



Youth Competition Regulations & Code of Conduct

U15 • U16 • U17 • U19 Pathway Domestic Competitions

Authority

- The Catalan Cricket Federation (FCC) is the governing body responsible for the administration, development, promotion, and regulation of the sport of cricket in Catalonia, Spain.
- These Regulations and the Code of Conduct establish the standards of behaviour expected from players, coaches, team officials, clubs, parents, and support personnel participating in all FCC Youth Competitions. Any breach of these Regulations may result in disciplinary action by the Federation.

Competition

- The Catalan Cricket Federation Grassroots & Pathway Competitions (U15, U16, U17 and U19) shall be conducted annually as part of the official FCC Competition Yearly Calendar.
- The Federation shall publish the official age eligibility (cut-off) date before the commencement of each season.

Playing Conditions

Unless otherwise stated, all matches shall be played under:

- ICC Generic Twenty20 Playing Conditions (20 overs per side)
- The MCC Laws of Cricket (latest edition)
- The MCC Spirit of Cricket
- ICC Regulations where applicable
- FCC Competition Regulations
- All decisions relating to the interpretation of these rules or to matches played in the Competition shall be made by the Catalan Cricket Federation and will be final and binding on all concerned. The Federation may delegate any of its powers to an authorised Competition Manager.

Club Eligibility

Entry into FCC competitions is open only to clubs recognised and affiliated with the Catalan Cricket Federation and complying with the competition entry requirements for each season.

Player Safety

All players under the age of 19 shall wear:

- Approved cricket helmet while batting
- Batting pads
- Batting gloves
- Abdominal protector
- Additional protective equipment as appropriate

Wicketkeepers standing close to the stumps for spin bowling must wear:

- Helmet
- Appropriate protective equipment
- The wearing of protective equipment is compulsory.

Concussion

Any player suspected of suffering a concussion shall:

- Leave the field immediately.
- Not return to play on the same day.
- Receive appropriate medical assessment.
- Return to cricket only after written medical clearance.
- If competition regulations permit, a concussion substitute may be approved.

Coaching During Matches

Coaching from the boundary during play is not permitted.

If coaching occurs:

- The umpire shall issue a warning.
- The coach, manager, parent or spectator must immediately cease coaching.
- Continued breaches may result in disciplinary action under the FCC Code of Conduct.
- This restriction does not apply during authorised drinks intervals.

Anti-Doping & Anti-Corruption

All players, coaches, officials and support personnel are subject to:

- WADA Anti-Doping Regulations
- ICC Anti-Corruption Code
- Applicable Spanish legislation
- Participants shall fully cooperate with any authorised testing or investigation.

Recommended Bowling Workload

To reduce the risk of overuse injuries, the FCC recommends the following workload limits for fast bowlers:

- Maximum 8–10 overs per day
- Maximum 32–40 overs per week
- Minimum 30 minutes' rest between bowling spells
- Coaches should carefully monitor workloads across all competitions and training sessions.

Child Safeguarding

- From the 2027 season, every coach of a grassroots or pathway team / club must hold an approved Child Protection Certificate and First Aid Certificate.
- The FCC will organise Child Protection Certification courses during the coming months.
- Each affiliated youth club shall nominate a minimum of two coaches to attend the course.

Following certification, participants may also be invited to complete:

- Concussion Awareness
- CPR
- First Aid
- Safeguarding Updates

Spirit of Cricket

All players, coaches, officials and spectators shall uphold:

- The MCC Spirit of Cricket
- ICC Regulations
- FCC Code of Conduct
- Respect for opponents, umpires and fellow participants is expected at all times.

Medical Requirements

Every Club playing a match and training session should have:

- A fully stocked First Aid Kit
- Emergency contact details for every junior player
- Access to emergency services
- An Emergency Action Plan

Parents or guardians must disclose any significant medical conditions to the clubs including:

- Asthma, Diabetes, Severe allergies, Epilepsy
- Other relevant medical conditions

Players who are medically unfit shall not participate.

Heat

During extreme temperatures:

- Increase drink breaks.
- Encourage regular hydration.
- Reduce playing time where appropriate.

Lightning

If serious lightning is seen or thunder is heard:

- Stop play immediately.
- All players and officials must leave the field.
- Move to a substantial building or enclosed vehicle.
- Do not shelter beneath trees.
- Play shall only resume when conditions are safe.

Data Protection:

All affiliated clubs and teams shall comply with all applicable data protection legislation and the policies of the Catalan Cricket Federation (FCC).

Clubs and teams shall:

- Obtain all necessary written consent from players before collecting or using personal information. Obtain written consent for the use of photographs, video recordings, medical information, and other personal data for cricket administration, promotion, safeguarding, and competition purposes.

Amendments

- The Catalan Cricket Federation reserves the right to amend these Regulations and Code of Conduct before the commencement of each playing season.
- These Regulations shall apply to all FCC Grassroots and Pathway Competitions unless otherwise stated.

1.1 Code of Conduct

1.1.1 The Catalan Cricket Federation is committed to maintaining the highest standards of behaviour and conduct. All clubs and players, by virtue of their registration in the League and all other tournaments, expressly agree to comply with this Code of Conduct, which incorporates the Spirit of Cricket, and are subject to the provisions of these Regulations.

1.1.2 Captains are always the persons ultimately responsible for their clubs and must ensure that the game and the behaviour of players are appropriate, respectful, and follow the guidelines established for the proper conduct of the match.

1.1.3 Players and club officials must always accept the umpire's decision. Players and team members must not show disagreement with an umpire's decision nor react in a provocative or disapproving manner towards another player or spectator.

1.1.4 Players and club members must not intimidate or assault an umpire, another player, any club member, or any spectator.

1.1.5 Players and club members must not use foul and/or abusive language (commonly known as "sledging"), make offensive gestures or signals with their hands, or deliberately distract an opponent.

1.1.6 Players and club members must not use language or gestures that offend, insult, humiliate, intimidate, threaten, disparage, or vilify another person on the grounds of that person's race, religion, sexual orientation, colour, ancestry, national origin, or ethnic origin.

1.1.7 Players and club members must not use, distribute, or encourage the use of drugs, whether legal or illegal.

1.1.8 Smoking and drinking alcohol within the field area are strictly prohibited under all circumstances.

1.1.9 Clubs must take appropriate measures to ensure the good behaviour of their players, officials, members, and supporters.

1.2 Spirit of Cricket

Cricket owes much of its unique appeal to the fact that it must be played not only within its rules, but also within the Spirit of the Game. Any action that abuses this spirit causes irreparable damage to the game itself and significantly harms the sport. The primary responsibility for ensuring the spirit of fair play rests with the captains.

1.2.1 There are two rules that place responsibility for team conduct firmly on the captain:

- Captains are responsible at all times for ensuring that play is conducted within the Spirit of the Game and within the Laws.
- Captains are responsible for the conduct of the players in their team.

1.2.2 Fair Play and Unfair Play:

- The umpires are the sole judges of fair and unfair play. Umpires may intervene at any time, and it is the captain's responsibility to act when necessary.

1.2.3 Umpires are authorised to intervene in cases of:

- Time wasting
- Damaging the pitch
- Dangerous or unfair bowling
- Ball tampering
- Any other action they consider unfair

1.2.4 The Spirit of the Game involves RESPECT for:

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

1.2.5 It is contrary to the Spirit of the Game to:

- Dispute an umpire's decision through words, actions, or gestures.
- Direct abusive language at an opponent or umpire.
- Engage in cheating or any dishonest practice, for example:
- Appealing while knowing the batter is not out.
- Advancing aggressively towards an umpire when appealing.
- Attempting to distract an opponent either verbally or through harassment, persistent clapping, or unnecessary noise under the guise of enthusiasm and motivation for one's own side.

1.2.6 Violence

- There is no place for any act of violence on or around the field of play by players, umpires, or club members.

1.2.7

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

1.2.8

Participation in Other Leagues and Tournaments – Mandatory NOC (No Objection Certificate)

- All players registered with the Catalan Cricket Federation must hold a licence, and players / clubs affiliated with the Catalan Cricket Federation must obtain a NOC (No Objection Certificate) from Catalan Cricket Federation in order to participate in any other tournaments / leagues or any National representation through the inviting Organisation / Club / Team.
- Without NOC, no player or Club may participate in any cricket activity that are not organised directly or indirectly by the Catalan Cricket Federation.
- Again reminding, responsibility of NOC is on Inviting Organisation.
- Failure to comply will result in 1-2-year Ban.

1.2.9

- Players' identification documents must be valid and original, whether passport, NIE, or DNI.

1.3 Breach

- a) Failure to comply with the provisions of this Section may result in disciplinary action, regardless of whether the alleged offence is related to a match played under the jurisdiction of this Federation or outside it.
- b) Failure to comply with Article 1.2.8 may result in a one to two-year sanction for the club and/or player, with the final decision reserved to the Disciplinary Committee of the Catalan Cricket Federation.
- c) Failure to comply with Article 1.2.9 constitutes an absolute violation of the rules.

2. OBJECTIVES AND JURISDICTION

2.1 Compliance

The Catalan Cricket Code of Conduct shall be complied with by all persons participating under the jurisdiction of the League Management Committee and in all other tournaments. For the avoidance of doubt, this includes all players, club members, and support personnel. Participants must always behave in a fair and appropriate manner in all areas of the cricket ground, not only during play.

2.2 Reports

- At the conclusion of a match, if any incident has occurred that constitutes a breach of this Code of Conduct, the appointed match umpire shall prepare a written report explaining the circumstances of the incident and the decision taken.
- Likewise, if a club or player disagrees with the umpire's decision, they must submit a written statement outlining the circumstances.
- Both reports must be submitted within 48 hours by sending them to info@cricketcatala.cat and notifying the relevant League/Tournament officials.

2.3 Investigation

Upon receipt of the reports, which must include full details of the incident, including:

Teams involved

- Player(s) sanctioned
- Venue
- Match category
- Description of the incident
- the Match Administrator (League or Tournament) shall investigate the matter and notify the Disciplinary Committee.
- The Disciplinary Committee shall have 72 hours to deliberate and issue its decision, which shall immediately be communicated to the League/Tournament Administrator, the club, and the player.
- It should be noted that if a player has already been dismissed from the field and prevented from completing the match, it may not be possible to reverse that situation.

2.4 Procedure

Any disciplinary offence committed by a player shall be dealt with in accordance with the procedures set out in Section 4 below.

2.5 Serious Offences

- Serious offences will normally be dealt with through a full Disciplinary Hearing, following the procedures established in Section 5.
- Where an allegation against a player is referred to a Disciplinary Hearing, the player's captain and club may also be charged separately in accordance with their responsibilities under this Code.

2.6 Authority of the Umpires

- The umpires are the highest authority on the field of play and therefore have the authority to determine whether a player has committed an offence.
- Accordingly, their decision shall be final and may only be challenged through the reporting procedures submitted after the match by the umpires, players, or clubs.

2.7 Federation Licence

- Every player has both the right and the obligation to hold a valid Federation Licence, as this is the only official document confirming their registration as a cricket player with the Catalan Cricket Federation.
- Before the start of each season, all players must submit:
- Valid original identification documents;
- The official player registration form containing their personal information.
- In addition, where the player is under 18 years of age, a parental/legal guardian consent form provided by the Federation must also be submitted through Clubs.
- It is important to understand that the Federation Licence is valid for one season only and must be renewed annually.
- If a player submits registration documents through two different clubs, the player's Federation Licence shall be suspended immediately, as a player may only represent one club.
- An investigation shall then be carried out by the Disciplinary Committee, taking into consideration the player's explanation.
- The only exception is where the player participates in two different competition categories, although only one Federation Licence shall be issued.

2.8 Contract Between Club and Athlete

- The Federation Licence is valid for one season only.
- The Federation Licence does not constitute a contract.
- Any contract or agreement entered into between a club and a player is a private agreement between those parties, and therefore the Catalan Cricket Federation (FCC) shall not intervene.
- Where such a contract exists and is not being honoured, the Federation shall not act on behalf of either party because it is a private contractual matter.
- However, the Federation must be informed whether a contract exists between the player

3. PROCEDURES

3.1 Alleged Breaches

- Any alleged breach referred to as "a complaint" shall be submitted in accordance with the procedure established in Section 2.2.

3.2 Notification

- The Disciplinary Committee shall notify the Secretary and/or President of the club against which the complaint has been lodged as soon as reasonably practicable.

3.3 Reports

- Separate reports shall be submitted by both umpires and the club for consideration before the Wednesday following the incident.
- The umpires shall not consult each other regarding the contents of their reports.
- The complaint shall then be referred to the Disciplinary Committee who shall consider the complaint and decide whether to:

3.3.1

Take no further action other than recording the complaint (for the purposes of Section 4.2 below) and notify the club; or

3.3.2

Endorse any action already taken by the club.

3.3.3

Treat the matter as a disciplinary case, determine the level of the offence in accordance with this Code of Conduct, and decide upon the appropriate sanction, which shall be communicated to the club.

4. DISCIPLINARY OFFENCES

4.1 Warnings

The umpires shall warn the player regarding their conduct and inform both the player and the captain that the player's name will be included on the Umpires' Match Report Form.

4.2 Repeat Offences

Any player who is named on the Umpires' Match Report Form three times during a single season shall automatically receive a two-match suspension.

4.3 Reports

The umpires may determine that a single offence is sufficiently serious to warrant reporting the matter under Section 4.1 above.

4.4 Suspensions

Any suspension shall carry forward to the following season where applicable, even if the player transfers to another club or league.

4.5 Multiple Reports

- Where a club receives more than one report under Section 4.1 during the same season, that club may be deducted 10 league points on the second occasion and on every subsequent occasion.
- Reports concerning different individuals arising from the same match shall be treated as separate reports, even where they are included within the same document.

4.6 Appeals

Any appeal against a sanction imposed under the Minor Offences Procedure shall only be permitted on the grounds of:

- Mistaken identity;
- Misrepresentation of facts; or
- Failure by the umpires to follow the procedures set out in Section 4.1.

5. DISCIPLINARY HEARINGS

5.1 Timing

Where any matter is referred to a Disciplinary Hearing, the FCC General Secretary shall convene the hearing within 14 days of the decision to refer the matter.

Any postponement may be granted at the discretion of the General Secretary.

5.2 Notice Period

Written notice of the hearing shall be given to the player at least seven (7) days in advance, with a copy sent to the Secretary of the player's club.

In the case of proceedings against a club, notice shall be served upon the Club Secretary.

The notice shall specify the alleged breach or breaches of Section 1 of this Code.

5.3 Rights: The player or club accused shall have the right to:

5.3.1

Submit written representations before the hearing.

5.3.2

Attend the hearing.

5.3.3

Present their case (or, in the case of a club, through the Club Secretary or another authorised representative).

5.3.4

Be accompanied by a representative and call witnesses.

5.4 Legal Representation

- There shall be no right to legal representation.
- However, the accused player or club may be accompanied by a supporting companion ("friend"), as referred to in Section 5.3.4, who may attend but shall not formally participate in the proceedings.

5.5 Disciplinary Panel

- The hearing shall be conducted by a Disciplinary Panel appointed by the FCC General Secretary and consisting of not fewer than three members.
- None of the members of the Panel shall have any connection with:
 - the player;
 - the club;
 - the opposing club; or
 - any club that could directly benefit from the outcome of the disciplinary proceedings.

5.6 Standard of Proof

The standard of proof shall be based upon the balance of probabilities, rather than the criminal standard of proof beyond reasonable doubt.

6. SANCTIONS

6.1 Powers

Where a breach of Section 1 is proven during a disciplinary hearing, the Disciplinary Panel shall have the authority to impose one or more of the following sanctions, together with any order for costs that it considers appropriate.

6.2 In the Case of a Player

The Panel may:

6.2.1

Require the player to issue an appropriate apology within a specified period.

6.2.2

Issue an official reprimand together with a warning regarding future conduct.

6.2.3

Impose a financial fine.

6.2.4

Suspend the player for one or more matches or for a specified period.

6.2.5

Deduct league points from the player's team.

6.2.6

Expel the player from the League.

6.3 In the Case of a Club

The Panel may:

6.3.1

Require the club to issue one or more appropriate written apologies within a specified period.

6.3.2

Issue an official reprimand together with a warning regarding future conduct.

6.3.3

Impose a financial fine.

6.3.4

Deduct league points from the club's team.

6.3.5

Relegate the club to a lower division of the League.

6.3.6

Refer the matter to an Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) for consideration of the club's expulsion from the League in accordance with the Federation's Constitution.

6.4 Suspensions

The Disciplinary Committee shall have the authority to suspend the execution of all or part of any sanction imposed for such period and upon such terms and conditions as it considers appropriate.

7. APPEALS

7.1 Right of Appeal

- Where a breach of Section 1 has been proven at a disciplinary hearing, the player or club shall have the right to appeal.
- Where both the player and the club wish to appeal in relation to the same incident, each appeal must be submitted separately.

7.2 Notice

Written notice of appeal, setting out the grounds for appeal, shall be submitted to both the FCC General Secretary and the Disciplinary Committee within seven (7) days of the disciplinary decision.

7.3 Timing

- Where a Notice of Appeal has been submitted, the sanction shall not take effect until the appeal hearing has taken place.
- The appeal hearing shall be held as soon as reasonably practicable, and in any event within fourteen (14) days of receipt of the Notice of Appeal.

7.4 Appeal Procedure

- The appeal shall be heard by way of a new hearing before a different committee.
- The Appeal Committee shall be appointed by the FCC General Secretary and shall consist of not fewer than three members.
- None of the members of the Appeal Committee shall:
 - have any relationship with the player or club concerned;
 - have any relationship with the opposing club;
 - belong to a club that may benefit directly from the disciplinary proceedings; or
 - have participated in the original disciplinary hearing.

7.5 Rights

The player or club shall enjoy the same rights as those set out in Section 5.3 of this Code.

7.6 Appeal Decision

The Appeal Committee shall submit its decision to the Disciplinary Committee.

The decision of the Disciplinary Committee shall be final and binding.

7.8 Reports

- The Disciplinary Committee shall notify all match suspensions in writing to the Executive Board of the relevant club for national circulation.
- Players should understand that match suspensions will normally apply to all cricket played under the jurisdiction of the Catalan Cricket Federation.

Appendix 1 – Disciplinary Offences

Certain conduct, whether on or off the field of play, that constitutes a breach of this Code of Conduct and/or the Spirit of Cricket has been classified into the following five levels.

Level 1

- a) Deliberate time wasting by either the batting or fielding side.
- b) Abuse of the cricket ground, equipment, or facilities.
- c) Use of obscene, offensive, or insulting language and/or making obscene gestures.

Level 2

- a) Showing dissent towards an umpire's decision by words or actions.
- b) Deliberate and inappropriate physical contact between players during play.
- c) Charging at or approaching an umpire aggressively while making an appeal.
- d) Deliberately and maliciously distracting or obstructing another player during play, whether or not such conduct is considered unfair under the ICC Playing Conditions.
- e) Throwing the ball at or near a player, umpire, or official in an inappropriate or dangerous manner.
- f) Bowling dangerous short-pitched deliveries resulting in the bowler being prohibited from continuing to bowl during that innings.
- g) Causing avoidable damage to the pitch in accordance with the ICC Playing Conditions.

Level 3

- a) Intimidating an umpire.
- b) Threatening to assault another player, team official, or spectator.
- c) Using language or gestures that offend, insult, humiliate, intimidate, threaten, demean, or vilify another person.
- d) Deliberately bowling a dangerous high full-pitched delivery.
- e) Using obscene or seriously offensive language or gestures towards another player, umpire, team official, or spectator.
- f) Altering the condition of the ball in any manner not permitted under the ICC Playing Conditions.

Level 4

- a) Threatening an umpire.
- b) Physical assault against another player, umpire, official, or spectator.
- c) Any act of violence on or around the field of play.

Level 5

- a) Using language or gestures that seriously offend, insult, humiliate, intimidate, threaten, demean, or vilify another person on the grounds of religion, sexual orientation, colour, ancestry, nationality, or ethnic origin.
- b) Falsification of identification documents.

Appendix 2 – Guidelines for the Imposition of Sanctions

The following sanctions provide guidance for Disciplinary Panels and Appeal Panels when determining penalties for individual disciplinary offences.

- a) Level 1: Warning and/or removal of the player from the match, including a one-match suspension where the offence is repeated.
- b) Level 2: Suspension of 2–8 matches.
- c) Level 3: Suspension of 4–10 matches.
- d) Level 4: Minimum suspension of 10 matches, up to one year.
- e) Level 5: Immediate suspension of the player for one year together with an immediate fine of €500.
- f) **Violation of NOC Policy 1-2-year Ban.**

Where the offence involves falsification of documentation, the club that allowed the player to participate shall also be fined €600.

Contributing Factors

When determining the appropriate sanction, the members of the Disciplinary Committee shall take the following factors into consideration:

- a) Whether the player or club admitted the offence.
- b) The player's or club's previous disciplinary record.
- c) Whether the player was also serving as team captain.
- d) The player's conduct after receiving a warning and being informed that the matter would be reported.
- e) Whether any appeal submitted is considered frivolous, vexatious, or without merit.