

# IN THE MATTER OF PROCEEDINGS BROUGHT UNDER THE ECB ANTI-CORRUPTION CODE

Between  
THE ENGLAND AND WALES CRICKET BOARD (ECB)  
and  
MR CHRISTOPHER WOOD

## Outcome pursuant to Article 5.1.12 of the 2020 ECB Anti-Corruption Code

### RELEVANT BACKGROUND FACTS

1. As a result of an investigation by the ECB Anti-Corruption Unit (ACU), under Article 4.6 of the 2020 Anti-Corruption Code for Participants ('the 2020 Code'), Mr Wood was charged with the following:
  - In 2011, Mr Wood placed two bets on cricket, contrary to the provisions of Article 2.2.1 of the 2011 ECB Anti-Corruption Code for Players and Player Support Personnel ('the 2011 Code'):

*2.2.1 Placing, accepting, laying or otherwise entering into any Bet with any other party (whether individual, company or otherwise) in relation to the result, progress, conduct or any other aspect of any Match or Event.*

- In 2016, Mr Wood placed seven bets on cricket, contrary to the provisions of Article 2.2.1 of the 2016 ECB Anti-Corruption Code for Participants ('the 2016 Code'):

*2.2.1 Placing, accepting, laying or otherwise entering into any Bet with any other party (whether individual, company or otherwise) in relation to the result, progress, conduct or any other aspect of any Match.*

2. Mr Wood admitted all the breaches to the ACU in his first response following being contacted by the ACU. Mr Wood acknowledged that he was a Participant as defined by the 2011 Code and the 2016 Code, and that he was aware that he was prohibited from betting on cricket.

### AGREED SANCTION

3. This outcome is pursuant to Article 5.1.12 of the 2020 Code and sets out the sanction proposed by the ECB and accepted by Mr Wood for his admitted breaches of Article 2.2.1 of the 2011 Code and Article 2.2.1 of the 2016 Code.

4. Article 6.1 of both the 2011 Code and the 2016 Code sets out the relevant factors that an Anti-Corruption Tribunal would be required to consider, including aggravating and mitigating factors, in determining the relative seriousness of the offence(s).
5. It is acknowledged by the ECB that any sanction imposed must be proportionate. In considering what is proportionate, the ECB is entitled to weigh against the impact of a ban on Mr Wood, the importance of the objectives underlying the ECB Anti-Corruption Code, the seriousness of the particular breaches by Mr Wood, the need to deter others from similar wrongdoing, the need to protect the image of the sport and the need to maintain public confidence in the determination of cricket to stamp out corruption.
6. The ECB note the following relevant mitigating factors in Mr Wood's case:
  - a. Mr Wood's admission of guilt and cooperation throughout the investigative process;
  - b. Mr Wood's remorse and contrition as expressed to the ECB;
  - c. Mr Wood's otherwise good disciplinary record;
  - d. The offences did not substantially damage (or have the potential to substantially damage) the commercial value and/or the public interest in the relevant Matches;
  - e. The offences did not affect (or have the potential to affect) the result of the relevant Matches;
  - f. Mr Wood did not play in any of the relevant Matches; and
  - g. Significantly, at the time of the relevant offences, Mr Wood was suffering from a severe gambling disorder. Since this time, he has sought help and has confirmed that he is no longer gambling and the ACU have found no evidence that Mr Wood has placed a bet on cricket after 2016. Further, he has spoken out publicly about the issues he has faced and is providing advice and assistance to others experiencing problems with or addiction to gambling. He is now a consultant for a company which provides education sessions to those affected by gambling addiction, both inside and outside of sport. Mr Wood has supplied several personal testimonies to the ECB that provided additional insight into his struggles during his addiction, his good character and his willingness to help others avoid the same situation.
7. The ECB has considered all of the circumstances of this case, including giving Mr Wood credit for agreeing an outcome that avoids the need for an Anti-Corruption Tribunal Hearing and so saves considerable time and money for use elsewhere in the fight against corruption.
8. The ECB therefore considers that a period of Ineligibility of two months, suspended for two years, is a proportionate sanction.
9. In order to avoid the two-month suspended period of Ineligibility coming into effect, Mr Wood must not commit any offence under the ECB Anti-Corruption Code and/or ICC Anti-Corruption Code and/or the Anti-Corruption Code of any ICC Member within the two year period starting from 4 December 2020.

10. If the two-month suspended period of Ineligibility comes into effect, it would be applied during the English domestic season (which could span across two seasons).
11. Mr Wood has agreed to this sanction having received independent legal advice.
12. In accordance with Article 5.1.12 of the 2020 Code, the Chair of the Cricket Discipline Commission has approved the sanction.
13. This constitutes the final decision of the ECB in this matter and shall be disclosed publicly in accordance with the requirement of Article 5.1.12 of the 2020 Code.
14. There is no need for any further hearing in these proceedings, which are hereby concluded.