

Umpire's and Captain's Duties

After a number of incidents over the last two or three years, the following text has been compiled from the Rules of Stoolball and the Spirit of Stoolball document.

Any action which is seen to abuse this spirit of stoolball, causes injury to the sport itself. Captains and umpires together set the tone for the conduct of a stoolball match. Every player is also expected to make an important contribution to this.

The spirit of the game involves respect for: your opponents, your own captain and team, the role of the umpires and the sport's traditional values.

Captains

The major responsibility for ensuring the spirit of fair play rests with the captains. The captains are responsible at all times for ensuring that play is conducted within the spirit of the game as well as within the rules.

Umpires

Fair and unfair play - The umpires are the sole judges of fair play. The umpires may intervene at any time and it is the responsibility of the captains to take action where required.

Acting against the spirit of the game - It is against the spirit of the game: to dispute an umpire's decision by word, action or gesture, to direct abusive language towards an opponent or umpire, to advance towards an umpire in an aggressive manner when appealing.

The umpires should act as a team, aiding each other to see that the rules are applied correctly and that the match is played in a sporting manner. They must be careful that they do not coach or provide advice to players during the match other than to make a factual statement regarding a decision or to explain the rule(s) pertinent to a specific situation that has arisen.

Misconduct - An umpire may instruct a player to leave the field of play for three overs following persistent use of abusive language or unsporting behaviour. If there is a further problem with the player on their return to the field of play following the period of suspension, that player shall take no further part in the match. At the end of the match the umpires shall produce a full, written report which shall be submitted to the disciplinary committee of the county, league or organising body within seven days.

Things can get tense in a match and while we like to think our members wouldn't engage in any bad language or behaviour, sometimes things slip out. We do not want juniors developing bad habits so please help manage the message if your player is exposed to this and let a club officer know if anything makes you or your player uncomfortable.

If a problem arises with unacceptable spectator behaviour, it is the duty of both umpires to suspend play and intervene. In the event of an unsuccessful appeal for restraint, at their discretion, play may be suspended forthwith. At the end of the match the umpires shall produce a full, written report which shall be submitted to the county, league or organising body within seven days.

"Code of conduct and players' responsibilities" and "Disciplinary Policy and Procedures" are covered in more detail on our website but are overdue for a review.

See also Sport England's Club Matters page - <https://www.sportenglandclubmatters.com/club-planning/governance/policies-procedures/code-of-conduct/>