

INTOXICATED PLAYER POLICY

Note: This policy applies to all competitions.

A player under the influence of alcohol or a drug poses a potential risk to themselves and to other players, spectators and officials. An intoxicated player is not permitted to participate in a Q.C.A. sanctioned match. Umpires have the authority to exclude the participation of intoxicated players from a match and will exercise that authority where appropriate to facilitate the continued safe conduct of matches.

Position Statement

The players of a match of cricket have an obligation to be in a condition suitable for effective and safe play. Queensland Cricket wants to promote sobriety in the game and all players and their clubs are to support this policy.

Scope

All participants (players and umpires) in matches under the management of Queensland Cricket.

Aims

1. Improve player safety and sobriety.
2. Reduce the risk of injury to players, officials and spectators.
3. Assist umpires to determine the standard required of players.

Associated Documents

“The Laws of Cricket” Marylebone Cricket Club 2019

“Regulations governing Premier Cricket Competition Matches” QCA.

Principles

The following principles apply to the application of this policy:-

1. Umpires have a discretion to apply the policy;
2. The use of a direction is likely to be a rare event;
3. Incidents to which the policy will apply are likely to be obvious;
4. Mere intoxication is not considered to be an automatic breach of this policy or the Code of Behaviour.

Definitions

‘Intoxicated’ – visibly or demonstrably adversely affected by alcohol, drugs, or other agents, (whether prescribed or not) or any other condition, to a degree that would -

1. Apparently affect the overall ability to play and behave in a normally acceptable manner on the field of play; or
2. Endanger their own safety or others, or
3. Cause to bring the game into disrepute.

APPLICATION

General – Opinion, Explanation and Direction

If an umpire forms the opinion that a player is intoxicated the umpire shall advise the player and the player’s captain or club of that opinion and require the player, captain or the club to explain why the player should be allowed to participate in that day’s play.

If an umpire is not satisfied with the explanation the umpire will maintain the opinion that the player is intoxicated and direct the player to be stood down from the match [“a direction”].

On receipt of a direction from an umpire, the captain or the Club shall stand down the intoxicated player from the match for the duration of that day’s play.

A failure to stand down the intoxicated player after a direction shall render both a player and a Club liable to such sanctions as are stated in this policy and any other sanction as determined by the governing body responsible for the match.

Umpire’s Direction given prior to play

Where a direction is given **prior** to the exchange of teams and the toss for choice of innings, the Club so affected shall be **entitled to nominate a replacement player** with full playing rights for the duration of that day’s play.

Until the nominated replacement arrives a substitute player may field under the twelfth man rule. [Law 24]

Umpire's Direction given after play commences

Where a direction is given **after** the exchange of teams and toss for choice of innings, the intoxicated player shall not take the field, or shall leave the field immediately and a Club representative shall be notified.

An intoxicated player not taking the field, or leaving the field may not participate in the match for the duration of that day's play. The Club so affected shall not be entitled to a replacement player, although a substitute may field, if required, for the duration of that day's play. **The twelfth man rule will apply.** [Law 24]

An intoxicated player who is a batsman leaving the field, or not commencing his innings shall be recorded as "Retired – Out", and shall not bat again for the duration of that day's play. [Law 25.4.3]

Match duration of more than one day

In matches of more than one day, any intoxicated player stood down under this policy may return to the match on the next scheduled day of play with full playing rights, provided they present themselves in a condition suitable for effective participation in the match and no further playing restriction has been imposed on the player, either by the player's Club or the governing body responsible for the match.

No Umpires – Captains' Responsibility

In the event that no official umpires are in attendance at the match, the captains shall assume the role of the umpires for the purposes of this policy. If a captain is one of the concerned players, the affected team shall nominate a senior player to act in the captain's place.

SANCTIONS

Player – Exclusion

If the intoxicated player accepts the direction then the only penalty is exclusion from the day's play.

If the intoxicated player refuses the direction and insists on playing, then that action is to be regarded as a breach of the Code of Behaviour and a report must be made by the umpire.

Club and Team - Forfeit

If the intoxicated player refuses to adhere to the direction, the player's Club and team captain must show responsibility and follow the umpires' direction and exclude the player from the day's play.

If the intoxicated player's Club and team captain do not support the direction, the umpire will enter a forfeit by the intoxicated player's team as the outcome of the match and a report will be made by the umpires on the Club, captain and player.

APPEAL

The intoxicated player, or Club can appeal under the Queensland Cricket Appeals Tribunal procedures.