

Cricket Etiquette: A Guide

Cricket is beloved worldwide for its polite nature and spirit of fair play. The importance of the spirit of cricket is set out in the preamble to the laws of the game. Every cricketer should make themselves aware of the behaviour that is expected of them on the cricket field. This allows for competitive games which both sides can enjoy, free from underhand tactics, gamesmanship and cheating.

Cricket etiquette is full of nuances and niceties. It is important to learn these, but a general spirit of fair play and sportsmanship suffices in most situations.

Cricket Etiquette: Fielders

- Enter the field of play after the umpires
- The captain should lead the team onto the field
- Between deliveries keep an eye on the captain for a possible change of position
- Keep position, don't stray
- Remember position for each bowler and each batter
- Get the ball back to the bowler promptly
- Do not engage in unnecessary comments or actions in the guise of enthusiasm and motivation of own team
- Do not appeal if you know the batter is not out
- Do not charge the umpire when appealing
- Indicate immediately if you have not completed a fair catch
- Do not engage in chatter or movement likely to distract the batter
- Do not engage in any form of sledging
- Always signal to the umpire when the ball reaches the boundary
- Do not sit on the ground – even if it is a drink break or a wicket has fallen
- Avoid walking on the pitch
- Acknowledge a 50 and/or 100 scored by a batter
- Acknowledge a bowler's good performance – clap him off the field

Cricket Etiquette: Bowlers

- Always say “thank you” to the umpire when passing to him, or receiving from him, your hat and/or jumper – never throw them or leave on the stumps or on the ground
- Always accept the umpire’s decision
- If questioning the umpire on a point, do it calmly and politely – accept his response
- If the non-striker is leaving his crease early, refrain from running him out, without a first instance warning at the very least (known as the Mankad)
- Apologise to the batter immediately if you bowl a beamer
- Do not engage in any form of sledging

Cricket Etiquette: Batters

- Enter the field of play after the fielding side
- When asking for ‘guard’ say “please”
- When you are out, walk, don’t hang around
- Accept the umpire’s decision when given out
- Always be ready to receive the ball when the bowler is ready to start his run-up
- Apologise if for some reason, such as adjustment to equipment, you have cause to make the bowler wait
- Do not engage in comments or gestures likely to cause conflict with the bowler or fielders
- Always have clothing and equipment on, ready and fully adjusted so as not to cause delays when you are the incoming batter
- When taking runs always run to the side of the pitch, never down the middle

General

- Show respect for your captain, team-mates, opponents, umpires and the game's traditional values
- Do not be arrogant in victory nor surly in defeat
- When you are the 'home' team, create a hospitable environment for opponents and umpires
- Show self-discipline both on and off the field
- Look the part – clothing and equipment should be clean, tidy and properly worn
- Show appreciation of the efforts of workers within the game – for example, the people who provide lunches and afternoon teas, ground staff and club officials
- Always be punctual for matches and training sessions
- At the end of the match shake hands with opponents and thank the umpires
- After the day's play participate in social interaction with team-mates, opponents and umpires

Cricket Etiquette: Nets & Training

- Take practice seriously and work hard – it will improve your game and help others do the same
- Always keep your eye on the ball
- Never turn your back on the batter
- Be aware of when your turn comes to bowl – do not waste the batter's time waiting for you
- Do not stand chatting if bowlers are required for a net

- When returning from having bowled a ball, be aware of who is bowling next
 - are they bowling over or around the wicket? You may have to move either way.
 - Don't trudge back to your mark whilst somebody is waiting for you to move so they can bowl run or get out of the way quickly.
- If a net lane next to you is empty, don't walk all the way back in the net you've just bowled in, duck under the netting into the adjacent lane and get out of the way!
- Refrain from joke bowling, or distracting other bowlers, as it rarely makes for good batting practice
- Always wear the correct protection when batting. This includes shoes (not jandals or wornout trainers), leg pads, box (with box briefs), gloves and helmet (compulsory at all times as specified in the helmet policy). Also optional are thigh, arm and chest guards.
- When giving or receiving throwdowns, be conscious of the direction the ball will take – both off the bat and following a miss or leave. Ensure that you do not disturb others
- Try to attend training as often as you can. If your only chance to play is when you step out onto the field on a Saturday, you won't be at your best. Lots of people at training is good for team spirit as well as technique