



JUNIOR PLAYERS IN ADULT MATCHES POLICY

Introduction

The ECB has issued the following guidance, which we shall strictly adhere to, covering the participation of young cricketers in adult matches. This guidance 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 31st August in the year preceding the current season.

The Club recognises that we have a duty of care towards all young players who are representing the Club. 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 adult matches:

- 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. Parental consent not to wear a helmet shall not be accepted in adult matches. A young player acting as a runner must also wear a helmet even if the player he is running for is not doing so.
- The current ECB fielding regulations must be adhered to and enforced by the umpires and captain. The umpires are empowered by these fielding regulations to stop the game immediately if a young player comes within the restricted distance.
- The umpires and the opposing captain must be notified of the age group of all players participating in an adult match who are in the Under 19 age group or younger even if the player is not a fast bowler. This requirement also covers any young player taking the field as a substitute fielder. The ECB Team Sheet cards are freely available to facilitate this.
- If a player in the U12 age group is selected for a summer County squad they are eligible to play in adult games. Any player in the U13 age group is eligible to play as long they are 12 years old by 1st September in the preceding year. The guidance related to changing and showering (see 'Safe Hands' - Cricket's Policy for safeguarding Children) must be adhered to.

Clubs and Leagues can apply more strict restrictions on the participation of young players in adult matches 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 or younger plays in an adult match. This could include the captain or other identified adult player taking responsibility for the young player.

***Policy reviewed and updated at the AGM on the 12th November 2018**