



SIJCC ANTI-SLEDGING POLICY — UMPIRE’S GUIDELINE —

The SIJCC holds the Spirit of Cricket in the highest esteem, and endeavours to advocate for it holding its rightful place within all North Shore Junior Cricket Association (NSJCA) competitions in which it participates.

It should be made clear to the opposing team and umpire that SIJCC umpires all officiate to an Anti-Sledging Policy that is consistent with the Spirit of Cricket and the Code of Conduct of the NSJCA, and that the NSJCA have been fully informed of this.

The Anti-Sledging Policy entails the following two directives:

- During play, players are **not** permitted to speak with a member of the opposing team unless it is for the purpose of genuinely enquiring into the welfare of an opposing player (i.e. they have been injured), or to genuinely congratulate them on some aspect of their performance.
- Players are **not** permitted to speak with members of their own team about a member of the opposing team in such a way that the opposing team are intended to hear it.

Below is an example of how the umpire can express this when addressing teams prior to the start of play:

“During play, no one is allowed to speak to a member of the other team unless you’re checking on them if they’ve been injured, or congratulating them. And no one is allowed to speak about a member of the other team so that they can hear it.”

Teams are certainly supported to enthusiastically encourage themselves, however this should never be at the expense of their opponents.

The all too common practice of fielding sides using predetermined phrases, rhymes and ditties should also be immediately addressed when they occur in order to prevent their further use. These too are deliberately used for the purpose of distracting opposing batters, directly contravening the NSJCA Code of Conduct and most certainly the idea of *respect* as outlined by the Spirit of Cricket.

As the NSJCA Blue Book does not permit the awarding of penalty runs except in cases pertaining to Law 28.2 (Fielding the ball) or Law 28.3 (Protective helmets belonging to the fielding side), any team that continues to disregard the umpire's application of the Anti-Sledging Policy will be informed that the matter will be dealt with as per 32.3 of the Blue Book:

32.3 Players' conduct

In junior cricket, it is important that the players understand that playing in the spirit of the game is just as important as playing according to the rules and laws of the game. The Spirit of Cricket is explained in the Preamble to the Laws of Cricket and covered in Rule 2 of this Blue Book.

If there is any breach of the Spirit of Cricket either in the case of an unfair action not covered by the Laws, under 2 above, or by a player either;

- **failing to comply with the instructions of an umpire**
- **or criticising an umpire's decisions by word or action**
- **or showing dissent**
- **or generally behaving in a manner which might bring the game into disrepute,**

the umpire concerned shall immediately report the matter to the other umpire.

The umpires together shall

- i) inform the player's captain and coach of the occurrence, instructing the latter to take action.**
- ii) warn the player of the gravity of the offence, and inform him / her it will be reported to higher authority.**
- iii) report the occurrence as soon as possible after the match to the Executive of the player's team and to the NSJCA, who shall take such action as is considered appropriate.**

If it does get to (iii), email the SIJCC Ethics Officer after the match with all the details so the matter can be escalated to the Club and the NSJCA:

ethics@stivesjuniorcricket.com

It also should be pointed out to those who oppose the umpire's stance that the **umpires are the sole judges of fair and unfair play** as per the Laws of Cricket and the NSJCA Blue Book.