

Northwood Cricket Club

Code of Conduct for Playing Members



1. General

Northwood Cricket Club has been in existence since 1878. From that time the Club and its members have established great friendships with other Clubs and players from those Clubs. In some cases those friendships have been based on fierce rivalry on the field of play. Nonetheless, the Club has a reputation for good cricket in harmonious and social surroundings and for fair play, good manners and hospitality. As well as following the Northwood Cricket Club Code of Conduct for Members and Guests, all Playing Members are required to do whatever is necessary to ensure that such a reputation is maintained in perpetuity.

2. The Club survives because of the effort of its Members

Apart from the Youth Section Manager and the groundsmen, there are no paid employees of the Club except for occasional bar staff. Everything else has to be done by the Members. Every Playing Member is therefore expected to play his/her part in helping to keep the Club in good order throughout the year. This includes:

- Helping to prepare the ground for play (boundary rope, marking the pitch, inserting stumps, picking up litter etc.)
- Attending occasional working parties to carry out essential work on the ground or surroundings
- Opening up the score board, the bar or the changing rooms
- Keeping changing rooms, the lounge, toilet areas, kitchen and bar area clean and tidy
- Doing a cricket tea once or twice per season
- Carrying things back and forth to the bins, recycling units
- Helping around the ground (grass cutting, hedge trimming etc)
- A multitude of other things.....

There are always things that need to be done. Unless every playing member takes personal responsibility and willingly helps with all of those vital tasks that keep the whole of Northwood Cricket Club looking clean, tidy and inviting, an ever increasing burden falls on an ever diminishing number of playing members who do offer their help. This is not only unfair, it is unsustainable. In the long term it will lead to the demise of the club, which is unacceptable.

Every Playing Member of Northwood Cricket Club is therefore expected to play his/her part, willingly and without even being asked.

3. Sociability and timekeeping

If a player or prospective player wants to arrive for cricket just before the match (perhaps already in whites) and then wants to leave as soon as the game is over, Northwood is not the club to play for.

All Northwood players are expected to arrive well before the game, be it at home or away, at the time specified by the match manager who is in turn under the direction of the Team Captains. This allows the Captain to seek the help of a full team of players to carry out the required pre-match functions or perhaps to arrange some pre-match fielding practice. It may simply be to share each others company for a few minutes which the Club believes helps team spirit to flourish.

At home games, early arrival enables Northwood players to welcome the opposition players and guests, direct them to changing rooms and show them where the club facilities are. This

helps set the tone for the whole of the match.

It is fully understood that occasionally a player cannot arrive until just before a match or may need to leave promptly after the game. It must be understood that repeatedly doing either or both of these things is unacceptable at Northwood.

Sociability after the game (always with fellow team mates and whenever possible with the opposition) is very much part of the Northwood tradition. Indeed the Club has survived financially over the years largely thanks to profit made from the sale of drinks. Playing Members are expected to play their full part after matches. Needless to say there is no expectation that a player should drink alcohol, but it is expected that players will stay behind after games and be generally sociable.

4. Dress

Playing Members are expected to wear proper cricket attire when playing for the Club.

Where the Club has gained sponsorship from organisations who have paid to have their logo or name on items of cricket attire, and this attire has been provided to Playing Members, the Playing Members are expected to wear the attire provided for all Northwood Cricket Club matches.

5. Respect for fellow players, opposition players, umpires and spectators

Northwood is very demanding on the issue of player conduct. Northwood players are expected not to create or enter into issues of unrest with either their team mates or with the opposition.

Every umpire's decision (however bad it may appear!) is expected to be accepted, instantly, and the game continued immediately with bad feeling cast aside.

Comments which are in any way derogatory to the skill, appearance or demeanour of any opposition player are totally unacceptable.

Northwood players are expected to encourage youthful players in both the Northwood and opposition teams, to congratulate them on successful performance, to encourage fair play and generally make them feel comfortable amongst older players

Language on the field is expected to be moderated. Most players have sworn on a cricket field. Such language is expected to be rare and should always be at a volume inaudible to those outside the playing area who should not be forced to listen to it.

Sadly, poor behaviour is occasionally experienced from opposition players. Under no circumstances must Northwood players allow such situations to escalate. Northwood players are expected to walk away from and/or ignore any inflammatory behaviour by others.

6. Availability

It is the Playing Members' responsibility to make their availability known to their Team Captain or the nominated Match Manager by no later than 18.00hrs on the Monday prior to the following weekend. Failure to do so is likely to lead to non-selection.

Having made their availability known and having been selected as a result, Playing Members must not subsequently cry off, except in exceptional circumstances.

It is understood that such circumstances can occur. If and when they do arise, the playing member must make a personal telephone call to the Team Captain, or, if he/she is unavailable, the Match Manager, explaining the circumstances. Crying off by text message or e-mail is totally unacceptable, unless previously agreed with the Team Captain.

Playing Members must understand that crying off in circumstances that demonstrate a lack of

- commitment to the Club
- respect for their Team Captain or the Match Manager
- respect for their colleague Playing Members

is likely to lead to non-selection for future matches.

7. Membership Subscriptions

The Club survives from the contribution made by Members by way of subscription fees. "Subs" and match fees are expected to be paid in full and on time. Subscriptions can be paid with cash, by cheque, by transfer or by monthly Standing Order. Details on subscription and Match Fee amounts and how and when subscriptions must be paid are sent to all Playing and Student Members soon after the club's Annual General Meeting each year.

Failure by Playing Members to pay subscription fees by the due date is likely to lead to non-selection for subsequent matches.

8. Social Events

The social event calendar endeavours to offer a range of 'entertainment' intended to be of interest to Members as a whole. Once again the Club relies upon the income generated by such events and Playing Members are expected to support such events at least from time to time.

9. Summary

The following summarises the expectation of playing members of Northwood Cricket Club

As Playing Members of Northwood Cricket Club we are merely temporary custodians of a Club which existed for several generations before we were born. It is our responsibility to take what has been passed to us, maintain the best parts of its past, improve things where we can and pass it in good order to the next generation.

26 January 2021

Keith Watson

Keith Watson, Chairman Northwood Cricket Club