



Middlesex Cricket - Safeguarding Information for Captains of Open Age Cricket Teams

Middlesex Cricket and the ECB actively encourages the development of young players and to help you, it is important you follow the guidance set out in Safe Hands, which is Cricket's policy for Safeguarding Children.

We want as many young people as possible to transition into regular players for open age teams and become adult playing members. You can play an important part in this transition; the experience they receive when playing open age cricket for the first season could give them a life-time passion for the game or put them off completely.

Whilst it is appreciated these younger players (aged between 13 and 17) often want to be treated as adults, if they do not receive the right sort of understanding, encouragement and support, many of them will leave the game.

You will no doubt be well aware of your role as Team Captain pertaining to the actual game of cricket, but you also need to be aware of your safeguarding responsibilities as a Captain and this document sets out these considerations.

You have a duty of care, on behalf of your Club for the well-being of all under 18s in your team, and in the opposition's team.

You must have a current ECB DBS disclosure. If you don't have one, ask your Club Safeguarding Officer to start the process for you. You will not be able to captain until the DBS is cleared.

- Take your responsibility seriously
- Make sure you know who your Club Safeguarding Officer is, and how to contact them
- Know how to respond to a disclosure from a young person
- Report any concerns or worries you have about a young person to your Club Safeguarding Officer
- Inform the Umpire and opposition captain about all Under 18s in your team – use player cards at all times
- Ensure you have the emergency contact details and any medical conditions for any Under 18s in your team, remember this information is confidential
- Welcome new Under 18s in your team and tell them to come and talk to you about any concerns they have regarding their game
- Encourage good sportsmanship within your team, recognising good play both in your team and the opposition and recognising good performance not just match results
- Encourage good sportsmanship within your team, supporting the efforts of all the young players even when they are not successful – don't just recognise the most talented
- Provide an opportunity for young players to show their talents in an appropriate way – young people who are just used as fielders will not fully experience the game

- Treat everyone equally and not discriminate on the grounds of age, gender, disability, race, ethnic origin, nationality, colour, parental or marital status, religious belief, class or social background, sexual preference or political belief
- Challenge any form of bullying of Under 18s
- Only use parent contact information for communication for all U16's. Between 16 and 18 ask parents' permission to communicate and copy parents in.
- Ensure you are aware of the transport policy in your club – ECB guidance is that all Under 18s/their parents are responsible for arranging their own transport to and from matches (e.g. they take them themselves or arrange for their child to go with a friend or other member of the team) – the Club/You should not arrange the transport or provide this directly
- Ensure you are aware of the changing room policy in your club regarding Under 18s. Under 18s should change separately from over 18's.
- Be aware that if Under 18s have to share a changing room with Over 18s, it is best for them to get changed early before batting starts, and for them to take their batting kit out with them to pad up.
- Ensure you are aware of your club's policy for mobile phones in changing rooms: ECB guidance is that no mobile phones and other electronic devices are allowed to be used in the changing rooms for any purpose. This is because photos and videos can be taken and go viral in seconds or be used for other purposes that would cause safeguarding concerns. This means phones should not be used at all – including for playing music or checking texts and e-mails etc as it is not possible to ensure someone is not covertly taking photos.
- Do not engage in any form of sexually related contact with an Under 18 player including sexual innuendo, flirting or inappropriate gestures and terms
- Do not allow bullying or swearing at young players (or indeed any players) or any behaviour they might find intimidating
- Selecting under 18 players for your team – ECB guidelines state the minimum age is under 13 age group players, who are in year 8 age group and aged 12 on the 1st September of the preceding year.

COVID-19 CONDITIONS

- Captains to brief their players on expected behaviours to meet Covid conditions prior to the start of play, communication is the key to keeping people safe.
- No sweat or saliva on the ball is allowed.
- Captains to be responsible in ensuring players maintain social distances on the field of play and engaged with game activities i.e. waiting to bat.
- Ball to be returned directly to the bowler (On the full or rolled along the ground)
- Not to remake the wicket once the ball has become dead, this is the role of the umpire.
- Players cannot give any paraphernalia (hats sunglasses sweaters) to the umpire or other players, these must be placed at least 1m from boundary edge.
- Players understand the batting lines.
- It is the responsibility of the fielding captain to ensure that hygiene breaks are performed and take place every 6 overs or 20 minutes whichever is sooner (A wicket break can be used to restart the process). This

includes cleaning of the ball, washing / sanitisation of players hands and relevant equipment, see guidance for example wicket keeping gloves.

- Captains should be aware that any breach of the above could result in a first and final warning and any subsequent transgression will result in the award of 5 penalty runs.
- At no times are changing rooms to be used except for medical emergencies or isolation.
- In order to support the National Track and Test programme, we encourage all captains to email their team list including full name and contact telephone number to the opposition captain prior to the start of play, please note U18 contact details should be parent or guardian.

GAME SPECIFIC

- Supervising Children @cricket sessions
- Ensure all mandatory protective equipment is used including Head Protectors
- Concussion fact sheets
- Fielding regulations and pitch lengths
- Fast Bowling Directives
- Junior players in open age cricket
- Girls playing in boys age group leagues and competitions

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact your Club Safeguarding Officer, any concerns or incidents should be reported to the Club Safeguarding Officer immediately.

If you cannot contact your Club Safeguarding Officer, please contact the Middlesex County Safeguarding Officer, Sharon Evers on 07557 956354 or e-mail safeguarding@middlesexccc.com