



## Victorian Cricket – Embracing All

An appropriate Club culture respects and welcomes all people who have a love of cricket, irrespective of their ability. The Spirit of Cricket enables the game to be enjoyed the world over by people from many different backgrounds and as such the game has the capacity to transcend all boundaries.

Recognising that people make great Clubs and these people can come from a wide variety of backgrounds, Cricket Victoria has adopted an All-Embracing philosophy aimed at making cricket and cricket Clubs accessible to all.

The All-Embracing philosophy strengthens clubs by including groups that are traditionally under-represented in cricket including Indigenous people, people with disabilities, people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, older adults and disadvantaged youth.

Diversifying and broadening Club membership enriches the culture of a Club with the flow-on effect being a positive reinforcement of the Spirit of Cricket.



## Playing By The Rules

“You have the right to be treated fairly and to feel safe. You have the responsibility not to discriminate against others and to treat others fairly and with respect.”

The above quote from the Equal Opportunity Commission Victoria, may well have been taken from the Spirit of Cricket.

Every Club member has clearly defined moral obligations and legal responsibilities, however commonsense tells us these obligations and responsibilities are simply the ingredients for creating a great Club.

In order to enjoy the environment of a Club, people need to feel comfortable and safe. Creating a Club atmosphere that everybody wants to be a part of is not difficult and merely requires adherence to some simple principles:

- Treat everybody at the Club as you like to be treated yourself
- Co-operate with your team-mates, coach and opponents
- Always remember that you are there to enjoy yourself just as others are also there to enjoy themselves
- Respect the rights, dignity and worth of all the people at and around your Club

Taking a basic, commonsense approach should enable most issues to be addressed and reduce the risk of things going wrong. However further assistance, advice or direction is available for resolving issues or educating Club members if required.

Clubs and Associations should be conversant with the Member Protection Policy as adopted by, and available through your umbrella body. This will ensure that your Club promotes and maintains an enjoyable environment for all members.

The four main areas covered by the Member Protection Policy relate to discrimination, racial & religious vilification, harassment and victimisation.

For additional information on issues involving Equal Opportunity and Member Protection, go to [www.playbytherules.net.au](http://www.playbytherules.net.au). Basic information is also contained in the video ‘Bouncing Racism out of Sport’, available from Cricket Victoria.



# The Spirit of Cricket



## Playing By The Rules

“Cricket is a game that owes much of its unique appeal to the fact that it should be played not only within its Laws but within the Spirit of the Game. Any action which is seen to abuse this spirit causes injury to the game itself.”

*Preamble to the Laws of Cricket*

Through the publication ‘Beyond the Boundary’, Cricket Victoria offers Clubs many practical ideas on creating an environment that is more inclusive of all people with the benefits this brings. Copies are attainable by contacting the Community Cricket Department on **9653-1186** or by email: [communitycricket@cricketvictoria.com.au](mailto:communitycricket@cricketvictoria.com.au)

Play by the Rules ([www.playbytherules.net.au](http://www.playbytherules.net.au)) is an interactive web-based resource designed to help Clubs ensure their environment is fair, safe, fun and free from discrimination and harassment.



# Growing the Spirit of Cricket

Cricket can be played in an uncompromisingly hard way at any level, yet remain enjoyable when played within the accepted boundaries of the Spirit of Cricket. It is this loosely defined, but universally understood, Spirit of Cricket that has guided cricket's development since the first ball was bowled and continues to envelope the game as strongly as ever.

Traditionally, the Spirit of Cricket has incorporated unwritten values and behaviours such as:

- Always respecting the umpire's decision by walking when the finger goes up;
- Letting the umpire know if you've grassed a difficult catch; and
- Acknowledging the opposition captain's arrival at the crease.

These traditional values remain appropriate and relevant to the spirit in which the game should be played today. However societal changes now demand that Clubs constantly adapt and monitor the way they administer, form and field their cricket teams.

The Spirit of Cricket represents the traditional values of the game while at the same time encompassing the new values which reflect our ever-changing society. To assist cricket administrators and Club members, these values are also evident in formal regulations, programs, documents and concepts such as:

- Codes of Behaviour for players, spectators, coaches & officials
- Equal Opportunity & Member Protection
- Gender equity
- Inclusive, healthy, family-oriented club environments
- Cricket Victoria's All-Embracing Program
- Cricket Victoria's Club Development Program

# Club Culture

Adherence to and respect for the Spirit of Cricket is invariably reflected in a Club's culture, both on the field and off the field.

A successful Club can be measured by its visible achievements such as:

- Strong teams that are consistently in the finals and always challenging for the premiership
- High player registration numbers and who are always keen to play
- Solid financial position with an abundance of assets
- Lots of people around the club prepared to volunteer their time on request

While these achievements may provide a measure of a successful Club, they are also indicators of a healthy Club culture.

A healthy Club culture strongly influences:

- People's desire to spend time at the Club and become involved in Club activities.
- The success of fundraising activities and ultimately the Club's financial position
- The success of social activities and the family atmosphere generated around the Club
- The unity of team-mates with the resulting strong, successful team ethic
- The number of willing volunteers that ultimately determines the number of things that get done around the club

Ideas for building or forming an appropriate Club culture are available in the following resources:

- Cricket Victoria's Club Development Program
- Cricket Victoria's All-Embracing Program
- Equal Opportunity Commission's 'Play by the Rules' website [www.playbytherules.net.au](http://www.playbytherules.net.au)

# Club Development Program

The Spirit of Cricket is often evident around healthy and welcoming Club environments because people enjoy being involved in a Club that is safe, friendly, inclusive and family orientated. Clubs should therefore seek to develop and foster a Club culture that supports such an environment.

Cricket Victoria's Club Development Program (CDP) has been designed to assist Clubs to develop a culture that will lead to an increase in participation through building a healthy, welcoming, family-oriented club environment.

The CDP is simple to implement and provides a range of strategies for addressing key areas including volunteers, teams and players and general club operations.

The CDP is based on the premise that effective off-field administration complements the Spirit of Cricket and helps develop a culture that will ensure the long term future of a club and produce on-field success.

## RICKY PONTING'S MESSAGE TO CAPTAINS

“ Dear Fellow Captain...

As leaders, our roles include making sure cricket is played both within its laws and within the spirit of the game. Together with the umpires, we are responsible for setting the tone for the conduct of cricket matches in which we compete. ”

