

Essex County Carpet Bowls Association

Code of Conduct

It is the policy of the Association that all Carpet Bowlers and spectators show respect and understanding for each other and conduct themselves in a way that reflects the principles of the Association.

All players and supporters of teams are expected to act in a manner which does not prejudice the good name of the Essex County Carpet Bowls Association or their club and to conduct themselves in a manner that will not have any reproach on the Essex County Carpet Bowls Association or the whole sport of Carpet Bowls.

Guidelines

The ECCBA will not tolerate or condone any of the following from players, supporters or spectators either during an event or arising from an event:-

The use of foul and abusive language in such a manner as to cause offence to the person or persons to whom it is directed or people in the vicinity.

Any form of threats or derogatory remarks directed at associations, individuals, players, spectators or organisations, whether verbal, written or via any form of social media.

Causing damage to other people's property (wilful or accidental).

The theft of other people's property.

Such actions may result in a complaint being made against an individual or group of people that are attending a venue which is being used to hold an ECCBA event.

Making a Complaint

All members have the right to complain and may do so by writing to the current ECCBA Secretary.

Any person or a club may make a complaint; the ECCBA will keep you informed of progress at all stages.

This procedure applies to all members and supporters of the Essex County Carpet Bowls Association. Your complaint should include your name, telephone number and address and the nature of the complaint.

The details of the incident you are complaining about needs to reach the ECCBA Secretary within seven days of the incident taking place.

All complaints will be acknowledged within seven days of receipt.

The Secretary will ensure that a complaint is investigated and that a response is received within twentyeight days of the progress of the complaint, then every fourteen days until the disciplinary panel has reached a conclusion.

Any person/team that has had a complaint made against them will be contacted by the ECCBA Secretary as soon as possible to make them aware of the nature of the complaint and to make a copy of the complaint available to them.

Disciplinary Panel

All complaints will be fully investigated; this could mean that individuals may be asked to make statements which will aid the disciplinary panel to make a decision about a complaint and the severity of any penalty it should impose.

Depending on the considered severity of the complaint, the ECCBA disciplinary panel may impose a written caution or a ban against an individual, or group of people, that is proven to have been involved in an incident at an event that the ECCBA organises. Should an individual in the twelve months immediately prior to the current incident had similar accusations proven against them for any reason then the disciplinary panel may choose to use that information when setting the penalty relating to the latest complaint.

Cases of criminal damage or violent conduct may be referred to the police. If financial recompense is required legal action could be taken against the guilty party.

The committee of any club from which the perpetrator(s) of an incident that is investigated by the ECCBA disciplinary panel originates, will be informed in writing of the findings of any investigation following a complaint being made against that person(s) and may choose to impose its own penalty, but cannot rescind an ECCBA penalty.

Disciplinary measures will be taken against any Club that knowingly fails to co-operate with, or tries to cover up any of their members' involvement in a misdemeanor.

Any person not satisfied with the decision reached by the disciplinary panels decision will have 15 days to make an appeal.

Appeals Panel

An individual has the right to an appeal either in person or via their club secretary. All appeals must be made in writing and to be received by the ECCBA Secretary within 15 days after receiving a disciplinary penalty; if no appeal is received the penalty will take immediate effect. An individual or team that has made an appeal against an imposed penalty will not be allowed to play in an ECCBA event until the appeal is settled. It should be noted that an appeal may result in a penalty being increased or decreased and the result of any appeal will be final.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

For any reports received after an event has finished, which may have serious consequences (provided the complaint is made within the required timescale), the disciplinary panel will have the power and the authority to fully investigate and take the necessary action as appropriate. No one should be able to escape disciplinary actions just because a complaint was not made immediately. The Executive Committee of the ECCBA fully intends to protect its members, players, and the good name of the ECCBA and the whole sport of Carpet Bowls, and will seek to impose penalties against those who wilfully break the expected code of conduct

The Executive Committee of the ECCBA accepts no responsibility for any misinterpretation of this code of conduct. If you are uncertain about any issues printed here then it is in your own interest to seek clarification first.

NOTES:

1. The Disciplinary Panel will consist of the ECCBA League Secretary responsible for the offender(s) club, an ECCBA officer, but not the Chair-person, and a randomly selected delegate from a member club.
2. The Appeals Panel will consist of the ECCBA Chair-person, another ECCBA committee member, but not the ECCBA League Secretary responsible for the offender(s) club, and a randomly selected delegate from a member club.
3. No two people from the same County League Area may sit on either panel. Both panels will have a secretary present to take notes.
4. A written warning will be held on record for a period of twelve months, at the end of which it will be destroyed.
5. Records of Suspensions will be destroyed as soon as they have expired. The minimum suspension will be 1 year (12 calendar months) from the date it is imposed, not the date of the incident.