



THE INDIAN PREMIER LEAGUE

Code of Conduct for Players and Team Officials

Effective as from 1st March 2025

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THE INDIAN PREMIER LEAGUE

CODE OF CONDUCT FOR PLAYERS AND TEAM OFFICIALS

INTRODUCTION

BCCI is the body responsible for the operation of the *League* and the Code of Conduct for Players and Team Officials (the “**Code of Conduct**”) is adopted and implemented as part of the BCCI’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*. Words in italicized text in the *Code of Conduct* are defined terms and their definitions are set out in Appendix 1.

ARTICLE 1 SCOPE AND APPLICATION

- 1.1** All *Players* and *Team Officials* are automatically bound by and required to comply with all of the provisions of the *Code of Conduct*. Accordingly, 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 *IPL Event*, such *Players* or *Team Officials* shall be deemed to have agreed:
- 1.1.1** 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*;
 - 1.1.2** to submit to the exclusive jurisdiction of any *Match Referee*, *Commission* and *Ombudsman* 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
 - 1.1.3** 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*, *Commission* and *Ombudsman*.
- 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 *Franchisee* and BCCI 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 *Franchisee*, the ICC 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*, *Commission* or *Ombudsman* to determine matters properly arising pursuant to the *Code of Conduct*.

- 1.4** For the avoidance of any doubt, all *Umpires* officiating in any Matches are automatically bound by and required to comply with all of the provisions of the *IPL Code of Conduct for Match Officials and Match Officials Support Personnel*.

ARTICLE 2 CODE OF CONDUCT OFFENCES

The Preamble to the *Laws of Cricket*, sets out the definition of the Spirit of Cricket, as follows:

“Preamble – The Spirit of Cricket

Cricket owes much of its appeal and enjoyment to the fact that it should be played not only according to the Laws (which are incorporated within these Playing Conditions), but also within the Spirit of Cricket.

The major responsibility for ensuring fair play rests with the captains, but extends to all Players, Match officials and, especially in junior cricket, teachers, coaches and parents.

Respect is central to the Spirit of Cricket.

Respect your captain, Team-mates, opponents and the authority of the Umpires.

Play hard and play fair.

Accept the Umpire’s decision.

Create a positive atmosphere by your own conduct and encourage others to do likewise.

Show self-discipline, even when things go against you.

Congratulate the opposition on their successes and enjoy those of your own Team.

Thank the officials and your opposition at the end of the match, whatever the result.

Cricket is an exciting game that encourages leadership, friendship and Teamwork, which brings together people from different nationalities, cultures and religions, especially when played within the Spirit of Cricket.”

The conduct described in Articles 2.1 to 2.22 amounts to conduct which breaches the Spirit of Cricket and therefore, 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.

The *Code of Conduct* offences cover a variety of different behaviours and levels of seriousness. It is not intended to penalize trivial behavior. For the purpose of determining the appropriate sanction for an offence, levels of charging have been assigned for each offence, ranging from Level 1 for conduct of a minor nature, up to Level 4 for conduct of an extremely serious nature. Where an offence is alleged to have been committed, the individual Reporting the alleged offence must determine which of the assigned levels of offence is appropriate for the conduct in question. Reports can only be laid at the levels identified in respect of each particular offence below.

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	Excessive appealing during a Match
Note:	<i>For the purpose of Article 2.1, ‘excessive’ may include (a) repeated appealing of the same decision; (b) repeated appealing of different decisions when the bowler/fielder knows the batter is not out with the intention of placing the Umpire under pressure; (c) charging or advancing towards the Umpire in an aggressive manner when appealing; or (d) celebrating a dismissal without appealing to the Umpire when a decision is required. It is not intended to prevent loud or enthusiastic appealing.</i>
Level 1	✓
Level 2	Not applicable
Level 3	Not applicable
Level 4	Not applicable
2.2	Abuse of cricket equipment or clothing, ground equipment or fixtures and fittings during a Match.
Note:	<i>Article 2.2 includes any action(s) outside the course of normal cricket actions, such as hitting or kicking the wickets and any action(s) which deliberately (i.e. intentionally), recklessly or negligently (in either case even if accidental) results in damage to the advertising boards, boundary fences, dressing room doors, mirrors, windows and other fixtures and fittings. For example, this offence may be committed, without limitation, when a Player swings his/her bat vigorously in frustration and causes damage to an advertising board.</i>
Level 1	✓
Level 2	Not applicable
Level 3	Not applicable
Level 4	Not applicable
2.3	Use of an audible obscenity during a Match.
Note:	<i>Article 2.3 covers the use of words commonly known and understood to be offensive, obscene and/or profane (in any language) and which can be heard by the spectators and/or the viewing public whether by way of the stump-microphone or otherwise. This conduct may include, for example, swearing in frustration at one’s own play or fortune.</i>
Level 1	✓
Level 2	Not applicable
Level 3	Not applicable
Level 4	Not applicable

2.4	Disobeying an <i>Umpire's</i> instruction during a <i>Match</i>
Note:	<i>Article 2.4 includes any repeated failure to comply with the instruction or directive of an Umpire during a Match.</i>
Level 1	✓
Level 2	Not applicable
Level 3	Not applicable
Level 4	Not applicable
2.5	Using language, actions or gestures which disparage or which could provoke an aggressive reaction from a another player in the <i>Match</i>.
Note:	<i>Article 2.5 includes any language, action or gesture used by a Player and directed towards a batter upon his/her dismissal which has the potential to provoke an aggressive reaction from the dismissed batter, whether or not any reaction results, or which could be considered to disparage or demean the dismissed batter, regardless of whether the batter him/herself feels disparaged or demeaned (in other words, a 'send-off'). Without limitation, Article 2.5 includes: (a) excessive celebration directed at and in close proximity to the dismissed batter; (b) verbally abusing the dismissed batter; and (c) pointing or gesturing towards the pavilion.</i> <i>Nothing in this Article 2.5 is, however, intended to stop Players celebrating, in an appropriate fashion, the dismissal of the opposing Team's batter.</i>
Level 1	✓
Level 2	Not applicable
Level 3	Not applicable
Level 4	Not applicable
2.6	Using a gesture that is obscene, offensive or insulting during a <i>Match</i>.
Note:	<i>Article 2.6 includes, without limitation, obscene gestures which are not directed at another person.</i> <i>When assessing the seriousness of the breach, the following factors (without limitation) shall be taken into account: (i) the context of the particular situation; and (ii) whether the gesture is likely to: (a) be regarded as obscene; (b) give offence; or (c) insult another person.</i> <i>This offence is not intended to cover any use of gestures that are likely to offend another person on the basis of their race, religion, gender, colour, descent, national or ethnic origin, sex, sexual orientation, disability, marital status and/or maternity status. Such conduct is prohibited under the IPL Anti-Discrimination Code and must be dealt with according to the procedures set out therein.</i>
Level 1	✓
Level 2	Not applicable
Level 3	Not applicable
Level 4	Not applicable

2.7	Public criticism of, or inappropriate comment in relation to an incident occurring in a Match or any Player, Team Official, Match Official or Team participating in any Match, irrespective of when such criticism or inappropriate comment is made.
Note:	<p>Without limitation, Players and Team Officials will breach Article 2.7 if they publicly criticise the Match Officials 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, without limitation, the context within which the comments have been made and the gravity of the offending comments must be taken into account.</p> <p>For the avoidance of doubt, any posting by a Player or Team Official of comments on a social media platform (including, without limitation, Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, YouTube and LinkedIn) shall be deemed to be 'public' for the purposes of this offence. Consequently a Player or Team Official may breach Article 2.7 where they criticize or make an inappropriate comment in relation to an incident occurring in a Match or any Player, Team Official, Match Official or Team participating in any Match in any posting they make on a social media platform.</p>
Level 1	✓
Level 2	✓
Level 3	Not applicable
Level 4	Not applicable
2.8	Showing dissent at an Umpire's decision during a Match.
Note:	<p>Without limitation, Article 2.8 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 inside edge 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 (other than in the context of a legitimate request for a referral as may be permitted in such Match); and (h) arguing or entering into a prolonged discussion with the Umpire about his/her decision.</p> <p>This offence is not intended to punish a batter showing his/her instinctive disappointment at his/her dismissal.</p> <p>When assessing the seriousness of the breach, the following factors (without limitation) should be considered: (i) whether the conduct contains an element of anger or abuse which is directed at the Umpire or the Umpire's decision; (ii) whether there is excessive delay in resuming play or leaving the wicket; or (iii) whether there is persistent re-reference to the incident over time.</p> <p>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.</p>
Level 1	✓
Level 2	✓
Level 3	Not applicable
Level 4	Not applicable

2.9	Throwing a ball (or any other item of cricket equipment such as a water bottle) at or near a <i>Player, Team Official, Umpire, Match Referee</i> or any other third person in an inappropriate and/or dangerous manner during a <i>Match</i>.
<i>Note:</i>	<i>This offence will not prohibit a fielder or bowler from returning the ball to the stumps in the normal fashion, or from throwing the ball at the stumps or to a Teammate when attempting a run out.</i> <i>When assessing the seriousness of the offence, the following factors (without limitation) shall be taken into account: (i) the context of the particular situation, including, without limitation, whether the action was deliberate, reckless, negligent, and/or avoidable; (ii) whether the ball/object struck the other person; (iii) the speed at which the ball/object was thrown; and (iv) the distance from which the ball/object was thrown.</i>
Level 1	✓
Level 2	✓
Level 3	Not applicable
Level 4	Not applicable
2.10	Any of the following conduct which constitutes ‘unfair play’ under clause 41 of the IPL <i>Match Playing Conditions</i>: 2.10.1 deliberate attempt to distract striker. 2.10.2 deliberate distraction, deception or obstruction of batter 2.10.3 bowling of dangerous and unfair short pitched deliveries. 2.10.4 bowling of dangerous and unfair non-pitching deliveries. 2.10.5 bowling of deliberate non-pitching deliveries. 2.10.6 bowling of deliberate front foot no balls. 2.10.7 time wasting by any <i>Player</i> or <i>Team</i>. 2.10.8 fielder causing deliberate or avoidable damage to the pitch. 2.10.9 bowler running on protected area. 2.10.10 batter causing deliberate or avoidable damage to the pitch. 2.10.11 striker in the protected area. 2.10.12 batter stealing a run. 2.10.13 unfair actions not covered elsewhere in clause 41 of the IPL <i>Match Playing Conditions</i>.
<i>Note:</i>	<i>The offence supplements and does not replace IPL Match Playing Conditions clauses 41.4 to 41.19.</i> <i>When assessing the seriousness of the offence, the following factors (without limitation) shall be taken into account: (i) the context of the particular situation, including, without limitation and where relevant, whether the action was deliberate, reckless, negligent, and/or avoidable; (ii) the potential of the action to injure an opponent; and (iii) the degree of advantage offered by the ‘unfair play’.</i>
Level 1	✓
Level 2	✓
Level 3	Not applicable
Level 4	Not applicable

2.11	Any attempt to manipulate a Match for inappropriate strategic or tactical reasons.
Note:	<p>Article 2.11 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 accumulation of bonus points or otherwise.</p> <p>Article 2.11 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 BCCI's Anti-Corruption Code and must be dealt with according to the procedures set out therein.</p> <p>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.</p>
Level 1	Not applicable.
Level 2	✓
Level 3	Not applicable
Level 4	Not applicable
2.12	Inappropriate physical contact with a Player, Team Official, Umpire, Match Referee or any other person (including a spectator) during a Match.
Note:	<p>Any form of inappropriate physical contact is prohibited in cricket. Without limitation, Players will breach this regulation if they deliberately, recklessly and/or negligently walk or run into or shoulder another Player or Umpire.</p> <p>When assessing the seriousness of the breach, the following factors (without limitation) shall be taken into account: (i) the context of the particular situation, including, without limitation, whether the contact was deliberate (i.e. intentional), reckless, negligent, and/or avoidable; (ii) the force of the contact; (iii) any resulting injury to the person with whom contact was made; and (iv) the person with whom contact was made.</p>
Level 1	✓ (Level 1 is available only in the case of contact with Players, Team Officials or any other person).
Level 2	✓ (Level 2 is available only in the case of contact with Players, Team Officials or any other person).
Level 3	✓ (Level 3 is available only in the case of contact with Umpires and Match Referees.)
Level 4	✓ (Level 4 is available only in the case of contact with Umpires and Match Referees.)
2.13	Personal abuse of a Player, Team Official, Umpire or Match Referee during a Match.
Note:	<p>Article 2.13 is intended to cover a Player or Team Officials directing language of a personal, insulting, obscene and/or offensive nature at any Player, Team Official, Umpire or Match Referee during a Match. It is also intended to cover language of a personal, insulting, obscene and/or offensive nature relating to a family member of the Player, Team Official, Umpire or Match Referee at whom it is directed.</p> <p>When considering the seriousness of the breach, the following factors (without limitation) shall be considered: (i) whether such language was excessive and/or orchestrated; and (ii) the person at whom the language was directed, i.e. whether they were a Player, Team Official, Umpire, Match Referee or other person.</p> <p>This offence is not intended to cover any use of language that is 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 IPL Anti-Discrimination Code and must be dealt with according to the procedures set out therein.</p>
Level 1	Not applicable
Level 2	✓ (Level 2 is not available in the case of personal abuse of an Umpire or Match Referee).
Level 3	✓ (Level 3 is available in all cases)
Level 4	Not applicable
2.14	Changing the condition of the ball in breach of clause 41.3 of the IPL Match Playing Conditions.
Note:	This offence supplements and does not replace IPL Match Playing Conditions clause 41.3.

	<p>Any action(s) likely to alter the condition of the ball which are not specifically permitted under clause 41.3.2 may be regarded as 'unfair'. The following actions shall, therefore, 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; and (d) scratching the surface of the ball with finger or thumb nails or any implement.</p> <p>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.</p>
Level 1	Not applicable
Level 2	Not applicable
Level 3	✓
Level 4	Not applicable
2.15	Attempting to gain an unfair advantage during a Match
Note:	<p>Article 2.15 is intended to cover any attempts to cheat or gain an unfair advantage during a Match (other than conduct prohibited under Articles 2.11 or 2.14 of the Code of Conduct or the BCCI Anti-Corruption Code). It includes, without limitation: (a) deliberate attempts to deceive an Umpire (for example by claiming a catch when the Player concerned knew that he/she had not caught the ball cleanly); (b) any attempts by a Player on the field of play to seek assistance from any person off the field of play in order to decide whether to request a referral to the TV Umpire; or (c) taking a foreign object onto the field whose most likely reason for being there is to change the condition of the ball.</p> <p>When assessing the seriousness of the breach, consideration should be given to whether the conduct was deliberate, reckless and/or negligent on the part of the relevant Player or Team Official.</p>
Level 1	Not applicable
Level 2	Not applicable
Level 3	✓
Level 4	Not applicable
2.16	Intimidation of an Umpire or Match Referee whether by language or conduct (including gestures) during a Match.
Note:	<p>Article 2.16 is intended to cover any form or intimidation of an Umpire or Match Referee. It includes, without limitation: (a) any form of continual verbal or physical harassment; (b) any form of intentional behavior that would cause the person at whom it is directed to fear injury or harm; and (c) attempts to impede or block movement.</p>
Level 1	Not applicable
Level 2	Not applicable
Level 3	✓
Level 4	Not applicable

2.17	Threat of assault on another <i>Player, Team Official, Umpire or Match Referee</i> or any other <i>person (including a Spectator)</i> during a <i>Match</i>.
Note:	<i>Without limitation, Players or Team Officials will breach this Article 2.17 if they do or say anything which would cause the Player, Team Officials, Umpire, Match Referee or other person to whom such action was directed to fear harmful or offensive contact, for example and without limitation, threatening to hit the relevant individual while at the same time raising a fist, or threatening to physically harm another Player's family.</i>
Level 1	Not applicable
Level 2	Not applicable
Level 3	✓ (Level 3 is available in the case of threat of assault on anyone other than an <i>Umpire or Match Referee</i>)
Level 4	✓ (Level 4 is available in the case of threat of assault on <i>Umpires and Match Referees</i> only. Not available in the case of threat of assault on any <i>Player, Team Officials Team</i> or other person)
2.18	Physical assault of another <i>Player, Team Official, Umpire, Match Referee</i> or any other <i>person (including a spectator)</i> during a <i>Match</i>
Note:	<i>Without limitation, Players or Team Officials will breach this Article 2.18 if they intentionally or recklessly cause the Player, Team Official, Umpire, Match Referee or the other person bodily harm or injury.</i>
Level 1	Not applicable
Level 2	Not applicable
Level 3	Not applicable
Level 4	✓
2.19	Any act of violence on the field of play during a <i>Match</i>
Note:	<i>Without limitation, Players or Team Officials will breach this Article 2.19 if they kick or punch or fight another Player, Team Official, Umpire, Match Referee or any other person (including a spectator).</i>
Level 1	Not applicable
Level 2	Not applicable
Level 3	Not applicable
Level 4	✓
2.20	Conduct that is contrary to the spirit of the game
Note:	<p><i>Article 2.20 is intended to cover all types of conduct 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 this Code of Conduct.</i></p> <p><i>By way of example, Article 2.20 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; and (b) failure to comply with the provisions of clause 6.3 of the IPL Match Playing Conditions.</i></p> <p><i>When assessing the seriousness of the offence, the context of the particular situation, and whether it was deliberate, reckless, negligent, avoidable and/or accidental, shall be considered. Further, the person lodging the Report shall determine where on the range of severity the conduct lays (with the range of severity starting at conduct of a minor nature (and hence a Level 1 Offence) up to conduct of an extremely serious nature (and hence a Level 4 Offence)).</i></p>
Level 1	✓
Level 2	✓
Level 3	✓
Level 4	✓
2.21	Conduct that brings the game into disrepute

Note:	<p>Article 2.21 is intended to cover all types of conduct that bring the game into disrepute and which is not specifically and adequately covered by the specific offences set out elsewhere in this Code of Conduct, including Article 2.20.</p> <p>By way of example, Article 2.21 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.</p> <p>When assessing the seriousness of the offence, the context of the particular situation, and whether it was deliberate, reckless, negligent, avoidable and/or accidental, shall be considered. Further, the person lodging the Report shall determine where on the range of severity the conduct lays (with the range of severity starting at conduct of a minor nature (and hence a Level 1 Offence) up to conduct of an extremely serious nature (and hence a Level 4 Offence)).</p>
Level 1	✓
Level 2	✓
Level 3	✓
Level 4	✓

2.22 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/her 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 2.22 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 Franchisee 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 GM Game Development, BCCI; or

3.1.4 provided it is a *Level 4 Offence* that is alleged to have been committed (or a *Level 1 Offence*, *Level 2 Offence* or *Level 3 Offence* in relation to which the *Match Referee* was the victim of the alleged offence), the *Match Referee* that was appointed to officiate in the *Match* during 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*, *Level 2 Offence* or *Level 3 Offence* unless he/she was the victim of the alleged offence).

3.2 All *Reports* must be completed on such form as may be made available for such purpose by *BCCI* 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:

Level of Offence	On or Off-Field	Reporting Deadline	Report lodged with
Levels 1 & 2	On Field	18 hours from close of day's play in the relevant <i>Match</i>	<i>Match Referee</i>
	Off-Field	no later than 18 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 attention of the person lodging the <i>Report</i>	
Level 3	On or Off Field	no later than 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 <i>Report</i>	
Level 4	On or Off Field	no later than 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 <i>Report</i>	

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

Level of Offence	On or Off-Field	Reporting Deadline	Report lodged with
Levels 1 & 2	On or Off -Field	within 24 hours of the later of (a) commission of the alleged offence; or (b) the time when the alleged offence was brought to the attention of the <i>Match Referee</i>	<i>Match Referee</i>
Level 3	On or Off -Field	No later than 36 hours after the later of (a) commission of the alleged offence; or (b) the time when the alleged offence was brought to the attention of the referee	<i>Match Referee</i>
Level 4	On or Off Field	No later than 36 hours after the later of (a) commission of the alleged offence; or (b) the time when the alleged offence was brought to the attention of the <i>BCCI CEO</i>	<i>BCCI CEO</i>

3.2.3 Where the *Report* is lodged by the *Match Referee* (pursuant to Article 3.1.4):

Level of Offence	On or Off-Field	Reporting Deadline	Report lodged with
Levels 1, 2, 3 & 4	On or Off-Field	36 hours after: (a) the commission of the alleged offence; or (b) the alleged offence was brought to his/her attention, save that the <i>Report</i> cannot be lodged more than 7 days after the conclusion of the relevant <i>Match</i> .	<i>BCCI CEO</i>

Note: For the purposes of Articles 3.2.1 to 3.2.3 above, Reports should be lodged as soon as reasonably practicable. The time limits set out in the above tables constitute the latest time by which a Report can be lodged.

In all circumstances where a Report is to be lodged with the Match Referee if, for logistical reasons, it is impractical to lodge the Report with the Match Referee, it shall be lodged with the BCCI CEO within the same deadline, the BCCI CEO shall then forward the Report to 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 2.7 (public criticism or inappropriate comment) and Article 2.21 (conduct 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 2.7) and not both offences.

ARTICLE 4 NOTIFICATION PROCEDURE

Level 1 Offences, Level 2 Offences, Level 3 Offences and Minimum Over Rate Offences:

- 4.1** Where a *Match Referee* receives a *Report* lodged under Articles 3.2.1, 3.2.1.2, or Article 3.2 of Appendix 2 (in the case of *Minimum Over Rate Offences*), he/she must review the *Report* and determine whether the *Player* or *Team Officials* named in the *Report* has a case to answer in relation to the offence identified in the *Report*. Where the *Match Referee* determines that there is a case to answer, 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 2.11 (manipulating a Match), 2.14 (changing the condition of the ball), or 2.22 (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 *BCCI CEO*.
- 4.2** Where the *BCCI CEO* receives a *Report* lodged under Article 3.2.3, he/she must review the *Report* and determine whether the *Player* or *Team Official* named in the *Report* has a case to answer in relation to the offence identified in the *Report*. Where the *BCCI CEO* determines that there is a case to answer, 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:
- 4.2.1** the *Player* or *Team Official* named in the *Report*, or, where appropriate in the case of an offence under either Article 2.11 (manipulating a Match), 2.14 (changing the condition of the ball), or 2.22 (failure to meet the *Minimum Over Rate*), the relevant *Team Captain*;
 - 4.2.2** the *Team Manager* of the relevant *Player* or *Team Official* named in the *Report*.
- 4.3** The *Notice of Charge* shall specify that the *Player* or *Team Official* shall have the following three options:
- 4.3.1** 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 *BCCI* 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
 - 4.3.2** 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.; or
 - 4.3.3** he/she may deny the offence charged, in which case the matter shall proceed to a hearing in accordance with Article 5.1.

Level 4 Offences:

- 4.4** Where the *BCCI CEO* receives a *Report* lodged under Articles 3.2.1, 3.2.2 or 3.2.3, he/she must promptly conduct a review and 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 *BCCI's* opinion, whether the specific type and level of offence noted in the *Report* is properly identified when reviewed against the conduct complained of).
- 4.5** 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 *BCCI* 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 *BCCI* 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 *BCCI's* guidance in good faith, within a period of twenty-four (24) hours from the time of notification by the *BCCI*, notify the *BCCI* 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 *BCCI* within such twenty-four (24) period; (b) proceed on the basis of the original *Report* lodged; or (c) withdraw the *Report*.
- 4.6** If the initial review of the *Report* reveals that there is a case to answer, or a revised *Report* is lodged with the *BCCI* pursuant to Article 4.5, then *BCCI* shall refer the *Report* to the *Commission* which in turn will conduct a preliminary inquiry into the circumstances detailed in the *Report* and call for explanation(s) from the concerned person(s) and submit their report containing their findings to the *Ombudsman*. The preliminary inquiry shall be conducted in the manner the *Commission* deems appropriate depending on the nature of allegation(s) made and dispute(s) raised. For the purpose of conducting an inquiry, the *Commission* 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:
- 4.6.1** the *Player* or *Team Official* named in the *Report*; and
- 4.6.2** the *Team Manager* of the relevant *Player* or *Team Official* named in the *Report*.
- 4.6.3** the CEO to which the relevant *Player* or *Team Official* is affiliated
- 4.7** The *Notice of Charge* shall specify that the *Player* or *Team Official* shall have the following options:
- 4.7.1** 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 *BCCI'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 *BCCI CEO* prior to the commencement of the hearing at the time/place specified in the *Notice of Charge*, the hearing before the *Ombudsman* shall not be required and no further action shall be taken, save that the *BCCI* 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
- 4.7.2** 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 5.2;

4.7.3 he/she may deny the offence charged, in which case the matter shall proceed to a hearing in accordance with Article 5.2.

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.

Level 1 Offences, Level 2 Offences, Level 3 Offences and Minimum Over Rate Offences:

- 5.1** Where a matter proceeds to a hearing under Article 4.3.2 or 4.3.3, then, subject to Article 5.7 below, the case shall be referred to the *Match Referee* for adjudication in accordance with the following procedure:
- 5.1.1** In the case of *Level 1 Offences, Level 2 Offences, Level 3 Offences* or *Minimum Over Rate Offences*, subject to the discretion of the *Match Referee* 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 take place as soon as practicable and, in the absence of exceptional circumstances, no more than twenty four (24) hours after the receipt by the *Player* or *Team Official* of the *Notice of Charge*). For the avoidance of doubt, nothing in this Article 5.1.1 prevents a hearing from being convened at a time during which the *Match* in relation to which the alleged offence took place, remains in progress.
- 5.1.2** The procedure followed at the hearing shall be at the discretion of the *Match Referee*, 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 video-conference where necessary), address the *Match Referee* and present his/her case.
- 5.1.3** The hearing before the *Match Referee* shall be in English, and certified English translations shall be submitted of any non-English documents put before the *Match Referee*. The cost of the translation shall be borne by the party offering the document(s).
- 5.1.4** Where video evidence of the alleged offence is available at the hearing before the *Match Referee*, 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.
- 5.1.5** Unless exceptional circumstances apply, each of the following individuals must attend any hearing before the *Match Referee*: (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 *BCCI 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* 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 5.1.6, one of the *Team Captain, Team Vice-Captain, Team Manager* or *Team Coach* of the *Team* that the *Player* or *Team Official* represents may also attend such a hearing to provide additional support and assistance to the *Player* and *Team Official*. If requested to do so by the *Match Referee* 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 (1) the end of the *Match* taking place at the ground on the day of the alleged offence, and (2) the time such request is made to enable a hearing in respect of the alleged offence to take place as expeditiously as possible.

- 5.1.6** Each of the individuals described in Article 5.1.5(a) and (b) shall have the right (at his/her or its own expense) to be represented at the hearing before the *Match Referee* by such representative (including legal counsel) of his/her or its own choosing. Where the person lodging the *Report* is an *Umpire* that officiated in the *Match* in question or the *BCCI 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 *BCCI Legal Department* (or another lawyer duly authorized to attend by the *BCCI CEO*).
- 5.1.7** The non-attendance of any *Player* or *Team Official* or his/her representative at the hearing, shall not prevent the *Match Referee* from proceeding with the hearing in his/her absence and issuing a ruling in relation to the offence charged.
- 5.1.8** At the end of a hearing, where the *Match Referee* 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.
- 5.1.9** Alternatively, at the end of a hearing:
- 5.1.9.1** brought under Article 4.3.2:
- (a) as soon as possible after the conclusion of the hearing (and, in any event, no later than twenty-four (24) hours thereafter), the *Match Referee* will confirm the *Player* or *Team Official's* admission that he/she had committed a *Code of Conduct* offence and announce his/her written decision, 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.
- 5.1.9.2** brought under Article 4.3.3 (or where the *Player* or *Team Official* has failed to respond in a timely fashion to the *Notice of Charge*):
- (a) the *Match Referee* 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* 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* will announce his/her decision in writing, with reasons, setting out: (a) the finding as to whether a *Code of Conduct* offence had 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.

- 5.1.10** The *Match Referee* 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 5.1.9.
- 5.1.11** 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 Franchisee* and the *BCCI CEO*.
- 5.1.12** Subject only to the rights of appeal under Article 8, the *Match Referee's* decision shall be the full, final and complete disposition of the matter and will be binding on all parties.

Level 4 Offences:

- 5.2** The report prepared by the *Commission* under Article 4.6 ("**Inquiry Report**") shall be submitted to the *Ombudsman* in the English language and a copy of the same shall be furnished to the person who filed the *Report* as well as the concerned persons(s) from whom explanation(s) were sought. If on the initial review of the *Inquiry Report* reveals that there is no case to answer, then the *Ombudsman* shall notify the person who filed the *Report* and the matter shall not proceed any further. However, if the initial review of the *Inquiry Report* reveals that there is a case to answer, then the *Ombudsman* shall call for all particulars and hearing shall commence on the case and the same shall be completed as expeditiously as possible by providing a reasonable opportunity to the parties of being heard. If despite due notice, any party fails to submit any cause or submits insufficient cause, the *Ombudsman* shall after providing reasonable opportunity of hearing to the parties concerned, pass appropriate orders. In the event any party refuses and/or fails to appear despite notice, the *Ombudsman* shall be at liberty to proceed ex-parte on the basis of the available records and evidence. The proceedings before the *Ombudsman* shall be conducted in the manner the *Ombudsman* deems appropriate depending on the nature of allegation(s) made and dispute(s) raised. The *Ombudsman* shall not be bound by the provisions of the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908 or the rules of evidence under the Indian Evidence Act, 1872. The place of meetings or hearings shall be decided by the *Ombudsman* from time to time. The proceedings before the *Ombudsman* shall be conducted in English language. The *Ombudsman* shall have the power to determine the admissibility, relevance, materiality and weight of any evidence produced.

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 *BCCI 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*, *Commission* or *Ombudsman* 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* and/or *Level 3 Offences* can all be determined by a *Match Referee* at the same hearing; and
- 5.4.2** any number of *Level 4 Offences* can all be determined by the *Ombudsman* at the same hearing; and

- 5.4.3** a *Level 1 Offence* and/or *Level 2 Offence* and/or *Level 3 Offence* can be determined by the *Ombudsman* at the same hearing as a *Level 4 Offence*; but
- 5.4.4** a *Level 4 Offence* cannot be determined by a *Match Referee* at the same hearing as a *Level 1 Offence* or a *Level 2 Offence* or a *Level 3 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* and/or *Level 3 Offences* can all be determined by a *Match Referee* at the same hearing; and
- 5.5.2** any number of *Level 4 Offences* can all be determined by the *Ombudsman* at the same hearing; and
- 5.5.3** a *Level 1 Offence* and/or *Level 2 Offence* and/or *Level 3 Offence* can be determined by a *Ombudsman* at the same hearing as a *Level 4 Offence*; but
- 5.5.4** a *Level 4 Offence* cannot be determined by a *Match Referee* at the same hearing as a *Level 1 Offence* or a *Level 2 Offence* or a *Level 3 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*, *Commission* or *Ombudsman* 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 2.20 of the *Code of Conduct*.
- 5.7** Where a *Match Referee* lodges a *Report* with the *BCCI CEO* pursuant to Article 3.2, and, pursuant to Article 4.2, the *BCCI CEO* determines that there is a case to answer, he/she shall have the discretion, provided it is not a *Level 4 Offence* that is alleged to have been committed, to appoint another referee from the IPL panel of referees for the *Season* or such other person as *BCCI* deems to be appropriate in all the circumstances to hear the case as a replacement to the *Match Referee* and all of the remaining procedure will apply accordingly.
- 5.8** In addition to, and notwithstanding, Article 5.7 above, 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 *BCCI CEO* shall have the discretion to appoint another referee from the IPL panel of referees for the *Season* or such other person as *BCCI* deems to be appropriate in all the circumstances as a replacement for the *Match Referee* and all of the remaining procedure will apply accordingly.
- 5.9** Where the *Ombudsman* is, or becomes unwilling or unable to hear a matter as contemplated under these *Rules* (for example, where he/she finds him/herself in a position of conflict), then the *BCCI* shall have the discretion to appoint a replacement who, in case of the *Ombudsman*, shall be a retired Judge of the Supreme Court of India or a retired Chief Justice of a High Court after obtaining his/her consent and on terms as determined by the *BCCI* and all of the remaining procedure applicable to the *Ombudsman* will apply accordingly. Where a member(s) of the *Commission* is, or becomes unwilling or unable to hear a matter as contemplated under these *Rules* (for example, where he/she finds him/herself in a position of conflict), then the *BCCI* shall have the discretion to appoint a

replacement unconnected with the concerned parties or incident and all of the remaining procedure applicable to the *Commission* will apply accordingly.

- 5.10** The decision taken by the *Ombudsman* shall be final and binding on all parties and shall come into force forthwith on being pronounced and delivered. *BCCI* will issue a public announcement regarding any decision of the *Ombudsman* 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 any party 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.
- 5.11** Pending enquiry into and proceedings related to the *Report*, the concerned *Player* or *Team Official* may be suspended by the *BCCI* until further adjudication. However, the said adjudication ought to be completed within six months, failing which the suspension shall cease.

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 the *Ombudsman* 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 *Ombudsman* 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 *Ombudsman* 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 *Ombudsman*) and/or to answer any relevant questions.

ARTICLE 7 SANCTIONS ON PLAYERS AND TEAM OFFICIALS

COMMENT: The aim of the sanctioning regime under this Code of Conduct is to (a) sanction those *Players* and *Team Officials* found to have committed an offence under the Code of Conduct, and (b) to act as a deterrent to other *Players* and *Team Officials* to deter them from conducting themselves improperly on and off the "field of play". The IPL believes that the threat of a suspension is the strongest deterrent to bring about a change in behavior, hence the system of accumulated Demerit Points which is included in the Code of Conduct

- 7.1** Where a *Match Referee* or *Ombudsman* 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 determining the appropriate sanction, the *Match Referee* or *Ombudsman* shall take into account any factors that the *Players* or *Team Official* deems relevant and appropriate to the mitigation or aggravation of the nature of the *Code of Conduct* offence before determining, in accordance with

the table set out in Article 7.3 below, what the appropriate sanction(s) should be. The *BCCI CEO* 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 In addition to sanctions imposed by a *Match Referee* or *Ombudsman* under Article 7.2 above, *Demerit Points* will be imposed upon a *Player* or *Team Official* found to have committed an offence under the *Code of Conduct*. The number of *Demerit Points* imposed will be calculated by reference to the sanction imposed for the particular offences, as set out in the following table.

LEVEL OF OFFENCE	RANGE OF PERMISSIBLE SANCTIONS	CORRESPONDING DEMERIT POINTS	
Level 1	Warning and/or the imposition of a fine of up to 50% of the applicable <i>Match Fee</i> .	Warning or 0-25% fine	1
		26-50% fine	2
Level 2	The imposition of a fine of between 50-100% of the applicable <i>Match Fee</i> or up to two (2) <i>Suspension Points</i> .	50-100% fine or 1 <i>Suspension Point</i>	3
		2 <i>Suspension Points</i>	4
Level 3	The imposition of between four (4) and twelve (12) <i>Suspension Points</i> .	4-7 <i>Suspension Points</i>	5
		8-12 <i>Suspension Points</i>	6
Level 4	The imposition of twelve (12) <i>Suspension Points</i> or a suspension for a fixed period of time ranging between, at a minimum, the lesser of the equivalent of twelve (12) <i>Suspension Points</i> and one (1) year, up to a maximum of a lifetime's suspension.	12 <i>Suspension Points</i>	7
		Fixed period of suspension between 12 <i>Suspension Points</i> or one (1) year, and a lifetime suspension	8
<i>Minimum Over Rate Offences</i>	See specific sanctions described in the table at Article 4 of Appendix 2.	N/A	

Demerit Points will remain on a *Player* or *Team Official's* disciplinary record for a period of thirty-six (36) months from their imposition following which they shall be immediately expunged.

- 7.4** Where a *Match Referee* or *Ombudsman* imposes a period of suspension on any *Player* or *Team Official*, then, unless such period is for a fixed period of time (for example, one year) then, any such period of suspension shall be referenced by *Suspension Points*. Each *Match* in the *League* shall carry the weightage of one (1) *Suspension Point*. To clarify, a sanction of one (1) *Suspension Point* shall result in a one (1) *Match* suspension.

For the avoidance of any doubt:

- 7.4.1** the *Match Referee* or *Ombudsman* 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);

Example

Player A is a bowler and before bowling a delivery, commits a Level 1 offense under Article 2.5 (Using language, actions or gestures which disparage or which could provoke an aggressive reaction from a another player in the Match) and is fined 25% of his Match Fee. In his next delivery, he takes a wicket and commits a Level 1 offense under Article 2.6 (Using a gesture that is obscene, offensive or insulting during a Match) and is fined 50% of his Match Fee. In this scenario, Player A has committed two Code of Conduct offences that do not relate to the same incident or set of circumstances. The fines imposed on Player A shall be cumulative, i.e., Player A shall be fined a total of 75% of his Match Fee.

- 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);

Example

Player A is a bowler and after bowling a delivery, commits a Level 1 offense under Article 2.6 (Using a gesture that is obscene, offensive or insulting during a Match) and is fined 25% of his Match Fee. The Umpire directs the Player to refrain from showing the offensive or insulting gesture. However, Player A fails to do so, commits a Level 1 offense under Article 2.4 (Disobeying an Umpire's instruction during a Match) and is fined 50% of his Match Fee. In this scenario, Player A has committed two Code of Conduct offences in relation to the same incident or set of circumstances. The fines imposed on Player A shall be concurrent, i.e., Player A shall be fined a total of 50% of his Match Fee.

- 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 *Ombudsman* 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 2.8), 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’ 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); (b) to *BCCI* within fourteen (14) days of receipt of the decision imposing the fine. However, *BCCI* 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 *BCCI* 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 *Franchisee* (such as friendly matches or warm-up matches) or *IPL Event* until such payment has been satisfied in full.

7.5 Each time a *Player* or *Team Official* is found to have committed an offence under the *Code of Conduct* and a sanction is imposed by a *Match Referee* or *Ombudsman*, corresponding *Demerit Points* as per the table in Article 7.3 above shall be added to the *Player* or *Team Official’s* record and accumulated with any existing *Demerit Points* imposed on the *Player* or *Team Official* within the previous thirty-six (36) months. The *BCCI* will keep an accurate and up-to-date record of all *Demerit Points* imposed upon *Players* and *Team Officials* and will carry out the process of accumulating *Demerit Points* each time a *Player* or *Team Official* is found to have committed an offence and sanctioned. For the avoidance of doubt, demerit points for each player shall be recorded commencing from the 2025 *Season*, and any offences committed in preceding *Seasons* shall not be considered for the purpose of imposing demerit points. However, the *Player* or *Team Official* sanctioned for the offences committed in preceding *Seasons* will remain obligated to comply with the sanctions imposed in all subsequent *Seasons*. Additionally, the *Player* or *Team Official* shall continue to carry any suspensions from 2024 *Season*, *Suspension Points* from 2025 *Season* onwards or *Demerit Points* from 2025 *Season* onwards in the subsequent *Seasons*, irrespective of any change in the *Franchisee* that the *Player* or *Team Official* participates in.

Example 1:

In 2024 Season, Player A breached the Code of Conduct in the final Match his Franchisee played for that Season and was suspended for one (1) Match for a Level 2 offence. In this case, Player A will be required to comply with the match suspension in the 2025 Season. However, Player A will not be awarded any Demerit Points for the Level 2 offence committed in the 2024 Season.

Example 2:

In 2025 Season, Player B accumulates a total of three (3) Demerit Points while playing for Franchisee X. In 2026 Season, Player B joins a different Franchisee Y. Player B will continue to carry the Demerit Points accumulated while representing Franchisee Y.

7.6 Where a *Player* or *Team Official* accumulates *Demerit Points* as set out in the table below, these *Demerit Points* shall be converted into *Suspension Points* (at the point that the *Player* or *Team Official* first crosses the relevant threshold) as follows:

Accumulated Demerit Points	Corresponding Suspension Points
4-7	1
8-11	2
12-15	3
16 and above	5

7.7 Notice of the amount of *Demerit Points* imposed and the accumulated total, together with any resulting *Suspension Points*, will be communicated by *BCCI*, as soon as is reasonably practicable, to the *Player* or *Team Official* at the same time as notice is provided to the CEO of the *Player* or *Team Official's Franchise* of the commission of the offence and resulting sanction. Any resulting *Suspension Points* imposed on the basis of accumulated *Demerit Points* shall be applied in accordance with the principles set down in Article 7.9 below and shall take effect immediately upon notice of the same to the *Player* or *Team Official*.

7.8 Any *Suspension Points* imposed on a *Player* or *Team Official* through the accumulation of *Demerit Points* will be applicable in addition to, and, for the avoidance of doubt, not in place of, any *Suspension Points* or period of suspension imposed by the *Match Referee* or *Ombudsman* pursuant to Article 7.2 above. However, any such period of suspension shall run concurrently with any period of suspension imposed by the *Match Referee* or *Ombudsman*.

EXAMPLE 1 OF THE APPLICATION OF DEMERIT POINTS:

1. *Incident 1 (Date T):*
 - (a) *A Player commits a Level 1 offence and receives a fine of 50% from the Match Referee.*
 - (b) *That Player will correspondingly receive two (2) Demerit Points in respect of that offence on his/her disciplinary record.*
2. *Incident 2 (Date T + 3 months):*
 - (a) *The same Player then commits a Level 2 offence three (3) months after the Level 1 offence was committed and is sanctioned with 2 Suspension Points (i.e., two (2) Matches) by the Match Referee. This Level 2 offence will equate to four (4) Demerit Points.*
 - (b) *As the second offence took place within three (3) months of the first offence, the Demerit Points imposed in respect of the second offence are added to the Demerit Points imposed in respect of the first offence, meaning that the Player now has an accumulated total of six (6) Demerit Points (i.e., 2 Demerit Points + 4 Demerit Points).*
 - (c) *As per table in Article 7.6, accumulation of six (6) Demerit Points results in one (1) Suspension Point (i.e. 1 Match).*
 - (d) *However, since the Player has to serve suspension of two (2) Matches due to the commission of the Level 2 offence, the suspension of one (1) Match due to the accumulation of Demerit Points will be served concurrently with the two (2) Matches suspension. To clarify, this implies that the total suspension to be served by the Player will be two (2) Matches and not three (3) Matches.*
3. *Incident 3 (Date T + 6 months):*
 - (a) *Three (3) months after committing the second offence, the Player commits another Level 2 offence and is sanctioned for that offence with a 100% fine.*

- (b) A further three (3) Demerit Points will then be added to the Player's Demerit Points in respect of that offence, taking his/her accumulated total within thirty-six (36) months to nine (9) Demerit Points.
 - (c) Nine (9) Demerit Points implies addition of further two (2) Suspension Points (i.e. 2 Matches).
 - (d) As the Player is not serving any period of suspension at that moment, the Player will be obligated to serve a two (2) Match suspension immediately upon notice of the same in accordance with Article 7.7.
4. Incident 4 (Date T + 37 months):
- (a) Upon completion of 36 months from the first offence, the Demerit Points accumulated pursuant to the first offence, i.e., two (2) Demerit Points (refer to Incident 1 above), will be removed from the record of the Player. The Player now has a total of seven (7) Demerit Points on his record.
 - (b) 37 months after committing the first offence, the Player now commits a Level 1 offence and received a fine of 10% of the Match Fee.
 - (c) As per Article 7.3, one (1) Demerit Point shall be added to the Player's Demerit Points in respect of that offence, taking his/her accumulated total to eight (8) Demerit Points.
 - (d) In accordance with table at Article 7.6, the Player has entered the zone of 8-11 Demerit Points, and this would imply an additional two (2) Suspension Points (i.e. 2 Matches).
 - (e) As the Player is not serving any period of suspension at that moment, the Player will be obligated to serve a two (2) Match suspension immediately upon notice of the same in accordance with Article 7.7.
5. The period of thirty-six (36) months will start on the date on which a sanction is given to the Player or Team Official, and not when the sanction is complied with. During these thirty-six (36) months, the Demerit Points will remain on the Player's disciplinary record. By way of an example, on April 1, 2025, Player A commits a Level 1 offence and is fined with 25% of his Match Fee, resulting in addition of one (1) Demerit Point. This one (1) Demerit Point shall remain on the Player's record till March 31, 2028.

7.9 Where *Suspension Points* are imposed against a *Player* or *Team Official* (whether by a *Match Referee* or *Ombudsman*, or through the accumulation of *Demerit Points* in accordance with Article 7.6 above), then such *Suspension Points* will be applied in accordance with the following principles:

- 7.9.1** In imposing any suspension of any number of Matches on a *Player* or *Team Official* the *Match Referee* or *Ombudsman* 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* or *Ombudsman* shall in imposing the suspension choose the next most proximate Match(es).;
- 7.9.2** where necessary, the *Match Referee* or *Ombudsman* shall be entitled to consult with the *BCCI* in order to make a determination as to which of the forthcoming *Matches* the *Player* is most likely to participate in or the *Team Official* is most likely to assist the participation of a *Player* in;
- 7.9.3** in so far as is reasonably possible, the *Match Referee*, *Ombudsman* or the *BCCI* (as applicable) shall apply the *Suspension Points* to the subsequent *Matches* in which the *Player* is most likely to participate in or the *Team Official* is most likely to assist the participation of a *Player* in, on chronological basis immediately following the announcement of the decision;
- 7.9.4** 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 *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.

EXAMPLES OF THE APPLICATION OF SUSPENSION POINTS:

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 *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*.

7.10 For the avoidance of any doubt:

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

7.10.2 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);

7.10.3 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);

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

7.10.5 where the *Match Referee* or *Ombudsman* 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 2.8), 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’ and impose an appropriate sanction; and

7.10.6 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 *Franchisee*); (b) to *BCCI* within fourteen (14) days of receipt of the decision imposing the fine. However, *BCCI* 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 *BCCI* 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 *Franchisee* (such as friendly matches or warm-up matches) or *IPL Event* until such payment has been satisfied in full.

7.11 Prohibited activities during suspension

7.11.1 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 *Franchisee* (such as friendly matches or warm-up matches) or *IPL 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 *Franchisee*.

7.11.2 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 *Franchisee* (such as friendly matches or warm-up matches) or *IPL 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 *Franchisee*.

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.

- 7.12** 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 *Franchisee* (such as friendly matches or warm-up matches) and to participate in *IPL 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.

ARTICLE 8 APPEALS FROM ORDERS OTHER THAN THOSE PASSED BY THE OMBUDSMAN

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 relates to, and not necessarily the Level of offence originally Reported. All decisions of the Ombudsman are full and final and are not subject to appeal.

Example: The Match Referee 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 1 Offence. In such circumstances, the right of appeal shall be determined on the basis of the Level 1 Offence and thus in accordance with Article 8.1.

8.1 Appeals from decisions in relation to (a) Level 1 Offence; or (b) Level 4 Offence; or (c) a Minimum Over Rate Offence

8.1.1 Decisions made under the *Code of Conduct* by a Match Referee in relation to (a) a Level 1 Offence; or (b) Level 4 Offence; or (c) a Minimum Over Rate Offence shall be non-appealable and shall remain the full and final decision in relation to the matter.

8.2 Appeals from decisions in relation to a Level 2 or Level 3 Offence

8.2.1 Decisions made under the *Code of Conduct* by a Match Referee in relation to (a) a Level 2 Offence; or (b) Level 3 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 the Ombudsman in 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 (b) the Franchisee that the Player or Team Official represents, or where appropriate in the case of an offence under either Article 2.11 (manipulation of a Match), Article 2.14 (changing the condition of the ball), 2.11 (manipulation of a Match), the relevant Team Captain; and (b) the BCCI CEO (or his/her designee).

8.2.3 Any notice to appeal under this Article must be lodged with the BCCI CEO 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 Franchisee to which the Player or Team Official is affiliated. The Player, Team Official or the Franchisee filing the notice of appeal may only do so upon paying the Appeal Fee. Thereafter, the following will apply:

8.2.3.1 Within 24 hours of receipt of a notice to appeal: (a) the BCCI CEO will notify the Ombudsman who shall hear the appeal sitting alone; and (b) the Match Referee will provide a written statement to the BCCI CEO setting out any relevant facts (to be copied to the Player or Team Official).

- 8.2.3.2** The provisions of Articles 5.1.2 to 5.1.12, 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 *Ombudsman*.
- 8.2.3.3** The *Ombudsman* 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 *Ombudsman* shall have the power to overturn the original decision completely or 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 notification by the BCCI CEO to the *Ombudsman*. It shall be open to the *Ombudsman*, in his/her discretion, to determine that the matter (or any part thereof) be dealt with by way of written submissions only.
- 8.2.3.5** In addition to the Appeal Fee, the *Ombudsman* 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 *Ombudsman* 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 *Ombudsman* under this Article 8.2, shall be the full, final and complete disposition of the matter and will be binding on all parties.
- 8.2.3.7** In the event an appeal succeeds before the *Ombudsman*, such that the original decision is completely overturned (and not increased or decreased, amended or otherwise substituted by a new decision) then the *Player*, *Team Official* or *Franchisee* that filed the appeal shall be entitled to the refund of the *Appeal Fee*.

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 4.3.1, the *Player* or *Team Official* waives his/her right to any appeal against the imposition of such sanction.

- 8.5** *BCCI* will issue a public announcement regarding any decision regarding an Appeal by the *Ombudsman* 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 *Ombudsman* or the relevant party mentioned in either Article 4.1.1 (or *BCCI*) publicly confirming the date of the Appeal hearing.

8.6 Where the *Ombudsman* is, or becomes unwilling or unable to hear an appeal as contemplated under these *Rules* (for example, where he/she finds him/herself in a position of conflict), then the *BCCI* shall have the discretion to appoint a replacement who shall be a retired Judge of the Supreme Court of India or a retired Chief Justice of a High Court after obtaining his/her consent and on terms as determined by the *BCCI* and all of the remaining procedure applicable to the *Ombudsman* will apply accordingly.

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 *BCCI* and the *Franchisees* automatically upon receipt of notice of the same, without the need for any further formality. Each of *BCCI* and the *Franchisees* 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 *Franchisees* 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 *BCCI*, with such amendments coming into effect on the date specified by *BCCI*.

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 and the courts at Mumbai shall have the exclusive jurisdiction.

APPENDIX 1 – DEFINITIONS

Appeal Fee. The amount of INR 90 lakh (Indian Rupees Ninety Lakh) payable by the *Player, Team Official* or *Franchisee*, as the case maybe, to appeal any order passed under *Code of Conduct*.

BCCI. The Board of Control for Cricket in India.

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

BCCI Constitution. The Memorandum of Association and Rules and Regulations of the *BCCI* registered on 21st August 2018 and as amended from time to time.

Captain. The Captain of a Franchisee for any Match.

Code of Conduct. This *Code of Conduct* promulgated by *BCCI* on the *Effective date*.

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

Designated Captain. The Player designated as the captain of the Franchisee for the entire Season.

Effective date. As defined in Article 10.3.

Franchisee. An entity which owns and operates a *Team* and which has entered into a *Franchise Agreement* with *BCCI*.

Franchise Agreement. An agreement between the *BCCI* and a third party (a *Franchisee*) under which such *Franchisee* has agreed to field a *Team* in the *League*.

General Manager (GM) Game Development, BCCI. Means the person appointed by *BCCI* from time to time as the GM Game Development, *BCCI* (or his/her designee).

ICC. The International Cricket Council or its designee.

Impact Player. As defined in the Impact Player Regulations for the Season.

Inquiry Report. As defined in Article 5.2.

International Duty. The participation by the *Player* in (i) any officially recognized International Test Match, One Day International or International Twenty20 *Match* involving the senior national men's cricket *Team* representing the *Player's* home country; or (ii) any tour or *ICC* Tournament involving such cricket *Team* which includes such international 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 *National Cricket Federation* which occurs shortly before and by way of preparation for any such officially recognized international cricket *Match* or any such tour or such *ICC* 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*.

IPL Central Accreditation. The accreditation provided by *BCCI* to persons by which such persons become entitled inter alia to access to all *Match* venues of the IPL.

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

IPL Event. Any event or function taking place in relation to the *League* which is designated by *BCCI* 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 Code (2nd edition - 2019)) or such revisions thereof as may come into force from time to time under an *ICC* regulation or as adopted by the Marylebone Cricket Club.

League. The Twenty20 cricket *League* (known at the date of adoption of this *Code of Conduct* as the TATA Indian Premier *League*) which has been established by *BCCI* and which shall take place in March/April/May of each year (or such other time as may be determined by *BCCI*).

Level 1 Offence. Any offence charged at Level 1

Level 2 Offence. Any offence charged at Level 2

Level 3 Offence. Any offence charged at Level 3

Level 4 Offence. Any offence charged at Level 4

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

Match Fee. In relation to a *Player* or *Team Official* shall mean the *League Fee* (in relation to *Players* and as defined in the *Player Contract*) or salary/other remuneration (in relation to *Team Officials*) payable to him/her in respect of the relevant *Season/year* (as appropriate) divided by the total number of *Matches* scheduled to be played by the relevant *Team* in such *Season* (excluding the *Play-Off Matches*). In calculating the *Match Fee* relevant to a *Player*, the *League Fee* stated in Schedule 1 of such *Player's Player Contract* shall be used without taking account of any potential reduction of the *League Fee* as contemplated by the *Player Contract*.

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

Match Referee. The independent person appointed by *BCCI* (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 2.22.

National Cricket Federation. A national or regional entity which is a member of or is recognized by the ICC as the entity governing the sport of cricket in a country (or collective group of countries associated for cricket purposes).

Notice of Charge. As defined in Article 4.1 and/or Article 4.6.

Ombudsman. The person appointed under the *BCCI Constitution* as *Ombudsman* from time to time to be an independent grievance redressal authority.

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

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

Play-Off 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 *IPL 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 *Operational Rules*.

Report. As defined in Article 3.1.

Season. The period during each year during which the *League* shall take place including the *Play-Off 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 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 Coach. The official head coach of any *Team* participating in a *Match*.

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

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

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 undelayed Matches, the 20th over finishes 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 time-outs 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 authorized 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 TV *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 2.20 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 *BCCI* 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 *BCCI CEO*) 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 2.22 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 *Season*. The *BCCI CEO* 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 above, 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 by the *Team* in a *Season*, the *Designated Captain* of the bowling *Team* will be fined Rs. 12 lakh. However, if the *Designated Captain* does not form part of the playing XII (i.e., playing XI and *Impact Player*), then the *Captain* for that *Match* will be fined Rs. 12 lakh;
- 4.2.2** for the second offence by the *Team* in a *Season*, the *Designated Captain* will be fined Rs. 24 lakhs. However, if the *Designated Captain* does not form part of the playing XII (i.e., playing XI and *Impact Player*), then the *Captain* for that *Match* will be fined Rs. 24 lakh;
- 4.2.3** for the second offence by the *Team* in a *Season*, each member of the playing XI in the *Team* for the relevant *Match* (excluding the *Captain* or the *Designated Captain*, as the case may be) will be fined the lesser of (a) Rs. 6 lakh and (b) 25% of his *Match Fee*;
- 4.2.4** for the third and each subsequent offence by the *Team* in a *Season*, the *Designated Captain* will be fined Rs. 30 lakh irrespective of whether the *Designated Captain* formed part of the playing XII (i.e., playing XI and *Impact Player*) for such *Match*;
- 4.2.5** for the third and each subsequent offence in a *Season* by the *Team* each member of the playing XI in the *Team* for the relevant *Match* (excluding the *Designated Captain*) will be fined the lesser of (a) Rs. 12 lakh and (b) 50% of his *Match Fee*;