

ANTI-CORRUPTION & PMOA

POLICY GUIDELINES & PROCEDURE 2026-27

1. SCOPE AND ZERO TOLERANCE

1.1 Zero Tolerance Policy:

The Catalan Cricket Federation (Federació Catalana de Cricket, hereinafter "Federation") enforces a strict zero-tolerance stance regarding bribery, corruption, match-fixing, spot-fixing, pitch/ground manipulation, misuse of inside information, illegal sports betting, kickbacks, fraud, or any attempt to improperly influence a sporting, administrative, or electoral decision.

1.2 Legal & Statutory Alignment:

This Policy is enacted under the authority of and in strict compliance with:

- ICC Anti-Corruption Code (2024 Framework) & ICC Minimum Standards for Player and Match Officials Areas (PMOA).
- Catalan Sports Act (Decret Legislatiu 1/2000, de 31 de juliol) and the regulatory authority of the Tribunal Català de l'Esport.
- Spanish Sports Act (Ley 39/2022, de 30 de diciembre, del Deporte), specifically Articles 104–105 regarding sporting integrity and match manipulation.
- Spanish Penal Code (Ley Orgánica 10/1995 del Código Penal), Article 286 bis (Fraud and Corruption in Sports).
- Spanish Whistleblower Protection Act (Ley 2/2023, de 20 de febrero), guaranteeing secure and confidential reporting channels.

1.3 Bound Participants:

This Policy applies automatically and universally to all players, umpires, match referees, pitch curators/groundsmen, coaches, selectors, team officials, medical staff, club representatives, player agents, Board members, administrative staff, and official volunteers.

2. PROHIBITED CONDUCT & DETAILED PMOA GUIDELINES

Participants are strictly prohibited from engaging directly or indirectly in the following offenses:

2.1 Pitch, Match, and Outcome Manipulation (PMOA - ICC Code Article 2.1)

2.1.1 Match-Fixing: Fixing, contriving, or improperly influencing the result, progress, conduct, or any other aspect of any match or competition (e.g., agreeing to lose a match or manipulate the run rate).

2.1.2 Spot-Fixing: Artificially manipulating specific events within a match, regardless of the overall result (e.g., deliberate bowling of no-balls or wide balls, pre-determined scoring rates in specific overs, contrived toss outcomes, or deliberate fielding errors).

2.1.3 Performance Failure: Seeking, accepting, or agreeing to perform below one's best ability in exchange for any bribe, reward, or improper benefit.

2.1.4 Pitch & Outfield Manipulation: Improperly altering, tampering with, or soliciting pitch curators or ground staff to prepare or alter pitch, weather covers, or outfield conditions to favor a specific team or manipulate betting outcomes.

Groundsmen, pitch curators, and match officials are strictly forbidden from accepting any external instructions or financial incentives regarding pitch preparation or condition reporting.

2.1.5 Tactical & Selection Manipulation: Abusing managerial, coaching, or selector authority to deliberately alter team selection, batting orders, or bowling rotations for corrupt purposes or betting market exploitation.

2.2 Corrupt Conduct & Bribery (ICC Code Article 2.2)

Soliciting, accepting, offering, promising, or facilitating any bribe, gift, financial commission, or personal benefit to influence any match outcome, selection, appointment, contract, or Federation decision.

2.3 Betting & Misuse of Inside Information (ICC Code Article 2.3)

2.3.1 Absolute Betting Prohibition: Betting, soliciting, or facilitating bets on any cricket match or event anywhere in the world, whether directly or through third-party intermediaries.

2.3.2 Misuse of Inside Information: Disclosing non-public, confidential information (e.g., pitch condition reports, team selection, player injury status, or tactical strategies) to any third party where the Participant knew or ought to have known that such information could be used for betting purposes.

3. PMOA ACCESS CONTROL & DRESSING ROOM RULES

To safeguard the sporting integrity of matches and prevent unauthorized communication or live betting market exploitation, strict access controls apply to designated Player and Match Officials Areas (PMOA).

3.1 Who Is PERMITTED in the PMOA / Dressing Room:

Access to dressing rooms, dugouts, player balconies, medical rooms, and match official areas is strictly restricted to accredited personnel who have a direct operational role in the match:

- **Playing Squad:** Players officially named in the matchday squad (including named substitutes).

- Essential Team Support Staff: Head Coach, Assistant Coaches, Team Manager, Head Physio/Medical Officer, and Strength & Conditioning Coach (all of whom must be officially registered and accredited).
- Match Officials: Umpires, Match Referees, and official Scorer(s).
- Designated Integrity Personnel: Federation Anti-Corruption Officer and venue security supervisor.

3.2 Who Is STRICTLY PROHIBITED from the PMOA / Dressing Room:

Under no circumstances are the following individuals permitted inside dressing rooms, dugouts, or player areas during match days:

- Family members, friends, or guests of players or officials.
- Player agents, managers, or representatives.
- Sponsors, commercial partners, or donors.
- Club Presidents, Board members, or committee members (unless officially accredited as part of team management).
- Media personnel, journalists, or broadcasters (except for brief, pre-approved, escorted post-match interviews).
- Unaccredited spectators or general public.

4. PROHIBITION OF SMARTWATCHES & ELECTRONIC DEVICES

To prevent live match data transmission, spot-fixing, or illegal communication during play:

4.1 Mandatory Device Surrender:

Upon arrival at the venue on match days, all players, coaches, umpires, and match officials must surrender all communication-capable electronic devices (including mobile phones, smartphones, tablets, laptops, and smartwatches) to the designated Team Manager. Devices will be stored in a secure lockbox until the conclusion of the match.

4.2 Complete Prohibition of Smart Watches:

Smartwatches, fitness trackers, or any wearable technology capable of cellular/Wi-Fi connection, receiving notifications, Bluetooth transmissions, or coded vibrations are strictly prohibited on the Field of Play, inside dressing rooms, dugouts, or any PMOA zone.

4.3 Emergency Communications:

Any urgent personal or medical communication required during match hours must go through designated Team Manager using approved landline or monitored communications.

4.4 Violation Penalties:

Being in possession of or wearing a smartwatch or unapproved communication device inside a restricted area constitutes a severe breach of integrity subject to immediate provisional suspension and disciplinary sanctions.

5. MANDATORY OBLIGATIONS IF APPROACHED

If any Participant is approached by any individual (including bookmakers, agents, sponsors, peers, or strangers) with a corrupt proposal or PMOA demand, they MUST immediately execute the following mandatory protocol:

Refuse & Reject: Reject the offer or demand explicitly and immediately. Do not negotiate, delay, or lead the solicitor on.

Make No Commitments: Do not promise future cooperation or provide any inside or confidential information.

Refuse Benefit: Reject and refuse to accept, transfer, or handle any money, gifts, hospitality, or indirect consideration.

Preserve Evidence: Secure and preserve all physical and digital evidence immediately (e.g., WhatsApp/Telegram text messages, voice notes, call logs, emails, CCTV footage, or financial records).

Report Without Delay: Report the approach directly to FCC immediately. Waiting until after a match, selection meeting, or tournament is strictly prohibited and constitutes an independent breach.

6. REPORTING CHANNELS & WHISTLEBLOWER PROTECTION

6.1 Personal Obligation (ICC Article 2.4):

Reporting any corrupt approach, PMOA attempt, or knowledge of third-party corruption is a mandatory, non-negotiable personal obligation for every Participant.

6.2 Reporting Channels:

Primary Channel: Confidential reports must be submitted via email to: cricketdevelopment@cricketcatalunya.cat

Anonymous Reporting (Ley 2/2023): Reports may be filed anonymously in compliance with Spanish Whistleblower Protection laws.

External Authorities: Participants may also report directly to law enforcement (Mossos d'Esquadra / Fiscalía) or the Tribunal Català de l'Esport.

7. INVESTIGATION PROCEDURE

Once a report or suspicion is received, the Federation shall execute the following procedural framework:

- **Acknowledgement & Preservation:** Within 48 hours (max 7 days): Formally acknowledge receipt to the whistleblower (if non-anonymous). Secure physical/digital evidence and lock case access.
- **Protective Measures: Immediate:** Assess and apply provisional suspensions or protective measure orders if required to protect match integrity or witnesses (Ley 39/2022).
- **Investigator Appointment:** Within 5 business days: Appoint an independent, impartial investigator or an investigation committee with no legal or personal conflict of interest.
- **Investigation & Hearing:** Case-by-case: Conduct a confidential, neutral investigation. Provide the accused person with a formal statement of charges and reasonable opportunity to respond (Right to Due Process / Principi de Contradicció).
- **Reporting & Referral:** Post-investigation: Issue written findings. If criminal conduct under is indicated, refer the file immediately to the Public Prosecutor (Fiscalía).
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8. CONFIDENTIALITY & WHISTLEBLOWER PROTECTION

- **Identity Protection:** The identity of any reporting party or witness shall remain strictly confidential, disclosed only to individuals directly involved in the investigation on a strict need-to-know basis.
- **Prohibition of Retaliation:** Any form of threat, harassment, intimidation, adverse employment action, or discrimination against a reporting person acting in good faith is explicitly prohibited and constitutes a severe breach of discipline.
- **Malicious Allegations:** Deliberately false, malicious, or bad-faith allegations are not protected under this policy and will trigger independent disciplinary proceedings.

9. CONSEQUENCES, SANCTIONS & PENALTIES

Upon establishing an integrity, PMOA, or corrupt breach through due process, sanctions will be imposed reflecting ICC, Spanish, and Catalan regulatory frameworks:

- Formal written reprimand or public censure.
- Fines and mandatory restitution/disgorgement of improperly obtained funds.
- Immediate removal from committee roles, administrative offices, or officiating panels.
- Nullification of match results, revocation of points, individual titles, or awards.

Period of Ineligibility / Ban: Suspension from all cricket-related activities (locally, nationally, and internationally) ranging from 1 year to a Lifetime Ban for severe or repeat PMOA offences (in alignment with ICC Code Article 6 ranges).

Criminal Referral: Immediate referral to the ICC ACU, Tribunal Català de l'Esport, or law enforcement (Mossos d'Esquadra / Fiscalia) for criminal prosecution under Article 286 bis CP.

10. FAILURE TO REPORT & NON-COMPLIANCE

Failure to Report: In strict alignment with the ICC Anti-Corruption Code (Article 2.4.2), failing or delaying to report a corrupt approach or known corrupt conduct without compelling justification constitutes an independent integrity offense carrying mandatory disciplinary sanctions.

Delayed Reporting: Unreasonable delay in reporting will be treated as a major aggravating factor, especially if it enables ongoing match manipulation or destruction of evidence.

11. PROHIBITION OF INTERFERENCE & OBSTRUCTION

Non-Interference: No Board member, official, coach, umpire, or club representative may obstruct, influence, or tamper with an ongoing investigation.

Obstruction Offence: Refusing to cooperate, withholding evidence, destroying/concealing documentation or digital devices requested by the investigator, or pressuring witnesses constitutes a severe breach equivalent to corrupt conduct under ICC and Spanish Sports Act standards.

12. JURISDICTION, REGULATORY HIERARCHY AND LEGAL COMPLIANCE

Nothing in this Policy shall be construed as overriding, limiting or displacing any applicable ICC rule, regulation, code or decision, or any mandatory provision of applicable Spanish or Catalan law. Matters falling within ICC jurisdiction shall be governed and determined in accordance with the applicable ICC framework, while any matter falling within the jurisdiction of the competent Spanish or Catalan authorities shall remain subject to the applicable law and legal procedures. The Federation shall act only within the scope of its lawful authority and shall refer matters beyond its jurisdiction to the competent ICC or public authority.