

THE 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, but also within the Spirit of Cricket.

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

Respect is central to the Spirit of Cricket.

- i. Respect your captain, team-mates, opponents and the authority of the umpires.
- ii. Play hard and play fair.
- iii. Accept the umpire's decision.
- iv. Create a positive atmosphere by your own conduct and encourage others to do likewise.
- v. Show self-discipline, even when things go against you.
- vi. Congratulate the opposition on their successes and enjoy those of your own team.
- vii. 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 players, umpires and scorers in a game of cricket may be of any gender, and the Laws apply equally. The use, throughout the text, of pronouns expressing a binary he/she is as inclusive as practicable, whilst retaining clarity. Except where specifically stated otherwise, every provision of the Laws is to be read as applying to all persons, regardless of gender.