

MILDENHALL CRICKET CLUB

CODE OF CONDUCT FOR PARENTS/ CARERS

An important part of cricket is the long-held belief that the game should be played within its traditional spirit of **fair play** and **respect**. Everyone involved in cricket has a responsibility to ensure that it is always played in a truly sportsmanlike manner.

Our philosophy is that everyone representing the club is expected to support and maintain high standards of conduct and sportsmanship both on and off the field. Coaches and captains have the duty of informing any player should his or her conduct fall below expected standards. They will always support umpires.

“As in victory, so in defeat”

The following guidelines are Mildenhall Cricket Club's Code of Conduct for parents and carers who have children participating in the club. The club would like each parent and carer to consider and adhere to the following:

- Always please remember that young players are children and cricket is just a game – it's fun!
- Support your child's involvement and help them to enjoy their cricket.
- Set a good example by recognising fair play and applauding the participation and good performance of all. Discourage unfair play. Encourage courtesy and respect towards everyone involved.
- Help your child to recognise effort, courage, resilience, team spirit and good performance. Not just results.
- Never force your child to take part.
- Never belittle or punish your child for making mistakes or losing. Mistakes are how we learn – *'Ever tried. Ever failed. No matter. Try again. Fail again. Fail better'* (Samuel Beckett).
- Provide a drink, suitable protective clothing (eg, depending on the weather - sun hat, sunglasses or warm top) and equipment (eg, batting pads, helmet, gloves and so on) for training and match sessions, as agreed with your child's coach or team manager.
- Encourage your child to learn the rules and play within them. Cricket is not as complicated as it is sometimes made out to be!
- The nature of cricket is that your child might not bowl, or could be out first ball, or may be asked to bat at the lower end of the batting order, or might not even get to bat at all. It is important that children understand and learn to get used to this, so please help them to do so where you can.
- Remember that coaches, managers, and umpires are unpaid volunteers and are only human. They are giving up their spare time to help your child play cricket. Publicly accept their judgements and decisions with good grace. Discourage arguing with officials;
- Our role is to develop young talent; not to win all our matches. But both the club and individuals need a mix of both competitive and inclusive cricket. So, managers have to strike a difficult balance between teams being competitive (some teams more so than others) and enabling all players to achieve their full potential by sharing opportunities across the course of an entire season. We know we will not satisfy everyone all of the time, but we hope that parents will at least appreciate these conflicting demands and understand our approach.
- Managers are appointed to make decisions, and those decisions are final. It is much more difficult to recruit and retain team managers and qualified coaches than junior players, and no coach or manager means no cricket for any of the players. If you have any issues, we encourage you to please speak to us at the appropriate time, and not try to influence decisions on match days. We will do our best to explain, or where appropriate change, what we are doing.