

Directives of the England and Wales Cricket Board

Guidelines Referring to Directive 3 of the Directives of the ECB

- 1 These Guidelines are not a substitute for The Directives of the ECB and in particular Directive 3 which follow and do not attempt to set out the rules in their entirety. They are not part of the Regulations of the ECB and are not binding on the ECB in any sense. They try to point to some of the changes brought about in 1997 but you must read and understand the Directive before you make any comment to the press or media. If you are in doubt as to any aspect of the Directive, please seek advice from your County or the ECB.
- 2 The regulation of the making of public statements by Cricketers has long been the subject of debate and previous Directives have been perceived by some as being too restrictive. The ECB has determined that professional Cricketers must be given greater latitude in this direction but it must be appreciated that this carries greater responsibilities also. Accordingly, Directive 3 on public statements is intended to remove the restrictions upon Cricketers commenting to the press on matters of topical interest where such comment has not previously been 'cleared' by the County or the ECB.
- 3 Please note, however, that any comment made must be fair and reasonable and must not involve a personalised attack on another cricketer, umpire, administrator or County. Relationships between Cricketers themselves, umpires and Counties are generally very good and we do not wish to have these jeopardised by the publication of material which includes a 'personal attack'. Any complaints as to personal conduct or behaviour are to be made in the usual way to the Discipline Standing Committee of the ECB.

- 4 It will be open to a County - as now - to instruct its playing staff as to which representative/s shall have the authority to speak to the press but in any event, the County will be as liable as its Cricketer for any comment which breaches the terms of the Directive.
- 5 Any Cricketer in doubt as to whether his proposed comment may be in breach of the Directive would be well advised not to make it until he has sought the opinion of his own County Club or the ECB (which will always be prepared to help in these circumstances).