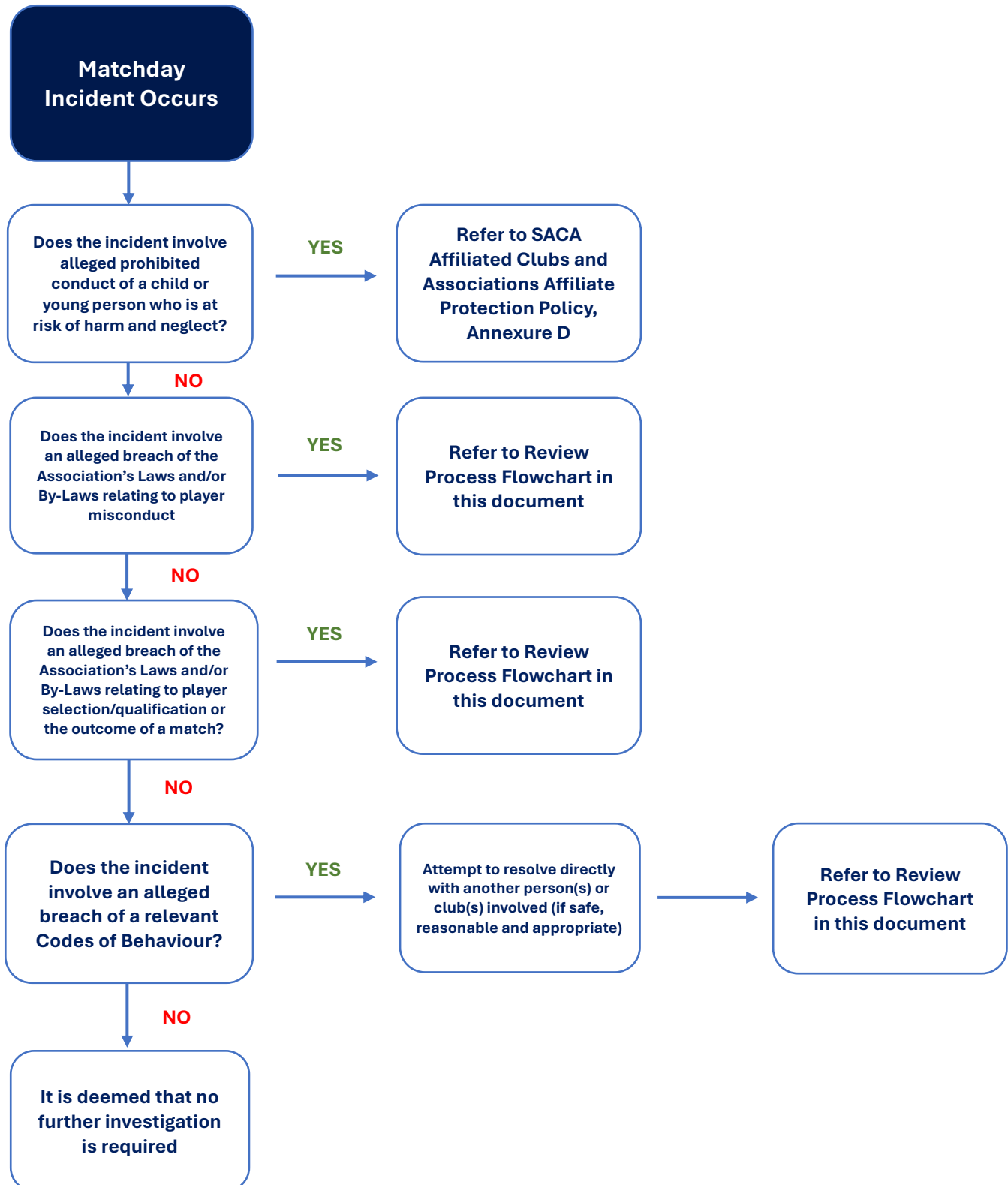


DISCIPLINARY AND MATCH PROTEST GUIDELINES

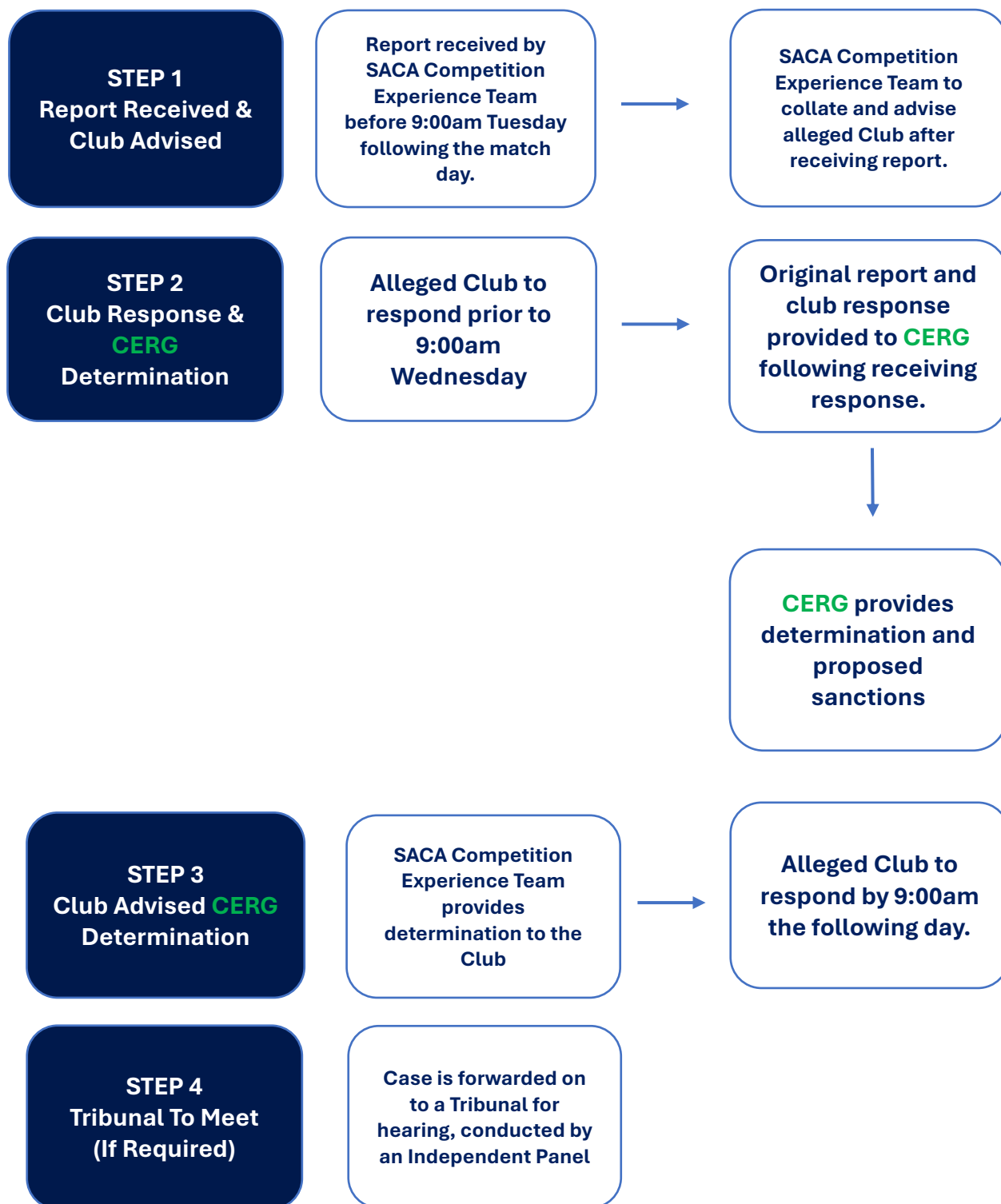
(for initial determinations by SACA Competition Experience Team)

INCIDENT REPORT FLOWCHART



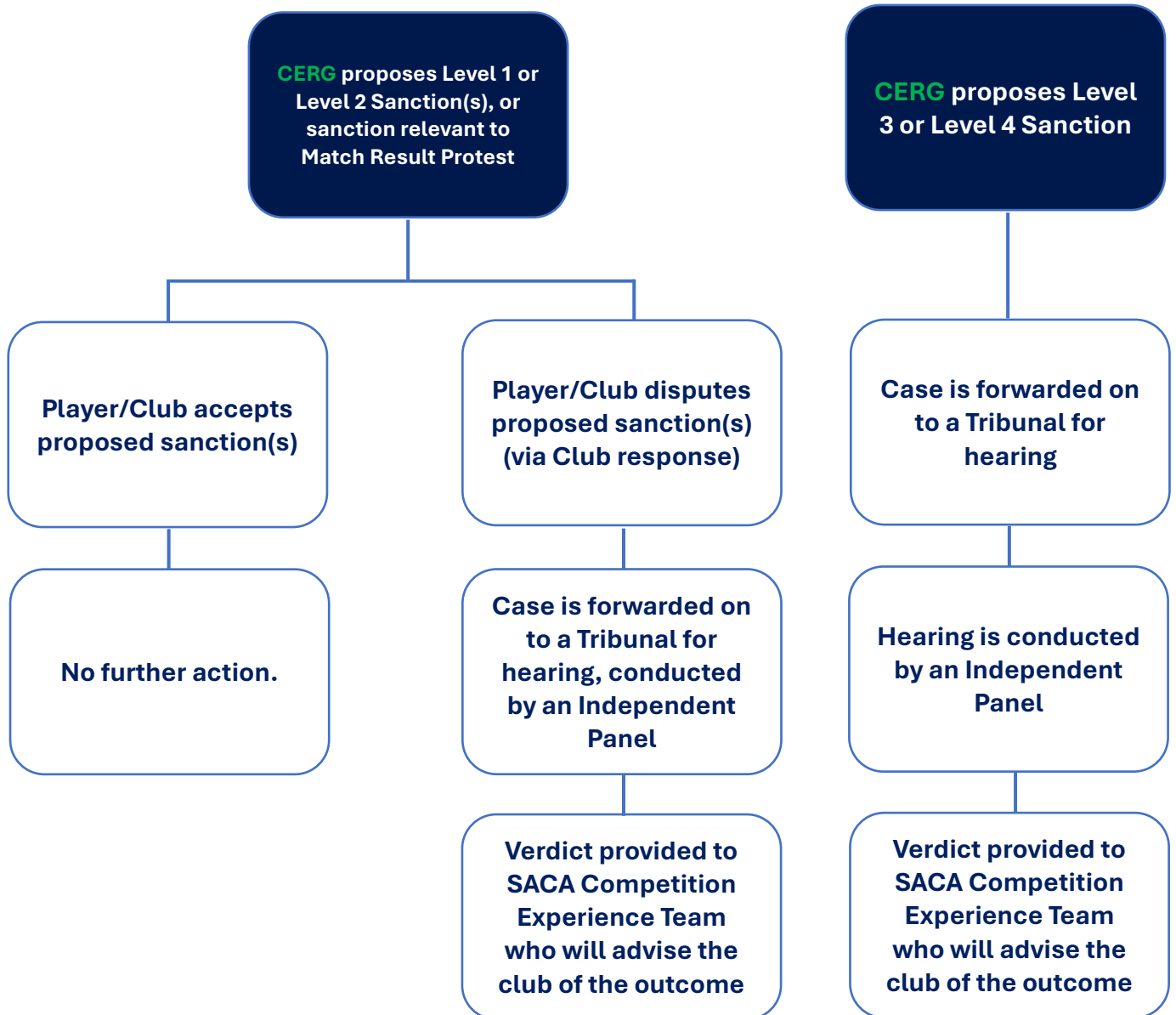
REVIEW PROCESS FLOWCHART

Submission of Report, Club Responses and Determination





Disciplinary/Protest Levels and Flowchart



INCIDENT REPORT PROCESS

Definitions

“Competition Administrator” means the SACA staff member appointed to provide competition administration service to the association. “SACA Competition Experience Team” are the broader staff responsible for supporting community associations

Purpose

The purpose of these guidelines is to provide guidance to competition administrators, players, coaches and umpires, ensuring that any incidents that occur during a game of Cricket are handled in an appropriate manner.

Scope

The guidelines apply to competition administrators, players, coaches and umpires involved in any organised community cricket competition matches of the relevant Association.

Responsibility

Clubs are expected to lead their own players, coaches, parents, spectators and members to understand and comply with the relevant Laws, By-Laws and Codes of Behaviour of their Association (outlined in the By-Laws), including the Preamble “The Spirit of Cricket”. This expectation shall extend to ensuring play is conducted within the above, and any breach of the above Laws and Codes shall be considered as misconduct under these By-Laws.

By-Laws

4.1. Protests and Reports of Players and Officials

4.1.1 By an Officiating Umpire

- (a) If an appointed or officiating umpire, during or on the day of a match in which they are umpiring deems it necessary to report any player, or Club Official for misconduct arising out of, or in the course of, that match (whether or not the player or official is involved in that match), or any breach under Law 41 (Unfair Play) of the Laws of Cricket, or any other Law or By-Law, they shall, as soon as practicable, after the conclusion of the day’s play;
 - (i) The Umpire must lodge a report under the **SACA Competition Experience Team** Incident Report Form, providing as much detail about the event(s) as possible by 9:00am on Tuesday following the match.
 - (ii) The report shall constitute a charge or report against the player, or official for the purpose of these By-Laws.
 - (iii) The report made will fall under the parameters of the **SACA Competition Experience Team** Incident Report Flowchart. If further investigation is required, the relevant Process will occur.
- (b) Where an umpire reports a player or official during the course of a match, the umpire where practical is to inform a club official, such as the Coach of the report.
- (c) A Coach, Junior Delegate or Team Manager (of the reported player/officials club) may approach the umpire at the conclusion of the match to obtain the relevant report details.
- (d) The failure of an Umpire to inform a player or official of the report does not invalidate the making of the report.
- (e) It is a breach of these rules for any person, other than those mentioned in (c) above. to approach the umpire in relation to the report.

- (f) It is a breach of these rules for a reported player, official or any other player or official to speak to the Umpire about a report. Any player or official who speaks to the Umpire may be referred by the **SACA Competition Experience Team** to a Tribunal as deemed appropriate.
- (g) Any reports made after this time may be considered at the sole discretion of the **SACA Competition Experience Team**.

4.1.2 By Club Appointed Persons

- (a) A report can be made by the following Nominated Club Officials and must be presented to SACA Competition Experience Team Management by 9:00am on Tuesday following the match;
 - (i) Junior Coordinator
 - (ii) Club President
 - (iii) Club Secretary
- (b) Reports must only be made from those mentioned above and must be lodged under the SACA Competition Experience Team Incident Report Form.
- (c) The report made will be reviewed by SACA Competition Experience Team Management and if further investigation is required, the report will fall under the parameters of the relevant SACA Competition Experience Team Incident Report Flowchart, where a **Competition Experience Review Group (CERG)** Process may occur if deemed necessary.
- (d) Any reports made after this time may be considered at the sole discretion of the **SACA Competition Experience Team**.
- (e) Similarly to reports from an Officiating Umpire, a report made by a Nominated Club Official through the Incident Report relating to player or Club Official misconduct, or any other Law or By-Law of the Association including a player's selection and/or qualification or the outcome of a match.

4.2 Investigations

- (a) The **SACA Competition Experience Team** have the power to investigate any incident that is brought to their attention.
- (b) The **SACA Competition Experience Team** at its discretion, have the power to refer a matter directly to a Tribunal.
- (c) A club or player that is not complying with a penalty imposed by the **SACA Competition Experience Team** shall be subject to additional penalties as deemed appropriate.

4.3. Cross-Competition Sanctions

- (a) If players or officials are found guilty and suspended for a breach of the Rules/Codes of Behaviour of the game in one Competition, it is recommended that they serve a similar suspension in other Competitions.
- (b) The SACA Competition Experience Team will notify any additional Clubs or Associations the player is competing in, to inform them of the penalty that has been handed down to the player(s) or official(s).

4.4. Appeals and Tribunal Process

4.4.1. Appeals

- (a) Should a report be made from either an Umpire (4.1), or a nominated Club Official (4.2) and a suspension is handed down following the relevant review process, a person or Club may appeal against such a suspension on the following grounds;
 - (i) That there was an error of law, or;
 - (ii) That the sanction imposed was distinctly excessive
- (b) Any player or Club wishing to appeal a decision from the **CERG** must notify the SACA Competition Experience Team via email competitions@saca.com.au within 24 hours of the verdict being handed down.

- (c) Any appeal must be supported by the person's primary club, the club which they were representing at the time of the incident in question.

4.4.2 Tribunal Process

- (a) If required, a tribunal panel will meet to adjudicate on a matter.
- (b) A Tribunal Panel will meet to hear a case that is either;
- (i) Appealed following a **CERG**-determined decision being handed down, as per 4.4.1. or;
 - (ii) A Report that has been sent directly to the tribunal due to the seriousness of its nature.
- (c) The Tribunal Panel will consist of a minimum of two (2) members and a maximum of three (3) members
- (i) Where there are 2 panel members, the decision needs to be unanimous.
 - (ii) Where there are 3 panel members, the decision agreed upon by the majority of the panel will stand.
- (d) The Tribunal Panel may do one or more of the following;
- (i) If the matter is an appeal of a **CERG** Decision;
 - (1) Find that the decision of the **CERG** was so unreasonable that no group acting reasonably could have come to that decision having regard to all the material before them. In this case, the Tribunal must make a new determination in substitute of the **CERG** decision and impose any penalty or penalties it considers appropriate (if any);
 - (2) Affirm the decision of the **CERG**. In this case, the Tribunal must impose the original penalty imposed by the **CERG**, or;
 - (3) Impose additional penalties on the person
 - (ii) If the matter is a direct referral to the Tribunal;
 - (1) Find in favour of the Participant, in which case no penalty will be issued, or;
 - (2) Find against the Participant, in which case it must impose a penalty on the Participant or Club.
 - (iii) The SACA Competition Experience Team will be responsible for communicating the outcome of the tribunal hearing to the Participant and the Club.
 - (iv) The decision of the tribunal will be final.
 - (v) Any suspensions handed down will be documented on PlayHQ and the relevant Association Website.

4.5 The Codes of Behaviour

- (a) When considering the Codes of Behaviour it must be remembered that:
- (i) Cricket owes much of its unique appeal to the fact that it should be played not only within its Laws, but also within the "Spirit of Cricket"
 - (ii) The major responsibility for ensuring fair play in junior cricket rests with all players, match officials, teachers, coaches, and parents.
 - (iii) Respect is central to the Spirit of Cricket.
 - (iv) Any action that is disrespectful and seen as abusing the "Spirit of Cricket" causes and injury to the game itself.
- (b) All players and Club officials shall comply with the relevant Codes of Behaviour and Policies below, which should be read in conjunction with the (MCC) Laws of Cricket 2017 Code (3rd Edition - 2022) and the relevant Association's Constitution, By Laws and Playing Conditions.
- (i) SACA Affiliated Clubs and Associations Affiliate Protection Policy
 - (ii) Australian Cricket Policy for Safeguarding Children and Young People
 - (iii) SACA Policy for Safeguarding Children and Young People
 - (iv) Australian Cricket 'Looking After Our Kids' Code of Behaviour for Affiliated Associations & Clubs

- (c) Any breach of the Codes of Behaviour shall be considered to be misconduct under these By-Laws.
- (d) Captains, and, where relevant to junior cricket, Coaches are responsible at all times for ensuring that play is conducted within the spirit of the game as well as within the Law of Cricket (2017 Code 3rd Edition – 2022) including the preamble “The Spirit of Cricket”.

4.6. SACA Competition Experience Review Group (CERG)

- (a) There shall be a **Competition Experience Review Group (CERG)**.
- (b) The CERG shall consist of the following;
 - (i) Competition Administrator of the Association
 - (ii) SACA Competition Experience Team Staff Members (2)
- (c) All charges shall be referred by the Competition Administrator as soon as possible following the completion of the match.
- (d) The **CERG** shall review each charge and make a determination as soon as practicable, if possible/practicable before the next game day.
- (e) The **CERG** may seek further information or comment from any person in such a manner as it seems fit.
- (f) If the **CERG** determines that a charge is proven, the reported person is to receive a penalty which is appropriate in all circumstances.
- (g) When imposing any penalty, all relevant circumstances must be taken into account (considered), including;
 - (i) The **CERG** must request and obtain details of any prior penalty imposed on the reported person before imposing any reprimand or period of ineligibility to participate.
 - (ii) The seriousness of, and harm caused by the breach.
- (h) The **CERG** shall, upon making its determination, notify the Club of its determination and any penalties imposed.
- (i) The reported person or Club must at the time of notification, be advised that if they do not accept the determination, the person will be required, through their Club Delegate, to notify the Competition Administrator(s) of their non-acceptance of the determination.
 - (i) Under this circumstance, the charge will be heard by an Independent Association Tribunal at its earliest convenience.
- (j) If the Panel determines that the charge is not proven, the charge will be dismissed.
- (k) The Panel is not required to provide reasons for its determination.
- (l) If an incident occurs, which falls outside of the example of the offences listed in the below tables, the relevant Panel has discretion to categorise the incident as they believe best fits the offence.

4.7 Ranges of Penalties for Misconduct

- (a) If a report is found to be proven, the reported person is to receive a penalty which is appropriate in all of the circumstances.
- (b) Indicative range of penalties for each misconduct is;

LEVEL OF OFFENCE	INDICATIVE PENALTY RANGE
Match Result Protest is Proven	Match awarded to relevant Club as Forfeit, with relevant changes to Match Points and other parameters.
Level 1	A minimum of one (1) club match suspended sentence. Alt: two days (2) susp. sentence
Level 2	A minimum ban of Two (2) club matches. Alt: three (3) playing days
Level 3	A minimum ban of Three (3) club matches. Alt: five (5) playing days
Level 4	A minimum ban of Four (4) club matches. Alt: seven (7) playing days.

*A reminder that the above is indicative and is a guide only. Alternative measurements are in red where playing days are to be used instead of matches.

- (c) A penalty less than the cumulative indicative range(s) may be imposed at the discretion of the relevant Panel.
- (d) A penalty greater than the indicative range may be imposed in the case of a person having been found guilty of previous offences.
- (e) A club match (or playing day), or for the purpose of the ban, shall be defined as the entirety of the number of fixtured rounds for the ban. For example, a player receiving a two (2) club matches ban would require the player to miss the entirety of the next two rounds, and, similarly, a player receiving a ban of three (3) playing days would be required to miss all of the next three applicable playing days.
- (f) The prescribed penalty is only enforceable in the Competition in which the offence took place in.
 - (i) The SACA Competition Experience Team will notify any additional Club(s) and Competitions the player participates in and they may choose to enforce the penalty.
- (g) In the case of a parent receiving a ban, this may result in the parent not being permitted to attend the game.
 - (i) The **Competition Experience Review Group (CERG)** may determine that the imposed penalty is handed to the child on behalf of the parent.

RULES OF BEHAVIOUR - OFFENCES

LEVEL 1 OFFENCES

NO.	OFFENCE	EXAMPLE
1.1	Abuse of Cricket equipment or clothing, ground equipment of fixture and fittings.	Actions such as hitting or kicking the wickets or action that result in damage to advertising boards, boundary fences, or any part of the building structure around the ground.
1.2	Show dissent at an umpire's decision by action or verbal abuse	Includes excessive, obvious disappointment with an umpire's decision or with an umpire making the decision and an obvious delay in resuming play or leaving the wicket.
1.3	Use language that is obscene, offensive or insulting and/or the making of an obscene gesture.	This includes swearing and offensive gestures which are not directed at another person such as swearing in frustration at one's own poor play or fortune.
1.4	Point or gesture towards the pavilion in an aggressive manner or behaving aggressively towards either batter upon dismissal of a batter.	Includes charging or running up to the batter and getting "in his/her face".
1.5	Excessive "Chatter to the Batter"*	Includes excessive and repeated sledging or comments to the opposing batter and ignoring directions to cease.
1.6	Excessive Appealing*	Self-Explanatory

*"excessive" is considered to be multiple instances beyond where a warning(s) have been given to a player.

**LEVEL 2 OFFENCES**

NO.	OFFENCE	EXAMPLE
2.1	Show serious dissent at an umpire's decision by action or verbal abuse	Dissent is classified as serious when by a specific action such as the shaking of the head, snatching cap from the umpire, pointing at pad or inside edge and other displays of anger or abusive language directed at the umpire or excessive delay in resuming play.
2.2	Engage in inappropriate and deliberate physical contact with other players or officials during play.	Deliberately walking or running into or hip-and-shouldering another player or official.
2.3	Charge or advance towards the umpire in an aggressive manner when appealing.	Self-Explanatory.
2.4	Deliberately and maliciously distract or obstruct another player or official on the field of play.	Deliberately attempting to distract a player by words or gestures (refer to 'no chatter to the batter' rule) or deliberately shepherd the batter while running or attempting to run between the wickets.
2.5	Throw the ball at or near a player or official in an inappropriate and/or dangerous manner.	This does not discourage a fielder or bowler returning the ball to the stumps in the normal fashion.
2.6	Use language that is obscene, offensive or of a seriously insulting nature to another player, official or spectator.	This is language or gestures which are directed at another person.
2.7	Change the condition of the ball in breach of the Law 41.3	Prohibited behaviour includes picking the seam or deliberately throwing the ball into the ground for the purpose of roughening it up and the application of moisture to the ball.

LEVEL 3 OFFENCES

NO.	OFFENCE	EXAMPLE
3.1	Intimidate an umpire, coach or spectator whether by language or conduct.	Self-Explanatory.
3.2	Threaten to assault another player, official or spectator.	Self-Explanatory.
3.3	Use language or gestures that seriously offends, insults, humiliates, intimidates, threatens, disparages or vilifies another person based on that person's race, religion, colour, descent, national or ethnic origin, disability or gender.	Self-Explanatory.

LEVEL 4 OFFENCES

NO.	OFFENCE	EXAMPLE
4.1	Threaten to assault an umpire, official, player or spectator.	Self-Explanatory
4.2	Physically assaulting another player, umpire, official or spectator.	Self-Explanatory
4.3	Engage in any act of violence on the field of play.	Self-Explanatory.
4.4	Use language or gestures that seriously offends, insults, humiliates, intimidates, threatens, disparages or vilifies another person based on that person's race, religion, colour, descent, national or ethnic origin, disability or gender.	Self-Explanatory.