application of the principle of *lex mitior* by the relevant person(s) determining the case.

**10.4** If any Article or provision of this Code of Conduct is held invalid, unenforceable or illegal for any reason, the Code of Conduct shall remain otherwise in full force apart from such Article or provision which shall be deemed deleted insofar as it is invalid, unenforceable or illegal.

**10.5** The Code of Conduct is governed by and shall be construed in accordance with Indian Law. Strictly without prejudice to the provisions of Articles 5 and 8 of the Code of Conduct, disputes relating to the Code of Conduct shall be submitted to arbitration and conclusively resolved by a single arbitrator appointed by mutual consent or failing which by such process as is laid down in The Arbitration and Conciliation Act 1996. The parties shall share equally the costs, fees and other expenses of the single arbitrator appointed by them in accordance with The Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996, or any statutory modification or re-enactment then in effect.

**10.6** The venue for arbitration shall be Mumbai and the arbitration shall be conducted in the English language. The decision of the arbitrator shall be in writing and shall be final and binding upon the parties. Each party shall bear its own lawyers’ fees and charges and shall pay one half of the costs and expenses of such arbitration, subject always to the final award of the arbitrator as to costs.

**10.7** Each of the parties hereby acknowledges and agrees that its failure to participate in arbitration proceedings in any respect or to comply with any request, order or direction of the arbitrator, shall not preclude the arbitrator proceeding with such arbitration and/or making a valid final award.

## **APPENDIX 1 DEFINITIONS**

**Appeal Commission.** A panel of three persons appointed by MCA from the members of the Commission to perform the functions assigned to the Appeal Commission under the Code of Conduct.

**MCA.** Mumbai Cricket Association.

**MCA Chief Executive Officer or CEO.** The person appointed by MCA from time to time to act as the MCA Chief Executive Officer (or his/her designee).

**MCA Honorary Secretary.** Any person appointed by MCA from time to time to act as the MCA Honorary Secretary (or his/her designee).

**Code of Conduct.** This Code of Conduct promulgated by MCA on the Effective Date.

**Commission.** The T20 MUMBAI LEAGUE Code of Behaviour Committee established, amongst other things, to provide enquiries, investigations and rulings in relation to matters brought to its attention pursuant to the Code of Conduct.

**Commissioner.** The person appointed by MCA from the Commission, to perform the functions assigned to the Commissioner under the Code of Conduct.

**Effective Date.** As defined in Article 10.3.

**International / National Duty.** The participation by the Player in (i) any officially recognised International Test Match, One Day International or International Twenty20 match or Domestic tournaments involving the senior national men's cricket team representing the Player's home country / state; or (ii) any tour or ICC / BCCI Tournament involving such cricket team which includes such international / domestic matches; or (iii) any short training camp (not to exceed 7 days in length) which the Player is required to attend by his country's / state's National Cricket Federation which occurs shortly before and by way of preparation for any such officially recognised international / domestic cricket match or any such tour or such ICC / BCCI Tournament or (iv) any other matches or commitments for the Player's home domestic cricket team in or with which the Player is obliged to comply under the terms of the No Objection Certificate granted to the Player in relation to the relevant Season.

**T20 MUMBAI LEAGUE Central Accreditation.** The accreditation provided by MCA to persons by which such persons become entitled inter alia to access to all Match venues of the T20 MUMBAI LEAGUE.

**T20 MUMBAI LEAGUE Code of Conduct for Match Officials and Match Official Support Personnel.** The T20 MUMBAI LEAGUE Code of Conduct for Match Officials and Match Official Support Personnel, in force from time to time.

**T20 MUMBAI LEAGUE Event.** Any event or function taking place in relation to the League which is designated by MCA as an official event or function including, without limitation, any opening ceremonies, concerts, closing ceremonies, opening dinners,

closing dinners, press conferences, interviews, press launches, receptions, award dinners or ceremonies, promotional events and development clinics.

**Laws Of Cricket.** Means the Laws of Cricket (2017) or such revisions thereof as may come into force from time to time under an ICC / BCCI / MCA regulation or as adopted by the Marylebone Cricket Club.

**League.** The T 20 Mumbai cricket league (as such league is known at the date of adoption of this Code of Conduct) which has been established by MCA and which shall take place each year (or such other time as may be determined by MCA).

**League Rules.** The document adopted by MCA as the rules pursuant to which the League shall be administered, as amended by MCA from time to time.

**Level 1 Offence.** Any of the offences described in Articles 2.1.1 – 2.1.8.

**Level 2 Offence.** Any of the offences described in Articles 2.2.1 – 2.2.13.

**Level 3 Offence.** Any of the offences described in Articles 2.3.1 – 2.3.4.

**Level 4 Offence.** Any of the offences described in Articles 2.4.1 – 2.4.5.

**Match.** Any cricket match (including any part or aspect thereof) in the League including for the avoidance of doubt the Play-Offs.

**Match Playing Conditions.** The T20 MUMBAI LEAGUE Match Playing Conditions as the same may be amended from time to time (it being acknowledged that MCA reserves the right to amend such Match Playing Conditions).

**Match Referee.** The independent person appointed by MCA (or any other relevant party) as the official match referee for a Match, whether such Match Referee carries out his/her functions remotely or otherwise. Where a Match Referee is not physically present at a particular Match, he/she may be assisted in the administrative performance of his/her duties under the Code of Conduct by any official 'Match Manager' who may be appointed to officiate at such Match.

**Minimum Over Rate.** As defined in Appendix 2 of the Code of Conduct.

**Minimum Over Rate Offence.** Any of the offences described in Article 2.5.

**Notice of Charge.** As defined in Article 4.1 and/or Article 4.5.

**Player.** Any cricketer who is selected to represent a Team Operator's Team in any Match or who forms part of such Team Operator's squad of players.

**Playoff Match.** The matches which take place at the end of the regular Season to determine the winner, runner-up, third and fourth placed team in the League.

**Player Contract.** Shall mean the T20 MUMBAI LEAGUE player contract signed by the Player in relation to the relevant Season.

**Previous Offence.** As defined in Article 7.2.

**Regulations.** Shall have the meaning ascribed to that term in the League Rules.

**Report.** As defined in Article 3.1.

**Season.** The period during each year during which the League shall take place including the Playoff Matches.

**Suspension Date.** The date on which a decision is made to suspend a Player or Team Official under the Code of Conduct.

**Team.** Any team participating in the League from time to time which shall include those persons named as substitute fielders.

**Team Captain or Vice Captain.** The captain or vice captain of any Team participating in a Match as designated on the official team sheet for the Match.

**Team Manager.** The official manager of any Team participating in a Match.

**Team Official.** Any person who (a) has been provided any T20 MUMBAI LEAGUE Central Accreditation on behalf of a Team or Team Operator and (b) is a director, secretary, officer, management staff, employee, coach, physio (or other medical personnel) or duly authorised (express or implied) agent of a Team or Team Operator or a consultant to or other person serving in any official capacity for a Team or Team Operator.

**Team Operator.** A company (and, for the purposes of this Code of Conduct the Team Operator shall be deemed to include any company in the same group as such company) which has entered into a participation agreement with the League Organiser under which such company has agreed to participate in the League;

**Umpire.** Any umpire (including any third or other umpires) appointed to officiate in a Match.

## **APPENDIX 2 MINIMUM OVER RATE REQUIREMENTS, CALCULATION, REPORTING AND DISCIPLINARY PROCESS AND SANCTIONS**

**1. Minimum Over Rates** The minimum over rate to be achieved by the fielding Team in Matches shall be as prescribed in the Match Playing Conditions and is 14.11 overs per hour such that, in uninterrupted and un-delayed Matches, the 20th over commences within 1 hour and 30 minutes (including time-outs) of the start of the innings (“**Minimum Over Rate**”).



**2. Calculation of the Actual Over Rate** The actual over rate will be calculated at the end of each Match by those Umpires appointed to officiate in such Match. In calculating the minimum over rate for a Match, as determined by the Match Playing Conditions in force from time to time, adjustment should be made for any timeouts which do not occur and allowances will be given for the actual time lost as a result of any of the following:

- (a) treatment given by authorised medical personnel to a Player on the field of play;
- (b) a Player being required to leave the field of play as a result of a serious injury;
- (c) all third umpire referrals and consultations;
- (d) an allowance of 1 minute will be given for each of the 6th, 7th, 8th and 9th wickets taken during the innings;
- (e) time wasting by the batting side (which may, in addition, constitute a separate offence pursuant to any of Articles 2.1.1, 2.2.2, 2.3.1, 2.3.2, 2.4.1 or 2.4.2 depending upon the context and seriousness of the incident); and
- (f) all other circumstances beyond the control of the fielding team. In addition to the allowances as provided for above, in the case of an innings that has been reduced due to any delay or interruption in play, an additional allowance of 1 minute for every full 3 overs by which the innings is reduced will be granted. Any allowances given to the bowling team in respect of (e) above may be charged to the batting team for the purpose of calculating their over rate when they bowl – please refer to the Match Playing Conditions.

### **3 Procedure**

**3.1** The over-rate will be calculated at the end of the Match by the Umpires. Where the actual over rate is calculated by the Umpires as being equal to or in excess of the Minimum Over Rate, no further action shall be taken. No further action shall be taken in respect of Minimum Over Rates in a Match in the event of the batting Team being bowled out within the time determined for that innings under the Match Playing Conditions.

**3.2** Where the actual over rate is calculated by the Umpires as being less than the Minimum Over Rate required by the Match Playing Conditions the following shall apply:

**3.2.1** only the Umpires that officiated in the Match during which the alleged offence was committed can report such an offence to the Match Referee, and such report, which must be completed on such form as may be made available for such purpose by MCA from time to time, must be lodged with the Match Referee (or, where, for logistical reasons, it is impractical to lodge with the Match Referee, the MCA Chief Executive Officer) within 18 hours of the end of the relevant Match;

**3.2.2** thereafter, the Match Referee shall promptly consult with the Umpires and shall be entitled, after such consultation, to make such amendments to the actual over rate calculation as he/she deems appropriate in the circumstances to reflect those circumstances that are beyond the control of the fielding team (including, but not limited to those set out in Article 2 of this Appendix 2); and

**3.2.3** where the Match Referee confirms that the Minimum Over Rate has not been achieved by the fielding side in any Match, this shall constitute an offence under Article 2.5 of the Code of Conduct and the Match Referee will promptly issue a Notice of Charge in accordance with Article 4.1 of the Code of Conduct (with the Team Captain being charged in his own name and, in the event of a second offence during the Season, on behalf of the Players in the fielding side as well as himself) and the matter will be thereafter be adjudicated by the Match Referee in accordance with the procedure set out in Article 5.

#### **4 Applicable Sanctions for a Minimum Over Rate Offence**

**4.1** The principles set out in Article 7 (regarding Sanctions) shall be applied in full except that:

**4.1.1** in order to determine the sanction that is to be imposed in each case, the Match Referee must first consider whether

the Team has previously been found guilty of the same offence under the Code of Conduct in any previous Match during the same tournament. The MCA Chief Executive Officer or his representative will maintain a register of all reports of alleged minimum Over Rate breaches of the Code of Conduct. The register must record the outcome of any hearings and appeals including any sanctions imposed.

**4.1.2** once the Match Referee has established whether this is a repeat offence as referred to in Article 4.1.1, then he/shall apply  
the mandatory sanctions that are set out in Article 4.2, below.

**4.2** For the purpose of Minimum Over Rate Offences only, the table at Article 7.3 of the Code of Conduct shall be replaced with  
the following:

**4.2.1** for the first offence as Captain of the bowling Team in the tournament, the Captain of the bowling Team will be fined  
Rs.20000.

**4.2.2** for the first offence in the tournament by the Team, each member of the playing XI in the Team for  
the relevant Match (excluding the Captain) will be fined Rs 10000;

**4.2.3** for the second & each subsequent offence in the tournament as Captain of the bowling Team then the Captain will be  
fined Rs.40000

**4.2.4** for the second & each subsequent offence in the tournament by the Team, each member of the playing XI in the Team for  
the relevant Match (excluding the Captain) will be fined Rs 20000;

**4.2.4** in the event that a Captain, having being found guilty of one or more offences under this Article 4.2 of this Appendix 2

during the Season, relinquishes the captaincy but remains in the playing XI, he will (unless MCA has in writing confirmed the change of captaincy) continue to receive sanctions as per Articles 4.2.3 (as relevant) and not as per Articles 4.2.4