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TO ALL CLUBS IN MEMBERSHIP OF THE OSSETT, HORBURY AND DISTRICT BOWLING ASSOCIATION.

At the last League meeting of the Association 2 complaints from separate Clubs about the use of foul language during a Match were brought to the attention of those present.

The subject produced more comment than we normally get at a Meeting and two main themes emerged;

- 1) automatic suspension for a specified period where a person has been using foul language.
- 2) warning and automatic suspension if there is another incident reported to the meeting, of sufficient severity, that the player should be suspended for use of foul language.

Option 2 was carried in the 2 incidents reported to the Meeting.

As Secretary I was then instructed to write to all Clubs that whilst the F word can be heard on the streets and in the media, we do not wish it to proliferate and become a nuisance in matches played under the auspices of the Association.

There are some players and spectators who are averse to swearing, whether it is addressed to themselves or they can hear a player cursing to himself after he has delivered a bad wood.

If it does slip out and is audible, then sorry is a word that comes to mind .

The message to Clubs is that you are best placed to deal with the behaviour of your members internally and this can range from a quiet word to suspending/not selecting the player for a period of time. It has been done in the past and I understand more recently by one Club. Leave it to the Committee is only an option when other avenues have failed.

If you have a problem, take it up with the opposing Club captain/contact their Secretary and give them the opportunity to deal with the matter. If they don't then refer the matter to the Association but it has to be of sufficient severity for the President and Vice Presidents to take action.

I am sure the above are isolated incidents as most bowlers I meet conform to the spirit of the game. Friendly banter between players is acceptable and part of the game, but when it moves to another level it should not be tolerated and that appears to be the accepted viewpoint.

Yours Sincerely,

J.C. MICKLETHWAITE.