



GLoucestershire ASSOCIATION OF CRICKET UMPIRES AND SCORERS

The Spirit of Cricket

Colleagues,

I am writing this in response to a number of incidents that have occurred over the past few weeks, incidents that have been brought to the attention of the GACU&S committee.

These incidents have involved players behaving in a way that has breached the Spirit of Cricket but unfortunately not all of these incidents have resulted in a report being written by the standing umpires and submitted to the relevant governing bodies. In those instances where a report hasn't been made anecdotal evidence suggests that discussions after the game with captains may have influenced the decision not to put pen to paper and make the report.

Also of concern is that on two of the occasions where reports have been made the captain of the team whose player was being reported has made comments to the umpires along the lines of 'these things happen every week and are never reported'.

As a committee we are sure that is not the case and most games are played in the right spirit so there is no need for action to be taken. However where players do overstep the mark it is imperative that umpires report the behaviour and allow the governing bodies to make the decisions as to what sanctions such behaviour brings. An apology after the game or a plea from the captain is not a good enough reason for a report not to be made.

The GCB and both the WEPL committee and the GCCL committee have stressed their commitment and support to umpires by ensuring that behaviour that is unacceptable on the field of play is dealt with robustly but fairly. However both league committees have asked the GACU&S committee to send a strong plea on their behalf to umpires to assist them to stamp out poor behaviour by submitting reports. Without these reports action cannot be taken.

Furthermore the GACU&S committee is concerned that a lack of consistency amongst umpires will result in a de facto two tier approach from umpires, with those that do report and those that are reluctant to do so. This can only result in confusion amongst the players as to what is and isn't acceptable and ultimately will result in ill feeling and possibly complaints.

Both the WEPL and GCCL handbooks set out the different levels of poor behaviour and their associated sanctions. The GACU&S committee asks that all umpires review these sections and use them as the definitive guide as to the types of behaviour that the WEPL and GCCL committee deem unacceptable. The GACU&S committee is clear in its stance that **all** such behaviour as detailed in the handbooks and that breaches the Spirit of Cricket must be subject of a report.

It is in our hands as umpires to raise the standard of player behaviour by being firm but fair, and with your support and that of the relevant committees it is an achievable goal.

Jeff Chandra

Chairman, GACUS