

NORMANDY CRICKET CLUB



JUNIORS PLAYING OPEN AGE GROUP CRICKET

The Guidelines for Colts Playing Open Age Group Cricket exist to ensure that the policies/guidelines relating to the safeguarding /welfare of children at Normandy Cricket Club, along with any other relevant policy, also apply when the child takes part in Open Age Group cricket. The guidelines also have the aim of informing senior members of the club of their responsibilities relating to children when mixing in the same environment.

Note: The terms 'child', 'colt', 'junior' and 'young person' describe any person under the age of 18, boy or girl. References to 'parents' should be read as parents and carers inclusively. The terms 'senior' and 'adult' describe any person aged 18 or over. 'Supervising adults' refers to Open Age Group team captains, vice-captains, other senior designated players and umpires.

General

- Making the step up from junior to open age group cricket is a significant event in any player's cricket experience. Ensure the player's safety, personal development needs and overall cricket experience are considered.
- Clubs, squad coaches and managers must take into account the requirements on age detailed in this guidance.
- Each case is to be determined on an individual basis, depending on the player's ability and stage of cognitive and emotional maturity to take part in open age cricket. The minimum age guidance provided below must be followed.
- Juniors should be involved in all aspects of the game wherever possible i.e. socialising, team talks, practice, decision making and so on, so they feel part of the team.
- Children will often feel more comfortable and able to perform if they have a family member or friend also playing in the side.
- 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.
- Provide an opportunity for players to show their talents in an appropriate way. Children who are just used as fielders will not fully experience the game.
- 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. The captain should inform the Umpires of under 18s in the side.

Safeguarding

- The latest Normandy Cricket Club Safeguarding policy is to apply at all times.
- All senior players are expected to be aware of the contents of this policy and to follow it at all times.
- Regular Senior Captains, Umpires & Scorers are required to have DBS checks. If these positions are being filled as a one-off, the captain/Supervising Adult should consider the Safeguarding guidelines.

Further to the main Safeguarding policy, there are other policies that will apply. These include, but are not limited to:

Minimum Age

The minimum age for Open Age cricket is the U13 age group. Players must be in Year 8, and 12 years old on the 1st September of the preceding year. This applies to all club and district players who are not in a county or area squad (or region in Wales). Written parental consent is required.

Exceptionally, players who are selected in a County U12 squad (or Regional squad in Wales) in spring for a summer squad - are also eligible to play Open age cricket.* Please be aware that at under 12 level the ECB recommends that the focus is on participation rather than Talent I.D, and many counties no longer run under 12 squads. Inclusion of ANY Under 12s in Open Age teams should be an exception and not an expectation.

*providing they are at least 11 years old, are in School Year 7 on 1st September in the year preceding the season, and have written parental consent to play.

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It is essential clubs and coaches recognise the 'duty of care' obligations they have towards young players in Open Age cricket. 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 guidelines note the need for clubs and leagues to recognise the positive experience young players should have in open age cricket. Clubs should provide an opportunity for players to show their talents in an appropriate way. Children who are just used as fielders will not fully experience the game.

Supervision of Young Cricketers

During all sessions and matches involving children or young adults, a minimum of two responsible adults must be present.

Drinks Breaks:

- Regular breaks will take place, especially in matches of more than 20 overs per innings.
- Breaks during practice sessions or matches on sunny days will take place every 20-40 minutes. These breaks do not have to be enforced by a pause in play for Open Age Group games, but a drink brought to the child or young person between overs or on the boundary.
- Supervising adults understand that if children ask for a drink, they may already be dehydrated.
- Parents are to ensure that children have sufficient water available for the duration of the game.

Protection from the sun:

The ECB guidance for clubs on sun protection is to be followed, including following the following 5 tips:

1. PREPARE: Ensure that everyone arrives ready for a day in the sun
2. PROTECT: Use clothing, hats/sunglasses, and sunscreen (SPF30+) reapplied at breaks
3. SHADE: Avoid direct sunlight during lunch or whilst spectating others
4. HYDRATE: Ensure water is always available
5. LEAD BY EXAMPLE: Inspire children with your own actions

Parents understand that good sun protection is essential and appropriate sun lotion must be applied prior to training and matches and that hats must be worn to training and matches in sunny weather.

Risk Assessments:

- Supervising adults understand the risk assessment used for all facilities at the club.
- Supervising adults will ensure that the area to be used either for training or matches is fit for purpose and safe for the activity to be undertaken.

Registration and Deregistration:

- All colts playing Open Age Group cricket need to register at the start of any training session, match or other gathering (e.g. team meeting/work party) and to deregister at the end of each such event.
- At least 48 hours before the match/training session (or as soon as practically possible if already within 48 hours of the event), the parent is to accept the invitation and confirm acknowledgement of the meet time and location. Normandy CC will prescribe the method/technology to be used.
- Parents will be responsible for checking in the child at the start of a match/training session and for deregistering at the end of the match/session. Normandy CC will prescribe the method/technology to be used.
- The Team captain, or other designated Supervising adult, will also be required to ensure that all children register and deregister.
- Parents will ensure that the child arrives on time, with a named water bottle.
- Parents will arrive in good time for the end of the session in order to collect and deregister their child.
- Parents will contact the Club on 01483-811519 in case of an emergency non pick-up or lateness.

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- Parents will assume responsibility for their child outside of training/match times and for ensuring their child has been deregistered.

Changing Rooms and Showering Facilities:

Best practice principles to be adopted by clubs, wherever possible, are as follows:

- Adults must not change, or shower, at the same time using the same facility as children - if the same changing room is used then they must have different times.
- If adults and children need to share a changing facility, they must do so at different times.
- Mixed gender teams must have access to separate male and female changing rooms.
- Due to the risks of inappropriate photography or filming, mobile phones must not be used in changing rooms.

If children are uncomfortable changing or showering at the club, no pressure should be placed on them to do so. Suggest instead that they may change and shower at home.

Transport to and from matches and training:

- It is the responsibility of the parent to ensure safe delivery and collection of their child(ren) for matches or training.
- Supervising adults will be responsible for children in their care when on the club premises or on arrival at an opponent's ground.
- It is not the responsibility of the Supervising Adult, coach or team manager to transport, or arrange to transport, the children to and from the club or match.
- Parents understand that if they are going to 'drop and leave', they must seek permission to do so from the team captain or other designated supervising adult.
- The Club understands that it must receive permission from parents for children to participate in all away fixtures.
- Parents understand that by accepting an invitation to play in an away game, either via Spond or by any other means that may be in use by the Club at the time, they are thereby granting their permission.
- In line with the Supervision of Young Cricketers guidelines, there must be a minimum of two responsible adults present during all during travel to and from matches.
- If an overnight stay is required as part of a tour or attendance at an away match, the ECB guidance on Managing Children away from the Club is to be followed.

Social media, texts and email:

You should make arrangements for under 18s via their parents or carers; this includes text and email or Whats App messages etc. It is understood that in the case of over 16's this may not be ideal for yourself or the parents. An acceptable exception to this rule is to text or email the parent and to copy in the 16 or 17 year old, with the parent's prior consent. This means the parent is able to monitor communications, but the 16 or 17 year old receives the information directly. If you receive any responses that appear inappropriate they should be brought to the attention of the parent or carer. You should not engage in individual text or email conversations with a 16 or 17 year old without their parent receiving the same messages from you. All contact with children should be in relation to coaching, matches and cricket-related activity.

Social Media:

Do's and Don'ts Coaches / Managers / Clubs / Supervising Adult

- **DO**
 - Have separate social media accounts for cricket-club related and personal use.
 - Keep your photos and personal information private.
 - Apply the Codes of Conduct and appropriate professionalism to your behaviour online, by text and email.
 - Obtain consent before posting any personal information online – this includes photographs where an individual can be identified. Remember the picture/no name guidance for under 18s Coaches / Managers / Clubs
- **DO NOT**
 - Send text messages to juniors – make arrangements via their parents.



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For all other matches, colts playing in Open Age Group matches who are accused of committing any offences will be subject to the Normandy CC Colts disciplinary procedures.

Other ECB guidance:

Other ECB guidance that may also be relevant includes, but is not limited to:

- Missing children guidelines
- Concussions
- Welcoming and Safeguarding children with a disability
- Disciplinary proceedings that involve under-18s
- Specific concerns arising for children outside of cricket

Signed:

[Redacted signature]

NCC Chair

Dated: 15th May 2023

Next Review date: April 2024