

NOTES TO CLUBS

1. LEAGUE SUBSCRIPTION

Clubs annual subscriptions to the League are payable by 30th April, in the current year. Clubs who have not paid by that date will not be credited with any points during the period that the fee remains unpaid.

2. CRICKET BOARD AFFILIATION

All clubs should affiliate to the Cricket Board responsible for the County in which their ground is situated. Clubs who have not paid their affiliation fee to the appropriate Board, by 30th April, in the current year, will not be credited with any points during the period that the fee remains unpaid.

3. ATTENDANCE AT AGM & DIVISIONAL MEETINGS

Non-attendance by any member club at an AGM or Divisional Meeting will result in a £50 penalty. Clubs relegated at the end of a season remain members of the League until the following AGM, when they are replaced by clubs promoted from Feeder Leagues.

4. CLUB ACCREDITATION DOCUMENT

Member clubs must comply with the criteria prescribed in the Club Accreditation Document, a copy of which is circulated to all clubs prior to the start of the season. Further copies are available from the General Manager. Failure to comply with the criteria will lead to a disciplinary sub-committee hearing and may result in relegation or other penalty.

N.B. Feeder Leagues will inform their members about these standards as they will apply to clubs seeking confirmation of their promotion to BDPCL.

5. DAMAGE TO FACILITIES

If damage is caused to any Member Club's facilities by visiting player(s) or spectators, the visiting club shall be held responsible for the repair of any such damage.

6. CLUB WELFARE OFFICER

Every club must have a Club Welfare Officer.

7. TROPHIES

All trophies are and shall remain the property of the League. They should be returned to the General Manager, on or before 30th June, each year, in the case of (Twenty20) Challenge Cup and Graham Williamson Trophy competitions, and on or before 31st August, each year, in the

case of League Championship competitions. They are to be properly engraved by the winning club and returned in a clean and presentable condition. Failure to comply will result in an automatic fine of £25.00, with an increase of £25.00 for every subsequent seven days delay in the return of any trophy. The winners of any trophy shall be responsible for its safe keeping and must report any loss or damage to the General Manager, immediately, by telephone, and follow up in writing within 48 hours. Should any club take any action, including failure to report, as above, which invalidates the League's insurance on the trophies, it will be liable for any loss or damage. If any action, taken by a club, causes a claim to be made on the League's insurance on the trophies, the club concerned shall be liable for any insurance excess.

8. ECB CLUBMARK ACCREDITATION

Clubmark is an important and visible confirmation that clubs with a Junior Section provide a safe and child-friendly environment and all Premier League clubs should obtain and retain Clubmark accreditation. Any Premier League club that has not obtained Clubmark by the start of the 2010 season will not be eligible to receive ECB funding that season or subsequently until they have achieved Clubmark.

9. ECB CONDITIONS

Member clubs shall play Cricket in accordance with the ECB Code of Conduct, and within the Spirit and Laws of Cricket. In accordance with the accreditation by the ECB, the League will meet the following requirements:

- i. Ensure that all Member Clubs adhere to the ECB Fast Bowling Directives for young fast bowlers.
- ii. Ensure that all players under the age of 18 (on the day of the match) shall wear helmets (mandatory) for batting and keeping wicket standing up to the wicket.
- iii. Ensure that all players under the age of 18 (on the day of the match) wear a helmet and abdominal protector (mandatory) when fielding within 6 yards (5.5 metres) of the batsman.
- iv. Ensure that all Member Clubs adhere to any other ECB directives that are relevant to the current season.
- v. Encourage players to make themselves available for the ECB XI and or County Board or County Club sides. The following regulations will apply.

"Any player selected for an ECB XI match or County representative match who does not make himself available will not be eligible to play in a Premier Division match scheduled for the same day unless approval is received from the ECB Director of Cricket Operations or Cricket Operations Manager (Recreational Cricket), or from the Manager of the County team in the case of County matches. This rule also covers the period when players would be expected to travel/report for ECB or County matches."

- vi. Arrange for the results of matches in the Premier Division to be sent to the ECB each week during the season. The arrangements will be as from time to time issued by the General Manager.
- vii. Ensure that all players sign either the relevant ECB Registration Form or a League Form which explicitly requires that they abide by the ECB or League Code of Conduct and accept ECB and League disciplinary decisions. The registration forms will be issued by the General Manager. All players must be registered by their club prior to the commencement of the League season.

10. PRECEDENCE AND DISPUTES

- a. Where the rules of the Premier Division and the rules of the other Divisions of the League appear to conflict, then the Premier Division rules take precedence for matters concerning the Premier Division.
- b. The Management Board shall be empowered to deal with any query or dispute concerning the organisation and playing conditions and all disciplinary matters. In the event of any query or dispute concerning the organisation and playing conditions or disciplinary matters or in the event of any breach thereof the decision of the Management Board shall be final. In addition to the penalties laid down in these playing conditions, the Management Board shall be empowered to take whatever other action and impose whatever other penalties it deems appropriate against the Club or any individual member or members of a Club found to be in breach.

ECB Fast Bowling Match Directives

Issued October 2009. For any subsequent changes visit www.play-cricket.com

Age	Max. overs per spell	Max. overs per day
Up to 13	5	10
U14, U15	6	12
U16, U17, U18, U19	7	18

For the purpose of these Directives a fast bowler is defined as a bowler to whom a wicket keeper in the same age group would in **normal circumstances** stand back to take the ball.

Having completed a spell the bowler cannot bowl again, from either end, until the equivalent number of overs to the length of his* spell have been bowled from the same end. A bowler can change ends without ending his current spell provided that he bowls the next over that he legally can from the other end. If this does not happen his spell is deemed to be concluded. If play is interrupted, for any reason, for less than 40 minutes any spell in progress at the time of the interruption can be continued after the interruption up to the maximum number of overs per spell for the appropriate age group. If the spell is not continued after the interruption the bowler cannot bowl again, from either end, until the equivalent number of overs to the length of his spell before the interruption have been bowled from the same end. If the interruption is of 40 minutes or more, whether scheduled or not, the bowler can commence a new spell immediately.

Once a bowler covered by these Directives has bowled in a match he cannot exceed the maximum number overs per day for his age group even if he subsequently bowls spin. He can exceed the maximum overs per spell if bowling spin, but cannot then revert to bowling fast until an equivalent number of overs to the length of his spell have been bowled from the same end.

If he bowls spin without exceeding the maximum number of overs in a spell the maximum will apply as soon as he reverts to bowling fast.

Captains, Team Managers and Umpires are asked to ensure that these Directives are followed at all times.

For guidance it is recommended that in any 7 day period a fast bowler should not bowl more than 4 days in that period and for a maximum of 2 days in a row.

Age groups are based on the age of the player at midnight on 31st August in the year preceding the current season.

*Any reference to he/his should be interpreted to include she/her.



Safety guidance on the wearing of cricket helmets by young players

In February 2000 the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) issued safety guidance on the wearing of helmets by young players up to the age of 18. This original guidance document can be found at www.play-cricket.com/helmets. In brief, the guidance recommends that:

- helmets with a faceguard or grille should be worn when batting against a hard cricket ball in matches and in practice sessions.
- young players should regard a helmet with a faceguard as a normal item of protective equipment when batting, together with pads, gloves and, for boys, an abdominal protector (box)
- young wicket-keepers should wear a helmet with a faceguard when standing up to the stumps.

With the assistance of schools, cricket clubs and leagues, the wearing of helmets by young players is now standard practice in cricket throughout England and Wales. Helmets are widely available and are covered by a British Standard (BS7928:1998).

The original guidance allowed parents or guardians to give their written consent to allow a young player not to wear a helmet. However most clubs, schools and leagues have decided not to accept this parental consent and require all young players to wear a helmet in all junior matches. If a club or school does agree in exceptional circumstances*, that a young player need not wear a helmet they must ensure that an ECB Team Card is completed and given to the umpires before the start of play whenever the young player takes part in a junior match.

At the beginning of 2007 the ECB clarified the guidance relating to young players in adult matches and confirmed that all young players who have not reached their 18th birthday must wear a helmet with a faceguard when batting and when standing up to the stumps when keeping wicket in adult matches. Parental consent not to wear a helmet should not be accepted in adult cricket.

This guidance applies to all players up to the age of 18, both in adult cricket and in all junior cricket played with a hard cricket ball. The guidance also applies during all practice sessions. Any individual taking responsibility for players should take all reasonable steps to ensure that this guidance is followed at all times.

**Additional guidance on what constitutes 'exceptional circumstances' can be obtained from the ECB Cricket Department.*



Fielding regulations

The ECB has regulations covering the minimum fielding distances for young players in all matches where a hard ball is used.

- No young player in the Under 15 age group or younger shall be allowed to field closer than 8 yards (7.3 metres) from the middle stump, except behind the wicket on the off side, until the batsman has played at the ball.
- For players in the Under 13 age group and below the distance is 11 yards (10 metres).
- These minimum distances apply even if the player is wearing a helmet.
- 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.
- 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 6 yards (5.5 metres) of the bat, except behind the wicket on the off side. Players should wear appropriate protective equipment whenever they are fielding in a position where they feel at risk.
- These fielding regulations are applicable to all cricket in England and Wales. Age groups are based on the age of the player at midnight on 31st August in the year preceding the current season.



ECB Guidelines for junior players in open age cricket

These guidelines cover the selection and participation of young players in open age cricket. They are designed to help clubs to decide when to select young players in open age competitive cricket and how best to help their cricketing development when they play within open age groups. They apply to boys and girls equally. Age groups are based on the age of the player at midnight on 31st August in the year preceding the current season.

Guidance for Clubs and Leagues

All clubs must recognise that they have a duty of care towards all young players who are representing the club. This duty of care also extends to Leagues that allow the participation of young players in open age groups in their League. The duty of care should be interpreted in two ways:

- Not to place a young player in a position that involves an unreasonable risk to that young player, taking account of the circumstances of the match and the relative skills of the player.
 - 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 open age cricket
1. Making the step up from junior to open age cricket is a significant event in any player's cricket experience. Ensure that the player's safety, personal development needs and overall cricket experience are considered.
 2. There is no definitive age at which they should be introduced to open age cricket but determine each case on an individual basis dependent on their ability and stage of cognitive and emotional maturity to take part at this level, taking into account the requirement that no Junior Cricketers younger than the age group under 13 can play in open age cricket.
 3. ECB Fast Bowling Directives and Fielding Regulations should always be adhered to for junior players in open age cricket. All young players who have not reached their 18th birthday must wear a helmet with a faceguard when batting and either a helmet or faceguard when standing up to the stumps when keeping wicket. A young player acting as a runner must also wear a helmet even if the player they are running for is not doing so.

4. Any player in the Under 13 age group must have explicit written consent from a parent or guardian before participating in open age cricket. Clubs must ensure that their player registration procedures ensure that consent is obtained.
5. Provide and opportunity for players to show their talents in an appropriate way. Children who are just used as fielders will not fully experience the game.
6. Be supportive at all times for all forms of effort even when children are not successful. Try and put them in situations where they will experience some success (however small) and ensure plenty of praise and encouragement.
7. Try and involve them in all aspects of the game wherever possible i.e. socialising, team talks, practice, decision making etc. so that they feel part of the team.
8. Children will often feel more comfortable and able to perform if they have a family member or friend also playing in the side.
9. Remember, children's early experiences will remain with them always and will often determine whether they want to remain playing the game or give up and do something else!
10. Clubs and Leagues can apply more strict restrictions on the participation of young players in open age cricket at their discretion. It is strongly recommended that a parent, guardian or other identified responsible adult is present whenever a player in the Under 13 age group plays open age cricket. This could include the captain or other identified adult player taking responsibility for the young player.

Under 12 age group players* and younger should not play in open age competitive cricket.

Under 13 age group players* can play in open age group competitive cricket, (i.e. players aged 12 and over) if considered by a qualified Level 2 coach or above that it is appropriate for their development.

Under 13 players will need prior explicit written parental consent to play as this recognises the need for parents or guardians to be aware of the significance of allowing their young child to participate in open age competitive cricket rather than purely junior cricket.

Over 13 year old players are free to play open age cricket.

* Junior cricket age groups are set by the age of the player on the 31st August preceding the season to play.