



# SAFE HANDS

*Cricket's Policy for Safeguarding Children  
Guidance for parents*



England and Wales Cricket Board



From Playground to Test Arena

[www.ecb.co.uk](http://www.ecb.co.uk)

## *Introduction to Safe Hands*

The England and Wales Cricket Board Ltd (ECB) is committed to ensuring that cricket provides a safe, friendly and enjoyable experience for all children.

The ECB takes its responsibility for protecting the welfare and safety of children extremely seriously and wants to encourage all children to have a safe, positive and fun experience in cricket, whatever their level of involvement.



Cricket contributes to a healthy lifestyle as well as offering children many opportunities for positive growth, empowerment, achievement, fun and friendship. For some exceptional young players there will be the chance to play at a county or national level. Whatever their ability, the ECB is dedicated to giving all children the opportunity to enjoy playing cricket in a secure and protected environment.



As parents you have a key role to play by working in partnership with a club to achieve these objectives. Therefore, we would ask that you should check the following to make sure your child's club complies with ECB child protection criteria:

It has adopted ECB child protection policy	YES/NO
It has appointed a club welfare officer	YES/NO
All coaches, umpires and junior team managers are CRB checked	YES/NO
It works to the ECB Code of Conduct	YES/NO

## Parental Guidance

Parents have a responsibility to ensure that their child is safeguarded while taking part in cricketing activities. To achieve this we have drawn up the following guidelines for parents:

- While all clubs will take all reasonable precautions to prevent injury to junior cricketers, it is essential that a responsible adult known to a child is present wherever possible.
- Ensure that your child has suitable refreshments during training and matches.
- Ensure that suntan lotion and/or headwear is worn in hot weather.
- Ensure that suitable clothing is worn in bad weather.
- Ensure that all clothing belonging to your child is marked with their name.
- Be punctual when bringing children to training sessions and/or matches.
- Ensure that if your child cannot join in planned cricket activities, the age group manager is notified.
- Support your child's team without interference, hostility or bias.





- Support officials and discourage unfair play.
- Ensure that all players under the age of 18 wear protective helmets with faceguards when batting and wicket keeping.
- Never force your child to take part in an activity if they don't want to.
- Never punish or demean your child for losing or making mistakes.
- Set an example and use appropriate language at all times.

## Club Guidance

It is important that all cricket clubs establish a welcoming and safe environment for young cricketers to enable them to improve their skills, to enjoy playing the game and to become a responsible member of the club. Therefore, the ECB encourages children to:

- ensure that they play to support the team and not themselves
- support other players and keep encouragement within the sphere of good conduct and team fellowship
- be good winners and generous losers – modest in victory and giving in defeat
- accept all decisions in good spirit
- be considerate and always ready to help others to improve
- congratulate good play on both sides when spectating
- never question or dispute the decision of an official

**The consumption of alcohol is not permitted by persons under 18.**

Children are encouraged to talk to their parents about their experience of cricket and their club, and to know they can speak up if they are not happy about anything. Any concerns regarding the operation of a club or behaviour of an individual must be reported to the Club Welfare Officer immediately.

All counties have a dedicated County Welfare Officer to further assist this process.

**Further information is available at**

**[www.ecb.co.uk/safehands](http://www.ecb.co.uk/safehands)**



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**0808 800 5000**

