Mitcham Cricket Club

Communications Policy

Introduction

The Mitcham Cricket Club (MCC) includes junior, senior and veterans' players, families and guardians, coaches and club officials, past players, sponsors and supporters.

The MCC Committee understands the importance of communication. Clear, effective and respectful communication among all sections and members is integral to the fullest and proper functioning of the club and to the wellbeing of individuals. Communication underpins and facilitates full participation and enjoyment of the game and participation in the club and amenities.

Scope

This policy relates to communication in all its forms within the club environment; written, spoken, in person, electronic, telephone and social media, including player and team chat groups. It refers to engagement within the club environment, with external stakeholders and with opposition players, umpires, association representatives and officials.

Aim

The aim of this policy is to promote communication that is characterised by clarity, effectiveness and respect. This policy is also a reference for education within the club.

Clear, effective and respectful communication:

- Aims to support the broad operations of the club and to enhance positive relationships in the context of playing cricket and enjoying the amenity of the club.
- Ensures that the language used is accessible by everyone in the target audience.
- Is clear in its purpose.
- Is timely.
- Is not:
    - Aggressive, abusive, threatening or intimidatory.
    - Demeaning or intended to embarrass, shame or ridicule.
    - Discriminatory, including inappropriately referencing gender, ethnicity or sexual orientation.
- Has a full awareness of child-safety, including:

- Respects and maintains appropriate boundaries and relationships with juniors and young people.
- Cricket club communication by an adult with a junior and/or young senior player ordinarily should occur at training and be face to face.
- Where communication is necessary outside of training it should be minimal, cricket related and organisational in nature.

Club office bearers, officials, captains and coaches

Club office bearers, officials, captains and coaches have a particular responsibility for role-modelling clear, effective and respectful communication. People in these roles have significant opportunity and responsibility to build a cricket environment that is positive and inclusive. This includes role-modelling respectful and appropriate communication with all those in the MCC community, with officials and opposition players, and expecting the same of MCC players, and responding appropriately when individuals do not meet these expectations.

Players

The principles and directions listed above are intended to guide interactions between players, club officials, captains and coaches and with opponents, match officials. Players can experience challenge in their communication when disagreeing with an umpiring decision, not performing as they want to, not agreeing with selection or with the directive of a captain or coach. There is not a cricketer that has not experienced one or all these challenges. The MCC Committee asks that you do your best to communicate in a respectful manner, always. When you fall short you are encouraged to take responsibility for addressing this in an appropriate way.

Players are reminded that many people facilitate the playing, coaching and social activities of the club and association, putting in significant work, much of it voluntary. Addressing all respectfully and showing appreciation builds an environment where people want to contribute and feel appreciated for their efforts.

Chat groups

Chat groups are appropriate for player, coaches, teams, committee and other club groups. They facilitate organisation and allow easy flow of information. When posting in a club chat group individuals are expected to communicate in accord with the principles and directions in this policy. Material of a demeaning, discriminatory, or obscene nature is never to be posted. People are also reminded that

communication should occur during reasonable hours and that every post alerts everyone in the group.

Parents, guardians and supporters

Parents, guardians and supporters are asked to respect the intent of this policy and communicate respectfully with club and match officials and opposition players. All are reminded of the good sport guidelines and that barracking should be supportive in nature.

Responses to inappropriate communication

Where you have a concern with the communication of someone within the MCC community, you are encouraged to:

- In the first instance at an appropriate time and in an appropriate manner raise your concern with the individual.
- If this is not possible or you feel unable to do this then please speak with the relevant captain, coach and/or a member of the MCC Committee or Executive.

Dated: 11 February 2026