

JUNIOR CRICKETERS IN ADULT MATCHES

(No changes in 2022)

INTRODUCTION

The ECB have confirmed the following guidance covering the participation of young cricketers in adult matches. This applies to boys and girls and any reference to he/his should be interpreted to include she/her. Age groups are based on the age of the player at midnight on August 31st in the year preceding the current season. This guidance applies to all cricket played in England and Wales.

GUIDANCE FOR CLUBS & LEAGUES

All clubs must recognise that they have a Duty of Care towards young players representing the club. This Duty of Care also extends to leagues that allow the participation of young players in adult teams. The Duty of Care should be interpreted in two ways:

1. Not to place a young player in a position that involves an unreasonable risk to that young player, taking into account the circumstances of the match and the relative skills of the player.
2. Not to create a situation that places members of the opposing side in a position whereby they cannot play cricket as they would normally do against adult players.

In addition, the following specific requirements apply to young players in adult matches:

3. All young players who have not reached their 18th birthday **MUST** wear a helmet with a face guard when batting, when standing up to the stumps or when keeping wicket. A young player acting as a runner must also wear a helmet even if the player for whom he is running is not doing so.
4. The current ECB fielding regulations must be adhered to and enforced by the umpires and captains.
5. The umpires are empowered by these fielding regulations to stop the game immediately if a young player comes within the restricted distance.
6. The umpires and the opposing captain must be notified of the age groups

of all players participating in an adult match in the Under 19 age group or younger, even if the player is not as fast bowler. This requirement also covers any young player taking the field as a substitute fielder. ECB Team Sheets / cards are available to facilitate this.

7. Before participating in adult cricket, any player in School Year 8 must have both explicit written consent from a parent or guardian and the permission of a person within the club, either the club's Head Coach, a Coach qualified to at least the UKCC2 level, or the Club Welfare Officer. Clubs must ensure that their player registration procedures ensure that this consent is obtained.
8. The guidance related to changing and showering (see 'Safe Hands -Welfare of Young People in Cricket Policy') must be adhered to. School Year 7 pupils will not be permitted to play in adult cricket in the League.
9. It is strongly recommended that a parent, guardian or other identified responsible adult is present whenever a player in the Under 13 age group or younger plays in an adult match. This could include the captain or other identified adult players taking responsibility for their young player.

FIELDING REGULATIONS

For reference, the ECB Fielding Regulations are as follows:

1. No young player in the under 15 age group or younger shall be allowed to field closer than eight yards (7.3 metres) from the middle stump, except behind the wicket on the offside, until the batsman has played at the ball;
 - a. For players in the Under 13 age group and below the distance is 11 yards (10 metres);
 - b. These minimum distances apply even if the player is wearing a helmet.
2. Should a young player in these age groups come within the restricted distance, the umpire must stop the game immediately and instruct the fielder to move back;
 - a. In addition any young player in the Under 16 to Under 18 age groups who has not reached the age of 18, **MUST** wear a helmet and, for boys, an abdominal protector (box) when fielding within

six yards (5.5 metres) of the bat, except behind the wicket on the offside. Players should wear appropriate protective equipment whenever they are fielding in a position where they feel at risk.

- b. These fielding regulations are applicable to all cricket played in England and Wales.

QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS

All questions and comments on this guidance should be addressed to Paul Bedford, Head of Operations (non First-class Cricket) at Lord's, telephone 0207 432 1216, by fax 0207 289 5619 or by post to ECB Cricket Department, Lord's Cricket Ground, London NW8 8QX.

His e-mail address is: paul.bedford@ecb.co.uk

LEAGUE & COUNTY WELFARE OFFICER

The Welfare Officer for the Cheshire County League and the Cheshire Cricket Board, who can be contacted about all problems connected with Junior Cricket in the county, is

Julie Rafferty,
c/o 2 Moss Farm Cottages,
Moss Farm Leisure Complex,
Northwich
CW8 4BG

Her telephone number is 07964 981 262

The telephone number for Moss Farm is 01606 871 200 (Mon-Fri 9.00-4.30)

Julie must be notified about all disciplinary cases involving junior cricketers. On the next few pages are some key messages regarding Safeguarding of children which must be a key priority for all clubs

Assistant County Welfare Officers:

Sarah Hallas & Mark Colebourn, who are both contactable at the Moss Farm address above