

## **Cricket Discipline Commission Decision and Brief Reasons**

1. A CDC panel hearing, held remotely, was convened on the 15 June 2021 to consider a charge that Sussex CCC ('Sussex') had breached paragraph 3.6.21(a) of the ECB Directives ('the Directives').

2. The said Directive states that -

3.6.21 Subject to the overriding discretion of the ECB Integrity Team, it will be a separate offence for a Team under this Directive 3.6.21 if:

(a) during any period of 12 months, Registered Cricketers registered with or on loan to the same First-Class County or Women's Elite Domestic Structure Senior Team whilst playing for that Team, receive 5 or more Fixed Penalties under Directive 3.6;

3. The admitted facts were that between 2 August 2020 and the 7 May 2021, cricketers registered with Sussex received five fixed penalties ('FPs') for Level 1 breaches of paragraph 3.6.2(c) of the Directives – *showing dissent at an umpire's decision by word or action*'. In each case, the cricketer received a reprimand by way of sanction as each breach was the only offence on their personal record at the relevant time.

4. Sussex admitted the charge.

5. Written submissions were received from both parties, and it was agreed that the panel should rely on those in making its decision. We record that we were very grateful for this concession, which seemed to us a sensible and constructive approach.

6. It was common ground between the parties that the penalty to be imposed should be no more than the suspended points penalty imposed on Nottinghamshire CCC in November 2020 for breach of the same Directive. We were satisfied that it was appropriate to adopt this approach, in the interests of consistency.

7. Both Counties admitted the breach. Neither had previously been subject to disciplinary action for its players receiving five or more FPs. Financial penalties were not appropriate given the counties much reduced income since March 2020.

8. We are satisfied that the conduct complained of in the Nottinghamshire case was more serious than the present. All Sussex FPs were Level 1 breaches, restricted to showing dissent. Nottinghamshire's included a Level 2 breach (mock fielding) and a Level 1 breach relating to '*wilfully mistreating any part of the cricket*

*ground or using obscene or offensive language'*, which suggested a wider-range of behavioural problems at that county at the time.

9. Sussex took steps to address their problem, to which ECB had alerted them, by organising a meeting in March 2021. Players and coaches discussed dissent and other behavioural issues with the very experienced umpire Ian Gould. Since then, only one FP involved a cricketer who attended that meeting.

10. While the Nottinghamshire FPs were imposed over a five-week period in the T20 Blast in 2020, Sussex FPs spread over two seasons, and were in different competitions. However, playing time amounted to 3 months in total – not a significant difference in our view.

11. Taking all of the above into account, we impose the following sanction -

(a) Sussex CCC are subject to a points deduction of up to 12 points in the LV County Championship and/or

(b) 2 points in the Vitality T20 Blast and/or

(c) 2 points in the Royal London Cup,

(d) such deductions being suspended for 12 months from the date of this decision.

The deductions will be activated if the Club receives 2 further Fixed Penalties during this period. The penalty will then be decided by the panel at the material time and will take into consideration the competition in which the breaches occurred and their seriousness.

(e) The panel does not impose a fine or make an order for costs.

12. Any appeal against this decision, which must comply with clause 10.3.3 of the CDC Regulations, must be made within 14 days hereof.

Chris Tickle, Panel Chair  
Amrisha Parathalingam  
Paul Joy

15 June 2021