

SUSPECT BOWLING ACTIONS – COUNTRY CRICKET

The Mornington Peninsula Cricket Association has adopted the following policy and process in regards to how we will address players that are identified with Suspect Bowling Actions

Suspect Actions Advisory Group (SAAG)

The MPCA have in partnership with the VCCL and Cricket Victoria Game Development Department have established an advisory group specifically to deal with suspect actions. The Community SAAG comprises members from both the VCCL & Cricket Victoria, with the ability to co-opt as required.

LEVEL 1A:

In any MPCA scheduled match, if there is a doubt, the first mention* is to be made by the umpire(s) to their local association secretary on a note, separate from the Match Report, naming the bowler and expressing what the concerns are.

Upon receipt, the association secretary makes contact with the club Administration Officer/Secretary and asks the club to investigate the matter and take remedial action if necessary.

The Club will then report to the MPCA Secretary/General Manager

LEVEL 1B:

If there is a second mention* (same process – umpire(s) make a separate report to association secretary). Upon receipt of second mention, the association secretary makes contact with their VCCL Region Secretary; at this point the player is placed on the regions suspect action registry.

Upon receipt, the VCCL Region Secretary makes contact with the club Administration Officer/Secretary and asks the club to investigate the matter and take additional remedial action.

Note: Should a player be deemed suspect in any MPCA or VCCL scheduled matches that do not have a league umpire, a report is to be lodged by a designated official from the club making the report. For senior matches it is to be the club President, in all junior matches any player is referred via their club President or designated Junior coordinator.

LEVEL 2A:

If there is a third mention* (same process – umpire(s) make a separate report to association secretary). The VCCL Region Secretary contacts the club and requests that video footage be taken and forwarded to their Regional Cricket Manager, who will then forward and liaise with the Cricket Victoria Fast Bowling Unit to provide remedial action advice. The cost will be invoiced to the Players Club for the video review and report production.

The bowler/club is provided with a video analysis and a report. The Regional Cricket Manager will consult with the bowler on areas to rectify any problems with the bowling action. A copy of the report is also forwarded to the VCCL Regional Secretary and the MPCA Association Secretary.

There will be an 8 week “intervention period” following this analysis to allow remedial work to be undertaken. During this intervention period the player will be permitted to bowl in matches.

Umpires will be advised of the player’s situation.

(If there is any doubt* during this intervention period then the umpire(s) will continue to make a separate report to association secretary).

Should the bowler/club decide not to co-operate or participate in this part of the procedure the player will immediately be classified as Level 4, and will be suspended from bowling for 12 months.

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LEVEL 2B:

If there is a fourth mention* (same process – umpire(s) make a separate report to association secretary). The VCCL Region Secretary contacts the club and advises that the bowler is to undergo a Fast Bowling Technique analysis with Cricket Victoria's SAAG group. The cost again will be invoiced to the club for the video review and report production; the player will be required to travel to Melbourne to complete this assessment.

The bowler/club is provided with a video analysis and a report. At the analysis session, a SAAG Coach who will consult with the bowler on areas to rectify any problems with the bowling action. There will be an additional 8 week "intervention period" following this analysis to allow remedial work to be undertaken. During this intervention period the player will be permitted to bowl in matches.

Umpires will be advised of the player's situation.

(If there is any doubt* during this intervention period then the umpire(s) will continue to make a separate report to association secretary).

Should the bowler/club decide not to co-operate or participate in this part of the procedure the player will immediately be classified as Level 4, and will be suspended from bowling for 12 months.

LEVEL 3:

Following the intervention period, at Level 2A and 2B, should there be a further mention* the bowler will not be permitted to bowl in any MPCA scheduled matches for a period of 8 weeks.

This is to allow any remedial work to be continued, without the pressures of bowling in matches.

Upon activation of Level 3, the Association secretary makes contact with the VCCL Secretary; at this point the player is placed on the MPCA and VCCL suspect action registry.

LEVEL 4:

Following Levels 1A, 1B, 2A, 2B & 3 if the bowler is mentioned* again, he will not be permitted to bowl in Community Cricket for a period of 12 months.

"The procedure is ongoing and players do not return to Level 1 each season. Each mention will progress the procedure, irrespective of time".

SUBSEQUENT MENTION:

If a player suspended from bowling at Level 4 resumes bowling after the specified suspension period, and he is mentioned* again, he is immediately at Level 4 and suspension from bowling will apply forthwith.

*** THIS ENTIRE PROCESS DOES NOT PRECLUDE ANY UMPIRE FROM CALLING A BOWLER FOR THROWING, AT ANY TIME, IF THE UMPIRE IS IN NO DOUBT.**

Throughout the process clubs and coaches are to act in the best interests of the player and cricket in general with the overall welfare of the player and the game being the prime considerations.

All MPCA and VCCL Region Suspect Action Registers are to be made available to other VCCL regions and Cricket Victoria on request.